

## Centre Piece for January 2016

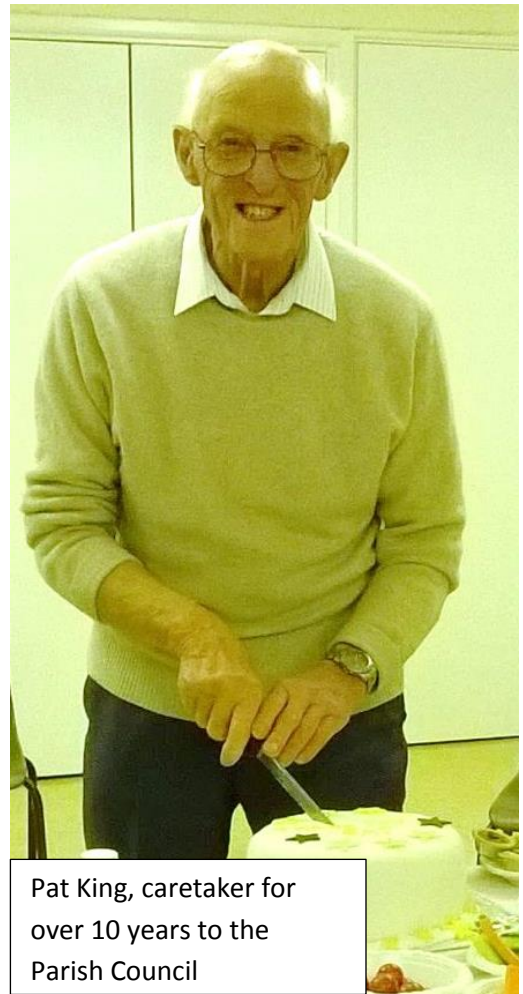
You will be reading this after the Christmas and New Year celebrations but the Parish Council met during the flurry of activity prior to the holiday. The evening started earlier than usual with a celebration of Pat King's work for the Council. He is to retire on 31 December after over ten years of service with the Council. The Chairman thanked him for all the work he had undertaken for them over the years which had been greatly appreciated. He was given a 'thank you' card and gift.

The meeting started at the usual time of 7.30pm with the public session. Both PCSO Toni Matthew and Kim Hockey were able to attend and reported on the crimes in Hildenborough during the previous month. This amounted to a total of 8 including burglary and criminal damage. They were able to report that some arrests had been made. They also reported that a speed check had been carried out by the police in Stock's Green Road and along the B245 on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Several vehicles had been stopped.

A report was given to members of a meeting held earlier in the month on the proposed refurbishment of the play area in the Recreation Ground. Jo Wallace has volunteered to consult with children and parents to find out what sort of equipment children would be attracted to and use. If you would like to be involved please contact her on [jolgriffiths@hotmail.com](mailto:jolgriffiths@hotmail.com) Paul Bird, leader of the cubs in Hildenborough is also going to obtain their members' views. A further extension to provide exercise equipment for adults is also to be included.

In order for this project to go ahead the Parish Council had a tough decision to make. As I am sure you can appreciate it is very expensive to provide safe and durable play and exercise equipment. The Parish Council will be seeking grants and donations from individuals and businesses interested in the Village, as well as making a significant contribution themselves. This results in the necessity to increase the council tax and the Council took the decision at their December meeting to make an increase for 2016/17 of £10 per annum for Band D equivalent properties. You will be very pleased to know the Council Tax for Hildenborough is still low compared to other villages.

The road 'improvements' have been very frustrating for many, if our emails are anything to judge by. Much frustration is caused at school times by inconsiderate parking by parents making the new chicanes invisible, parking both sides of the chicane and road thus reducing the road to a single carriageway and causing great difficulty for residents in the Fellowes Road area exiting onto Leigh Road. The road improvements have been judged as unsatisfactory and repairs are imminent to rectify this. If, double yellow line parking restrictions are not included either side of the chicane, the Parish Council will be asking the Borough Council to look for these to be imposed.



Pat King, caretaker for over 10 years to the Parish Council

It is getting to the time of year when the Parish Council start to plan the Annual Parish Meeting, in 2016 to be on Wednesday, 16 March at 7.30pm in the Jim England Hall of the Village Hall – so put it in your diary now. The Parish Council always aim to provide a variety of speakers. It looks, already, to be an interesting and entertaining evening with representatives from Hever Castle and, yet to be confirmed, Balfour Beatty on the construction of the A21 dual carriageway as well as Rev'd Tim Saiset who will be talking about his time in the forces which may, perhaps, include a little magic!

The Parish Council have been asked by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council to make comment on their review of their holiday activity programme for children and young people. The Parish Council always make a contribution to support the summer play scheme and pay for one week's activity. Members felt the play scheme was valued by parents and children and have volunteered to continue to contribute towards it if the Borough Council is able to find another body to organise and run it.

The Borough Council have provided some free kitchen caddies plus trial liners in which to store food waste. If you would like one of these please email me on [clerk@hildenboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hildenboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk) and I will arrange for these to be available at a mutually convenient time. We have a small stock to be available on a first come first served basis.

The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a very happy New Year. They will, as usual, be happy to receive your comments by email, phone message, letter or in person at the Farmers' Market on the second Tuesday of the month. In January they will be present on Tuesday 12 January between 10am and 11 am.