

CENTRE PIECE FOR MAY 2024 KEYS MAGAZINE

The onset of spring and summer brings with it plenty of tasks to be getting on with outside as vegetation puts on a growth spurt and the sunny weather shows up all those items of garden furniture that need sprucing up or replacing. So it's a busy time for Parish Councils as well, as we get the lawnmower out of storage and clean up picnic tables so they are ready for their visitors.

Recreation Ground

At the time of writing, we are still waiting for the Recreation Ground to dry out enough to have its first annual cut which it is hoped will be very soon. Members of Hildenborough's Cricket Club and Stoolball Club have had the start of their season pushed back this year, as conditions have been too muddy to use the field.

The Parish Council received news recently that the first tranche of S106 money provided by Berkeley Homes to fund infrastructure projects has been released. The first project earmarked by the Parish Council to be funded by the money is the installation of a footpath around the perimeter of the Recreation Ground so we are now at the initial stages of getting quotes in to undertake the work. It is hoped we will have the new path ready for everyone to use before next winter sets in.

West Wood

This spring the Parish Council is organising the installation of a new picnic area in West Wood, complete with oak planter and wheelchair-access picnic table for families to enjoy. They will also be installing information boards at the recently renovated pond and there will be a Risk Assessment to review the safety measures. The pond has been enjoyed by generations of Hildenborough residents. Interestingly, on old maps the pond is on the outside edge of the wood but over the years the trees have self-propagated and it is now surrounded by trees and undergrowth, a true haven for local wildlife. The pond is part of a national project to create safe habitats for the endangered Great Crested Newt. Currently it is out of bounds while vegetation establishes itself over the silt that was removed from the pond and the area transforms ready for visitors later in the summer.

Highways

We are pleased to report that the five sets of dropped kerbs, at Woodview Crescent, Wealden Close, Byrneside, Copse Road and Greenview Crescent, funded by the Parish Council together with a grant of £1,500 from Cllr Harry Rayner, have been installed. They will make access around that area of Hildenborough much easier for users of wheelchairs and mobility scooters as well as those pushing buggies around the many sideroads off Brookmead.

The subject of speeding traffic in Hildenborough was discussed at the April Parish Council Meeting, as serious safety concerns have been raised recently by local residents and members of the council. The concerns have mainly been around traffic in Riding Lane, Nizel's Lane and the B245, where cars frequently fail to heed the 30mph signs as they approach the village. The council is in the process of arranging for a member of Kent Highways to visit Hildenborough to meet with councillors and explore what safety measures could be introduced to address the problem. In the meantime, Kent Council Council have sent the Parish Council a supply of material to display around the village, including 30mph speed limit stickers that can be placed on bins to be viewed by passing motorists every week when the bins are put out. If you live in a

road affected by speeding vehicles and would like a bin sticker, please e-mail or call me to arrange for delivery of a sticker.

To report any concerns you believe the Parish Council may be able to assist with, please e-mail me at clerk@hildenboroughpc.org.uk or call me on 07818 329029.

Julia Church

Wordcount: 635

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

The Recreation Ground in Riding Lane

Cllr Karen Dobson at the Farmers' Market recently with the 30mph bin stickers available for local residents.