

## **CENTRE PIECE FOR DECEMBER 2023 KEYS MAGAZINE**

Hildenborough Parish Council are delighted to share the news that one of its members, Cllr. Cathy Wynne, has been awarded the BEM in King Charles's Birthday Honours List. Cathy was presented with the award by The Lady Colgrain, the Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, at Knowle Park in Sevenoaks on 7th November for her Services to Sport as she has spent many years helping to raise the profile of sprint canoeing on the international stage. The Lord Sackville also attended as the 'Officer on Duty', and read out the citation. Very well done Cathy!

### **Flooding**

The aftermath of Storm Ciaran brought flooding to several roads in the Brookmead area of Hildenborough on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, made worse due to the failure of a pumping station that cut out at 8.15am. This resulted in a backup of sewage entering the flood water, which was already encroaching on private gardens and threatening to enter homes. Thanks to the prompt action of residents, assisted in the deployment of sandbags by our wonderful volunteer flood wardens, water ingress into homes was avoided but a number of garages, outhouses and greenhouses were not so fortunate. Representatives from Southern Water, Kent County Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council also attended to assist in whatever way they could. Hildenborough PC have produced a report of the incident to use as evidence in its continuing efforts to get Southern Water and other agencies to carry out the necessary improvement works to Hildenborough's drainage and waste disposal systems.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer Flood Warden and would like further information, please contact me at the e-mail address below.

### **Highways**

Kent County Council have told me that the designs for the bollards to be installed outside The Flying Dutchman are being completed and as soon as they are complete the work will pass to KCC's contractors who will then have up to 90 days to carry out the work. KCC say they are working hard to deliver all existing schemes, including this one for the bollards, by the end of the financial year.

Some residents may have noticed that a smart new plaque has now been installed on the ancient milestone on London Road, close to the Sevenoaks roundabout, by local stonemason, Gary Newton. Gary has also cleaned the milestone on Tonbridge Road, on the other side of the road to Foxbush.

### **Open Spaces**

Following their regular weekly visits to the playground in Riding Lane Recreation Ground during the course of the last few months, the Community Payback Team have finally completed the task of applying two coats of wood preservative to the fence around the playground. The fence consequently looks much smarter and will benefit from extra protection from the elements to see it through another wet winter.

Our maintenance contractor has continued to keep a watchful eye on our Open Spaces, raising any concerns he may have with the council so that he can be provided with the materials he may need to carry out repairs. As mentioned last month, his tasks vary from season to season. This month saw him filling in a deep hole in the Recreation Ground that had appeared after Fireworks Night!

### **Police**

Our local beat officer, PC Ollie Evans, reported that the key issues in Hildenborough still relate to thefts, in particular vehicle thefts. Ollie has been targeting known thieves in relation to this, which should hopefully result in charges coming through over the next month or so. Unfortunately there have been a few thefts recently at Philpotts Allotments on Philpotts Lane over the last few months. Ollie has carried out a crime prevention visit alongside the Rural Task Force and hopefully some new measures in place will prevent further thefts. Ollie has asked that local residents be vigilant to any suspicious vehicles in the area.

If you have any issues you wish to report to the council please e-mail me at [clerk@hildenboroughpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hildenboroughpc.org.uk) or call me on 07818 329029. A member of the Parish Council will be available to speak to at the Farmers' Market on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

*Photo caption: Wreaths laid at the War Memorial following the Remembrance Day parade and service on 12 November. Recent weed clearance and replanting by Hildenborough Guides, sponsored by Hildenborough PC, ensured the memorial was looking at its best for the ceremony.*

*Photo caption: The milestone in London Road, fitted with its new plaque that replicates the wording on the original, ancient inscription.*

Wordcount: 660 plus photo captions