

## Centre Piece for July Keys 2022

**Platinum Jubilee:** Many residents enjoyed the Platinum Jubilee weekend attending events in the village or elsewhere. The weekend got off to a great start with the lighting of the beacon beside the Church Centre. A large crowd attended, enjoyed some refreshments and the live music provided. The beacon, organized by George Gorham went off without a hitch providing an amazing blaze against the darkening sky.



**Platinum Jubilee 'Goldrush' tree:** The plaque to give visitors information about the planting of the 'Goldrush' tree is now in place on the side of the planter nearest to the tree on the Village Green.

It was not possible to fix the plaque, as had been done in the Recreation Ground in previous years, for obvious reasons on such a young tree.

**Parish Council Meeting:** The Parish Council met on Wednesday 8 June, shortly after everyone had been brought back to earth following the weekend celebrations, with many administrative matters to agree in the form of policies, terms of reference and other documents. Sadly, at the beginning, they accepted the resignation of Gordon Paterson who, as with previous members, was finding pressure of work did not allow full participation in Council matters. The Council thanked him for his support and work during his time serving as a member. It is to be hoped that a co-option can be made at the July Council Meeting to fill this vacancy.

## KALC (Kent Association of Local Government)

**Award:** The KALC award for his work in the community for the scouting organisation, arranging the annual Remembrance Day Service and arranging Hildenborough's contribution to National events over many years was presented to George Gorham by the chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Margaret Coles, at this month's meeting. Members felt that this was a very well deserved Award for the many years of community work he had undertaken on behalf of all sections of society.



*George Gorham receiving the KALC Award for services to the community*

**Closure of A21:** It is to be hoped that one matter causing concern will be almost over by the time you read this, that of the weekend closures of the A21 with the consequent re-routing of traffic via Hildenborough. The final weekend should be the first weekend in July, let us hope that National Highways managed to maintain their timetable. The Council and National Highways have requested that KCC adjust the traffic lights in Tonbridge to accommodate the extra traffic.

**20mph in Riding Lane?** Discussions on traffic management were high on the agenda. The Council had received the costings for installing a 20mph zone around Hildenborough CEP School in Riding Lane. The cost was high and the effectiveness of this was in question. Currently investigations have shown that most vehicles are travelling 20mph or less in the area but this is offset by some very near

misses of vehicles speeding around parked cars (probably in frustration at being held up). Concern was expressed that if a request for 'no parking' in the area was accepted this would encourage vehicles to constantly speed up, even with a 20mph restriction which would be ignored. Kent police have said they are not able to monitor 20mph speed limits. It seemed that there was no ideal resolution to the problem, except to enhance the signage and include flashing school warning signs. This was the way it was agreed to investigate moving forward.

**Village Green:** Another area which does not seem to have an ideal resolution is that of flooding on the Village Green. Another KCC expert inspected the area recently and said the answer was a Rain Garden. This is very much along the lines of a previous suggestion made some years ago whereby a storage area behind and embankment is dug with specialized planting to soak up excess water. The design for this has yet to be received, so watch this space!

**Ash dieback:** However, we do have a resolution for ash dieback in the Council's trees and sadly there is no escaping the fact that diseased trees need to be felled. As I am sure you know there are a great many in West Wood and some around the Recreation Ground. The Council have now obtained the services of an expert arboriculturalist to undertake a survey to help the council develop a programme to deal with this very sad and expensive problem in stages.

**Additional defibrillator:** The Council has agreed to purchase a defibrillator to be installed on the Pavilion but currently there are none available. They did agree to put up a sign directing anyone needing one to the Village Hall but will be purchasing one and a cabinet to keep it in as soon as they become available again.

**Litter picking:** Members were very grateful to the volunteer litter pickers for all their hard work trying to keep the village a lovely place to live. There have been large accumulations of litter, some have been taking the excess for collection in their own bins. The Council has asked the Borough Council to look into this problem with the suggestion that maybe weekly collections are not sufficient.

Don't forget to look at our website ([www.hildenboroughpc.org.uk](http://www.hildenboroughpc.org.uk)) for information not only emergency notices such as the A21 road closures (we try to keep it up to date with relevant information) but also Parish Council information, members contact details, agenda and minutes of Council meetings and much more. We now have an active Facebook page where information of interest to residents is posted with links if relevant.

My contact details remain the same, [clerk@hildenboroughpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hildenboroughpc.org.uk), phone 01732 832367 (do leave a message if I am unable to answer and I will return your call, providing you leave a number!) . A member will be at the Farmers' Market on Tuesday, 14 July 2022 who will be happy to take your comments, concerns and ideas.

*Pam Gow*