

## **CENTRE PIECE FOR OCTOBER KEYS MAGAZINE**

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable and refreshing summer break, which has passed all too quickly. We all yearn for an Indian Summer which seems to be elusive this year. However, we do have the beautiful Autumn colours to look forward to, some of which are already beginning to show.

Members returned on the September Parish Council Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> refreshed and ready for the second half of this financial year. The meeting commenced with financial matters which included new bank accounts and reinvestment of the Council's reserves. The External Auditors had completed their audit. They found there were no matters to cause concern which I am sure many of you saw displayed on the Council's notice board. If you do want to look at the Council's finances these are all displayed on our website [www.hildenboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.hildenboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk)

The Open Spaces Committee has been very busy, not only with mundane maintenance issues, but with projects for the future.

An accident on the rower was reported to the Council and when this was investigated a fault was found on the equipment by the manufacturers. They have now removed this from site to effect repairs. It was disappointing to notice that roping off the rower to stop it being used whilst waiting for the engineer to visit the site was ignored, including a notice (which was removed) warning not to use it. A reminder to all that those under 1.4m tall should not be using the equipment at all because their small limbs can become trapped in some of the moving parts – the play equipment in the fenced area is safe for them to enjoy.

Many of you will have noticed that the Village Green has been cut and the grass removed. The uncut edges will now be cut in preparation for the winter, the new Rowan tree is to be planted in December and the Fountain area will receive a tidy up. In addition to this the access point for large machinery to cut the grass will be moved to an area between the fountain and the tree on the corner of Half Moon Lane and Mount Pleasant as the current access point by the horse chestnut tree in the corner by the footpath is not suitable due to the growth of the tree.

The roundabout in the Activity Zone in the Recreation Ground is proving to be somewhat of a challenge to get working. A new bearing was fitted but still it wouldn't spin. It looks as if due to the water logging conditions experienced in that area that it has become warped in some, not particularly obvious, way. So watch this space to find out what will happen.

A meeting took place with Hildenborough Conservation Group and KCC on the proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme in West Wood during the Summer recess and an improved scheme was planned and approved by the Parish Council Meeting on 20 September. This involves brush bunds being built at critical points to help slow down the water's progress to the Hawden Stream as well as some peak flow deflectors along the stream feeding the pond. When these are all in place it should result, together with other planned projects further upstream, in slowing down flood water entering the stream. Talking of the Hawden Stream, it was also noticed that a number of residents in Stocks Green Road had moved their boundary fencing to the Parish Council side of the stream. This is causing much concern as it results in loss of access to clear the stream and in some instances barriers to the flow of the water as well as incursion on Parish Council land. The Council decided

they needed to take some action on this matter and will be contacting residents in the area over this.

You will have noticed the extended wet pour in the West Wood play area which will make all the equipment much more accessible during the winter and wet times. The Council is also considering adding a small extension to this area next year, so please let us know what you would like to see included in this area.

Watch out on the Borough Council's website for the draft local plan updates. They are due to be up during November and out for public consultation in February 2018. We all had the opportunity to comment earlier on and it will be interested to see what, if any, changes have been made. There were reports of an extension to the proposed sites for building in Hildenborough but we understand that although changes to the category to one site have been made it is unlikely to be included for development in this draft plan.

The Parish Council was most concerned over the two major water leaks in NobleTree Road and opposite the bus shelter a short time ago. The response from South East Water was extremely slow, resulting in four days when it was impossible to use the bus shelter/stop opposite the church. The Parish Council is expressing their concerns over this to the relevant authorities with a request to look into the water system in that area since it seems to regularly produce major water main bursts.

A reminder to residents in the Brookmead area that the 204 bus serves the area. There are no stops all you need to do is hail the bus.

The Parish Council is to change the date of their monthly meetings to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month commencing in December, 2017. This is primarily to accommodate the earlier date for copy to be ready for inclusion in the following month's Keys Magazine.

And finally, a reminder that the North Farm Recycling Centre is closed from 18<sup>th</sup> September for approximately 10 weeks. The Recycling Centre at Sevenoaks is still available as are other sites in the area, you can find details from <http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling/find-your-nearest-tip>

As always don't forget you can contact the Parish Council if you have any comments, enquiries or suggestions in a number of ways. Two members are present at the Farmers' Market on the second Tuesday of every month between 10 and 11am (next time is 10<sup>th</sup> October). They will also have copies of our two publications for sale (Tales from a Kent Village and Hildenborough from A-Z) as well as all the current bus and rail timetables. You can also email us on [clerk@hildenboroughpc.kentparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hildenboroughpc.kentparish.gov.uk) or ring 01732 832367.

*Pam Gow*