

CENTRE PIECE FOR AUGUST 2024 KEYS MAGAZINE

Here we are in late summer and having just recovered from all the excitement of England doing so well in the Euros, we now have the Olympics to enjoy. If you are feeling inspired to take up a sport, we are fortunate to have some fantastic sporting amenities here in Hildenborough. The Recreation Ground, owned and maintained by the Parish Council, is host to Hildenborough Cricket Club and the Stoolball Club who have both been enjoying the spacious grounds and the facilities available in the pavilion. The Recreation Ground is also the home of Hildenborough Tennis Club, and the ball court which has been very popular with youngsters during these long summer evenings. There is also the outside gym equipment adjacent to the playground that is free to use and conveniently close to the car park.

The Parish Council is arranging for the initial survey to be carried out in the Recreation Ground in preparation for moving forward with the installation of a footpath around its perimeter, so I'm sure that will be popular with those wishing to start their day with an early morning jog around the Rec!

Highways

At the time of writing this article, Kent Highways are in the process of resurfacing the B245, which will make a huge difference to motorists, apart from also improving the appearance of the road. Thankfully, South East Water came and fixed the leak in the middle of the road, close to The Flying Dutchman, just in time for the road to be resurfaced. Failing infrastructure means that water companies are struggling to keep up with the repair work but I understand they will prioritise those leaks that are complained about the most, so reporting a leak that may already have been reported will hopefully speed things up. Water leaks should be reported to South East Water, the suppliers of Hildenborough's fresh water. Their number is 0333 000 0365. Blocked drains and flooding should be reported to Southern Water, who look after removal of waste water and sewerage. Their number is 0330 303 0277. Please remember to have the postcode of the location of the fault ready if you call them. In addition to reporting a problem to the water company, please feel free to also notify the parish council, who can add their voice to the requests to fix the issue as soon as possible.

The Parish Council was recently granted permission to install a banner saying: "30mph – IT'S A LIMIT, NOT A TARGET" on the B245 adjacent to Foxbush. We hope this will be an effective reminder for motorists who are breaking the speed limit as they enter the 30mph zone. In the meantime, the Parish Council are working with Kent Highways to explore other traffic calming measures that can be introduced in the Village. Kent Highways are currently investigating the feasibility of introducing double yellow lines along the stretch of London Road opposite the Harvest garage where there are frequently parked vehicles blocking the pavement. The presence of a Southern Water pumping station that requires 24 hour access further complicates matters but hopefully a solution can be found very soon.

West Wood

Work has started on the installation of the new wheelchair-accessible picnic table in West Wood, close to the playground. The table is being generously donated by the family of Cllr Mike Dobson who was local parish and borough councillor for many years and was well-known in the village. His daughter Karen has followed in her father's footsteps and is one of our long-standing

parish councillors. The table itself will be installed on the paving slabs some time in August, once the slabs have settled in.

Police

PC Ollie Evans said that the key issue that keeps popping up relates to thefts of and from vehicles and bikes around the railway station. Ollie is in the process of setting up an operation where the police will have some unmarked units targeting the station and surrounding area. This will also probably involve some traffic enforcement to target speeding on the B245. There has also been a spate of thefts and attempted thefts from vans and garages recently, so please remember to keep vehicles and garages secure.

To report a non-urgent crime visit www.kent.police.uk/report. In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger, call 999.

Summer Recess

As there will be no Parish Council meeting in August, the next visit to the Farmers' Market by a parish councillor to hear any residents' comments or concerns will be on Tuesday 13th September and our next Centre Piece article will be in the October edition of Keys.

As parish clerk, I am still available throughout August if you have any questions or concerns to send to the Parish Council. Please e-mail clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk or call me on 07828 329029.

Julia Church

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Photo caption:

The work that has started on the new picnic area in West Wood.