

## CENTRE PIECE FOR JULY 2023 KEYS MAGAZINE

Hello everyone, I am Julia, your new parish clerk. I started officially on 1<sup>st</sup> May, taking over from Pamela Gow, who has been serving the parish faithfully for the last 17 years. She will now be enjoying her well-earned retirement with her husband Stuart, while I will try hard to follow in her shoes, supporting the parish councillors in their valuable work. I am delighted to have joined such a great team and look forward very much to meeting local residents and those for whom Hildenborough is their place of work.

At the last Parish Council Meeting that Pam attended as Parish Clerk, a card and beautiful leaving gifts were presented to Pam. Our Chairperson, Cllr Mags Cole, thanked Pam on behalf of the council for all her hard work over the years and wished her a very long and happy retirement. Pam will continue to be a valuable member of the Hildenborough community and I am sure you will see her out and about in the village with Stuart.

I attended a parish council meeting for the first time as the parish clerk on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June. However, I was not the only newcomer! The council also welcomed Cllr Kath Barton, our new Borough Councillor, and Barbara Griffiths, who was co-opted as a member of the council. The meeting gave them both the opportunity to see how the parish council conducts its business and see ways local councillors can exercise their rights to benefit the local community. We still have one vacancy for a parish councillor so please contact me if you are interested and would like more information. Members of the public are always welcome to attend parish council meetings which is an excellent way to get a snapshot into the role of parish councillor.

As well as bidding farewell to the outgoing parish clerk, we also said goodbye and a big thank you to our PCSO, Linda Baker. Kent Police has moved to a new Neighbourhood Policing Model which means that Linda has been redeployed to a new Neighbourhood Task Force elsewhere in the organisation. Linda will be greatly missed as she was played a pivotal role in helping to keep the residents of Hildenborough safe and was a very popular asset to the community.

Whilst saying goodbye to Linda, we also say a warm “hello” to the new beat Police Officer for Hildenborough, Oliver Evans, who likes to be known as “Ollie”. Ollie has recently started in his new role in Hildenborough so some of you may already have met him, and I know he is looking forward to attending local events where he can meet lots of local residents as soon as possible. If you would like to contact Ollie about any policing matters, he can be e-mailed at [oliver.evans@kent.police.uk](mailto:oliver.evans@kent.police.uk)

**Happy Birthday to the Farmers’ Market:** On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June the Farmers’ Market celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Visitors to the event were entertained by some wonderful singing by children from Stocks Green School, conducted by Miss Wiltshire. The Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councillor, Cllr. James Lark, attended with his wife Jill and made a speech congratulating the Farmers’ Market on its success and thanking Janet Richardson and her team of volunteers for all their hard work. He then cut the beautiful celebration cake made by Helen Aldridge and visitors were invited to join in the celebrations

with a glass of bubbly or soft drink. Let's hope the Market continues to go from strength to strength!

**Highways matters:** Since the last meeting, KCC have agreed to install bollards outside The Flying Dutchman to stop cars mounting the pavement to pass cars turning right into Leigh Road and County Councillor Harry Rayner, explained to the council that he has succeeded in getting funding for the project. Therefore we hope it will not be much longer before the bollards are installed, making the pavement much safer for pedestrians. Progress is also being made with regard to the installation of dropped kerbs at road junctions in the Brookmead area where they are currently missing.

**West Wood:** The work to clear the brash left behind following the felling of the diseased Ash Trees has been postponed until the end of the nesting season in the autumn.

**Cycle Track:** In the meantime, repairs to the pump cycle track have also been postponed while South East Water fix the water leak that has resulted in flooding of the entrance to the cycle track. Once the area has dried out work can commence and we very much hope it will be open for use again by the time schools break up for the summer.

**Recreation Ground:** Members of the Community Payback Scheme will be treating the wooden fence surrounding the play area with preservative on Friday mornings and should have completed the task by the commencement of the school holidays. Repairs will also be made by our maintenance contractor to the damaged playground surface at the bottom of the slide and beneath the swings.

**Village Green:** The council are arranging for the planters on the Village Green to be restocked with summer bedding plants and organising a rota for the watering of the plants, for people to enjoy this summer. We are also arranging for the installation of NO BARBECUE AND NO FIRES signs in the village's Open Spaces. In the meantime please note that fires in the public areas are prohibited as a small fire could easily get out of control if we have another dry summer ahead.

If you wish to contact the parish council please e-mail me at [clerk@hildenboroughpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hildenboroughpc.org.uk) or call me on 07818 329029, Tuesday-Thursday. I will be a regular visitor to the Farmer's Market and hope to meet some of you there, where I will be happy to pass on any concerns you may have to the councillors for their attention. A member of the council will also be present at the Farmers' Market, this month on 11 July.

Julia Church

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