

Centre Piece for August 2017 Keys

The Parish Council met on Wednesday, 19 July, 2017 for the last time before the summer break which by the time you read this will be well underway. Today the summer weather seems to be evading us but hopefully we will still have more warm sunshine to enjoy during the coming holidays.

A lot has been happening outdoors during the past month. At the beginning of July the Open Spaces Committee met in West Wood. During the Summer this Committee tries (weather permitting) to meet on site to look at the facilities on offer. The Council had already taken the decision to extend the wet pour in the West Wood play area and were pleased to hear this would happen the week after the schools reopen in September. This should ensure that all are able to enjoy these play facilities during the Autumn and Winter even during inclement weather.

During this meeting they received a request to extend cycling opportunities in the area. The Council already has the pump cycle track for young cyclists. This request was to extend the pathways available for young cyclists to further develop their cycling skills. The Committee thought this may well be a possibility but wanted to ensure the safety of the many walkers using the area. The idea was put forward that an area should be set aside for cycling, leaving walkers safe along the current footpaths. During the Autumn they look forward to receiving more detailed proposals.

The Rowan tree on the Village Green has been proving a challenge! It was blown down because the ties securing it were broken during a recent gale. Having been re-secured to the stakes it then listed to one side. Temporary ties were fixed but at this moment in time more permanent and suitable fixings are awaited. There will be a second Rowan planted on the Green in December.

Some members on the Council had been looking at the development of the meadow and were pleased to note some new species this year. They had been warned that to get a wide range of flowers it would take a number of years. It is due to be cut during the next week or two.

Once again public transport was on the Agenda at the meeting on 19 July. Apparently Arriva are again revising their timetables. This will involve discontinuing their bus from Tunbridge Wells via Weald to Bromley. Go buses will be providing a service to Weald but finishing at Sevenoaks. Details of the new timetables will be available at the Council's table at the Farmers' Market on Tuesday 8 August, 2017 between 10.00 and 11.00 am. but beware if you are to travel prior to this and check the times before you set out. Copies of timetables are usually available at the Library and Castle.

Many of the timetable changes are as a result of insufficient usage of the services and at the Parish Council Meeting it was wondered how passengers could be attracted or persuaded to use these services.

Still on the subject of public transport train services to London are to be severely affected between 26 August and 2 September with Charing Cross, Waterloo East and London Bridge stations being closed. Limited alternative services will be available terminating at Cannon Street, Blackfriars and Victoria. Do check before you travel during this time or you may find you have a long wait or end up at a different station to that intended. This is all due to the upgrading of London Bridge station.

Southeastern are also consulting on proposals for the new timetable changes. This consultation closes on 9 August. So if you are a regular traveller it would be worth your while to check. One of

our members who has looked at these proposals thought there were not a lot of changes affecting travellers from Hildenborough.

Did you see the Great Kent Cycle Ride come through the village on 14 July? They all arrived at lunch time to check in on the Recreation Ground where refreshments and a rest were available. They all seemed to be thoroughly enjoying the challenge – but this was only their first stop! Hopefully the rest of their three day journey around Kent was just as enjoyable.

By the time you read this you may have become aware of the Summer Playscheme on the Recreation Ground. The Council were asked if this could be held there this year as construction work was being carried out in Stocks Green School (where it is usually held) and Hildenborough CEP School which would have been an alternative. They were pleased to say 'yes'.

Good news was received regarding the Parish Council's street lighting. It looks as if the lighting along Noble Tree Road and Rings Hill will be converted to LED lanterns before the winter. This will, I know, be appreciated by residents using Hildenborough Station. We have during the past year had a number of problems with bulb and connection failures along this very dark stretch from the station to the Village.

Don't forget if you want a good relaxing read during a lazy holiday or are interest in the history of your village the recently published, by the Parish Council, 'Tales from a Kent Village, Hildenborough, as seen through the Parish Archives' – see below for details. Also available are the last few copies of 'This is Hildenborough from A to Z' at a cost of £9.50 per copy.

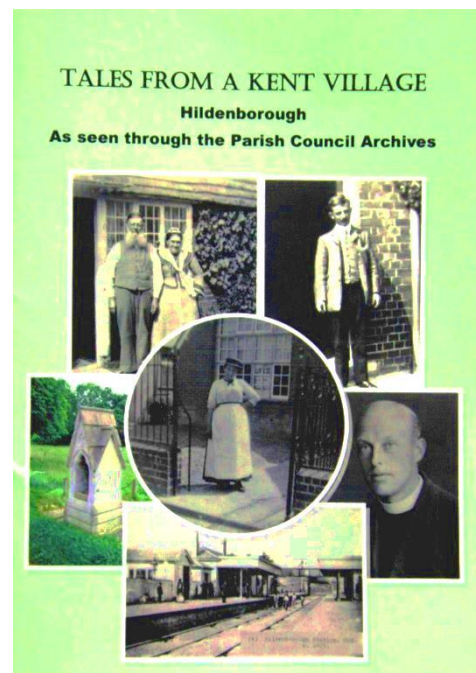
I hope everyone has a most enjoyable summer break and will return refreshed for the year ahead. Don't forget there will be someone, most of the time, available at the Parish Council if you want to give them ideas, make enquiries or comments. Contact us in the usual way, by phone (01732 832367, or email

clerk@hildenboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk or by sending a letter to the usual address. Members will be present at the Farmers' Market on 8 August and 12

September between 10.00 and 11.00 am where they will be pleased to answer question or just hand out information leaflets, including the new bus timetables and rail information and timetables.

There will be no Centre Piece in September Keys Magazine as the Parish Council does not meet during August.

Pam Gow



TALES FROM A KENT VILLAGE

HILDENBOROUGH

As seen through the Parish Council Archives

Price £10

(cheques payable to Hildenborough Parish Council)

These can be obtained from the Farmers' Market on Tuesday 8 August and 12 September between 10am and 11am.

or

by collecting from the Parish Council office

(please ring (01732 832367) or email before hand as the office is only open part time)