

Aug
2020

KEYS



Your monthly update on Hildenborough happenings



Proposed development of Oakhill House

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From the Vicar

.I have recently spent some time caring for my elderly father who is becoming frail. Seeing such a once strong and powerful figure in such a vulnerable place, gives me a huge dose of reality of the frailty and vulnerability of life and that we all are destined to face and come to terms with the changes ageing brings to us, in each generation of our lives. It has also brought on a sense of powerlessness for me, that I cannot stop the decline and ill health his age has brought upon him.

I wonder if you have ever felt out of control? Are you feeling less in control of your life than before the Covid 19 Virus? Maybe you are scared, or you are feeling anxious and uncertain about the future. It might be that you feel lonely and isolated. All of these things and more are part of the human experience.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I have pondered and reflected much on these words lately, and still, even though these words tell us not to worry, we still do.

Why is that? I came to the conclusion that it is down to one thing. Do we trust God? Do I trust God, do you trust God, with

everything? Not just with some of our lives, but all our lives, every single waking moment and single thing, be it big or small. If we really do trust God with absolutely everything, surely, we will then believe every word and promise He gives us about His care and protection of us. Surely the outcome will then be that fear has no place in our lives because we walk closely with God.

Getting to that place of utter trust and dependence upon God's care and provision is challenging. It appears it's a journey of faith and our dependence on God grows and deepens as we journey with God throughout our lives. One thing that can make trusting God harder, is a fear of what others might say and do to us, we call it fear of man in the Church. If I do this or that what will others think.

In feeling powerless we can turn to the one who has power at all times and in all places. Though, we are never really powerless, as we can turn to God in prayer and ask for help, He has all the power to change any circumstance and so we must keep asking God to help us and others to make a difference for good in our lives and the world we live.

Psalm 56:3-4

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise - in God I trust and am not afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?

God Bless

Tim

ACTIVITIES AT THE CHURCH CENTRE

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For Dads and young children.

Hildenborough Church Centre

Second Saturday of the month 10 a.m.

Contact: Andrew Nurcombe-Thorne

Phone - 07506 737 633

Email – andrewnthorne@hotmail.com

THE KING'S MEN'S GROUP

Will meet monthly in the Church hall at 7.30 till 10 pm. All men are welcome - come and meet us in a relaxed friendly atmosphere, where we can hear new exciting and encouraging testimony.

More information from Gordon Paterson

01732 832 079 or 07836 262 833

BRIGHT SPARKS (formerly SUNBEAMS)

St. John's Toddler group

Every Monday 1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. (School term time only)

Contact: Marcus Hockley 07800 887 938

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAYS

9AM

INFORMAL CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

11.15AM

FORMAL SERVICE

TUESDAYS

11.15AM

MORNING SERVICE (SPOKEN)

Hildenborough Gospel Hall

Sunday meetings

11.45am Wayfinders Children's Meeting; school term time only

6.30pm Gospel Meeting; not last Sunday of the month

4.30pm Gospel Meeting; only last Sunday of the month

Thursdays

7.00 pm Prayer and Bible Teaching

Mount Pleasant, Hildenborough, TN11 9JG

info@hildenboroughgospelhall.co.uk

www.hildenboroughgospelhall.co.uk/

WHO'S WHO IN ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

CLERGY	Vicar: Revd. Tim Sait Tel: 833 596 or Mobile: 07973 136 968 tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
CHILDREN and FAMILIES' PASTOR	Marcus Hockley (07800 887 938) marcus@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
READER and SENIORS' PASTOR	Sue Trowbridge (833 848)
CHURCH WEBSITE	www.stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
WARDENS	David Green (838 435), Wyatt Glass (832 430)
ARCHIVIST	Terry Barton (832 207)
PCC SECRETARY	Amanda Willmont (350 565) (NB <i>Parish Council tel. is on p 38</i>) amanda@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
TREASURER	Chris Mileham (chris.mileham@virginmedia.com)
CHURCH CENTRE BOOKINGS	Cynthia Fawcus (833 397) cafawcus@hotmail.com
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR and PA to the VICAR	Sal Hamlyn, Church Office, St John's Church Centre, Foxbush, TN11 9HT, (833 596) Email: sal@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk (do ring the church office or email Sal any time, if you would like to discuss any pastoral or administrative matter, or if you would like to make an appointment with the Vicar).
YOUTH WORK	See organisations list on page 38
"KEYS" MAGAZINE	Editor: David Haugh (832 869) Deputy Editor: Claire Rawlinson (834 896) Distribution: Clem Giles (833 543) Advertising: Jill Hinds (07931 976 957) keysmag@hotmail.com keysmagazineadvertising@gmail.com

Kay Cope

Kay Cope, aged 78, sadly passed away on 20th June after a short stay in the Tunbridge Wells Hospital. Kay had contributed so much to the village over the years, helping with HOPS, co-writing the Hildenborough A-Z publication and working on the committees of the HMC Participating Patients Committee and the Gardening Society – In the words of George Gorham, "Kay has left us quite a legacy".

Terry Barton

Terry Barton died in hospital on the 5th July after a very short illness. He had made a great contribution to many aspects of the village. He was one of the organisers who raised money for the building of the Village Hall, and was, for many years, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council. He was also the Hildenborough Church Archivist. Terry was Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council in 1994/5 and was also an Alderman. He will be sadly missed by his wife Rosemary, his family and many friends.

A public information poem for lockdown

The lockdown door is slightly ajar
But please remain safe, don't venture too far.
Enjoy the sites that are within easy reach,
Don't over-crowd your nearest beach.
We may be more confident and feeling brave,
But we must be aware of the second wave.
It's not about the blue sea or the surf,
It's remembering what life is really worth.
So, whilst you may crave fields or sea,
Don't put yourself in jeopardy.
You may want to see friends for a friendly huddle,
Just imagine you're in a six feet bubble
The virus could still attack and do its worst
Should your 6 feet bubble suddenly burst.
I'm not saying that at home is where you must stay
Just remember to keep six feet away.
I know people are saying we are over the peak,
And some normality is what we all seek.
There may be more tests and we can contact trace
And ICU may have some more space.
But we don't want to add to the list of the dead
So, remember the virus can continue to spread.
We can't say we've won and wear the crown
Before keeping the R number down.
Our health service is still in a precarious state
So please stay at home and self-isolate
If you're feeling ill or under the weather
Don't go outside thinking you're clever
At times like these, we must think of each other
And not venture out until we recover.
So, staying at home is for the best
If we want to protect the NHS.

Mark Crabtree

Resilience when emerging from lockdown

As we slowly emerge
From hibernation
Get used to the feeling
Of liberation
Take tentative steps
In this new day
Please walk slowly
Feel your way
Don't rush head-on
As if nothing's changed
Reconnect with tribes
For so long estranged
But remember you're tougher
Than you actually believe
With so many tricks
Hidden up your sleeve
You will have passed
This way before
And once washed up
On this rocky shore
But look how you've blossomed
How strong you've grown
The house of change
Has become your home
You have met each challenge
From head on
Changing tunes of woe
To your victory song
You have fought and wrestled
And gained control
With pillars of confidence
Strengthening your soul
You have used what you believed
Was once wasted or surplus
To drive you forward
With a passion and purpose.

Mark Crabtree

Forget-me-not Cafés



Companionship over a cuppa



The Hildenborough Forget-me-not Café is celebrating its second birthday, and back in 2018, Cllr Jill Anderson, Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling, opened the café. Jill returned to help us celebrate our first anniversary in 2019, but sadly, due to the coronavirus, our celebrations for this year have been put on hold. Nevertheless, as a keen supporter of the café, Jill has kindly sent us a message: -

“Congratulations and very best wishes to everyone involved with the Forget-me-not Cafe on the second anniversary of the opening. It has been a very successful project and I am disappointed that Covid19 has prevented you having a proper celebration. I hope to be able to join you when things get back to normal.”



The cafe has come up to speed with monthly Zoom meetings held on the last Friday of the month, and if you would like to be involved with these please contact Elaine (details below). At the July Zoom meeting, Phil Raymond will be giving an anecdotal talk on his time as a cruise ship director. I have heard him speak about this before and his stories are incredibly funny. One of his experiences was standing at the bottom of the ship's stairs welcoming guests, when one asked him “do these stairs go up?”

If you would like to be a part of the Zoom café please contact Elaine by email on elaine.murray@thegoodcaregroup.com or hello@forgetmenotcafe.org.uk or phone 07805 367 268. We are looking forward to the day when we can all meet up again, but until then please stay well and stay safe.

Julie Rhodes

Keep your distance!

I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch you with a six-foot pole" would become national policy, but here we are!

Multiply

Noah opened up the ark and let all the animals out, telling them to "Go forth and multiply!" He began to close the great doors of the ark when he noticed that there were two snakes still sitting in a dark corner. Concerned, he said to them: "Didn't you hear me? You can go now. Go forth and multiply."

"We can't," said the snakes sadly. "We're adders."

Butterflies - what's in a name?

I have always found the names of butterflies disappointing. They are easy to learn but do not do justice to these dainty insects. If you look at a list of flowering plants you find names that tell you something about the plant. The “Selfheal” might once have been used to heal wounds, “Jack-go-to-bed-at noon” (a large flower similar to the dandelion) does close up its petals at about noon. “Bindweed” does twist round and bind.

But the Butterflies’ names are just simple descriptions of the size and colour. We all know the Large White Butterfly, which is large and white, and its cousin the Cabbage White Butterfly, which is white and feeds on our cabbages. There are six other white butterflies including the Small White and the Green Veined White. The least common and best marked of the white butterflies is the “Marbled White” which describes it well. When you are out walking you will come across a range of twelve



Marbled White



Small Heath

different brown butterflies. The biggest of these and most common is the “Meadow Brown” which is common in long grass as is the “Gatekeeper”, which is brown with more orange markings. There are two other butterflies that look very similar - the “Small Heath” and the “Large Heath” that are more common on shorter grass but very common on hedgerows, where they enjoy the flowers and fruits of the Blackberry. When the fruits ripen, they will feed on the sugar that is produced.

There are a few British Butterflies that do have

colourful markings. The “Red Admiral” is a large butterfly with bold scarlet marking on its black wings. It is not hard to imagine an image of Nelson’s Coat when you spot this butterfly, but some do confuse it with the equally colourful “Small Tortoise Shell” in shades of red and orange. In a good year they will come out of hibernation and rear at least two generations before the winter forces hibernation. Both these butterflies and the distinctive “Peacock Butterfly” have the stinging nettle as its food plant.

The caterpillars weave a web around themselves to provide protection from predators. If you spot a patch of nettles hung with dirty webs, like an untidy spider, then this is the caterpillar. The “Peacock” Butterfly does have a descriptive name; the markings on its wings are like the eye marking on peacock feathers.



Red Admiral

There is a whole group of Butterflies, the Fritillaries, with colourful markings, but they are all increasingly rare. Climate change and habitat destruction due to changes in Agriculture tend to hit the butterflies hard. They are such specialised insects that those sites where they survive need to be specially managed to maintain their habitat. One woodland butterfly that has found our gardens to be a safe place is the “Speckled Wood”. Its food plant is a range of grasses, unlike many butterflies where they rely on just one plant. In spring you may find the “Orange Tip Butterfly” in your garden; its food plant is the Garlic Mustard, a common weed in local gardens. Before you pull it up as a weed please check to see if it has caterpillars already munching.

If you go further afield you will also come across small Blue Butterflies. They are rare and most common on Downlands where their food plant, the horseshoe vetch, is common. The “Common Blue” can sometimes be seen in gardens in Hildenborough. Nearby in Knole Park is a rare blue Butterfly with a complex lifecycle; the caterpillar of the “Large Blue” is taken into the nest of a species of ant and tended until it pupates. The ants feed the

caterpillar that then exudes a secretion that the ants enjoy. All this going on in the anthill that you stroll over in the turf beyond the carpark. This butterfly is in danger of extinction. It has become too specialised and unable to adapt to changes in its environment. This is the case with many species; they become too specialised and fail to adapt to change. This can apply to any species, even our own. Extinction is a slow but inevitable process, but there are examples of species being nimble in adapting to change. We can learn a lot from the natural world.



George Gorham

Free national phonline bringing worship and prayer

Government figures show that 2.5 million people aged 75 and above have never used the internet. And so, to help them, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, recently launched a free national phonline to bring worship and prayer into the homes of those without access to the internet.

Daily Hope, which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England.

It was such a lovely warm sunny morning when our Farmers' Market returned to St. John's Church on 7th July. So good to see so many old faces and lots of new ones as well. We had nine stalls spaced round the car park to make sure we were well distanced and all our customers were so patient and helpful in keeping to our new rules. So thank you everyone. It was a great morning. Mikey's Fish, Carla's local cheese and Helen and her cakes were all with us, as they have steadfastly been during lockdown, and we were so pleased to welcome back Andy with fresh fruit and vegetables, Paul with flowers from Hever, Elly with her eco refill soaps and washing liquids, Sarah from Sanden Vinyard and Wendy with her preserves, and I mustn't forget Maria with her fascinating craft animals.

So far we are unable to use the Church premises, which precludes some stallholders, but things are changing so rapidly we just can't say where we will be in a month's time. Just keep your eye on our Facebook page for updates. Unfortunately, we were without our lovely bakers, Rusbridges, as after serving us from the very beginning, they have now had to change their way of working and can't be with us anymore. We also have to tell you that Corinne and her great selection of meat is another great loss, as they too are changing their ways of working and can't serve us in future.

Just be assured that Janet, our Manager, has been vigorously 'on the case' since we were faced with this dilemma, and at the time of writing there are already various options being explored to find replacements for these two stalls. We will hopefully be able to give you full details next month.

Business everywhere is changing and we would just like to pay tribute to both stallholders who can't be with us in the future. Rob's Mother, Chrissy and Father, Mike joined us at the beginning of the Market twelve years ago, bringing their great selection of bread and rolls, etc. with seasonal specialities and many new introductions – like Marmite bread, etc! After Mike sadly passed away, Rob and Chrissy have been there for us. They have always been very popular and a mainstay of the Market, and we would like to send our heartfelt thanks for their service and to wish them good luck with their new enterprise. We have been so grateful to Rob for bringing bread to so many customers at the Half Moon during the whole of lockdown and they will be so missed.

Corinne hasn't been with us quite so long, but is a very popular figure in the Market with her



great selection of local meat. Where will we be without Sam's sausages, bacon and black pudding and all the other delicious cuts. We will also miss seeing Noah when he comes with Granny, as we remember when he was only a bump! But again, we wish you very best wishes in all your new endeavours as we will miss you too.

Just be assured that we will be back to normal as soon as is possible with our mix of good local food, plus some craft, good coffee and the opportunity to meet up with old friends and make new ones in our coffee room and take part in the many events we are happy to run in conjunction with the Market.

We are sorry to say that our popular stallholder Gary's junior science morning, scheduled for the end of July for all our young visitors, was not able to take place and our ever popular 'Cooking for Kids' event during August is also not on our agenda for this year. However, thinking of what we could do, our great friend Kath Barton (who has been helping to control the crowds outside the Half Moon since lockdown) has come up with the idea of combining the two, and we challenge all the young people in Hildenborough to combine science and food and try something new perhaps. So here goes.

Calling all young cooks and gardeners and artists:

We have two challenges for you:

The first one is to try to see what you can regrow at home from leftover food waste. For example, celery, carrots, garlic, lettuce and many more. Perhaps www.diyncrafts.com/ www.ruralsprout.com would help you. Mostly these can be grown on the kitchen window sill but they will take a varying amount of time. For instance:

Celery

From this



to this



We would love you to have a go.

Note: Although many people have done this, like all experiments, they don't always work.

We would like you to take a picture(s) of your vegetable(s) at the start and end of your project with a note of what has or hasn't worked for you. Put your name and age on a card beside your plant when you take the photographs.

The Second one is: to make a picture or pattern printing with vegetables. You can make it as big as you like! www.royalacademy.org.uk can help.

Again, take a picture when you are in the middle and at the end of your project, so we can see how you have done it. Don't forget to add a card beside your picture with your name and age.

The closing date for entries is Tuesday 1st September 2020 and these should be sent to kury@hollanden.plus.com. We will award three prizes in each category to the value of £10. £6. £3. and display the grown vegetables and pictures at the Market for all to see.

GOOD LUCK.

Hildenborough Farmers' Market is held every Tuesday 9.00-11.00 at St. John's Church, Hildenborough. www.hildenboroughfarmersmarket.co.uk.

Contact: Janet Richardson 01732 838 903. 402 bus stops outside.

FARMERS' MARKET FOOD THOUGHT FOR AUGUST

Lockdown has been a time of experiment for all of us, and although I cook all the time, I had never used Greek Yoghurt too much in cookery. Two things I have tried, and which have been really yummy during this time are Mary Berry's Lemon Yoghurt Cake and Jamie Oliver's very easy flatbreads. Anyone who has one of Mary Berry's cake books must have this recipe in their repertoire (as I had but never made it until I saw it recently in a magazine) or it is easily accessed on line. The cake is moist and very lemony and the texture is a great change from normal 'sponge'. JO's Yoghurt flatbreads are wonderfully easy to make and I have been making these to eat with curry rather than the everlasting rice.

350 g self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting

1 tsp sea salt

1 tsp baking powder

350 g natural yoghurt

1. Add all the ingredients into a mixing bowl and mix together, then use clean hands to pat and bring everything together.
2. Dust a clean work surface with flour, then tip out the dough.
3. Knead for a minute or so to bring it all together (this isn't a traditional bread recipe, so you don't need to knead it for long – just enough time to bring everything together).
4. Dust a rolling pin with flour, then divide the dough in half, then divide each half into 6 equal-sized pieces (roughly the size of a golf ball).
5. With your hands, pat and flatten the dough, then use a rolling pin to roll each piece into 12cm rounds, roughly 2mm to 3mm thick.
6. Use a knife to cut 6 lines into the centre of each round, leaving about 3cm at each end.
7. Place a dry griddle or frying pan on a high heat, then once hot, cook each one for 1 to 2 minutes on each side, or until puffed up, turning with tongs. (I cooked them for about 1 1/4 mins each side, you can cook two at one time)
8. Brush them with melted butter (which makes them very moreish) or just pile the flatbreads onto a serving board so everyone can dig in and help themselves.

Over-65s go shopping online

When you can't go out, go shopping. That seems to be the decision of many people over 65.

Record numbers of over-65s have signed up for online banking, according to recent data from Halifax. And they are now shopping online twice as much as a year ago, after being forced to stay home during lockdown.

Overall, the proportion of transactions being made online by those over the age of 65 has doubled, climbing from 20 per cent to 40 per cent.

Seagull

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?"

"He died and went to heaven," the father replied.

The boy thought a moment and then asked: "Why did God throw him back down?"

Cooking Corner: Roasted vegetable and salmon tray bake

If you're looking for a Friday Fish & Chips alternative, this one-tin dish could be the recipe for you. This colourful and nutritious tray bake can be served as a complete meal, and can be adapted to include whatever veggies you have at home. Cooking the fish over a bed of roasted vegetables infuses the fillets with natural flavour, and more importantly, reduces the cleaning up after!

Serves 4

You will need:

x4 salmon fillets

200g potatoes (chopped)

Vegetables (e.g. 1 pepper, 1 red onion/shallots. 1 head of broccoli, broken up, ½ courgette, 100g butternut squash)

Handful of mushrooms

3-4 tbsp olive oil

Basil leaves or dried herbs (optional)

For the optional marinade: ½ tsp honey, 1 garlic glove, 2tsp balsamic vinegar, black pepper

Preheat the oven to 200°C and start off by preparing the salmon. Combine the marinade ingredients in a bowl, brush the mixture over the fillets and place to one side with the mushrooms.

Chop all the vegetables and transfer into a large roasting tin. Leave the mushrooms to one side – these will be added later. Drizzle the vegetables with the olive oil, and lightly season.

Roast the vegetables for 20 minutes before adding the salmon, mushrooms, and a sprinkling of dried herbs. Cook for a further 12-15 minutes, until the salmon is cooked through and a light golden colour.

Serve the dish immediately, adding some fresh basil leaves if desired.

Emily Wootton



Weeds or wildflowers?

Like many in the village this year, I have spent far more time in my garden. I have spent my summer battling the weeds that try to take over my garden. If I do not do battle, I would lose my vegetable patch and my flower beds to a collection of wild flowers. Some of the weeds may look attractive, but they have a nasty habit of taking over, and then the plants you want to grow are smothered and do not do well. Two of the villains have a common action; they creep. The Bindweed creeps underground, while the Buttercup creeps along the surface. Both put on a good display of flowers but they wreak havoc with everything else.

If you have bindweed running up your bean poles, the white trumpet flowers may look good but they do not produce an edible fruit. The Hedge Bindweed (Greater bindweed) is a very strong plant and well adapted to dealing with any opposition. Its strong underground rhizomes go deep into the soil and drain the soil of water and nutrients. This means that any plants I try to grow in the area next to the hedge do not thrive - they are starved. On top of this, the

bindweed grows at such a rate that can out-climb my runner beans. The plant climbs by twining round other plants, which it smothers as it uses them for support. It twines by the growing tip circling round until it meets an upright. It can twist in a complete circle in two hours or so on a summer's day, and can perform seven or eight circuits. Once attached to a support it hangs on and can pull down the supporting plant. The flowers are very attractive with large white trumpets, but poor compensation for the problems it causes.



Bindweed

The other great problem is the Creeping Buttercup. It has attractive yellow flowers and can



Creeping Buttercup

make the lawn look green when there is no rain. Lack of rain is not a problem with the Creeping Buttercup. As its name suggests, it creeps, making it a nuisance. It will creep along the ground, hugging the ground so tightly it gets under the mower blade, then the grass is smothered which dies. When I remove the Buttercup, it leaves an ugly bare patch, so it is best got rid of quickly. If left too long it will then get beyond the lawn and invade the rest of the garden.

The creeping rhizomes are on the surface of the soil and are easier to remove than the underground rhizomes of the Bindweed. There are three different but related Buttercups: the Creeping Buttercup, the much more attractive Bulbous Buttercup which grows up from small bulb-like swellings (this is the Buttercup that looks so attractive in photographs of summer meadows) and there is also a Buttercup that is more like a small version of the Bulbous Buttercup with finer leaves that is in the UK.

The Buttercups and the Bindweed are both perennial weeds; they grow from the same rootstock each year. They need to be conquered before you start to put in your plants. To remove them later causes maximum disturbance. The more troublesome weeds to new gardeners are the annuals; those that grow from seed each year. Plant a row of carrots and you are sure to release weed seeds present in your soil that will grow quicker than the seed you want.

The most difficult thing about the wild flowers that become weeds is that they are very well adapted to the environment of my garden. They enjoy disturbed soil and colonise my garden as if it were another wild place. They can attack on two fronts. They propagate vegetatively, that is any bit that breaks off can grow, and they also grow by seed. They keep me busy in the garden, as they continue to grow when I take a break but they do make gardening interesting. Trying to understand your weeds helps you keep ahead of the opposition. The plus side of weeds is that they help support the range of wildlife that my garden attracts. They provide variety for the Bumblebees and other insects and a range of visiting birds.

George Gorham

Some miscellaneous observations on modern life...

Fools rush in where fools have been before.

It's called 'take home' pay because you can't afford to go anywhere else with it.

Success is relative - the greater the success, the more relatives.

If at first you succeed, try to hide your astonishment.

People like criticism - just keep it positive and flattering.

It's okay to let your mind go blank, but please turn off the sound.

Worry kills more people than work because more people worry than work.

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

Misers aren't much fun to live with, but they make great ancestors.

Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.

The real reason you can't take it with you is that it goes before you do.

Junk is something you throw away about three weeks before you need it.

Hospitality is making your guests feel at home, even if you wish they were.

Some people are like blisters. They don't show up until the work is done.

A babysitter is a teenager acting like an adult while the adults are out acting like teenagers.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you a mechanic.

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again.

The Night Sky in Hildenborough – August 2020

The two bright planets Jupiter and Saturn now rise around 8pm at the start of the month when the Sun is still above the horizon. Once the sky has become reasonably dark (around 10 pm), the two gas giants can be found low down above the south-south-eastern horizon with an altitude of just 12° . On August 1st a nearly full Moon is just south west of Jupiter whilst the following night it is south east of Saturn. As the month progresses the planets are slightly further west (to the right) with each night that passes. The same applies if you observe them later at night so that on the 1st they have progressed to straddle the meridian due south by midnight. As proof of the gradual progression of the constellations, if you look on the 31st the two planets are now due south but will be there at 10pm – two hours earlier than they were on the 1st. The Moon is again close to Jupiter and Saturn on the 28th and 29th respectively. The diagram shows the position of both planets around the middle of the month at 10pm. Please note there was a small mistake on last month's map. I had inexplicably labelled two stars as being "Deneb", a problem corrected on this month's map.



Jupiter is by far the brighter of the two, partly because it is closer and larger than Saturn, but also because it reflects a larger proportion of the sunlight that falls upon it back out into space. This measure of reflectivity is known as a planet's "albedo". As I mentioned last month both Jupiter and Saturn were at their closest to Earth in July, something that astronomers refer to as

"opposition". Although that moment has passed, both bodies are still well positioned and are becoming visible earlier in the evenings, so do go out and look for Jupiter's four largest moons if you have binoculars or a telescope.

Towards the end of the month Mars will begin to appear low down in the east, being around 13° in altitude at 11pm. It is slowly growing in brightness because it will be the turn of the red planet to reach opposition in mid October.

August brings one of the more plentiful of the year's annual meteor showers, the Perseids. Activity began in late July and continues until August 24th with a narrow peak being reached this year during the afternoon of the 12th. That means the best time to look is as soon as it gets dark on the night of the 12th, which will be around 10pm when the Sun will be 12° below the horizon, marking the beginning of astronomical twilight. This year moonlight interferes in the early stages of the shower, although this is when meteor rates are very low. A waning crescent Moon rises a little after midnight on the night of maximum and will have some effect later if you are watching through into the early morning of the 13th. Standing watching for meteors for any length of time will lead to a cricked neck, so to avoid that lie on a sun lounger facing north east with the head end raised slightly so that you are looking at an area of sky around 45° in altitude. In this position you can be aware of a large area of sky. Meteors appear to radiate from the constellation of Perseus but can be seen over a wide expanse of sky, so watching close to the radiant is neither necessary nor particularly rewarding.

Brian Mills FRAS

From the Editor

The cover sketch (taken from Berkeley Homes newsletter) shows what might happen to the existing Fidelity site. This will be the biggest change in Hildenborough for many years, adding several hundred extra persons to our village. Whilst the site itself is relatively obscured to passers-by, it will impose a significant load upon the existing services - medical, educational, sewage, waste water, etc. By the time you read this, Berkeley have planned to submit their formal full planning application to Tonbridge and Malling District Council. If so, details will be visible on their Planning website. The demolition of the Volvo garage and its replacement with a 75 bed care home has been approved, so the nature of Hildenborough is bound to change in the immediate future.

There is some easing in the restrictions brought in to control the coronavirus pandemic, but many of the most at risk people - i.e. the elderly and those with long-term problems - are not rushing to mix with lots of other people. We can all see how other countries have fared after thinking that the first wave was all there would be, so we must exercise caution and common sense in going forward. Once again I must extend thanks to our hard-working Chemists for their superb timely service, dispensing medicines to those in need and delivering them.

The number and type of scams going around seems to be on the increase. Anyone is a target, and anything is a topic for scammers to exploit. Do remember to be vigilant and query anything that sounds odd.

In these strange times, it is easy to forget that utility providers carry on as normal, and you may well have been moved to a more expensive tariff for energy, phone or broadband. Do check out your own situation. The best deals are found via the internet, and require persons to have access to a valid email address. "Lookaftermybills" is a service you only need to set up once, as they will change things for gas and electricity every year to get you a good deal. If you are not interested in potentially saving hundreds of pounds, then just do nothing. If you do not have internet access, then we are working with the library to provide a help service to those without internet access. Covid-19 may have delayed things, but has not dampened our desire to provide a service to the village.



The best source of the latest medical advice and news is on the HTMG website - address below.

<http://www.hildenboroughmedicalgroup.co.uk>

Hildenborough Gardeners' Society

Due to the Covid-19 situation, the society has had to cancel its shows this year. The store will be open again in September after a break in August, and continue until the end of October. Whether we are able to hold our two planned talks in October and November depends upon a number of factors still uncertain at the moment. Our web site has many colourful pictures of flowers and gardens belonging to our members, so do take a look. Enjoy your gardening – if you are not a member it is never too late to join. www.hgs.btck.co.uk



Hildenborough Village Hall (HVH)

After a few months of closure, HVH is preparing to welcome back local residents for their leisure and social activities. Obviously, this must be done following the government guidelines, primarily revolving around social distancing and hygiene. Users will be asked to complete a risk assessment showing how they intend to operate and comply with the new rules for hall use. It is not expected that all users will want to return straight away, but a gradual return to use will ensue. During the closed period, parts of the roof that were deteriorating have been renewed, and extensive internal cleaning has taken place. We look forward to welcoming our users, helping Hildenborough to return to some sort of normality. Our web site gives information of activities (as they were) and of booking processes.

<https://hildenboroughvh.weebly.com>

Hildenborough Flood Forum

The latest information from the Environment Agency is that the process of preparing for the actual construction of the improvements to the Leigh Barrier and the new bund are progressing. The Covid-19 situation caused some slowing of progress, but nothing drastic. The application to Defra to request an increase to the maximum permitted stored water level in the Leigh Flood Storage Area was submitted in early June as planned. They are currently working on the planning application for the Leigh element. They are re-designing the Hildenborough bund to reduce the impact on local residents and plan to submit the planning application for that part of the scheme later in the year

**Don't forget that we have a
Courier Correspondent for our Village.**

Sarah Crockford has volunteered

**If you have an event or activity happening in Hildenborough
which you'd like her to mention do let her know two weeks in advance.**

Contact her on 07805 855 069 or

Email: crockford.writing@gmail.com

From our local MP

In my previous column I spoke about some of the benefits we have seen over the past few difficult months. The fact that Tonbridge and Malling has the lowest infection rate in Kent is testament to the hard work and adherence with the social distancing measures we have all abided by, and is a credit to the support of community groups and the councils.

But we couldn't have done this without the support of our wonderful NHS staff. Our GPs, the acute nurses on the front line at Maidstone and Pembury, and everyone else who works in our health service - thank you for all you have done to keep us safe.

The scale of our response was impressive and shows how much we can achieve when we work together. By the end of March, Tonbridge School was operational as one of the first Coronavirus Assessment Centres in the whole country. I was pleased to help get emergency supplies from Taiwan to keep us all safe at the very start of the pandemic too. We all did what we can to help those in need.

I wanted to take some time in this column to reflect not only on what our medical staff have achieved, but also on what we have achieved as a community. The Coronavirus Community Hub, run by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, and Kent Growth Hub, run by the County Council, have enabled everyone affected to be able to access the support they need. Whether it be getting access to generous grants for your business, being successfully supported through the Job Retention scheme, or simply havinAg food delivered to your home, we've all relied on each other to keep us safe during this difficult time.

In the past few months, I've been helping many more people than usual. I've heard some heart-breaking stories of people being separated from family and friends, and for those abroad when the virus hit in March this was particularly concerning. From New Zealand, to Cambodia and Columbia, people from our community needed repatriation and I was delighted that, eventually, we managed to get everyone home. Holidays of a lifetime turned into arduous journeys home under the most difficult conditions.

But it's not just travelling from abroad which has seen transport options change. Here in Tonbridge we've seen the opportunity to invest in our local infrastructure, capitalising on the increase in the number of people cycling and walking. I'm grateful to everyone who completed my Walking, Cycling and Safer Roads survey last month. It builds on the multi-million-pound investment made by the Government in sustainable transport measures, and Kent County Council's willingness to invest this funding locally.

Some of the changes over the past few months, such as more cycling and walking, I hope will be permanent. Others, such as the need for so much emergency medical care, we hope to see the back of. But we can look back with pride at the role our communities have played in countering the pandemic. Thank you to all who have played their part.

Tom Tugendhat

Centre Piece

It is reassuring, that as I write this, there are fewer restrictions on what we should or shouldn't do. Let us hope that it remains that way. As I write this, Leicester is experiencing a second lockdown due to too many new cases of COVID-19, so we hope that everyone will respect the safety measures in order that we all can continue to enjoy the lifting of some restrictions. The Parish Council met virtually on Wednesday 8 July and welcomed two new members who were co-opted during the June meeting and reported in Centre Piece last month. It is good that such virtual meetings can be used for the Parish Council to continue with its work.

Prior to the business of the meeting, the chair, Margaret Coles, sadly informed members of the news of the death of Terry Barton, who has not only been a Borough Councillor for Hildenborough for many years, but also a member for many years prior to becoming chair of the Parish Council from 2006 until his retirement in 2011. He was a familiar figure around the village and served the community well for many years. He had been instrumental in providing many new facilities and improvements in the village for residents.

The business of the evening mainly centred around planning issues and the opening up of our play and leisure facilities. Disappointment was expressed regarding the approval of the planning application for the Volvo site, because the points of concern raised by the Parish Council and a number of local residents had been totally ignored by the planning officers of the Borough Council.

Another point of interest was the proposal circulated by Berkeley Homes regarding the re-development of the Fidelity site into residential use. These proposals, it is understood, will be taken forward and plans prepared to be submitted to the Borough Council late in the Summer. When these are available, the Parish Council will consider them along with all the points and comments made and received from local residents to formulate their comments. The other planning issue was that of the Borough Council's decision to adhere rigidly to the 21 day time allocation for comments on planning applications. This will not, in itself, impact on the Parish Council, as the Planning Committee meets every 2 weeks, but the withdrawal of sending out hard copies of plans will. In order to make comment, the Parish Council will need to obtain internet connection and a large screen to view plans in the Village Hall once meetings are permitted again. Discussions are already underway with the Management of the Village Hall.

The other area for much discussion was the opening up of the Council's play areas for children to use once again. Unfortunately many people wondered why they remained closed after the date on which the Government allowed them to open again. This was because there had been unauthorised use of the play areas which had been vandalised, and the safety surface strewn with broken glass bottles. However, it didn't go without notice, that following the 4th of July, a number of parents didn't read the closed signs with directions to our website for more information on what was happening, but endangered their children by either climbing under the tape or taking it down to enter and use the unsafe areas. The Council can appreciate that Tonbridge play areas were open, but they have a fully trained maintenance and ground staff, whereas Hildenborough only has one contractor undertaking work on one day a week, which made it impossible, given the Government's short notice, to get safety instructions agreed and printed as well as the above mentioned work on making the areas safe to use.

We are sure that everyone appreciated the seriousness of the COVID-19 infection, even though some people are not badly affected by it; some have serious and long lasting side effects or even fatal results from it. It is with that in mind that the Council is doing everything it can to make its leisure facilities safe. Rules have been fixed to or near the entrance to the playgrounds, fitness area, ball court and cycle track.

Rules for using the children's play area

These rules are **in addition** to the normal rules of the play area

Please ensure you **maintain social distancing** in line with the current government guidance

If the play area is busy, please come back another time or use the field area

Only one child/household group on any piece of equipment at any one time – Please wait your turn keeping off the safety surfacing

Parents/adults should wipe down equipment before and after use

Parents/adults should wipe down any gates/benches/picnic tables before and after use

Please ensure **only one adult enters the play area with their child/children**

Please be considerate in the amount of time spent on equipment so others can use it

If a piece of play equipment is being used that you wish to use, please queue whilst maintaining current social distancing

Please ensure you and your child/children do not touch your face, put your mouth on equipment or your hands in your mouth

If you have to sneeze, please sneeze into a tissue or arm when a tissue is not available

Please **use hand sanitiser before and after using each separate piece of play equipment**

No food or drink should be consumed within the play area

Please **sanitise your hands after using the play equipment**

Please **place litter in the bins provided. If a bin is full please take your litter home**

The Council did receive the good news that the Village Hall is making plans to make some of its facilities available once again to clubs and associations. They, like the Parish Council, have undertaken rigorous risk assessments and are putting in place systems to respond to them. They are in the process of contacting regular users, to see if they are prepared to abide by the new rules and provide the Management Committee with their own risk assessments.

It is sad to have to report that our usual sports clubs are not able to use the Recreation Ground this year, although both the Cricket Club and Stoolball Club hope for a resumption in 2021. The tennis club, as you have probably noticed, is able to operate following strict social distancing, hand cleansing, etc.

The Council was very pleased to receive the news that the Farmers' Market is now able to operate in the car park of the Church Centre and it will send members to the Market on 11th August in the hope that they can now resume their regular monthly appearance.

Don't forget to visit our new website www.hildenboroughpc.org.uk The latest news on playgrounds will be found there. As usual, do contact us with concerns, ideas or enquiries by email to clerkhildenboroughpc@gmail.com or by phone 01732 832 367 (do leave a message if I cannot answer your call and I will get back to you as soon as possible but please leave a phone number) or by post.

If you are able to get away for a holiday or take a break during the Summer do stay safe and have an enjoyable time. I will report again in October Keys following the Summer break in August of the Parish Council.

Pam Gow

T.M.B.C. News

In Response

Dear Hildenborough Eco Volunteer, I refer to your article in July's Keys. I have thoroughly checked my inbox on my TMBC email account and I can find no email from any Hildenborough Eco Volunteer; very obviously then, I have been unable to respond to your enquiry regarding Refuse collection problems during the current situation. I have always put my name and others to my articles in Keys - maybe you could put your name to your articles, and then we would know who our Eco Volunteer is. I mentioned the reasoning behind the problems last month, but below I illustrate some facts and figures.

Refuse Collections

With the onset of Covid 19 this has brought new challenges including staffing levels and there has been a large impact from the increase in tonnages collected.

Staffing - staff isolating: this has resulted in the Council prioritising some kerb side collections, with the suspensions of some other services. Whilst the majority are now operating, the Saturday Freighter service, for example, is yet to be re-commissioned.

Increased tonnages, this is a trend seen across Kent and the Country with the April 2020 tonnages in Kent (KCC are the waste authority) increasing by the following compared to April 2019 (**Recycling 32%, Domestic 10%, Food 52%, Garden 26% Paper and Card 40%**).

The increased tonnages in particular have led to increased trips to tips and impacts on scheduled collection days for many residents.

The Council is working with the contractor to address these issues with additional weekend working and additional resources.

Planning

When a planning application is submitted to TMBC that requires an officer to compile a report, a number of statutory consultees are approached for comment. These include the Parish Council, Environment Agency, KCC for Highways and Flood, Southern Water, South East Water, Kent Fire and Rescue, Kent Police, the Council for Protection of Rural England, and the Environmental department within TMBC. There are a number of other statutory consultees such as Crown Estates, the Coal Authority and Office for Nuclear Regulation which are not usually required within T&M. You will note there is nothing mentioned about Health Services or Schools. This matter can sometimes be covered by a Section 106 agreement which requires a financial contribution to offset the result of the impact that the application might have on the local area. The relevant local plan will be used alongside the National Planning Policy Framework to judge if the application is appropriate. To refuse an application requires a very robust reason for refusal, the more, the better. This reason must stand before a planning inspector, who then decides the appeal, and whether costs are involved.

Footways

To ensure the free flow for users of the footways in Hildenborough and of course to enable social distancing, residents are asked to cut any vegetation growing over the footways, back to

their boundary and in the case of trees to a height that allows residents to pass safely underneath. KCC are the responsible authority for this matter. If contacted by KCC, residents usually have 28 days to comply; failure will result in KCC undertaking the work and passing the bill to the resident. Any vegetation obstructing the footways or even highways can be reported via the 'Report a problem' on the KCC website.

Council Meetings

Members are continuing to undertake Council meetings via Microsoft Teams, and it continues to work fairly well; I still think Teams is a bit 'Clunky'. The online meetings are also streamed via You Tube on the dedicated TMBC site. Interfacing with the public speakers at planning meetings has appeared to be non-problematical, although encouraging users to switch off their video and microphone to save Bandwidth is another hurdle.

Drainage at New Care Home

Area 1 planning committee granted permission for the new care Home on the Volvo Site. As this is new build, a Sustainable Urban Drainage System is to be incorporated. However, during the meeting, I specifically asked that all possible attempts be made to ensure that surface drainage is connected to surface pipe work. The guidance for drainage allows for three options, connection to surface piping, connection to a soak away and lastly connection to foul sewer, the latter being the option least preferred in this application. Lastly, the glass panels in the stairwell at the rear of the building are now required to be obscure glass.

Borough Councillors

Nick Foyle 07860 444 217

29 Farm Lane, Tonbridge

nick.foyle@tmbc.gov.uk

Mark Rhodes 01732 833 125

27 Hawden Close, Hildenborough

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

clerkhildenboroughpc@gmail.com or

01732 832 367.

Fussy eaters

If your child is still a toddler, here is some good news: this is the best time of their lives for you to introduce a variety of foods, and thus expand their food preferences.

Recent research has found that picky eaters are unlikely to change if they do not have a varied diet by the age of four. After that, the more parents try to control their children's diets, the pickier they can become.

The research was published in the American *Paediatrics Journal*. One of the doctors involved said: "Picky eating is common during childhood, and parents often hear that their children will eventually grow out of it. But that's not always the case."

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- David Haugh (Editor), (832 869) or keysmag@hotmail.com
- Claire Rawlinson (Deputy Editor) (834 896)
- The deadline for an entry is the 11th of the previous month for typed or *legibly hand-written* entries and the 13th for email contributions.

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EVENING WI	Miss Lorna Stapley (832 871)
GARDENERS' SOCIETY Secretary	David Haugh (832 869)
GUIDES (Hildenborough)	Louise Neale (361 759)
SCOUT GROUP.....	8thtonbridgescouts@gmail.com
CUBS PACK (Ages 8-10.5 Monday evenings)	hildenboroughwolfcubs@gmail.com
BEAVERS (Ages 6-8 Thurs 5.00-6.15 p.m.) HildenboroughBeavers8thTonbridgeScouts@hotmail.com	josh.barkaway@kentscouts.org.uk
EXPLORERS (Ages 14-18)	Mrs Lynne Flower (355 080)
HILDENBOROUGH CONSERVATION GROUP	Janet Richardson (838 903)
HILDENBOROUGH FARMERS' MARKET and COFFEE	Judith McQuillan (834 610)
HILDENBOROUGH HISTORY SOCIETY	Temporarily suspended
HILDENBOROUGH YOUTH CLUB	Thelma Fairs (832 475)
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MUSICAL BUMPS	Margaret Lewin (07736 244 142)
STOCKS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL	stocksgreenprimary.co.uk (832 758)
VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS	Pat Davies (833 092)
VILLAGE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION	David Vanns (835 289)
KENT POLICE (Non-emergency calls)	101

Church Groups

HOUSE GROUPS	Tim Saiet (833 596)
HILDENBOROUGH MEN'S GROUP	Gordon Paterson (832 079)
PRAYER CHAIN	Cynthia Fawcus (833 397)
KIDS' CHURCH	
YOUNGER YOUTH (Sundays term time 4 - 6 p.m.)	Marcus Hockley (07800 887 938)
NEW GENERATION (14 plus)	Marieke Dodd or Louise Stalker
	Contact via Church office

Hildenborough Sports

BADMINTON:	Kathryn Stewart (07809 299 553)
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Apprenticeships boost

To encourage more firms to take on apprentices, the Government has introduced a new payment of £2,000 for each new apprentice under the age of 25 in England, and £1,500 for each new apprentice older than that. This will run from 1 August 2020 to 31 January 2021 and comes on top of existing apprenticeship grants.

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