

Centre Piece for November Keys Magazine

What a beautiful October we have had so far giving a great show of Autumn colours. While the Chairman and Vice Chairman were in West Wood on Tuesday 9 October it was wonderfully warm and sunny when they very gratefully received a generous donation from Tonbridge Lions Club towards the splendid new extension to the play equipment. This was presented by the present chairman, Tom Simmons and past chairman Gordon Hill. I think you can see for yourself from the photos that the Cheddar Gorge is both challenging and enticing. At the other end of the play area are junior swings and a cone climber. All of this I am sure is going to be very popular. At this moment we are awaiting the completion of the fencing which, following problems with the production line in the factory, has finally been delivered. Hopefully by the time you read this the whole area will be in full use and be enjoyed by many local children.



At the Parish Council Meeting on 10 October Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council had kindly loaned to us four boards giving information on the draft Local Plan's development, procedures, processes and consultation process. A number of local residents attended and put forward their views on what is proposed for Hildenborough. These have all been noted and will be taken into consideration when the Parish Council prepares its response. Any comments need to be in to the Borough Council by 19 November and a form for these is given on the Borough Council's website under local plan. There are two forms one which can be completed on line and another which can be sent by post. The Parish Council's comments will be published on their website after the Parish Council Meeting on 12 November.

A few residents near to the Village Green have expressed some concerns about the development of the meadow. Their concerns are mainly over the unkempt look of the Green when the flowers and grasses have died back, and also dog fouling. They have requested that the grass is mowed regularly throughout the growing season. As I am sure you are aware the Council has been trying, with some success, to develop a wild flower meadow which will encourage wildlife. This has proved to be more difficult than was anticipated due to the fertile nature of the soil but last year the Council had been encouraged with the appearance of some new species. Apart from attempting to make the area pleasant for all living in its vicinity and providing habitat for wildlife it was originally set up because it proved impossible to curb the behaviour of some children in the area who were damaging cars with balls, climbing into gardens without permission to retrieve them, swearing, being abusive to

residents and shouting very loudly disturbing those living adjacent to the Green long into the evening. Eventually they were even digging holes in the grass. At the meeting on Wednesday the Parish Council thought it appropriate to seek the views of all those who live in the vicinity as to what they would like to happen – leave the meadow as it is to develop more species of flowers in the future or to turn it back to having it regularly mowed. Please let us have your views.

One of our members has made an amazing job of transforming the Village Sign. It has been repainted to reveal the detail and will be re-erected before you read this Centre Piece – do go and look for yourself on the verge at Foxbush.

A good portion of the meeting on Wednesday was taken up with inconsiderate driver behaviour along the roads in the Village. There is much concern over parking on footways – particularly along the B245 opposite the petrol station where cars constantly, and in spite of being requested not to, obstruct the footway in such a way as to make it impossible for wheelchair users and push chairs to pass without going into the road. It is just an accident waiting to happen along this stretch of the road. Other places giving concern are Leigh Road – parking on the verges and on corners where visibility of oncoming traffic at the junction with Stocks Green Road is completely impossible and Mount Pleasant where cars park so close to the fences of the houses to make it impossible to walk down, let alone get a pushchair or wheel chair through. So a plea – please be considerate so we can all walk safely along footways and also keep the verges in good order. The local Speed Watch Team is now able to attend to monitor the speed of vehicles in several sites in the village. If you are able to help please contact me and I will put you in contact with the team.

Don't forget, when you are thinking about your Christmas shopping (yes it is that time of year already!) that the Parish Council have copies of 'Tales from a Kent Village, Hildenborough...' for those interested in local history. It costs just £10. All you need do is email/send a request to me for a copy plus a cheque made out to Hildenborough Parish Council. If you require it to be sent to you we have to make a charge for post and packaging of £1.60.

As always members will be at the Farmers' Market on Tuesday 14 November when they will listen to your concerns, ideas or take your comments or you can always contact me by email clerk@hildenboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk by post or ring 01732 832367.

Pam Gow