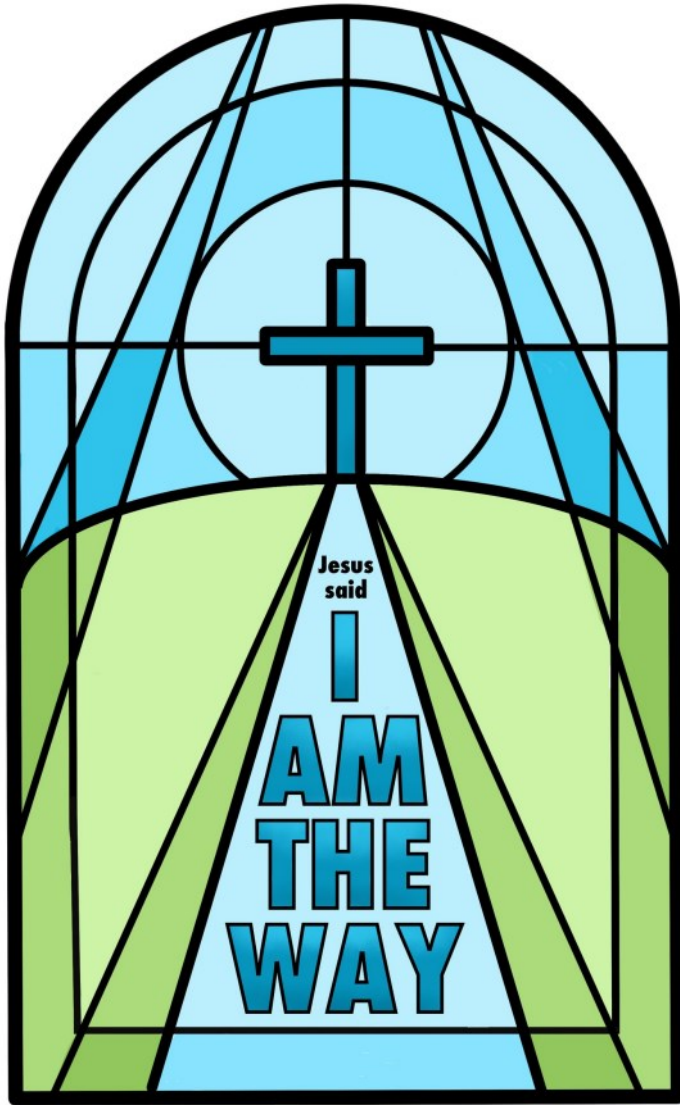


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KEYS



Church and Community News
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From the Church

Taste and See

We have a few really good local Indian restaurants and occasionally when I go into them, they are busy. We are told the British love curries. Curry houses employ around 100,000 people and have average annual sales of £4.2bn. A few weeks ago a lawsuit was lodged in the Delhi High Court. The case in question concerns a dispute over which family can lay claim to direct lineage to the creator of one of India's most popular dishes – butter chicken! My family loves some of the milder curry dishes and this suddenly became a subject of interest.

Over seventy years ago the owner of an open-air diner needed to use up leftover tikkas and hit upon the idea of adding tomato gravy and dollops of butter. Fast forward to today and descendants of the original restaurant owners are fighting for the right to claim the dish as theirs.

In the end though, does it matter? If the dish tastes delicious wherever it is cooked, does it matter who took the lead in its invention?

As we reflect on all of this, we might think of the Church, which often seems to tie itself up in knots debating issues which might appear important, but they could well be a distraction from what Jesus called the early Church to do.

It could be so easy for us to lose sight of the only thing that matters. Which is that God so loved the world he sent his Son

Jesus to come from heaven and live as one of us to make it known throughout the world that God loves us and wants us to be in a relationship with Him. So that whoever believes in Jesus need not perish but have eternal life.

No wonder the Psalmist says, 'Taste and see that the Lord is good!' (Ps 34:8). In the New Testament, Peter one of the disciples of Jesus says that if you follow Jesus you will indeed taste and see for yourself that the Lord is good. He says in 1 Peter 2-3 "now that you have tasted that the Lord is good." He and others have tasted the Christian way of life. For the readers of his letters in the New Testament, St Peter advises on how to live. He suggests we are to flee from selfish pride. Try not to harbour malice or deceit in our hearts and are to refrain from hypocrisy, insincerity, envy, and evil speaking. For Peter, to engage in such behaviour damages our Christian witness and discredits the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

That might sound quite a high benchmark but as you experience the Love of God in your heart, you find the desire to do things that are contrary to God's love are something you don't want to do. You recognise your heart wants to communicate God's love to the world more and more. If you want to come and join us for any of our services and events we would love you to join us and "Taste and see that the Lord is good."

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 cynthia@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Church Operations Manager	Nancy Mansfield	01732 833 596 office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Keys Editor	Rob Mansfield	07515 819 860 keysmag@hotmail.com
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

Regular Services and Activities (*term-time only)

Sundays – 09:15 Contemporary Service
11:00 Traditional Service
Mondays – *Bright Sparks, 10:00 – 11:30
Tuesdays – 11:15 Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)
Wednesdays – Churchyard Team Meets, 09:00 – 11:00
Thursdays – *Angel Café, 09:00 – 14:00
Foodbank Open, 09:30 – 12:30
Fridays – *Angel Café, 09:00 – 14:00



Children's and Youth Activities - see pages 6 and 7 for details of upcoming events and groups.

Seniors Lunch Club - we are making plans for a weekly lunch club to take the place of our Warm Hub which ran on Wednesdays in the Church Centre. If you would like to register your interest please contact the Church Office and we can keep you updated.

Church Opening Hours

If you would like to pop in to Church for some quiet time or prayer do contact the Church Office and we can arrange a time to open it for you.



NEXT MONTH

Annual Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCM) - 22nd May

The first meeting is to elect the churchwardens for St John's Church. All those on the Church Electoral Roll and residents in the parish may attend and vote. The APCM is for those on the Church Electoral Roll to speak and vote. More details in next month's Keys or from the Church Office.

LIFE EVENTS

Baptisms, weddings and funerals are a significant part of the life of our Church. Do contact us if you would like to discuss any of these events for you or your loved ones.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

09:30 - 14:00 Tuesday and Friday
01732 833 596

office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk



WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

Wide range of kids play equipment

Meet other local Dads and have fun

First Saturday of the month, 9:30 - 11:00am, in the Church Centre, Foxbush TN11 9HT.

For children aged 0-6

No need to book. £3 per family; includes hot breakfast roll and refreshments. Barista quality coffee available for £2.

For more information, please contact the Church Office via office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk or call 01732 833 596

www.stjohnshildenborough.co.uk



BRIGHT SPARKS

Baby and toddler term-time group
Mondays, 10:00am - 11:30am
Soft play, ride-ons, messy play,
story time, refreshments and more

£2 a family

St John's Church Centre, Foxbush





CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

To talk through any Children's or Youth activities at St John's Church do contact Lisa Glasscote via lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for the latest news.

Most weeks "Generation Creation" (formerly Kids Church) runs in the Church Centre during the Sunday 9:15am Church Service. A parent/carer needs to complete the registration form first please.



HIVE
Hildenborough Village
The Hive Youth Group



Only one Youth Group in April due to the school Easter break. We return on ...



April 28th - Dino Golf
Tonbridge 5-7pm

For school year 6-13
£5 for this session

Booking onto this event is essential. If you would like to join us email or collect a booking form from Lisa

All youth leaders hold a valid DBS



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



Would you like to join Starlight Puppet Team?

We are looking for budding puppeteers who would love to join our brand-new team. No previous experience necessary as training will be given. If you are an adult or young person in school year 6 or above we would love you to join us.

Our puppet ministry will be lots of fun and a chance to learn new creative skills. Plus, we will have opportunities to witness to others as we perform.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 4pm for an hour before the Hive youth group in St John's Church Centre.



CAFE THEO




After School Youth Cafe - back on 19th April!
4:00pm-5:30pm, 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday, term time

180th



CELEBRATING 180 YEARS OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST IN THE PARISH OF HILDENBOROUGH

St John's Church is turning 180, having first opened our doors in 1844! On Saturday 25th May we have a special anniversary service in Church at 2pm, followed by the grand opening of our 'Church and Community History Exhibition'. The exhibition will be open Monday 27th May - Saturday 1st June, 10am - 6pm. It will be free to attend, with plenty of activities for children and lots to interest grown-ups. A small café will run from the Church Centre too. More details in next month's edition of Keys.

Riding Lights Theatre Company The Narrow Road

On Thursday 14th March St John's Church welcomed the Riding Lights Theatre Company for their performance of *The Narrow Road*. The performance was enjoyed by guests from Hildenborough and many parishes further afield. Our thanks to those who helped make the event such a success; from hosting the performers, making dinner, welcoming guests, and preparing the Church. It was a powerful dramatisation of Christ's passion as we journeyed towards Easter.



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 one 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.com

(Editor—note corrected email)

St John's Churchyard Volunteers wanted

If interested, please contact:

Adele—01732 833 596

adele@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

The individual(s) appointed to any role at St John's Church will be expected to abide by our safeguarding policies and be willing to take the required online relevant safeguarding training facilitated by our Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Road Race volunteers needed 6th May 2024 (see pages 20 & 21)

We need volunteers to help keep everyone safe.

Please contact:

pandadavies@hotmail.co.uk or
hildenroadrace@gmail.com

West Kent Concert Band

Wind & Brass players wanted!

www.westkentconcertband.org.uk

Fruit picking (see page 24)

Would you like to help prevent food waste by helping a group pick local fruit?

Please call Becky Mackay 01732 835 518

or email at

tonbridgeharvest@hotmail.com

Tonbridge Line Commuters (TLC)

Committee members wanted

Non rail experts welcome

If interested, please contact:

secretary@tonbridgecommuters.org.uk

From the Registers

Burials

2nd February - Murray Robert Brown

28th February - Joyce Winifred Etherington

Baptisms

16th March - Samuel Jack Coster

17th March - Ronnie Nigel Derrick





Forget-me-not Cafés



Companionship over a cuppa



We dusted off our dancing shoes, swayed with our arms in the air and sung with gusto with Roger Channing who entertained us with songs from the 50s and 60s last month. Do you remember Sugar Sugar by the Archers or Marti Wildes - A Teenager in Love? We also had a couple of hits by the Shadows and Elvis. A favourite, sung and danced with enthusiasm, was Sweet Caroline.



In some of our conversations at the Café we were talking of the benefits of having a 24-hour personal alarm which at the touch of a button can bring you help should you fall or have an accident or feel unwell. Simply press the lightweight pendant and you will be connected in seconds to a call centre who will have emergency



contacts for you or whether you need the emergency services. If you would like advice, AgeUK have an alarm system and you can speak to an advisor on 08000 113 846 or through Kent County Council on 08000 857 371.

The Forget-me-not Café is held at St. John's Church Centre, Hildenborough on the second Wednesday of every month between 11.00 am and 12.30 pm.

We welcome anyone who would like to meet in a warm, welcoming Café for a couple of hours to have a chat while drinking tea and coffee (and eating cake!). 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 or would like a reminder about the days and times of other Forget-me-not Cafés in the area, please contact Elaine on forgetmenot.sadfc@gmail.com or 07946 534 476.

Julie Rhodes



Churchyard Team update

Did you know we have 10 war graves? Back at the end of January, we had the pleasure of Steve Davies, The Military Grave Restorer, visiting our churchyard to clean and tend to the non-Commonwealth War Graves. He has a few people in his team who research the graves for historical purposes.

Steve is a former soldier who has made it his passion in life to tend to military war graves around the UK and has gained 25k followers on Facebook alone. He has caught the attention of the BBC Southeast news. Doing this type of voluntary work is sometimes unseen and is a thankless task. Perhaps you can spot the graves he has cleaned next time you visit.

What you may have also noticed, is that the trees and spring flowers have started to form, a sign that spring is on its way. Our team of volunteers have been concentrating on tidying the hedges before the nesting season begins by giving them a spruce up.

If you fancy joining us, we are here every Wednesday between 9-11am, there is no age limit, and you don't need to have a special ability. We have volunteers who come once a month and some that come every week, some mow, some weed and some are just happy to tidy up the cuttings.

It will be great to see you.



www.militarygraverestorer.org.uk

Much Love and Blessings – Adele



Regular worshippers were upgraded to first class

A vibrant advertisement for a magic show. The background is a dark red curtain with gold stars and a glowing wand. A large black top hat is the central focus. Text includes the date and time, the show title, and sponsorship information.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH
HILDENBOROUGH

SAT
18 MAY
6:45PM

CLOSE UP
MAGIC
Show

Kindly sponsored by:
NORTHERN COMMERCIALS
Commercial vehicles from commercial people

Tickets £55
via QR Code

Food: Included in the ticket
Drink: Licensed bar for purchasing beverages
Location: St John's Church Centre, Foxbush, Hildenborough, TN11 9HT

HILDENBOROUGH



FARMERS' MARKET



It was all happening at the Easter weekend – are you full of chocolate from all those eggs? The clocks changed as well – did you remember to change all the clocks in your house? There always seems to be one that you miss!

We have welcomed a new baker to the market. Please come along and say hello to Lisa from Orpington who has delicious freshly baked bread and rolls, plus some pastries and much more.

The fun continues at the Market in April during the school holidays, and we start our children's activities.

Have you remembered that we are calling all budding gardeners on **Tuesday, 2nd April**, to come to the Market to plant sunflower seeds and pumpkin seeds. Who can grow the biggest sunflower head over the summer and who can grow the largest pumpkin for our October market?



We will also give you some ideas for our next activity when we would like you to put your craft heads on and make a fun-looking scarecrow and bring it along to the

market for our Scarecrow Competition on Tuesday 9th April. There are lots of ideas online, here's one we found:

www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/diy/how-to-make-a-scarecrow/ they can be made from an old pillowcase, old tights, sacks or plastic bags, even from different sized flower pots put together - the suggestions are endless.



Prizes will be awarded, there are no set categories or age groups so anyone can have a go. You can then use your scarecrow in the garden to stop the birds getting at the seeds you planted the week before!

We are very pleased to announce that over the last few months some of the activities held at the market have been to raise money for charity and we have donated £458 to the Hospice in the Weald. Thank you for participating in the events or buying raffle tickets.

We hope that you will come along and join us at our weekly market for some shopping, there are food stalls plus craft. Our Café is open during the market and is a great place to have a chat, coffee and cake. Our opening times are 9.00 – 11.00 am with plenty of free parking at St. John's Church Centre.

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 838 903
Email: janetrichardson863@btinternet.com

Farmers' Market Recipe for April—Sherry Trifle

Traditional trifle recipe couldn't be easier, use ready-made custard and sponge to save time but don't skimp on the sherry!

Ingredients

1 packet trifle sponge fingers, broken into 5cm/2in pieces.
150g/5oz amaretti biscuits or ratafias
150ml/5fl oz sweet sherry (naughty but nice!)
1 tbsp cognac (again naughty but nice!)
4 tbsp blackberry or raspberry jam
450g/1lb fresh blackberries (or whatever fruit you like)
450g/1lb fresh raspberries
85g/3oz toasted flaked almonds
600ml/1 pint ready-made custard

For the syllabub topping

125ml/4fl oz sherry
2 tbsp brandy
1 lemon, juice only
55g/2oz caster sugar
425ml/15fl oz double cream
freshly grated nutmeg

To garnish

2 oranges, grated zest only
85g/3oz flaked almonds

Method

1. Lay the sponge pieces and biscuits in the base of a deep glass dish. Spoon over the sherry and cognac and leave to soak in for a few minutes.
2. Warm the jam in a bowl in the microwave or in a saucepan until it is runny then pour over the soaked sponge and biscuits. Sprinkle the fruit and flaked almonds on top. Pour over the custard.
3. To make the syllabub topping, place the sherry, brandy and lemon juice into a bowl and stir in the sugar until it dissolves. Pour in the cream with a pinch of nutmeg. Whisk until it holds its shape. Don't over-whisk, or whisk too vigorously, as the cream may split. Spoon the syllabub over the trifle and refrigerate, preferably overnight.
4. Just before serving, scatter with the grated orange rind and/or flaked toasted almonds.

Hildenborough Library News

"April is a reminder that something better is always around the corner." – Unknown

The days are getting longer and the sunlight coming in through the library windows is so much nicer than the grey gloom we have been having. We are slowly transforming from reading books within the comfort of our homes to escape the winter and moving towards sitting outside in the sunshine with a good story. Whatever the weather, your library is here for you!

Library Groups are as follows:

Monday at 2:15- 2:35pm: Storytime (please note new time)
Tuesday at 10:30-10:50am: Baby Rhyme Time
Thursday at 2-3pm Fortnightly: Knit and Natter
Thursday 10-12am: Ancestry buddy. Booking essential
Saturday at 10-11am: Craft session

Happy Easter to you all.

Jacie x

Stocks Green Primary School

As we haven't written in Keys before, we thought we would share some information about our school.



Stocks Green Primary School is a friendly and welcoming community of around 210 kind people. Located just down the road from St John's Church and near central Tonbridge and Malling. We are regularly invited to events by Tonbridge School and the Church. In fact, four Year 6 children are representing our school in the UKMT (UK Junior Mathematics Tournament) next month.

We have recently embarked on a new project called OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning). This means that much more equipment has been put out for all the children to enjoy! Our amazing head teacher took part in the making of the OPAL Project with a vision of every child leaving this school with blissful and unforgettable memories. Mr P. Hipkiss has previously said, "I want every child to leave this school with happy memories."

We are proud to boast incredible dance and cheerleading squads both being trained by our amazing Mrs Newton. We have a gym team who are competing in an inter-school competition on Wednesday 20th March and our cheerleading and dance squads are taking part in a different competition a bit later in the month.

This year, we have introduced a new system for Year 6 to give them more responsibility. The students choose between taking on the role of either prefect or sport leader. Prefects take part in public speaking, newsletter entries and welcoming all the parents and children in the morning. Sports Leaders help the teachers to set up sports day and P.E. lessons. They are also great at leading warmups and clubs for the rest of the school.

At the end of term, we have intra-house events where sports leaders keep scores of the points scored in each activity. Last term, we had a dance showing and all the classes performed different dances.

We are in close contact with the Church and have really fun services at Christmas with Tim! This January, we went to Young Voices in London at the O2 Arena and performed to a whopping audience of 20,000 people!! The choir came back past midnight but had had a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Our encouraging motto is, 'Learning to live, Living to learn'.

We look forward to sharing more exciting news about our school over the coming months.

Hannah & Connor (Year 6)

The Night Sky in Hildenborough – April 2024

I suppose size has a lot to do with it, but yet again America comes out on top with another total eclipse of the Sun. This one is on April 8th and surprisingly the British Isles, whilst not included at the top table, does at least get to pick up a few of the eclipse crumbs. However, that isn't *all* of the British Isles and that means us here in the South East I'm sorry to say. The best views are to be had in Ireland and in general terms, the further West the better. Even then, just over 40% of the Sun will be hidden which is a poor second prize when compared to totality.

However, the alternative is to look online for a live stream and watch the whole thing from the comfort of your armchair. There are a few sites that have already declared that they will have a live feed with www.timeanddate.com and www.exploratorium.com being just two.

If you're looking further ahead then there is a very small partial eclipse of the Moon in September after which things begin to look up for our part of the world. We will see an almost total lunar eclipse and then a partial solar eclipse in March 2025 followed by a total lunar eclipse in September of the same year. Then in 2026 we see very large partial eclipses of both the Sun and Moon.

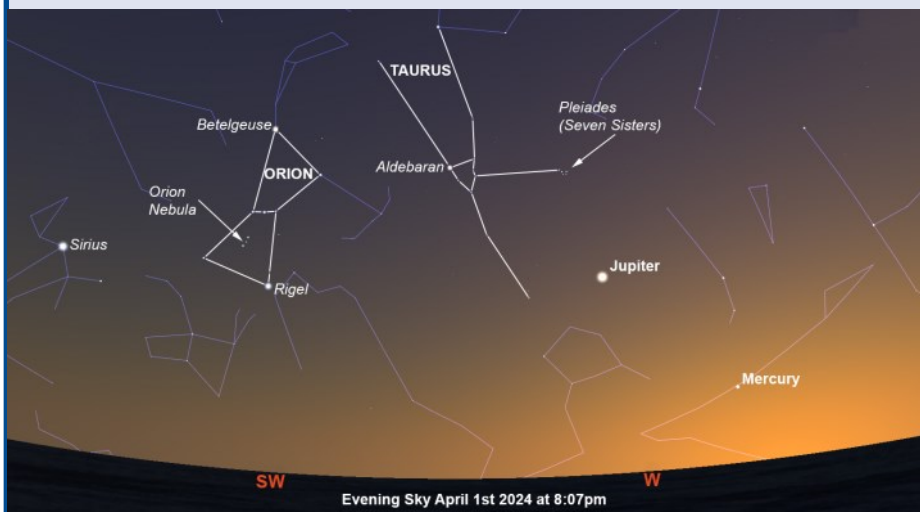
Turning to something a little more current, Jupiter still dominates the evening sky but by the end of April it will be lost in the twilight. If you haven't seen its four Galilean moons then look now, as they are visible with binoculars, before it reaches solar conjunction on May 18th and is lost to astronomers for a while. For planets whose orbits lie beyond that of the Earth, solar conjunction refers to the moment when the planet in question, the Earth and Sun all lie in a straight line with the Sun in the middle. The planet is then behind the Sun as seen from Earth. When it emerges, it will be to the west (right) of the Sun and visible in the morning sky before sunrise.

The map is drawn for 1st April at 8:07pm which is when the Sun is 6° below the horizon signalling the beginning of nautical twilight. You'll notice that Mercury is still on view, but is making its way back into the solar glare and will only be visible for the first week of April.

By the end of April, the evening sky is bereft of bright planets. As I said, Jupiter is too close to the Sun although technically still an evening object. Venus is also too close to the Sun but will move into the evening sky in the coming months whilst Mercury, Mars and

Saturn are also morning objects but they too are still hidden by the morning twilight.

**Brian
Mills
FRAS**



HELPING TONBRIDGE & MALLING GET DIGITAL

You could be eligible to access free:

- Gifted 2-in-1 laptop
- Digital skills sessions
- One to one digital support

This is available for Tonbridge & Malling residents over the age of 16 and digitally excluded, that meet one of the following criteria:

- In or at-risk of financial hardship.
- Unemployed and seeking employment.
- Looking to develop skills to support employment or career development.
- Aged 16 to 18 (up to 25 with an EHCP) and not in education, employment or training.

Full eligibility details and how to apply is available at www.digitalkent.uk or call **03000 410 950**.



Funded by
UK Government



Evening WI: Our March meeting started with welcoming our members. We went through some general WI business and updates of forthcoming events and activities. We then had an interesting and entertaining talk from - 'Antonia Gallop, "A Gallop through the History of Carriage Riding"'. She talked to us about the 1850s when ladies started to take the reins, from men, driving their own gigs and carriages, often supported by a servant. She talked through the different items of clothing that someone would wear when driving, the reason that gloves and reins should always be tan and not black, and the importance of the whip. This was usually made from the wood of the holly tree, it would be left to season for 7-9 years, a craftsman would add a goose feather and leather as well as a cord at the end for the noise. The whip helped the driver to communicate with the horse, to give it instructions.

She talked about how her interest in horses had started at a very early age, from the age of 6, asking her grandfather for a horse, and initially trying to ride one of his sheep, falling off and breaking her arm! She finally got her own pony when she was 7. She has driven carriages in several films and taken part in the London harness horse parade. She explained that at the turn of the century these parades slowly helped to develop better welfare for working horses by their owners getting support from local farriers and vets, teaching them better ways to look after them and deal with issues they had when working with them. She gave us a brilliant talk, full of facts and humour, talking about a career packed with fascinating stories and clearly a deep knowledge and love for these beautiful animals.

We finished our evening with a cup of tea and some lovely cakes kindly made by Val. Jan told us about a recent charity event that her and Val had taken part in to raise money and awareness of Domestic Abuse.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday 9th April** when we will be having [a talk](#) by Chris McCooey- "Kent Scandals, Sensational, Salacious and Sad over the years".

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 History Society - Bob Ogle "Kent in the 20th Century" - 19 April

We have a very special Speaker following our meeting on Friday 19 April at the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Bob Ogle will give a talk on "Kent in the 20th Century"

Born in Sevenoaks, Bob has lived his entire, long, life in Kent and became an Author after the Great Storm of 1987. Since then he has written over 20 books, most of which feature the County. Until the storm he had been Editor of the Sevenoaks Chronicle with 30 years in journalism behind him. He has previously spoken at both History Society Meetings and the Parish Council AGM and is in much demand both locally and further afield.

Entry is free to members of the Society, and it will be £2 per head for visitors. We expect that there will be a large turnout to hear the talk. They are in for a treat!

Pat Davies

T.M.B.C. News

Non-Taxed Cars.

I received an enquiry regarding parked un-taxed cars, and who deals with them. I decided to task the Police and Crime Commissioner to supply an answer and courtesy of PS Nick Atkinson who sourced the information from the Police National Legal Database which is as follows:

In terms of vehicles being used without a valid MOT, police have powers to issue a fine if the vehicle is being used; for a vehicle to be used it needs to be "*employed for some purpose; put into service*". If it is parked in a car park or road and not being driven, then we don't have the power to issue a ticket. If the vehicle is abandoned i.e. not moved for a period of time and not being used, then it needs to be reported to the local council who would deal.

Vehicles without vehicle excise duty (road tax) are dealt with by the DVLA. Like the MOT situation, the vehicle needs to be used for the police to be able to deal with any offences. If the vehicle is parked on a public road or car park, then the details need to be disclosed to the DVLA and they can send a fine to the registered keeper. However, if the vehicle is parked on private property, then the registered keeper would need to declare the vehicle is SORN (off the road) and then would not be required to pay the vehicle excise duty.

The Angel Centre.

In February, I asked if any residents had any opinions or views concerning the future of the Angel Centre. I can report that I received no comments from residents.

Bus Stop Seat.

Unfortunately, the offer of Oxy-Acetylene welding for the seat at the bus stop has not been productive. It is likely that KCC will remove the seat on the basis that it is not safe.

Haysden Country Park.

Haysden Country Park is a real success for TMBC, it has evolved over the years and is a place to go for many people and not just those who live within TMBC. The park scores an overall satisfaction of 99% from visitors. The market survey for 2023 has just been published; this was a face-to-face survey of 402 visitor groups in July and August. The report runs for 88 pages, a few headlines; average distance travelled to the park is 7.5miles, 59% of visitors live within TMBC, 2nd highest was Tunbridge Wells at 18%. Visitors stayed at the park between 1.5 and 2 hours. But of course, there is always room for improvement, 44 % wanted more wildlife/wildflower areas, 43% wanted visitor centre and 42% wanted exercise trail equipment around the park. If you would like a copy as a PDF please let me know and I will send you one.

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

From our MP - Tom Tugendhat

For many of us in Hildenborough we use the facilities in Tonbridge as one of our nearest towns. It is a wonderful town with plenty of facilities and a High Street that continues to look well, despite the challenges of larger towns including Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells.

Sainsbury's store in Tonbridge is central to the town. You may have heard over the last few weeks that Sainsbury's have committed to renovating the former Beales site, next door to their current store. Their plans include developing a much larger store which will see an investment of up to £20 million into the town which I know so many of us travel to on a regular basis.

Due to the scale of this investment its impact will no doubt be felt far and wide across our community. The re-development of the former Beales unit is something that I have been calling for ever since it was left empty, some four years ago. Last year I supported the '3 Years Empty Is Plenty' campaign which was backed by nearly 2,000 people and helped prompt Sainsbury's into acting. Thank you to everyone across Hildenborough who signed this.

The new development will take place over the next two years, with an intended opening date being around Christmas 2025. The new store will see improved ranges across groceries, homeware clothing, and Argos and will also go a long way to improving the look of the largest town across Tonbridge and Malling. It will also help to create up to 50 new jobs in the local community and help to regenerate a key central location while installing important amenities such as 6 ultra-rapid electric charging points for electric cars. Sainsbury's also plan on the store being entirely net-zero.

If you would like to find out more about Sainsbury's plans, please let me know using the contact details below and I would be pleased to send details to you

As always, you can let me know what you think about this, or anything that may matter to you. You can get in touch with me via the information below.

Email: tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk

Phone: 01732 441 563

Address: 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SP



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2.5, 5 & 10 MILE RACES

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Hildenborough Road Races

Five weeks to go before the Circus comes to town! Runners come from near and far for our races which have graced Mayday since 1985. Many have competed regularly for much of that time. Families make a day of it in the Recreation Ground where their children can safely compete. Following on, the adults can enjoy the beauty of our excellent course round the village lanes. Will there be a backdrop of Bluebells again this year? We can only hope this puts the icing on the cake!

There is a limit to the numbers that can take part, so you are recommended to enter sooner than later. To enter for the Road Races follow the link below:

<https://www.nice-work.org.uk/e/hildenborough-road-races-9418>

Individual child entries should be made on the day although our local Schools will be receiving applications for their children in the normal way, sometime early before the event. Team trophies will be awarded to four age dependent categories.

Finally, we need about forty people to perform duties round the course like Marshalling etc, so we welcome volunteers to come forward and offer their time to support the proceedings. We are required to make the Event as safe as possible for the benefit of all concerned. Thank you to the people who have already come forward. If YOU can help please contact me or Amy Pay, the race director, on the following:
pandadavies@hotmail.co.uk or hildenroadrace@gmail.com

The proceeds from the day are used to assist local Schools and Clubs where help is required to provide or improve their sporting facilities.

Pat Davies - Hildenborough Sports Association

THE OAST THEATRE, TONBRIDGE “THE HOLLOW” BY AGATHA CHRISTIE 11th to 18th May 2024

“The Hollow” is a Thriller from the famous pen of the much loved and ever popular Agatha Christie.

Lord and Lady Angkatell have a houseful of guests for a weekend. Dr. Cristow and his wife are among the guests. But who would have thought that Cristow’s rejected former mistress, a Hollywood film star, would turn up too. The perfect setting for a murder! Christie also incorporates into the play the wonderful love story of two lonely people among the mayhem of the murder.

For all fans of a good thriller, this is definitely one for you, and will provide a wonderful evening’s entertainment! Be sure not to miss it!

Performances: 8 p.m. (Sunday 3 p.m.)

Tickets: £14 - Book online at www.oasttheatre.com

Credit card bookings 0333 666 33 66 (booking fee applies)

Centre Piece

Annual Parish Meeting

It was great to see representatives from many local groups promoting their activities at this year's Annual Parish Meeting that took place on Thursday 14th March. In addition to St. John's Church, the Gardening Society, Conservation Group, History Society, Hildenborough Road Race and SpeedWatch, newcomers this year were the Tonbridge U3A and Tonbridge Bridge Club, both of whom welcome new members from Hildenborough. The Parish Council were also pleased to welcome County Councillor Harry Rayner and Borough Councillor, Mark Rhodes.

The team from the Environment Agency (EA) had a display, showing residents the progress being made on the Leigh Embankment and Hildenborough Expansion Scheme, which will be entering the next phase of construction, to build the 1.5m high bund to raise the level of the reservoir, this summer.

Vice-Chair, Cllr

Karen Dobson chaired the meeting, giving an update on some activities of the Parish Council over the year, followed by a brief update on planning. Cllr Ioannis Sklavenitis as Chair of Open Spaces updated the meeting on various projects completed and expressed thanks to Hildenborough Conservation Group for all their hard work looking after West Wood. He also thanked the Community Payback team

for painting the fence around the perimeter of the playground in the Recreation Ground, the residents of Mount Pleasant for helping to water the trees on the Village Green, the volunteers who carry out the monthly Litter Pick and the Parish Council's Maintenance Contractor, Andy Baker, for all his work to keep tidy and maintain Hildenborough's beautiful Open Spaces. His final report was an overview of Finance.

Ian Nunn, Area Operations Manager for the EA and also Project Sponsor for the Scheme, was the keynote speaker at the meeting. Ian



The Environment Agency team, from left, Josh Hawkins, Project Manager from contractors, Volker Stevin; Ian Nunn, EA Area Operations Manager; Kathy Aucott, EA Engagement Advisor.

gave a clear and interesting presentation to explain how the flood alleviation works will affect the community, emphasising that they do not want to be a nuisance and will work hard to ensure there is a minimum impact on the residents of Hildenborough. The EA will publicise any upcoming traffic management schemes which the Parish Council will share via our Facebook page and Centre Piece

articles. If you have any questions about the works, or would like to join the electronic distribution list for future updates from the EA, please e-mail the project team at LEHES@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Highways

As many residents will already have noticed, the bollards in front of The Flying Dutchmen have now been installed to prevent dangerous undertaking at the junction with Leigh Road.



The newly-installed bollards in front of The Flying Dutchman.

The wigwags (flashing warning lights) in Riding Lane have also been installed, ready to be programmed to operate during school drop-off and pick-up times. Thank you to Kent County Council for implementing both measures to improve road safety for the residents of Hildenborough.

In addition to the above, the Parish Council will be investigating further traffic calming measures that may be introduced in certain “hot spots” in the village. In the meantime,

Kent County Council have provided the Parish Council with a “30mph Toolkit” consisting of bin stickers, posters and a PVC banner to raise awareness of the 30mph speed limit. Once placed on a rubbish/recycling bin, the bin stickers are a simple but effective way to remind motorists of the speed limit if you live in a road affected by speeding motorists. Stickers will be available to pick up from the Parish Councillor attending the Farmers’ Market on the second Tuesday of the month, and arrangements will be made to distribute the stickers to local outlets in Hildenborough where they can be picked up. You can also email the Clerk to arrange to collect one. Five sets of dropped kerbs are due to be installed in the Brookmead area of Hildenborough by this summer.

Open Spaces

One of the issues raised at the Annual Parish Meeting was the problem of flooding on the Village Green which, during prolonged periods of heavy rain, encroaches upon properties bordering the Green. The Parish Council planted three willow trees on the Village Green a couple of years ago, a species of tree known for being very “thirsty”, but it will take a while for the trees make a difference. Cllr Sklavenitis assured the residents that the Parish Council are going to be looking into the matter again to see what further measures could be taken to resolve the problem.

Please e-mail me at clerk@hildenboroughhpc.org.uk or call me on 07818 329 029 if there are any issues or any feedback you would like to draw to the attention of the Parish Council, or speak to the Parish Councillor who will be attending the Farmers’ Market on Tuesday, 9th April.

Julia Church

**Got a fruit tree you can no longer pick? Have no time?
Perhaps you are not physically able?
Would you like some help picking in return for some of the fruit?**

Wouldn't it be great to avoid food waste, increase local understanding of our incredible apple varieties, spend time with like-minded people and enjoy the fruits of our labours?

Urban harvesting community groups are on the rise, bringing pickers together with those who have surplus fruit and vegetables. The produce is then distributed for free, and the owners receive an agreed portion of it. Young and old can get involved and skills are shared. It could be as small as one gooseberry bush or as large as an orchard. Who knows, if we ended up picking an orchard, we could get some Hildenborough apple juice!

Would you like your fruit trees or excess summer fruit or veg picked by volunteers? Or would you be interested in getting involved?

I'd love to hear from:

- interested garden owners,
- volunteers (no experience required),
- those experienced in making chutney and jam,
- anyone with picking/storage kit they'd be happy to lend,
- anyone with experience in similar initiatives who might have some good tips!



Please get in touch with Becky Mackay regarding any of the above tonbridgeharvest@hotmail.com or call 01732 835 518.



Tales from the Churchyard: The artist

Outside the vestry door at St John's is a simple stone cross on a small plinth. The modest cross is not the largest memorial in the Churchyard but being situated outside the Vestry door puts it in a prominent position. This is the memorial to the family of our once most famous resident; the artist John Frederick Herring Sr. He is ranked by art historians alongside Sir Edwin Landseer as one of the eminent animal painters of mid-nineteenth century Europe. John Frederick Herring Sr. (senior) lived with his large family at Meopham Bank in Leigh Road from 1853 until he died in 1865. Today his paintings are in the catalogues for thousands of pounds. He has the suffix Senior as his son also John Frederic Herring was an even more significant artist.

Born in Surrey in 1795 of American parents, he married in London against his father's wishes and left home with his young wife. At Doncaster races in 1814 he sketched the winning horse, the first of many. During his life John went from earning a living as a Coach driver with the occasional commission to sketch a horse or to paint Inn signs to being wealthy as his paintings sold, to having his fortunes change and facing bankruptcy. He

was rescued by a wealthy client who took him on to paint his horses. For many years he continued as a Coachman as well as a painter. In his latter years he was successful as an artist and was able to afford to buy Meopham Bank which had only been built in 1830.

In the years when he was regularly painting horses, his main commissions were to paint the winners of the big races. He painted the famous horse "Mameluke" the winner of the Derby in 1827 and many other

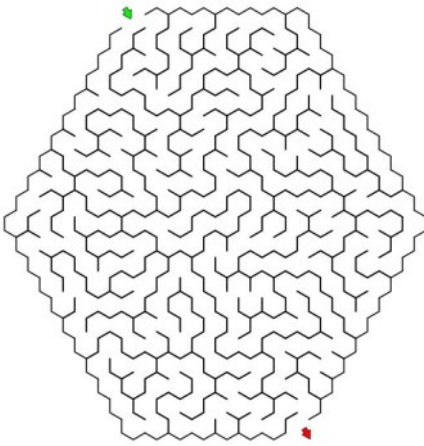


winners in the years to come. Today, you would have a photo taken of the winner but photography was only invented in the early 1800s and usable black and white photographs on glass plates were first developed in the 1820s.

Colour photography started in 1861 but was difficult as it took hours to develop the prints. Much of John's work was for publications in the sporting magazines of the day and also to meet the fashion for sporting prints. In his twelve years at Meopham Bank, he did not produce as many paintings as he had when he was younger and healthier. In later years he suffered badly from asthma and gout. His earlier years as a Coachman had not been kind to his health and was often seen being pushed around the village in a wheelchair. He produced several paintings of local villages and one of his pictures from 1857 is entitled "The artist's Farmyard at Meopham, Kent." His pictures give us an insight into the times and the quality of his work. Some of his local pictures include churches but none of these is of St. John's (built in 1844) which was probably too new to be a fitting subject. John Frederick Herring Sr died in 1865. The family memorial just outside the vestry door is a fitting monument to a great but modest artistic family. His memorial also commemorates his first wife Ann who died in 1838 at the age of 43 leaving him with seven children, three boys (another boy born in 1819 had died at the age of two) and four girls. The memorial also commemorates his second wife Sarah whom he married in 1838 less than eight months after the death of Ann. On the memorial is also the name of his Artist son, also John Frederick, who became a more famous artist than his father.



George Gorham



c	p	q	w	i	n	d	s	n	v	j	w
j	l	h	q	c	i	x	a	r	y	e	i
f	e	o	a	c	l	a	m	b	t	x	i
r	d	g	u	r	e	o	j	k	e	a	s
o	o	s	y	d	a	y	c	r	w	d	w
g	o	m	o	p	l	o	e	u	l	e	a
s	r	o	l	i	t	w	h	i	s	a	r
a	l	s	m	s	o	i	a	o	m	t	m
b	v	a	e	p	r	h	a	t	u	h	s
t	f	v	v	d	a	r	k	n	e	s	s
j	i	j	h	e	b	r	e	w	s	r	e
l	g	n	a	t	s	l	w	f	w	u	a

Above—Can you find your way through the maze?

Below—Sudoku puzzle

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

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Wordsearch

Words

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| Nile | Water |
| Locusts | Swarms |
| Army | Hebrews |
| Slaves | Frogs |
| Gnats | Livestock |
| Sea | House |
| Family | Power |
| Darkness | Egyptians |
| Door | Pharaoh |
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| Wind | Blood |
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| | Death |

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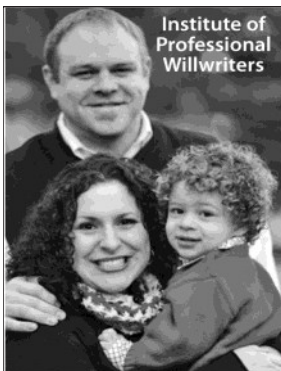
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Church Contacts

Home (Connect) Groups

Prayer Chain

Bright Sparks, (Mondays, term-time)

Kids Church (Sundays)

Church Office **01732 833 596**

Cynthia Fawcus **01732 833 397**

Lisa Glasscote **01732 833 596**

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Community Groups

Evening Women's Institute

Beavers (Ages 6-8) Thurs 5.15-6.30 pm

Cubs (Ages 8-10.5) Monday 6.30-8 pm

Scouts (Ages 10.5-14) Friday 7.30-9 pm

Guides

Brownies

Hildenborough Conservation Group

Hildenborough Farmers' Market

Hildenborough Gardeners' Society

Hildenborough History Society

Village Preservation Society

Hildenborough Litter Pickers

Hildenborough Parish Council

Hildenborough CofE Primary School

Stocks Green Primary School

Stocks Green Pre-School

Village Hall Bookings

Floodline

KENT POLICE (Non-emergency calls)

Miss Lorna Stapley - **01732 832 871**

hildenboroughbeavers8thtonbridgescouts@hotmail.com

hildenboroughwolfcubs@gmail.com

8thtonbridgescouts@gmail.com

Sharon Roberts - **07960 782 178**

hildenbrownies@outlook.com

Mrs Lynne Flower **01732 355 080**

Janet Richardson **01732 838 903**

David Haugh **01732 832 869**

Judith McQuillan **01732 834 610**

David Vanns **01732 835 289**

Emily Simons **07715 113 899**

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SPRING BUDGET – VAT REGISTRATION THRESHOLD INCREASE

The thresholds for VAT registration and deregistration have remained static for the last 7 years, however an increase in the thresholds was announced in the Spring Budget.

From 1 April 2024, the new registration threshold will be £90,000, increased from £85,000.

The deregistration threshold will also

increase to £88,000 (from £83,000).

VAT registration becomes compulsory if by the end of any month, your business's VAT taxable turnover for the previous 12 months goes above the threshold. This needs to be looked at on a rolling monthly basis, and not just at your accounting year end.

It is possible to apply for a registration

'exception' if you believe that you are only temporarily going above the threshold, for instance, because of winning a large one-off project. Provided you can show evidence as to why your turnover will be below the deregistration threshold in the next 12 months then HM Revenue and Customs are willing to consider making an exception.

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