JAN 2024

KEYS



Church and Community News

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From the Church

One thing some people do at the start of a new year is to look back on the positives and negatives for the previous year. I wonder if you do that, are there more positives or negatives?

This coming year at St John's there is going to be a real focus on holistic formation and personal growth. The word the Church uses for this is Discipleship. For those who follow Jesus there is a lifelong exploration of growing in wholeness. Put simply, it's a sense of removing the obstacles in our lives which we find distract us from becoming more whole and to flourish as human beings.

Obstacles can be things such as hurts, habits, hangups and addictions. They can be past trauma or bitterness and a lack of forgiveness. Most often, these things have come from others' actions towards us or events we have experienced and have left us with emotional scars and wounds of the heart. Many times these are unseen or we have buried them deep in our hearts and have learnt to live with them.

Often, if we can overcome some of the things that can weigh us down emotionally, mentally and spiritually, we find we can experience life in greater fullness. For the follower of Jesus this is a lifelong journey of growth and exploration of what it means to be human. It seems Jesus calls His followers to embrace this journey of wholeness and be bold in the exploration of who Jesus originally intended them to be before many of life's circumstances caused them pain, loss and heartache. Of course, Jesus promises that if we love Him and trust Him, He accompanies us through this process of restoration. People on this journey have found it exciting, exhilarating, and daunting at times, but when they look back, they see it is profoundly life changing.

We will be offering courses for those interested in exploring this more and these will be advertised through the Church. 2024 is a special year of celebration for St John's; it's our 180th year as a Church. We are having a service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for all God has done through St John's on Saturday 25th May at 2pm.

There will be more information in Keys magazine and through the Church media outlets about what events will be happening nearer the time. Here are a couple of notable events for your diary. The Narrow Road Thursday 14th March 2024; Riding Lights theatre Company performing their acclaimed passion play by Paul Birch. Easter Lunch 31st March 2024 which will start after the end of our 11am Easter service. Dan Sadler's quote is helpful as we remind ourselves what Christianity is about. He says, "Christianity can be confusing, but the way of Jesus was pretty clear. Move toward the poor, empower the woman. Create space at the table, throw parties. Widen the family boundaries. Poke holes in oppressive systems. Don't retaliate with violence. Forgive your enemy, don't store up wealth. Be present with people. Heal, announce, push back darkness. The Kingdom of God is near."

Tim

ST JOHN'S CHURCH - Directory

Tel - 01732 833 596 Website: www.stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

Please ring the church office or email any time, if you would like to discuss any pastoral or administrative matter

Role	Name	Contact Details
Vicar	Rev Tim Saiet	07973 136 968 tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Children and Youths Pastor	Lisa Glasscote	lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Lay Readers	Trevor Long Susan Trowbridge	07513 420 509 01732 833 848
Warden	John Bonarius	07801 478 346
PCC Secretary	Vacant	stjohnspcc@outlook.com
Foodbank and Community Co-ordinator	Adele Hopkins-Ballard	07942 148 175 adele@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Safeguarding	Kate Lake	07579 821 956 safeguarding@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Treasurer	Richard Lake	07579 210 122 treasurer@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Archivist	Howard Dolling	01732 833 364
Church Centre Bookings	Cynthia Fawcus	01732 833 397 cafawcus@hotmail.com
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Keys Deputy Editor	Claire Rawlinson	01732 834 896
Keys Distribution	Clem Giles	01732 833 543
Keys Advertising	Liz Ridley	keysmagazineadvertising@gmail.com

Our Services

Sundays

9:15am Contemporary service with breakfast served in Church from 8:45am

Refreshments served between services in the Church Centre. All welcome.

11am Traditional service

Tuesdays

11:15am Morning Prayer

Contact the office to receive the monthly Church News and Notices or follow our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/stjohnshildenborough/) for the most up to date information.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

This year we celebrate 180 years of St John's Church. We are putting together an exciting range of events and special services for the whole community. We look forward to seeing you!

Regular Services and Activities (*term-time only)

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024

Sundays – 09:15 Contemporary Service and 11:00 Traditional Service
Mondays – *Bright Sparks, 13:30 – 15:30
Tuesdays – 11:15 Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)
Wednesdays – Churchyard Team Meets, 09:00 – 11:00 & Warm Hub (free soup) 12:00 – 14:00
Thursdays – *Angel Café, 09:00 – 14:00 and Foodbank Open, 09:30 – 12:30
Fridays – *Angel Café, 09:00 – 14:00 and *Café Theo, 16:00 – 17:30

Who Let the Dad's Out: Saturday 6th January, 9:30am - 11am
All children aged 0-6 and their Dads are welcome to join us for a morning of fun and games. Just £3 a family, there is a bouncy castle, soft-play and plenty of bacon rolls for everyone! The group meets on the first Saturday of every month.

Baptism Preparation Classes: Wednesday 24th and 31st January, 7pm start
If you are considering baptism for you or your child(ren) please do come along to our baptism preparation classes. For more information contact the Church Office.

LATER IN THE YEAR



The Narrow Road: Thursday 14th March
Riding Lights Theatre Company will be performing their acclaimed passion play by Paul Birch. A moving combination of powerful theatre, meditation and corporate worship.
Tickets £11 from the Church Office.

Easter Lunch: Sunday 31st March
Following our Easter Service at 11am all are welcome to join us for an Easter Sunday Lunch in the Church Centre. Advance bookings only via the Church Office.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM): 22nd May, 8pm

Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for St John's Church 180th: Saturday 25th May, 2pm

Summer Fair: Saturday 13th July, 10am - 3pm

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

09:30 - 14:00 Tuesday and Friday
01732 833 596
office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

ST JOHN'S CHURCH
HILDENBOROUGH





It was a pleasure to welcome so many people to St John's Church this Christmas. We are grateful to the many volunteers who decorated the Church and the tree, prepared for services, served refreshments and welcomed guests.

A special thank you to Jeff King of Fir Tree Farm who donated the spectacular Christmas tree in the Church and to Amy Pay, of Delilah and Herb, Floral Design, Hildenborough who generously created and built the gorgeous garland above the main doors.









From the Registers

Burials
Bryan Edward Winter 15th November

What's on this term at Hildenborough CEP School:

At Hildenborough CEP School, there are between 20-32 pupils in each class. We have our heads down working whenever we need to and our progress *throughout the* school is phenomenal! We have been amazing at reading and 90% of us have passed our phonics screening check! We have been recognised as good by Ofsted and SIAMS.

Our Sports Leaders have really helped the younger children at lunch times. We are doing amazing sports events, such as hockey and football tournaments. Mrs Wood has organised all of these events and we are very thankful for that.

Our Forest School is a great place to make new friends, develop great teamwork and learn new skills.
We always make learning work in our school. Some of the pupils have coloured paper or type on an I-Pad. This helps some people with their reading and writing. Nearly every person in Lower Key Stage 2 has their pen licence and we have improved soooo much!

We love to be active with our learning and in the summer we sometimes read outside. P.E is also very active, and we are enjoying doing fun warmups. Sometimes we act out hot seats in English and we do Philosophy for Children, which helps us to be better speakers and listeners.

Year 3 and 4 have been practising for Young Voices and we are really enjoying it. These are some of the things people like about it.
Flora said: "I like it because we put words into a song."

Sam said: "I like it because we put words into a song. Our favourite song is the Pop Melody 2023."

We love Times Table Rock Stars and we do things called "Battle of the Bands".

Our teachers are amazing, and they are very enthusiastic.

We love our School and everyone in it.
Many thanks,
Martha and Flora (Year 4)
Hildenborough VIP New Reporters.

Help Wanted Board!

If you have a role or a need that you would like to include, please get in touch - keysmag@hotmail.com. Priority will be given to local volunteer roles but if there is space I will consider local paid jobs too. There is no charge for appearing on this page.

Can you spare 1 hour a month to help out? Contact the Church Office
01732 833 596 - office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

Hildenborough Farmers' Market
Volunteers wanted
variety of roles
If interested, please contact:
Janet - 01732 838 903
janetrichardson863@btinternet.co.uk

St John's Churchyard
Volunteers wanted
Join the team occasionally or regularly on a Wednesday, 9-11am.
If interested, please contact:
office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

West Kent Concert Band
Wind & Brass players wanted!
www.westkentconcertband.org.uk

Hildenborough Village Preservation Association
Committee Members Wanted
The Association is looking for new members on a voluntary basis for occasional input at quarterly committee meetings. A Treasurer would be particularly welcome.
If interested, please contact David on admin@wealdensc.co.uk

Tonbridge Line Commuters (TLC)
Committee members wanted
Non rail experts welcome
If interested, please contact:
secretary@tonbridgecommuters.org.uk

Need Help?
Contact Keysmag@hotmail.com with details





Forget-me-not Cafés

Companionship over a cuppa



Happy New Year to all our friends, families and carers who come to the Forget-me-not Café which is held at St. John's Church Centre, Hildenborough on the second Wednesday of every month between 11.00 am and 12.30 pm.

Our December Café started in the Church with a traditional Carol Service. It was lovely to sing well known carols – O come all ye Faithful, Hark the Herald Angels Sing and there wasn't a dry eye when we sang Away in a Manger (memories of school solos and nativity plays). We finished in the Centre Family Room with hot mince pies, tea and coffee. I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Carol Service and with the refreshments afterwards – you are all stars!

The Café restarts on January 10th with Annalene singing songs from the musicals. Annalene has just finished a tour of the country in the King and I. It will be a Café to look forward to, so put it in your diary.

Would you like to get out of the house for a couple of hours and meet other people for some conversation? If you are feeling lonely and would like someone to chat to please come along, we would love to meet you. Whilst some of those who attend the Café live with a dementia diagnosis, others have mild memory loss, others care for a person with dementia, others would like company and a chat.

If you would like more information on the Forget-me-not Cafés, please contact Elaine on forgetmenot.sadfc@gmail.com or 07946 534 476. ***Julie Rhodes***

ST JOHN'S CHURCH
HILDENBOROUGH

HIVE

HIldenborough VillagE

For school year 6-13
£1 a session

The Hive Youth Group

January 2024



January –14th – An evening with a magician!

January 28th – Hollywood Bowl, TWells





Fortnightly, 5– 7pm .
Church Centre
St John's Church.

All youth leaders hold a valid DBS

For more information please contact
Lisa Glasscote
lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

ST JOHN'S CHURCH
HILDENBOROUGH

CAFE THEO





After School Youth Cafe.

For school years 6-13.

Open every Friday in term time

4-5:30pm

St Johns Church Centre, Hildenborough.

For more info email...

lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

- **Place to meet your friends**
- **Refreshments**
- **Board Games**
- **Crafts**
- **A place to 'do your homework' !**

HILDENBOROUGH FARMERS' MARKET

A Very Happy New Year! The start of another year for Hildenborough Farmers' Market – how exciting. We are looking forward to planning our future activities for the Market so watch this space.

In December we welcomed Hildenborough CE Primary School and Stocks Green Primary School to sing carols and Christmas music – they both sang beautifully and put us into a Christmassy mood. On the last market of the year, we had fun with mulled wine, mince pies and a visit from Father Christmas. We look forward to being open again on Tuesday 9th January, 9.00 - 11.00 am at St. John's Church Centre.

The Market has a large number of stalls selling all different things from fresh produce, fish and veg to craft, from cake to jewellery and candles, from bread, cheese and flowers to knitted items, from coffee, honey and chutney to Lego, from plants and chocolate to gifts from Hospice in the Weald. Most of the stalls are inside the Church Centre with Mikeys Plaice being outside in his specialised fish van. There's something for everyone.

Many people in Hildenborough come regularly to the Market to shop and enjoy a cup of coffee and meet with friends, some weeks the Café is full to overflowing and extra chairs have to be put out. It really has become a regular community meeting place. Come along for some shopping and a chat.

A reminder too that the local Hildenborough Parish Council often visits the market and runs a surgery so if you have any worries or concerns pop along to speak to them.

We can be found on Facebook and our details can be found on the KFMA website, although some of the information is being updated.

For information on the market please contact: Janet Richardson, Manager Tel: 01732 838903 Email: janetrichardson863@btinternet.co.uk

Farmers' Market Recipe for January

Beef Casserole and Dumplings

What better way to warm up with a dinner of Beef Casserole and Dumplings

Ingredients
2kg beef diced into large chunks
Salt and pepper
1 tbsp plain flour
4 tbsp vegetable oil
1 large onion - finely diced.
2 tbsp tomato pureé
400 ml red wine (optional)
450 ml beef stock
2 parsnips, peeled and cut into 2.5cm pieces
2 carrots, peeled and cut into 2.5cm pieces

For the Dumplings
150g self-raising flour.
70g suet
1 tsp salt
Water (as required)

Directions
Preheat oven to 180ºC (160ºC Fan).

Season beef with salt and pepper and roll in the flour until lightly coated.

In a heavy-bottomed casserole dish heat the vegetable oil then add the beef in batches and brown all over. Transfer beef to a plate and set aside.

Add the onion and cook slowly for 20 minutes until softened and slightly golden. Add tomato puree and cook for a couple of minutes, followed by the red wine. Allow to bubble for a couple of minutes, scraping all the goodness from the bottom of the pan. Add beef stock and bring to a simmer.

Return beef back to the dish ensuring it's fully covered with liquid and braise in the oven with a lid on for two hours.

To make your dumplings, combine your dry ingredients in a bowl. Add a little water and mix until a dough is formed. Divide dough into 8-10 equal-sized pieces and roll in your hands to form round balls.

After 1 hour and 30 minutes add the carrot and parsnip to the stew. Mix together and add a little more water if needed to help cover the vegetables.

Place your dumplings on the top of the stew and finish in the oven uncovered for the remaining time. Leave the stew to rest for 10 minutes then serve with rich and silky mashed potato.

The Night Sky in Hildenborough – January 2024

As the New Year opens, Saturn is low down in the South West in the early evening and sinks further towards the horizon as the days pass. By the last day of January, the planet is just 8° above the horizon in the WSW as darkness falls. For other planets, namely Jupiter and Venus, this doesn't present much of a problem because of their great brightness. However, this isn't the case for Saturn because it never achieves the same brilliance and is therefore, very regularly, mistaken for a star.

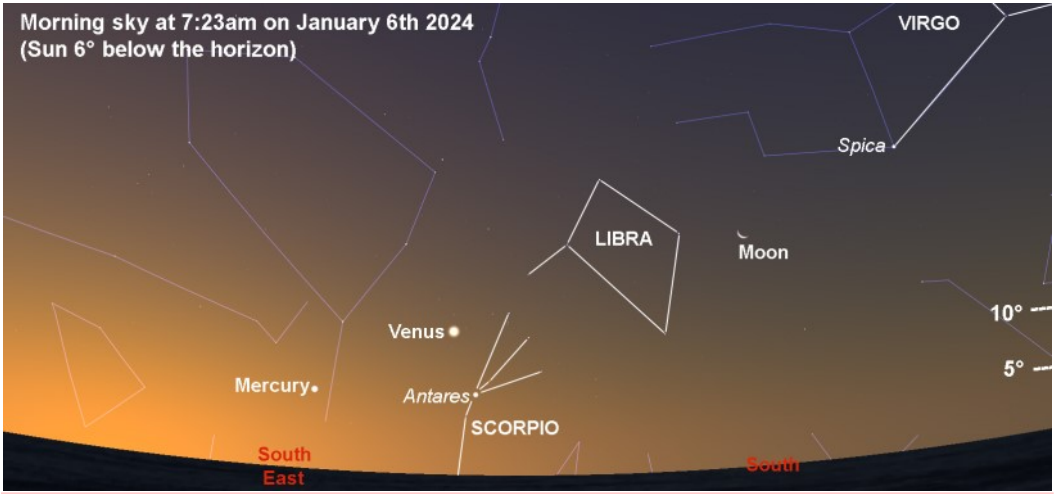
Jupiter suffers no such issues though and dominates the January evening sky, sitting at an altitude of 50° and lying due South at 7:30pm at the start of the month. By the end of it, Jupiter has moved to lie exactly South West at 7:45pm when it is 45° above the horizon. Remember that something with an altitude of 45° lies exactly between the horizon and the overhead point, known as the zenith. If you have access to a telescope or even binoculars, don't forget to have a look at Jupiter and watch the nightly progress of its four brightest moons as they circle the planet.

If you're a comparatively early riser, there is the opportunity to see the two innermost planets before sunrise in early January. Venus has been a morning object since late August 2023 but is now making its way back towards the Sun in readiness for an appearance as the "Evening Star" later this year. Sadly, it will not be until late November onwards before it really starts to put on a show which will last through into 2025.

Mercury, by contrast, moves far more quickly, hence it being named after the Roman's swift footed "Messenger of the Gods". It is the nearest planet to the Sun and consequently takes just 88 days to complete one orbit. These things together mean that Mercury is not an easy body to observe, always appearing to be in close proximity to the Sun. It is best seen in the first ten days of January with its greatest altitude occurring on the 6th and 7th. As you can see from the map, Venus is a little to the west as is the bright star Antares in Scorpio. The waning crescent Moon is further to the west but moves swiftly eastwards daily reducing in phase all the time until it becomes new on the 11th. Please remember you should not search, with optical aid, for anything whilst the Sun is above the horizon.

Don't forget that the Quadrantid meteor shower reaches peak activity on the night of January 4th/5th with meteors appearing to emanate from close to the end of the Great Bear's tail (or, if you prefer, the end of the handle of the Plough). Also, Orion and the other star groups that surround him lie in the South East in the early evening and then due south at 10pm. We'll look in more detail at these constellations next month.

Brian Mills FRAS



Hildenborough Evening WI

Evening WI: Our December meeting started as usual with some general WI business and updates of forthcoming events and activities.

We then had an evening of Christmas crafting with Giuditta Hudson-Gool. She demonstrated how to turn 2 small pieces of red and white paper into a Father Christmas gift tag, folding the paper and following her instructions we all created our own versions of Santa. Some of the ladies went on to have another go at making another tag, trying hard to remember where to fold and turn the paper and where to put the sticky dots!! It was a really creative and festive activity for us to all share.

Following on from our crafting we all shared a nice hot drink and some lovely shortbread and mincemeat crumble tart that Gill had kindly made for us.
We ended the evening with a quick rendition of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

Our next meeting is ***Tuesday 9th January*** when we will be having our Annual New Year party.

The evening WI meets once a month and gives members the opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills, and have fun. We always welcome new members, so please feel free to just drop in and say hello, even just for one evening to see what we are all about.

Please note our meeting time, we meet in the family room at the Church Centre at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

Lorna Stapley-President.

Hildenborough Library News

Well, Hildenborough, here we all are in 2024! Time to take down the tinsel and face the chilly opening months of the year. I advise choosing a good book, snuggling on the sofa with a nice hot drink. Obviously, it would be nice if you chose that book from your lovely local library…!

We will be starting up our groups again this month so please see below the wonderful groups we have here.

Baby Rhyme Time: Tuesdays at 10:30am

Picture Book Storytime: Thursdays at 9:30am

Craft Club: Saturdays at 10am

Ancestry/ Family History: Thursdays from 10am – 12pm. Booking essential.

Knit and Natter: Fortnightly on Thursdays at 2pm

Memoir Writers Group: Second Thursday of the month at 10am

Thank you for all the cards, gifts and best wishes. I really appreciate how lucky I am to work in your library.

Jacie

From our MP - Tom Tugendhat

2024 promises to be an exciting year locally, nationally and internationally. Ensuring stability in the middle east remains a top priority for the country and we also need to make sure that we make progress on the Prime Minister's 5 key pledges made last year.
Locally, my work continues for you and I remain happy to help as best I can.
Representing a number of different towns and villages means that I am able to use the experiences gained in one particular area to help residents in another.
It also means that problems you find in one area might be repeated elsewhere. One such instance is the erratic postal service faced by many rural villages. Though their busiest time of year, there were a number of people I heard from before Christmas who were waiting a fortnight for post. It meant cards and gifts didn't arrive on time, bills couldn't be paid and long-awaited medical appointments were missed. Given the rising price of stamps we need reassurance that the postal service will be reliable.
I'd be keen to hear from anyone across Hildenborough if you're having trouble with receiving post. I'm trying to build up a picture of the areas most badly affected, so I can work with Royal Mail to make sure they deliver across every area.

Please do encourage your friends, family and neighbours to be in contact if they are affected, or would like me help with any other issue. My e-mail address is tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk and phone number is 01732 441563. If you wish to take the chance that my own post isn't delayed then you can also write to me at 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SP.

Hildenborough Indoor Short Mat Bowls

Christmas is over, we have a new mat,
It's long and green and lays very flat.

The Sunday club have called it a day,
So, their green mat came flying our way.

Now we have three (mats) more people can come,
and learn to play bowls which is skilful and fun.

Forget Drama and quizzes on TV,
The VILLAGE hall is the place to be.

TUESDAYS 1.45pm, after your lunch,
Give us a try we are a friendly bunch!

If interested; Call Terry 7767098403
Or Gillian 01732 833700

Or just come along!



T.M.B.C. News

May I take this opportunity to wish all residents and businesses in Hildenborough a Very Happy New Year.

Internal Drainage Board (I.D.B's)

Members of the Council are always eager to receive presentations from the various agencies etc that serve the community; unfortunately, they do not always want to come.

We did however secure a visit from two representatives of the Internal Drainage Boards, both the Upper and Lower Medway Internal Drainage Boards. We all sit in the UMIDB area, which runs from East Grinstead to Allington Lock (The non tidal river). After the lock the LMIDB is in charge. Drainage Boards can be traced back to Henry III who established a Commission for drainage of Romney Marsh in Kent in 1252. Later Henry VIII enabled the 15thC 'Act of Sewers' and 'Courts of Gentlemen' were tasked with maintaining sea defences and drainage of low lying areas.

In 1991 IDBs were set up as local flood risk authorities under the Land Drainage Act 1991; they were tasked with offering general supervision and management of areas subject to special flooding need. They are not governmental, and their staff are not civil servants. They are independent, publicly funded bodies under the umbrella of DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs).

An IDB may choose to control and maintain certain watercourses and water control structures within its district. These are referred to as 'Adopted Watercourses' and controlled under permissive powers. Unfortunately, Permissive powers means that the IDB chooses when and how to maintain a watercourse entirely at its own whim!

The Boards carry out planned maintenance on watercourses and surface water systems under Section 14 of the Land Drainage Act and have responsibilities under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act to manage works or development that impacts the flow of a watercourse. Developers must seek consent to carry out works that might be

in breach of this section. The Boards also have the power to create byelaws, which relate to the control of surface/ treated discharge and the placing of structures within 8m of the bank of a watercourse.

In England 112 IDBs exist; they operate 625 pumping stations maintaining 12,054 miles (19,400km) of watercourses. The UMIDB are responsible for 110 miles of watercourses.

Chief Executive.

After nearly 40 years with the authority Julie Beilby, Chief Executive of TMBC, has announced she is to retire. Julie joined the council in April 1984 as an assistant in the leisure department and went on to hold senior roles in the central and customer services teams before being appointed to the top job in February 2013. Due to her retirement and in the meantime until a new Chief Executive is appointed, other officers are re-allocated other duties. There must be a Returning Officer and a Monitoring Officer with deputies.

Local Plan.

All the details of the emerging Local Plan are available via the TMBC website.

Council Meetings.

Please remember Council meetings are still streamed on You Tube, however public attendance is permitted in the Council Chamber.

Contact.

Councillors are here to assist with any matters relating to Borough Council business although we have been known to chase after a great many other matters. Please contact your Borough councillors at any time if you require assistance.

Mark Rhodes

Borough Councillors
Kath Barton
c/o TMBC, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, ME19 4LZ
Kath.Barton@tmbc.gov.uk

Mark Rhodes 01732 369 405
39 Cranford Road, Tonbridge
mark.rhodes@tmbc.gov.uk
TMBC - 01732 844 522

Kent County Councillor
Harry Rayner 03000 421 606
harry.rayner@kent.gov.uk

Contact the Parish Council via
clerk@hildenboroughpc.org.uk
or by telephone (07818 329029)
Hildenborough PC, Riding Lane, Hildenborough, TN11 9HY

Hildenborough History Society Meeting 19 January at 7.30pm

Eddie Prescott will be giving a talk on "Bomber Harris" and we welcome all residents to the Jim England Room in the Village Hall for an enjoyable evening. Membership of the Society costs £5 per annum which includes four such evenings for their money, but it will be £2 for non -members on the night. Tea or coffee can be purchased for £1 in the interval before Eddie speaks.

Early notice that our speaker on 19 April is the renowned Bob Ogley. The subject is "My life as a Newspaper Reporter"

Pat Davies

Tonbridge Line Commuters

The watchdog for rail users covering Hildenborough, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge and stations through to Edenbridge

Ticket Offices

Following 750,000 responses, with 99% of them said to be against the proposals, it was pleasing to see the plan to shut ticket offices was shelved. It remains to be seen whether these proposals come back in another form. In the meantime, cover remains an issue for when our regular staff member is on leave.

Hildenborough Station Developments

Following the sensible decision to move the bike rack from its dangerous position, progress on the ground development has stalled. We want to see the works complete with signage, road markings and a restoration of the walkway between the station car park and the Cinnamon restaurant. We are pushing Southeastern for updates and it seems to be stuck in a quagmire between Southeastern, Network Rail and the Council.

Station Bike Thefts

We have become aware of a number of incidents where vandalism and theft has occurred at the station. We are working with Southeastern to ensure that evidence is presented to the Police to give the best chance of convictions.

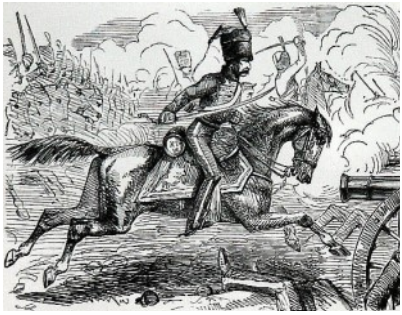
Would you like to get involved with TLC?

Our workload has significantly increased in the past couple of years and we are not sure the Government is as supportive of rail as we would like and so if you would like to see a better, more cost effective railway, please consider getting involved. Contact me for more details at robert.mansfield@tonbridgecommuters.org.uk. ***Rob Mansfield***

Tales from the Churchyard: Richard Young died February 17th 1901

Our Churchyard hides the stories of many lives. Some are only remembered by the relatives, but many others tell a very different story of lives that are sometimes quite surprising. Over the course of the year, we hope to bring you some of these stories.

The Churchyard at St. John's was still a farmer's field in 1854 at the time of the Charge of the Light Brigade when one of our villagers, Richard Young, was a young soldier in the British Light Cavalry. Posted to the Crimea, when they were sent in to charge at the guns of the Russian Army, Richard survived with the loss of his right arm amputated on the Battlefield. (Of the 600 cavalry only 482 survived with 127 of these wounded.) In 1854 battlefield injuries were treated in much the same way as they had been since Roman times. No anaesthetics, no antiseptics or antibiotics just strong alcohol and cauterization. We take all this for granted today. Hospital care at the time was rudimentary and led Florence Nightingale and others to campaign for better conditions. We have all benefited by the campaigns of these women in the press and Parliament to improve care and cleanliness for the casualties of war. In one respect Richard Young seems to have been fortunate, on his discharge from the army he obtained work as a Hall Porter at Somerset House, London. For most ex-soldiers at this time there was none of the support given to today's Service men and women.



Richard Young would have been seen as a hero in Hildenborough. Richard was born in 1829 and lived in Flat Cottages to the age of 72 outliving his wife Jane by four years. The loss of an arm would make him an ex-soldier to look up to and he would have been well known. His glamour was recognised by the village as he received a soldier's funeral with the sounding of the last post and a volley at the grave.

Lord Tennyson's poem about the Charge of the Light Brigade in October 1854 during the Crimean War painted a glamorous picture of the action. It glorified the action and did not ignore the folly. There were also lines critical of the Officers. One line in the full poem says *"tho' the soldiers knew someone had blundered*." *"Into the valley of Death, Rode the six hundred".*

Today every detail of military actions is pored over and criticised. The attitude at the time is shown in the line "*Their but to do and die"* an attitude still prevalent sixty years later when the slaughter of World War 1 started. Change was on its way as in 1864, the Geneva Convention was signed, and the Red Cross established. Our attitude today is so very different. Today many of this generation of wounded become heroes to the nation. Media coverage can have its downside, but it can be a force for good. The Royal British Legion charity and the recent "Help for Heroes" charity has made a real difference to the lives of today's wounded.

George Gorham

Centre Piece

I hope readers had an enjoyable Christmas and on behalf of Hildenborough Parish Council I would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year!

Flooding

I am pleased to report that Southern Water have been working in Elm Grove to clear the drain blockage that is believed to have been the main cause of the flooding in that area. Recent downpours have not resulted in the usual flooding in Elm Grove so residents are hopeful that the issue has been resolved. Southern Water have also cleared a blockage in the main drain that serves the buildings between the Recreation Ground and the B245 and beyond. It was blocked, mainly with baby wipes and paper hand towels, causing flooding adjacent to the playground in Riding Lane Recreation Ground.

Highways

I am afraid I have no update regarding the installation of the bollards outside The Flying Dutchman but hopefully I will have good news to report soon. The Parish Council have recently contacted Kent County Council with regard to the exit from the BP garage on Tonbridge Road. Residents have expressed concern that motorists leaving the garage are not giving way to pedestrians and cyclists using the cycleway. KCC is therefore looking to upgrade the pavement markings at the garage exit to signal to motorists to stop and check for pavement and cycleway users before driving out onto the road.

I sometimes receive reports of issues affecting our highways in Hildenborough, or footpaths, for example potholes, or fallen trees. Before Kent County Council can take any action they need to be made aware of the issue and this can be done by reporting the problem on their website. To report anything affecting the highway, e.g. overgrown obstructive hedges, blocked drains, potholes, etc. please visit kcc.gov.uk and search for "Report a problem on a road or pavement." This will generate a reference number and enable you to track the progress of your report. Where issues are not resolved in a timely manner, please let me know and I can speak to the local Highways Steward who will investigate the matter but he needs the reference number that identifies it. If multiple reports have been made about the same problem, KCC will be able to see this.

Where the problem has occurred on a pathway, for example a fallen tree causing an obstruction, please go to kcc.gov.uk and search for "Report a problem on a right of way" Unfortunately, issues affecting public rights of way can take longer to resolve because they often involve working in partnership with private landowners to resolve the issue which can prolong the process.

Police

Our local PC, Ollie Evans, has said that December was almost identical to November with 16 crimes reported in Hildenborough, most of them thefts. He said they are seeing a spate of vehicle thefts in the area - in particular Ford Fiesta STs, Land/Range Rovers and Lexus's are being targeted. He advises residents with these types of vehicles to ensure they are secured, fitted with trackers/immobilisers where possible and that the keys are being kept in Faraday boxes overnight. Moped and bike thefts are still a county-wide issue. Sadly, one particularly upsetting crime in Hildenborough in December was the theft of a mobility scooter belonging to a 91-year-old resident. She parked the scooter in the Leigh Road service entrance to West Wood for a short while and when she returned it had been taken. The good news is that CCTV on a nearby building caught the thief on camera, who was known by police, and he was arrested soon afterwards. Fortunately, the mobility scooter was recovered in full working order, and the resident was delighted to be reunited with her mobility scooter less than a week after it was stolen.

Open Spaces

Visitors to West Wood will no doubt have noticed the appearance of 40 new trees that have been planted recently to replace the Ash trees, stricken with Ash Dieback, that had to be felled earlier this year. The new trees, mostly Hazel with a few Field Maple and Oaks, were donated by Richard Vallis of Silva Woodland Management whose company felled the diseased Ash trees. They were planted by Dick Sharp from the Hildenborough Conservation Group and Colin Cope and his team of scouts so thank you very much to all for your hard work. Seven more trees will be planted in January on the B245 side of the service road by pupils from Hildenborough Primary School.

A member of the Parish Council will be at the Farmers' Market on Tuesday 9th January so please say "hello" if you are planning to go along. If you have any issues you wish to report to the council please e-mail me at or call me on 07818 329029. ***Julia Church***

o	w	n	m	m	g	r	a	s	s	b	y
r	l	s	i	p	o	x	c	l	z	a	i
d	p	i	r	l	k	t	n	a	o	s	e
e	w	h	i	o	e	p	h	v	s	k	d
r	g	d	a	u	g	h	t	e	r	e	h
e	k	y	m	r	m	r	c	s	r	t	e
d	i	e	p	s	a	n	d	a	e	m	b
o	l	b	o	t	i	o	c	v	e	o	r
f	l	o	u	r	i	s	h	e	d	s	e
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mother
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save
princess
Pharaoh
flourished
reeds
Nile
Egyptian
slaves
river
son
Moses
scared
basket
killed
daughter
ordered
Miriam
body
baby
Hebrew



...the good news is - I've found a way of heating the church on unwanted chip-fat!...

Sudoku is played on a grid of 9 x 9 spaces. Within the rows and columns are 9 "squares" (made up of 3 x 3 spaces). Each row, column and square (9 spaces each) needs to be filled out with the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square. Does it sound complicated? As you can see from the image below of an actual Sudoku grid, each Sudoku grid comes with a few spaces already filled in; the more spaces filled in, the easier the game – the more difficult Sudoku puzzles have very few spaces that are already filled in.
Source: Sudoku.com

Easy

			7		8	1	5	
1		7	2					6
				5		9		7
				8		5	6	3
	1	3	6		7	2	4	
8	4	6		2				
7		4		1				
9					6	8		2
	2	1	8		5			

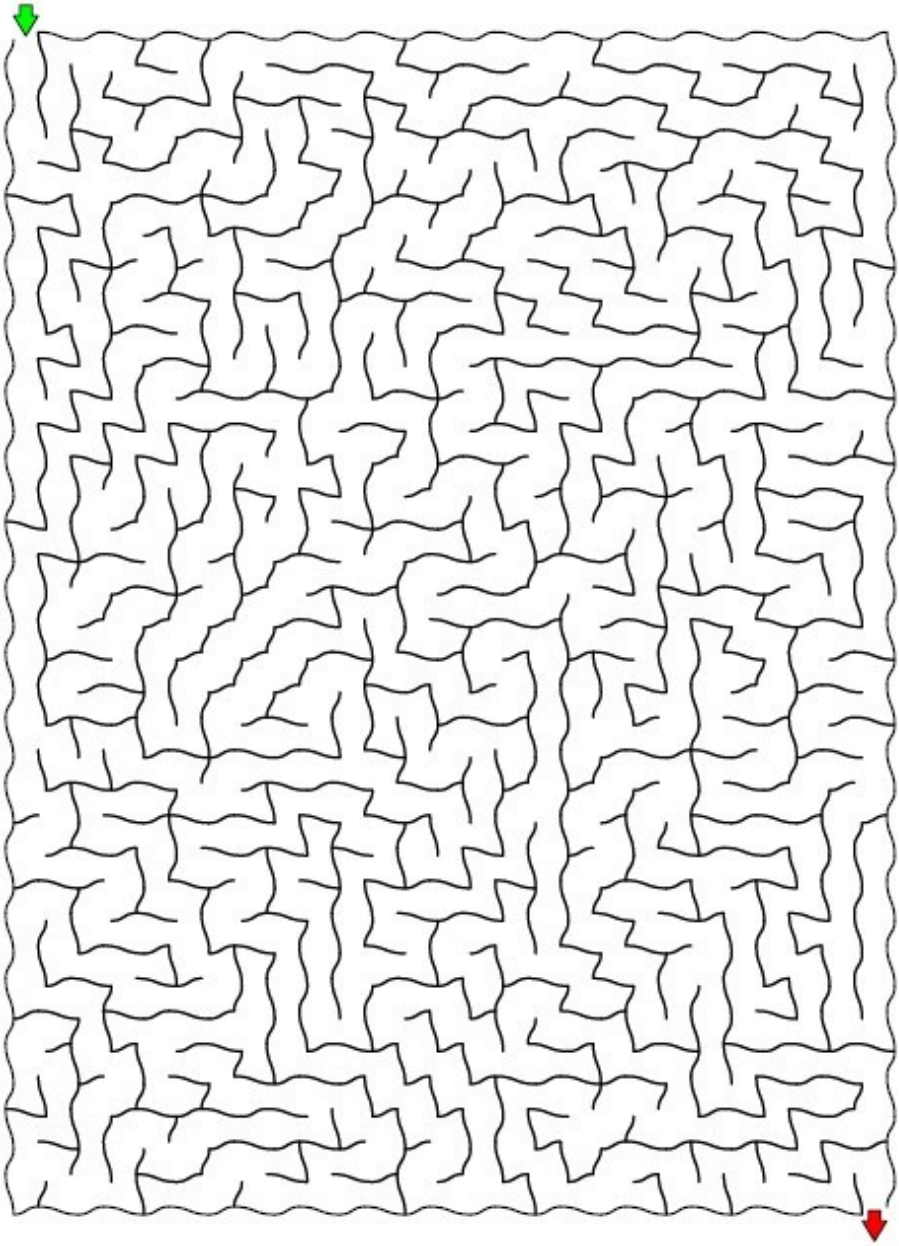
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Medium

			6				7	
		7			3	5		
3					7		4	
					2	6		
8	5						1	7
		9	3					
	9		5					3
		4	1			8		
	2				9			

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Can you find your way through the maze?





Hildenborough History Society December event review – Owl & Raptors

Eighty people, including many children, enjoyed a spectacular, enjoyable evening on Sunday 10 December.

With the light dimmed for our feathered guests, Dan and Liam from the Groombridge based Owl and Raptor Centre demonstrated, with a lady assistant, a wonderful group of birds, both large and small.

The first two Owls were a Bubok (Australian) and Southern White Faced (S African) which were both vertically challenged, and the latter weighed in at only 150g.

A gasp greeted the two largest birds which were the European Great Grey Owl and, later, the even bigger, Verreaux's Eagle Owl (S Africa) which has a wingspan of 1.85 m.

Each bird appeared singly, and the rest of the team was completed by a Barn Owl and a Long Eared Owl, both of which occur in Great Britain.

A witty, laconic commentary from Liam, was informative, entertaining, and amusing. Two handlers spaced by the length or breadth of the Hall induced the birds to fly over or in between the audience who were also given close-up, static, views of these wonderful creatures as the handlers circled around.

This was the fourth visit of the troupe which started in 2018 and they will be back next year. We had an early start at 6pm and this meant that we had many more children than normal, so we are very pleased that, at an early age, they learnt so much about these creatures.

Pat Davies

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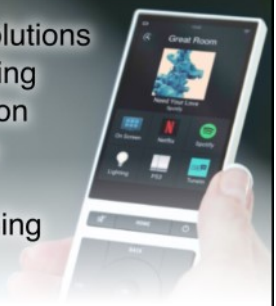
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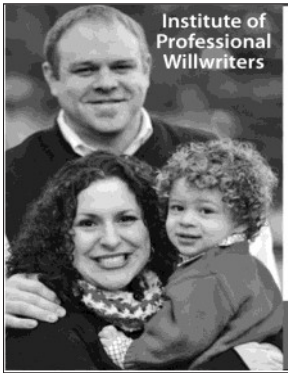
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Local Directory

Church Contacts

Home (Connect) Groups	Church Office **01732 833 596**
Prayer Chain	Cynthia Fawcus **01732 833 397**
Bright Sparks, (Mondays, term-time)	Lisa Glasscote **01732 833 596**
Kids Church (Sundays)	Lisa Glasscote **01732 833 596**

Community Groups

Evening Women's Institute	Miss Lorna Stapley - **01732 832 871**
Beavers (Ages 6-8) Thurs 5.15-6.30 pm	**hildenboroughbeavers8thtonbridgescouts@hotmail.com**
Cubs (Ages 8-10.5) Monday 6.30-8 pm	**hildenboroughwolfcubs@gmail.com**
Scouts (Ages 10.5-14) Friday 7.30-9 pm	**8thtonbridgescouts@gmail.com**
Guides	Sharon Roberts - **07960 782 178**
Brownies	**hildenbrownies@outlook.com**
Hildenborough Conservation Group	Mrs Lynne Flower **01732 355 080**
Hildenborough Farmers' Market	Janet Richardson **01732 838 903**
Hildenborough Gardeners' Society	David Haugh **01732 832 869**
Hildenborough History Society	Judith McQuillan **01732 834 610**
Village Preservation Society	David Vanns **01732 835 289**
Hildenborough Litter Pickers	Emily Simons **07715 113 899**
Hildenborough Parish Council	Julia Church **07818 329 029**
Hildenborough CofE Primary School	www.hildenborough.kent.sch.uk - **01732 833 394**
Stocks Green Primary School	www.stocksgreenprimary.co.uk **- 01732 832 758**
Stocks Green Pre-School	www.stocksgreenpreschool.co.uk **- 01732 834 115**
Village Hall Bookings	Hilary **- 07734 544 412**
Floodline	**0345 988 1188**
KENT POLICE (Non-emergency calls)	**101**

Hildenborough Sports

Badminton	Kathryn Stewart **07809 299 553**
Indoor (Short Mat) Bowls Club	David Chambers **01732 833 612**
Hildenborough Cricket Club	Barry Webb **01732 838 422**
Hildenborough Friendly Badminton Club	Ivan Kirkpatrick **07730 888 429**
Stoolball Club	Bill Richardson **01732 838 903**
Tennis Club (membership)	www.hildenboroughtennis.co.uk
Hildenborough Road Races	Amy Pay - **hildenroadrace@gmail.com**
Tonbridge Swimming Club	chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk
Hildenborough Bridge Club	Lionel Shields **01732 355 919**

Hilden Park Chartered Accountants



SELF-ASSESSMENT TAX RETURNS

You will be required to send a tax return if, in the last tax year (6 April 2022 to 5 April 2023), any of the following applied:

- you were self-employed as a sole trader and earned more than £1,000 (before taking off anything you can claim tax relief on)
- you were a partner in a business partnership
- you had a total taxable income of more than £100,000
- you had to pay the high income child benefit charge.

You may also need to send a tax return if you have any untaxed income, such as:

- money from renting out a property
- tips and commission
- income from savings, investments, and dividends
- foreign income.

The deadline for submitting your self-assessment tax return online for the 2022/23 tax year is midnight on 31 January 2024. You'll also need to pay the balance by this date.

You can confirm whether you need to send a self-assessment tax return on the Government website or by getting in touch with your accountant. As always, a professional accountant can help you navigate the process successfully, make the most of available tax reliefs, and avoid potential pitfalls along the way.

If you would like any advice, please contact us on 01732 838877

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