

## CENTRE PIECE FOR OCTOBER 2022 KEYS MAGAZINE

The Parish Council was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and expressed the sympathy of the Council and residents of Hildenborough in the Buckingham Palace Condolence Book as well as on our website and via our facebook account. There have been many opportunities for anyone who wishes to express their feeling and I am sure we have all seen the huge response of reminiscences, floral tributes and messages via the television reports, if not in person.

As a result of the period of mourning the Parish Council meeting and Planning Committee meetings were cancelled but nonetheless there continue to be news items of interest to you.

**The problem of litter.** One big problem in the Village at the moment is litter and dog waste bins both overflowing and also litter dropped by the roadside, car parks and open spaces. Complaints have been raised with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's Waste Services and they have promised to ensure all the personnel involved in emptying the bins are trained in exactly where bins are all located and are emptied **every** week. The Parish Council is monitoring the situation but please alert us if you see a problem, or report it directly to Waste Services at the Borough Council.

**How you can help.** Still on the subject of litter the Parish Council would like to thank all the volunteers who regularly turn out and litter pick on the first Saturday of the Month (1 October next). It is greatly appreciated. It would be good if some more residents would join the group to help. So if you think you could help, equipment is provided, come along at 10am in West Wood or the Recreation Ground car park, finishing at 12noon.



**Good News on highways.** We do have some good news. Those of you who travel the length of Riding Lane cannot have failed to notice the extensive work to the section from just beyond Vines Lane Junction out to the junction with Hildenborough Road. The Parish Council, along with residents, have been requesting work to address a number of issues along this section for some time. The main problems, as I am sure many of your are aware, were the road markings which resulted in a number of vehicles ending up in the deep ditch, the poor road signage and not least the appalling road surface. The Council has thanked Kent Highways for their excellent work in Riding Lane.

**B245 and Nizels Lane area** Another highways improvement has been the B245, London Road from Morley's roundabout to Nizels Lane which has been resurfaced, as well as the very long awaited infilling of the dip in the bridge over the railway in this area. The dip on the bridge continues to be noticeable but to achieve a better result would have involved extensive negotiation with Rail Track. KCC believed the improvements they were able to make were acceptable.

**A21 closures.** Talking of highways, we are all hoping that finally the A21 road works have been completed. Many of us have suffered long delays either entering Tonbridge or (less frequently)

leaving the town for home. The main cause of the problem seems to be the traffic lights at Portman Park and Bordyke and although Highways England and your Parish Council have constantly asked KCC to adjust the timing of these lights it did not always seem to happen.

**Can you help?** The Council does like to involve the community in projects they are undertaking and they now have one where your ideas would be most welcome. Users of West Wood will have noticed how the large junior play equipment has over the years deteriorated, with the help of vandalism. The Council think the time has come for this to be replaced, because of its age it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to obtain new parts, so they are looking for ideas on what older children would like to see in its place. Please send your ideas into me, with drawings or photos if you have seen something interesting elsewhere.



The junior climbing equipment in earlier days.

**Ash dieback** Finally, the extent of ash dieback in West Wood and the Recreation Ground is giving rise to some concern to the Parish Council. All these trees will need to be felled which will be a large burden on the finances of the Council. We know already that a further 55 trees in the strip between the B245 and the service road will need to be removed. The Council will be setting its budget for 2023/24 at the end of October when this will have a high priority on demand for financing during that year. The Council, has already set aside a considerable sum, but it is obvious that this is going to be insufficient.

Don't forget if you have any comments, ideas or queries our phone number is 01732 832367 or email me on [clerk@hildenboroughpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hildenboroughpc.org.uk) The Council will be represented by a member at the Farmers' Market on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. All Parish Council Meeting Agenda are posted on the website [www.hildenboroughpc.org.uk](http://www.hildenboroughpc.org.uk)

*Pam Gow*