

CENTRE PIECE FOR NOVEMBER 2023 KEYS MAGAZINE

I am delighted to report that with the recent co-option of two new councillors, Cllr Steve Webster and Cllr Michael Connor, Hildenborough Parish Council has reached the full number of 11 members set out in its constitution, which is great news for local democracy here in Hildenborough. The familiar posters on the notice boards are being updated with the photos and details of our latest new members, as well as the List of Members on the parish council website. It is especially good news at this time of year when seasonal coughs and colds are going round, so there will still be plenty of councillors available to attend our monthly parish council meetings, in the event of any absences due to ill-health.

Highways Matters

There have been a number of road closures recently while utility companies undertake essential works but we always use our Facebook page to advertise forthcoming road closures so please “like” our page if you are a Facebook user, to keep informed. Most of the roadside hedges have been cut back now, but please report any that have been missed on the Kent County Council website (www.kent.gov.uk) “Report a Problem” portal so the task can be added to their list of works.

I have noticed a lot of work is being done to repair potholes in Kent lately. The parish council has its very own potholes scheduled for repair soon, on a small stretch of Tonbridge Road leading to Brian Gow Roofing that belongs to Hildenborough PC. Residents and visitors to the roofing store will be pleased to know that the repairs will be carried out the next time the contractors, Sturgeon Coppards, are in the area.

Open Spaces

The village’s Open Spaces all look beautiful this time of year, as the huge variety of native deciduous trees start to change colour to the reds and golds of autumn. It is an especially busy time of year for our maintenance man, Andy, who has the task of clearing fallen leaves, not to mention acorns and conkers, off the service road in West Wood. His summer workload that included sprucing up the benches and picnic tables and keeping weeds in the playground under control will be replaced with jobs that only need doing in the autumn and winter. With this in mind, we are topping up the salt/sand containers around the village in preparation for any cold-snaps that may be heading our way in the coming months.

The replanting of native trees in West Wood by the Hildenborough Conservation Society is set to take place in December/January, which will include six oak and three elder tree saplings in addition to a number of young hazel and field maple trees.

The Chair of our Open Spaces Committee, Cllr Sklavenitis, rolled up his sleeves last month and cut back the overgrown branches of the horse chestnut tree on the Village Green that were obscuring the road sign at the junction of Half Moon Lane with Mount Pleasant. The remaining trees in the magnificent row of horse chestnuts bordering the Village Green will be tidied up this winter.

Clearance of the ditches in the Recreation Ground with a mechanical digger will be taking place later this autumn, ready to help with drainage of the Rec in the event of heavy downpours. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for news of the work starting – it will be a great spectator sport for those with young children!

If you will be attending the Remembrance Sunday Parade this coming 12th November, take special note of the War Memorial, that is being spruced up specially for the event by Hildenborough Guides.

With the help of a small grant from the parish council, the guides are installing a colourful display of winter pansies and other flowers to ensure the memorial looks its best for the occasion.

Police

Our local Community Beat Officer, PC Ollie Evans, provided the Parish Council with a report recently, to keep us informed of crime trends in the area. The report stated that the month of September was relatively quiet with the key issues still revolving around nuisance motorcycles and scooters and a spate of bicycle thefts, in particular insecure bikes left on driveways, so beware. Ollie is showing his presence at the Recreation Ground whenever he can to discourage anti-social behaviour and there have been no incidents of ASB reported lately.

If you have any feedback in response to this bulletin or any issues you wish to report to the council please e-mail me at cleark@hildenboroughpc.org.uk or call me on 07818 329029.

Julia Church

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