

NEWSLETTER

BIDBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

AUTUMN
2024

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WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Parish Newsletter.

It has been a busy few months for the council, particularly as, sadly, Cllr Amanda Collins has had to step down from her position on the council due to timetabling pressures which meant that she could no longer attend Monday meetings. As meetings are a requirement of a councillor, we sadly had to accept Amanda's resignation. She has been a great asset for the new council, in particular, in relation to facilitating matters between the school and the council, and in general care for the village. For this we give her our thanks.

The good news is that, following appeals to the community, Dominic Cole has kindly agreed to be co-opted on to the council and we welcome him as a councillor from 21 October 2024.



In Dominic's own words: *'I have lived in Woodland Way since 2003 and have since been fortunate to have retired at the end of 2021 - since my retirement, I have taken over the role of Membership Secretary at Bidborough Tennis Club and have been a Trustee for the [Bidborough] Village Hall during the past 18 months.*

Also, I have been a member / Trustee / presenter / trainer and person responsible for "Meet and Greet" at our local Community Radio Station, West Kent Radio, and was responsible for the involvement of West Kent Radio at Bidborough's Jubilee Village Fete.

Keen to support the reconstruction of the children's play-area, I was also actively involved with the 'Friends of Bidborough' (Katie and Sarah) looking for local businesses to advertise in the (Jubilee) event magazine, supporting sales of the magazine in the Woodland Way area and then supporting Katie and Sarah with the

fund-raising Wine Tasting evening in November 2022. I am keen to restore the sense of community and pride in Bidborough and work hard to deliver positive change where required.'

We welcome him on to the council and know that he will be a great asset to the council and the community.

We are also delighted that the new play park is finally in situ.

Following the opening in April, it has been a delight to see so many families using this new facility and enjoying time together. There were a couple of teething problems – including dealing with overflowing rubbish bins due to the popularity of the park! Our thanks go to Cllr Sandra Summers who took it upon herself to manually deal with the rubbish whilst she also watered the newly planted shrubs. Both of these jobs have now been allocated correctly but thanks go Sandra for going above and beyond....again!

There is also exciting news about refurbishment of the recreation ground pavilion, which is detailed further on in this newsletter.

*Karen Vidler
Chair
Bidborough Parish Council*

The logo for J.T. Moon Painting and Decorating features a blue circle with a stylized brushstroke across it. The text 'J.T. MOON' is written in a large, bold, blue serif font across the middle of the circle. Below it, 'PAINTING AND DECORATING' is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. A small red brush tip is at the end of the brushstroke.

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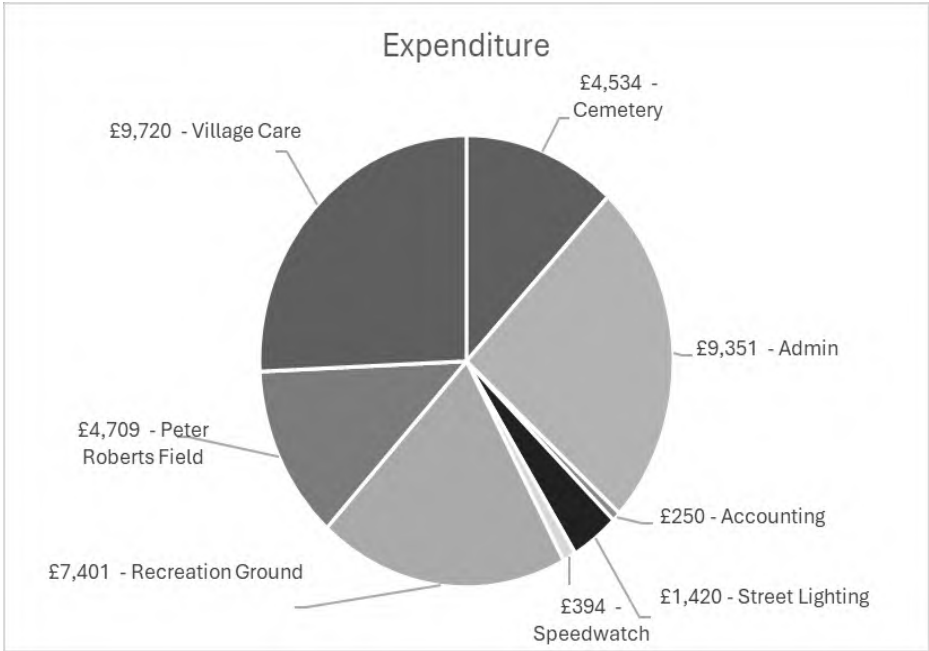
Tel. 01892 861317 Mob. 07766238012 james@jtmoon.co.uk

Parish Council

Accounts — 2024/2025 to 30 September 2024

Income to the parish for the first 6 months of the financial year came to just under **£134,950**; £61,970 came from the precept, £12,015 from VAT refunds, £60,000 from Friends of Bidborough and the balance from interest earned and sundry items (newsletter advertising, allotment rents, burial fees etc).

Expenditure for the same period came to just over **£133,300** with the largest item being for Kompan, the play park equipment provider (a little over £93,800). Outside the Play Park, a breakdown of other expenditure is given below:



Admin covers salary costs, the cost of the newsletter, IT, subscriptions and hall hire.

The majority of costs for the Peter Roberts Field, the Recreation Ground and Village Care are for grass mowing, tree care, strimming and hedge cutting. Around £4,500 was spent on remedial repairs

to the equipment in the Peter Roberts Field and c£1,500 was spent trying to fix the boggy area in the Recreation Ground which was due to a damaged water pipe.

Advice

We have been very fortunate in being able to benefit from free legal advice from the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) who have given us guidance on how payments in relation to the Arthur Nicholson Recreation Ground should be structured so that we may meet our obligations both as the Council and as Trustees in relation to the Ground.

We are also very lucky to have been offered the services of Cripps Solicitors who are undertaking work on a pro bono basis relating to the leases on parts of the Birch Wood.

We are grateful to both organisations for their expertise and assistance with these matters.

Future Expenses

Looking forward to 2025/26, at the November meeting the Council will be setting the precept for the coming year.

There will be costs incurred relating to the up-and-coming replacement of the sports/community pavilion. Also the council would like to be in a position to provide further assistance to the Birch Wood Association to ensure that this valuable community asset is resourced appropriately. We are also mindful that if we can get Kent County Council to agree to any of the road improvements suggested we will need to foot the lion's share of any costs. So there is much to think about.

Website Reminder—www.bidboroughpc.org.uk

Minutes for all Council meetings are available on the Council Website along with information on the workings of the council, finances, policies and so forth. The website also now has dedicated community area in order to promote the facilities and many clubs and societies that are based in the parish—and are always on the lookout for new members. Please take a look!

BIDBOROUGH HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN - UPDATE

The council is still pursuing the following improvements to the Highways policy for the village:

- Making the B2176 from Bidborough Corner and through the village 30 MPH
- A crossing point near to the centre of the village, ideally from the Kentish Hare to the bus stop.

You will hopefully be aware of the [change.org](https://chnng.it/kddqS2nXnS) petition which has so far garnered 134 signatures, over 2700 views and 78 petition shares. However, we need more signatures from residents to make any impact. As with all petitions, data is crucial. **If you haven't already signed please visit <https://chnng.it/kddqS2nXnS> or scan the QR code.**



There is no guarantee of success but we need to get our voice heard.

Kent Highways haven't consented to any of our requests as yet but have agreed to revisit the parish and will carry out additional surveys – one of which will be a survey of vehicles and pedestrians. This will be a one day exercise with cameras to record all activity. The cost for this will be about £1,000 which will be met by the parish—although we are concerned that a single days activity will not reflect the true numbers of those using and crossing the road.

DOUBLE YELLOW LINES

Another area under consideration is the introduction of double yellow lines at the junctions of the High Street, Glebelands and Rectory Drive. The main reason for this is to stop dangerous

parking especially during school pick up and drop off. This is a difficult one to agree as we are probably just moving the problem somewhere else. We therefore will need further consultation on this.

Bidborough Primary School and the concern for children's safety is always on our minds. Mrs Burton, the head teacher, regularly reminds parents to be considerate of others and to park sensibly. Included in our HIP is the introduction of Yellow Zig-Zags by the old school house at the top of Spring Lane. We have requested that this area will be a no parking area during the school day. This will form part of the Double Yellow Line consultation.

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SIDs)

Recently a resident asked me if we could update the two SIDs we have in Bidborough. These are located outside the village hall and opposite the junction of Woodland Way. SIDs are static devices that are activated to warn drivers when they are exceeding a speed limit. These were installed in 2013 and are supposed to have a 6 year life span – so probably do need replacing. Some of the newer ones display a sad or smiley face depending on the speed of the approaching vehicle. Kent Highways have not approved this type of the display and we are not allowed to use just any supplier. The cost of a replacement SIDs via a Kent Highways approved supplier is around £9,000 each. This is significantly more than some suppliers used in other counties and we will therefore be looking into pricing before any investment is made.

ACCESS

Residents should be aware that there is White Dog Bone road marking outside the electrical sub station near to the village shop. This area needs to remain clear for access to the sub station. Cars which park there cause obstruction for vehicles coming out onto the Ridge (B2176) from the shop and houses. We have therefore asked Kent Highways if this could be turned either into a Yellow Hatched area or Yellow Lines. There have been a few near misses so it would be good if we could do something. However, we would need to have a Traffic Regulator Order (TRO) carried out which is another cost to the parish of c£3,000.

Cllr Quentin Stevens recently met with Mike Martin our new MP. Mike has suggested that we narrow down our requirements and concentrate on one or two major points:



The First Phase: Our main priority would be to get the 30mph for the entire Bidborough Ridge from Bidborough Corner to past Mill Court. The second requirement would be a crossing point. Mike said that we should contact Kent Highways to obtain a cost for these two requirements and then see how much the Parish Council could contribute.

The Second Phase: Would be a door to door resident signature process to highlight what we are trying to achieve. Mike will get his team to assist with this.

The Third Phase: Obtain and agree the cost and the final **Fourth Phase** would be implementation.

This process can take a year or more to complete and funding is not guaranteed. By the time this article is published Cllr Stevens will have also had a meeting with Mark Ellis, TWBC Councillor, to discuss all of the above and will report back at the next parish council meeting. Mark is the cabinet member for finance so we will be asking him if there is any funding available for our projects.

NEAR MISSES

There is now a "Near Miss" tool, available on the TWBC website where you can report 'would-be' accidents. This is a recognised method to assist in traffic management and safety. There is also the option to add GPS co-ordinates to pin point exact locations. So if you are involved in or witness a 'near miss' traffic incident please take 5 minutes and report it using the following link, as this will support our Highways initiative :

<https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/parking/near-miss>

St Lawrence Church and St Peter Church

With the departure of Stephen and Elizabeth Hills, St Lawrence Church is now 'interregnum'; the period between a vicar leaving a parish and a new minister being appointed. During this period worship services continue as normal, and details can be found on the church website <https://towerandsteeple.org>.

The church is usually open daily from 9am to 5pm for prayer and quiet contemplation.

The South Aisle Community Café is hosted at St Lawrence Church every Tuesday between 10am–12pm. Please join us for coffee, cake, conversation and community.

From the beginning of November the '*There But Not There*' silhouettes will be in the church reminding of us of those who have given their lives in service of our country.



**Remembrance
Sunday**

Prayers and blessings will
be held on

**Sunday, 10th November
at 10.50am sharp**

by the Church Lych Gate

**Collection boxes for Poppy Day are available in the Village Shop
and at Bidborough Garage.**

The dates and times for our Christmas services will be published in due course, but two dates for your diary:

Sunday 22 December at 11am *Forest Church Nativity* at Four Winds Farm

Tuesday 24th December at 5pm *Carols* in the Churchyard.

Community

Bidborough Village Hall www.bidboroughvillagehall.com CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

Like all households, the hall has faced significant increases in utility bills over the last 12 months. For example, electricity costs doubled in October last year when our four-year fixed energy deal came to an end. Non residential locations have not benefitted from the energy price cap.

The good news is that Trustees are focused on reducing costs wherever possible and in this respect, we have agreed a new two-year fixed energy deal which will see a significant reduction. We have also negotiated a lower charge for waste disposal.

Hall users may have noticed that the main hall is much brighter when the lights are switched on. This is a result of the old fluorescent tubes being replaced by energy efficient LED tubes and again we should benefit in lower electricity consumption.

The Defibrillator has been moved from the storage area and is now fixed to the main hall wall. We needed to do this as we have arranged for the removal of the electricity meter in the storage building which will save £300 per annum. Battery auto sensor LED lights have been installed to replace the electric lighting. The small hall and small hall kitchenette have both been repainted and AR Builders repointed the low wall leading down to the entrance from the Ridge.

Hall bookings remain strong with nine children's parties booked in October. If you are thinking about hiring the hall for a party please contact our Booking Secretary Deenah Wheeler on 01892 520967. The earlier you book the hall the greater the chance of securing your preferred date.

Graham Parsons, Chairman & Trustee
For bookings please contact Deenah Wheeler on 01892 520967

Our Tunbridge Wells Borough Councillor

Mark Ellis

I am Mark Ellis, one of your three Borough councillors representing the new ward of Southborough and Bidborough, alongside my colleagues Brendon Le Page and Joe Opara. I am delighted to serve our community following the recent boundary changes in the May election.



Having served as a councillor in Tunbridge Wells for six years representing St. John's ward, I am eager to bring my experience to our new ward.

I am proud to be part of the Liberal Democrat team now leading Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. As a member of the Cabinet, I hold the portfolio for Innovation and Transformation. This role involves working with a dedicated team to modernise our council services and make them more accessible to everyone.

What does Innovation and Transformation mean for you?

- **Easier access to information and services:** We are striving to make it simpler for you to find the information you need and complete tasks online, saving you time and effort.
- **More efficient services:** By streamlining our processes and embracing technology, we aim to deliver services more efficiently and effectively.
- **More time for those who need it most:** Digitalisation frees up valuable staff time, allowing us to provide more personalised support to residents who may need extra assistance, such as those who are vulnerable, lack digital skills, or have complex needs.

For several years, I have been involved in developing the new

coworking space in the Town Hall, transforming an underused area into a vibrant community hub. I am also on the committee working on the Royal Victoria Place project, which the council acquired to enhance the town centre.

I am committed to being a strong advocate for your concerns in the Borough Council. Road safety, especially on Bidborough Ridge, is a top priority. I have met with several Parish Councillors to discuss this and other important local issues, such as planning concerns, local amenities, and environmental initiatives.

I believe in open communication and collaboration. I am always eager to hear from residents. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have.

Let us work together to make Bidborough and Southborough the best they can be.

Cllr Mark Ellis

Email: Mark.Ellis@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk / Tel: 07446 484925



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For more details, please contact me on:

07817 246129 or chris.morganmh@gmail.com

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Still looking for that special someone....

Do you have a few hours per month to take on this worthwhile initiative and co-ordinate Neighbourhood Watch for this area. If you do, please contact the Parish Clerk who will provide you with all the relevant information. Neil can be contacted on clerk@bidboroughpc.org.uk.



Resilience Planning—Are You Ready?

5 steps to become better prepared

STEP

1

Make an emergency grab bag – consider:

- Torch
- Keys
- Medication
- First aid kit
- Toiletries
- Important documents
- Radio and batteries
- Money and credit cards
- Clothing and blankets
- Mobile phone and charger
- Pet food
- Food and water
- Emergency contacts



STEP

2

Make a 'Household Emergency Plan'

Make an emergency plan for your home and practice it with your household. Your plan should include: contact numbers, how to turn off your gas, electricity and water, and sources of information and advice.



STEP

3

Sign up for weather and flood alerts

- Sign up for Met Office weather alerts:
www.metoffice.gov.uk



- Get Environment Agency Flood Warnings: www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings



STEP

4

Check your flood risk

Check your home's flood risk by visiting the Environment Agency website at www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk



STEP

5

Join the Priority Services Register

The Priority Services Register is for customers who may need additional support in a utility outage. Find out if you or a relative is eligible to sign up for this free service by visiting www.thepsr.co.uk



Scan the QR codes for more information or visit
www.kentprepared.org.uk/5-steps

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Sports & Community Pavilion

Now that the play park has been refurbished, the council's sight has turned towards the pavilion in the recreation ground which is desperately in need of replacing.

The pavilion is owned by the Council (as trustees) and leased to Bidborough Sports Association (BSA) who are a registered charity.

A Pavilion Development Group (PDG) has been put together by the BSA comprising:

Colin Barber, David Musker, Sarah Smith (*for the BSA*)

Rodger Poulson (*for the cricket club*)

Karen Vidler (*for the Council*)

Chris Hollyoak (*for the tennis club*)

Chris Mortimer (*for the bowls club*)

Kerry Thorne (*for the stool ball club*)

Our thanks go to Colin Barber and David Musker (the trustees of the BSA) who have brought all parties to the table to push forward this refurbishment/ rebuild project. The aim of the PDG is to ensure that decisions made regarding the pavilion take into account all users of the recreation ground – and each club representative has been asked to cascade information down to their membership so they are kept in the loop regarding what is happening. The Council have also set up a Pavilion Development page on the council website for the community.

It is recognised that community engagement in this project will be key to its success therefore if you have any concerns or questions about the development please feel free to contact either Karen Vidler on karen@bidboroughpc.org.uk or Sarah Smith (who has been co-opted by the BSA trustees to act as project co-ordinator) on bidboroughpavilion@gmail.com.

So where are we now?

Over the Summer and into the Autumn, the PDG have been looking into a number of issues which need to be resolved before they can consider the build itself. These revolve around the validity of the

current lease, VAT and the terms of the original Deed of Gift.

Whilst these thorny legal and tax issues are being dealt with, the PDG have agreed a brief for the pavilion build itself:

1. It is to be sited on the current site.
2. The development will be for the main pavilion only and not include any development of the bowls pavilion.
3. The 2016 plans that were approved will be the starting point for any discussion. These will be updated to incorporate the minimum requirements for sports pavilions and new building regulations.
4. The current pavilion will be demolished and rebuilt with the existing foundations retained and enlarged.
5. The new building will be 1 storey - if possible, a balcony will be incorporated into the building. Extensions to the side and back will be required.
6. Ideally, toilets will be accessible from the inside and externally (for other sports clubs use).
7. Disabled access to the building and across the rec will be incorporated.
8. Consideration will be given to energy efficiency.
9. The building must be self-financing.

Architect

The PDG have also been out to tender on the appointment of an architect who will design the new building and work with the PDG and building contractor to the completion of the project. Five companies were approached and we are very pleased to announce that the contract was awarded to AOMD, a local business based in Bidborough.

Michael Dillon is founding director of AOMD and moved to Bidborough with his wife and daughter in 2021. Shortly after moving to the community he established AOMD in 2022.

The practice works on projects of all scales, from residential to public and cultural buildings, and specialises in community

buildings with a strong emphasis on public consultation.

Prior to setting up AOMD, Michael worked for ten years at Mæ Architects. His last completed building, Sands End Arts and Community Centre, was a finalist in the 2022 RIBA Stirling Prize. It was voted London's Building of the Year by the Royal Institute of British Architects alongside winning a RIBA national award.

Michael's practice work is supported by his teaching at the University of Cambridge.

The PDG are looking forward to working alongside Michael to ensure it provides the facilities required by the sports clubs and other users of the recreation ground.

FUNDRAISING!

The timeline for the build will largely be dictated by fund raising as an ambitious six figure sum needs to be raised.

Sarah Smith will be overseeing the fund raising on behalf of the PDG, working alongside her father, Malcolm, who was significantly involved in fund raising for a community build prior to moving to Bidborough. We are also blessed that Katie Haylock and Sarah Carrick have agreed to continue fund raising as Friends of Bidborough (FoB) for the pavilion build.

As this build is for the benefit of the whole village, we would like the community to be involved as much as possible.

A 'core' fund raising group is being set up to organise events in and around Bidborough and each of the sports clubs will be represented, along with the council, FoB and the BSA. It would be great if others in the community would join so that it becomes a truly collaborative group. If you are interested in being involved then let us know by emailing [**bidboroughpavilion@gmail.com**](mailto:bidboroughpavilion@gmail.com).

We hope to arrange the first meeting of the fund raising group late November/early December to swap ideas and agree a timetable.

Architectural Office Michael Dillon



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The New Play Park

Well, what a difference a year makes! This time last year Friends of Bidborough were organising another fabulous Scarecrow Trail to raise funds for the play park redevelopment. Today, we have a sparkingly new play park which is being used every day by parents in the parish and further afield.

The build itself started in February 2024 and completed in April with a fantastic day of celebration organised by the Friends of Bidborough. The opening was attended by villagers, school parents and children, school staff, members of the cricket club, other sports club members and our Tunbridge Wells Borough Councillors – and we estimate that around 250/300 people came to celebrate this long awaited reopening.



There are so many people to thank for their contributions – financial, in energy, in time – but foremost our thanks must go to Katie Haylock and Sarah Carrick who, as Friends of Bidborough, have spent so many hours organising events, applying for grants and raising thousands and thousands of pounds for the benefit of our community. Many, many thanks.

The countdown begins
10,9,8,7.....



Opening Celebrations



You're never too old to swing!

Our thanks go to the National Lottery for their £10,000 grant



Katie Haylock, Sarah Carrick, Cllr Karen Vidler and Cllr Pete Eames enjoy the celebration



The climbing tower is a great hit!

No celebration is complete without cake!!



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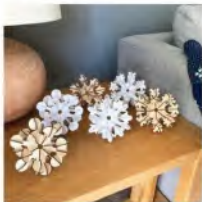
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2 The Shed is a small local creative business in the heart of Bidborough

I've launched my winter '24 collection of Scandinavian inspired wooden Christmas decorations & gifts. Ideal if you're stuck for gift ideas or want to freshen up your festive decorations. Come say Hej! and see how I work; from sketchbook to reality.



email: simonb@2theshed.com if you want to visit
...and I'll put the kettle on, Simon

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Nourish Community Food Bank

Kiran and Reshma at the Village Shop operate a collection point for Nourish. The following items are urgently needed:



Long-life Milk

Washing Powder Tablets

Pasta

Cereal

Tea & Coffee

Tinned Pulses

Rice Pudding

Toiletries

Tinned Potatoes

Dog/Cat Food

Chilli/Sweet & Sour Sauce

Baked beans

Tinned Spaghetti

Spreads - Jam, Peanut Butter, Marmite

Biscuits

Tinned Fruit

Soup

Noodles

Tinned Fish

Household/Cleaning Products

By buying items for the Food Bank at the shop you are supporting our village shop as well as the wider community in Tunbridge Wells.

Community

Birch Wood Association

Martin Derham

Chair, Birch Wood Association



October marks the start of the work season in woods across the country. Consequently, the Birch Wood Association have scheduled two **work parties in the wood**. The first is on **Thursday 28th November**, and the second on **Wednesday 19th February**. Kent High Weald Partnership and their volunteers will be helping. It is really good to have volunteers from within the Bidborough community as well and we look forward to seeing some of you in the woods on the day. Unfortunately we can only include over 18s because of insurance requirements.

Please come for as long as is convenient for you at any time whilst we are there. **The day runs from meeting on the dam at 10am** and finishes around 3pm. Please wear footwear suitable for muddy and uneven ground, and it is a good idea to wear old clothes. Tea and coffee is provided, but if you are staying all day please bring a packed lunch. KHWP provide tools and health and safety equipment and any necessary training.

If you are a regular wood walker you will have noticed the stream running across the top of the dam. We are currently investigating this and looking for solutions. The stream is from a horizontal gap under the capping stone on the dam edge. However, the more fundamental problem is that the central outlet pipe appears to be partially blocked or broken. We have tried rodding the pipe but there is something very solid part way along. At the same time the secondary outlet at the St. Lawrence Ave end is regularly partly blocked with leaves, sticks and the cases from sweet chestnuts. We do clear this as best as possible regularly and often, but the funnel fills again in a matter of hours. Please bear with us as we establish what can be done.

Contact: birchwoodassociationbidborough@gmail.com

The **Birch Wood Association** is run by a small but very dedicated and enthusiastic group of volunteers who rely on subscriptions and a small grant from the Parish Council to finance their very valuable work.

If you would like to support this very worthwhile cause please become a member (or renew your membership) for only **£10 per household per year**. If you are happy for us to hold your data please email birchwoodassociationbidborough@gmail.com with your name and address or talk to one of the committee members. Your details will be held purely for Association purposes. The Association also has a Facebook page. It is simplest to search for 'Birch Wood Association' we welcome any observations, photos or comments on our woods.



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Nature Notes - Autumn 2024

The wet and windy weather we have had this year has affected leaf drop and the colour of the trees. On the one hand the leaves have stayed green for longer than normal but in some cases the appearance of autumn colours has been extremely brief before leaf drop. There is still the possibility that with a period of dry sunny weather and gradually cooling nights we may still have a strong autumn display. However with storms crossing the Atlantic and wet and windy weather this is much less likely to happen.

Coloured leaves are a sign the tree is recognising that winter is approaching. Photosynthesis produces the chlorophyll needed to keep the leaves green, but cooler weather and shorter days means the trees start to store the nutrients produced by chlorophyll in their protected roots to help survive the winter.

However, current scientific research suggest that leaves turn yellow later in the year under higher atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations, as caused by global warming. So not only is the wetter and more stormy weather thought to be a product of global warming but changes to leaf colour are too. The result of this is that our leaves may change colour and drop more closely together, making the autumn colours shorter in duration.

It won't be long now until January which is peak fox mating season. This means the foxes will become much noisier. The female is only receptive to fertilisation for a mere 3 days. Consequently the vixen will be increasingly vocal as she makes the dog foxes aware of her condition with the screams we hear at that time of year. It is likely a dog fox will already be following her closely, which is known as mate-guarding. The vixen will be advertising her condition by leaving scent marks around her territory, and the dog fox will be doing the same to mark his territorial claim.



The History of the Village of Bidborough

As advised in the last newsletter, a book is being produced on the History of Bidborough, from the past to the present day, covering topics from Birch Wood to the recreation ground, the sports clubs, the village hall, social groups, the start of the school, the church, farming, characters who you knew and played a part in the community, the war years etc etc.

We have gratefully received information from some villagers but have room for plenty more. If you have any details, anecdotes, documents and so forth which you would be happy to be included please contact David White on dnwhite@talk21.com

When the book is ready it will be professionally printed and sold and the profits would be used to support village projects. We would like to see a finished book ready to print by January 2025 so **would welcome your input now.** Many thanks.

Quentin Stevens & David White



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PETER KING



Mobile: 07432 813614

Home: 01892 520287

pkingmoles@outlook.com

BIDBOROUGH



NOTICE FOR PET OWNERS

BIDBOROUGH SCHOOL PTA – FIREWORKS NIGHT

This will take place in the Peter Roberts Field on Saturday 9th November at 6pm. The display will last for c20/25 minutes.

St. Lawrence & St. Peter's Church

CAMEO Lunch (Come And Meet Each Other Lunch)

St Lawrence Church hosts CAMEO lunches every other month in the village hall for the more senior members of our community.

A two course lunch including refreshments is provided and the next lunch is our Christmas lunch on **Friday 13th December 2024 12.30pm–2.30pm**. There is a small charge of **£6** per person. Please contact **Anne Hinds** on **01892 528372** if you would like to attend.

Clubs & Societies

Bidborough Bowls Club

Alan Robinson – 01892 542852

Judy Liddall - 01892 525862.

We played our first match this season at home to Colemans Hatch on the last Saturday in April. Since then we have had a busy season of matches, both friendlies and league, as well as our singles and pairs competitions.

The number of playing members has held up at 18, not all of whom are yet available for friendlies. We have one new regular player, Clayton Cox, introduced once again by our persuasive recruiting officer, Colin Barber. Our aim has been to field nine players for matches of three triples and thanks are due to our monthly captains for their efforts in getting teams out through the season: Bill Liddall, Colin Barber, Alan Robinson, Julie Watkins, and Pete Eames.

Our roll-up sessions on Monday evening have continued but more sessions than usual were lost to rain. Winner of the Umbrella League this year was Judy Liddall on 18 points, with joint runners up on 14 points, Malcolm Smith, Alan Robinson, and Dave Allen.

In the Tunbridge Wells triples league, played on Thursday evenings, we made a strong start, topping the table for a spell at the beginning of July. Later on we faded a little but we maintained our place in Division 2 for next season.

In August our competitions finals day was postponed for rain on the Saturday to Bank Holiday Monday. Results were:

Club Singles Champion (Kynaston Trophy): Judy Liddall.

Runner up: John Grimes

Club Pairs Champions (Leggatt Trophy): Bill Liddall and Arthur Hull.

Runners up: John Grimes and Chris Barber

Tilley Trophy(Singles) won by Keith West.
Runner up: Pete Eames

Philpott Plate(Singles) won by Pete Eames.
Runner up: Keith West.

On the last Friday in August we played our annual bowls match vs Bidborough Cricketers. The match had been twice postponed for rain. A good competitive match was played followed by refreshments, enjoyed by all attending.

Our September matches were much affected by a shortage of available players for both Bidborough and some of our scheduled opponents.

Although we are generally managing to play matches of three triples, as mentioned above, we would love to be able to return to the four triples format of 12 players which we were used to. New members are what we need. Bowls is a challenging and enjoyable game and we are a welcoming and friendly club. **Why not join us next season?** Our 5pm Monday roll-ups are the place to start. Or by arrangement at any other reasonable time to try your hand.



BIDBOROUGH

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Bidborough Cricket Club

2024 has been a very emotional and sad year for the club, not only losing our President Brian Wood, who contributed so much to the club as league winning captain in 1993 (the first time Bidborough CC won the KCVL), he then became chairman of the club for a number of years and finally President for last number of years.



We also lost James Baldock one of our most successful captains and definitely one of the most talented cricketers to have played for Bidborough. James lost his fight against MND in May, and is sadly missed by all. The club organized a very successful T20 evening where we pitted the youth of Bidborough against the older legends, the evening was enjoyed by all and we raised over £1000 for James's family.

The cricket club has undergone a number of changes over the year with a new committee taking over the reins, in April.

One of our first tasks was to sure up the club finances which have suffered since COVID for various reasons. This first goal has been achieved through some very successful Fundraisers, very generous VPs and sponsors (In Particular Tech Seating and RJ Holland), and strict controls introduced and managed by the captains to insure all membership subs and match fees were collected.

We have one last fund raiser left, a good old fashioned race night in the Village Hall which will have happened by the time this newsletter has been published this is a joint cricket club and Pavilion fundraising event and has been most rewarding to see that the event is being supported a large portion of the Village, sure signs the cricket club is integrated back into the village life.

I suppose as this is a cricket club, cricket is our main focus. 2024 has been a pretty tough year on the field, and unfortunately we have

ended with all three sides being relegated from their leagues.

Although the bare facts are disappointing I don't think they illustrate how close we were in so many matches which could have easily

kept all three sides up, we had some nail biting losses, that were just so close.

Mention must be made of the effort our captains have made this year in getting teams out and playing through some very trying conditions and we can proudly claim that we had three teams out for the majority of the season, so thank you to our captains, Dale (Hillhouse), Dom (Trett) and Clint (Hillhouse).

Sadly this brings me to our first Team Captain Dale, he has decided to step down after five years as 1ST X1 captain. Dale started off his first season as Captain winning the COVID cup which was the league competition at the end of COVID lockdowns.

Dale has captained through some very tough times on the field with a number of older players retiring and some very talented youngsters moving on to higher competitions. Through all of this Dale has remained positive and been involved in all the club players correspondence organizing the big bash and mid-week competitions and helping wherever the club has needed it. Luckily Dale is staying fully involved as a player at Bidborough, but just needs some time to enjoy his cricket and more importantly prepare for his wedding in April next year. The new captains will be announced at the AGM to be held in January 2025.

Sue Steptowe and Eli Clarkson, with the help of Dan Page's coaching have overseen another successful junior season. The juniors are our future and its really important we keep developing this section. Bearing this in mind we are looking to appoint a new Head of Junior coaching, we have a few exciting prospects, and have already secured a coach to run the Dynamo's and All Stars next year. The Dynamos and All Stars are a great opportunity to get our young boys and girls into cricket so please keep a lookout for the information to this next year.

The Parish Council have been a great support this year in particular in helping us to resolve the bog that sprang up on the outfield, that I am sure most of you who visit the Rec, would have noticed. The drainage pipes to this area have been renewed and the water seems to be flowing through to the pond now. We will just keep our fingers crossed that when we head down to the Rec in April next year to get the new season underway we won't be met by another miniature lake.

From a cricket club point of view we feel we are all part of the village again with everyone hopefully working together to reignite the New Pavilion push. Hopefully there will be some exciting news on this in the near future.

I hope everyone winters well, and we look forward to the 2025 cricket season.

Rodger Poulson
Chairman, Bidborough CC

Badminton Club

Mike Harris – 07595 838051 / m.harris.276@btinternet.com

CALLING ALL ASPIRING BADMINTON PLAYERS - ADULTS & JUNIORS

Bidborough Badminton Club is a friendly and sociable village Club with a little bit of competitive spirit for those who want it. Some (but not much) previous experience is required. We meet every Wednesday or Thursday evening from 8 pm in the Village Hall. The club membership is currently healthy but we always have space available for new members, especially juniors.

So if your child/grandchild is 11+ and would like to try a new sport or gain skill and experience if they play already then do get in touch. The junior section is professionally coached on Wednesdays from 6 pm. All fees are very reasonable. Please do come along and give us a try.

Contact Mike for more information.

Bidborough Tennis Club

Chris Hollyoaks—c.hollyoak@btinternet.com (Chair)

Dominic Cole—domfcole@outlook.com (Membership Secretary)

With the nights now drawing in, the Tennis Club have taken the opportunity to complete a thorough “deep clean” of our tennis court surface including treatment for the removal of any moss (end September). Even though (nearly) all of the major 2024 international tennis competitions are over, many members continue to enjoy the use of our local tennis court, which remains open all year. In fact, Bidborough Tennis Club [BTC] is always keen to welcome new members and, in particular, actively supports the development of younger players to improve their game skills.

You may be aware that every year the Tennis Club subsidises a Summer coaching week, specifically targeted at our younger members, together with a local professional coach. We may also consider running training sessions in other school holidays and not just in the summer holidays, and welcome any requests for adult training. Please feel free to reach out to either Chris Hollyoak (Chairman) or me (Dominic Cole) if you would like further information.

Furthermore, the BTC is interested in new people stepping forward to volunteer as either a Committee member or to assist the Committee with the running of our club/court – for further details, and to apply, please contact either Chris Hollyoak or Dominic Cole.

If any current or potential members have any questions about the BTC then please feel free to contact us on the email addresses below – we, or any member of the tennis committee, would be happy to help. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the Club Committee if you have any comments or discover any problems with the court or its surroundings.

Keep playing Tennis and enjoy our fantastic facilities.

Chris Hollyoak and Dominic Cole.

Bidborough Friends Group of Hospice in The Weald
invite everybody to their annual:



FESTIVE FAYRE MORNING

Saturday 9th November
10.00am until 12.30 pm

Bidborough Village Hall

Stalls include Aromatherapy / Local Artist / Pre-Loved Books / Christmas Presents / Craft Stalls / Hospice Christmas Cards / Handmade Silver Jewellery (Hallmarked) and many more.

Homemade refreshments available.

Contact for any queries to Carole Marks 01892 542233 or Marilyn Hayward 01892 536217

Calling all gardeners!

Bidborough Friends Group of the Hospice in the Weald are looking for a few more gardens from the village, to add to their annual Open Garden Afternoon next June.

If you have a lovely garden and would be interested in opening along with others next year, please contact Carole Marks 01892

*Don't forget, you can report **potholes** directly to Kent Highways on:
www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem*

BIDBOROUGH DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Presents

GOING AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS

Cabaret entertainment with a fish and chip supper.

Music Dance Comedy Audience Participation

Bar - Raffle - Fun for all ages

THURSDAY 12 and FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER

Bidborough Village Hall at 7.30pm

Tickets £16 (£14 for members) Tables of 6

Box Office opens 4th November.

For information, contact: heather.block52@gmail.com

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E: ryanking.13@btinternet.com

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Bidborough Gardening Association

Kelvin Paterson – membership: kelvinmpaterson@gmail.com

Website: www.bidboroughgardening.co.uk

The Association also has a Facebook page.

Bidborough Gardening Association has regular monthly meetings with interesting speakers, as well as day and evening outings to well-known gardens, an annual holiday, three flower shows and a Christmas party.

Where: Bidborough Village Hall

When: Third Friday of the month

January, February and November at 2.30pm

March, May, October, December at 7.30pm

Shows: Spring – April, Summer – June, Autumn - September

For more details please contact Kevin on the email above.

Members and non-members welcome.

Further Away....

SKATE Tunbridge Wells at Calverley Grounds is back!

This year, Calverley Grounds transforms again into a magical ice rink, bringing festive cheer to Tunbridge Wells. Experience the thrill of skating under the lights in the heart of the town. Whether you're a seasoned skater or a first-time beginner, there's something for everyone. Grab your mittens and skates, and make unforgettable memories with family and friends this festive season.

Open seven days a week from *Friday 29 November 2024* to *Sunday 05 January 2025* (closed Christmas Day), the outdoor ice rink and festive stalls are only a five-minute walk from the train station and town centre offering spectacular views of the beautifully lit park, creating a unique and special seasonal experience!

SKATE are also offering relaxed skating sessions free from music, flashing lights and with slower skating speeds enforced for those who prefer a calmer, more serene experience. Whilst everyone is welcome, these sessions are specifically designed for those who may find skating a bit more challenging.

Come and enjoy the :

- Café and Bar
- Bavarian Curling
- Book a ride on the Christmas Wheel!

Check out the website for more information <https://visittunbridgewells.com/event/skate-royal-tunbridge-wells-ice-skating-rink>.

Prices from £9 to £22

SAVE £2 per ticket by booking in advance of the day!

If you require a Seal Skating Aid please pre-book, as availability cannot be guaranteed.



VILLAGE DIARY

Held in the Village Hall:

Weekly

Mon		Brownies
Tues		Rainbows
Wed	5:00 – 7:30 pm	Junior Badminton
Wed & Thu	8:00 pm	Badminton
Fri	9:30 – 12:00 noon	Tots & Co (term time only)

Monthly

4th Fri	2.30 pm	Bidborough Ladies
3rd Fri	7.30 pm	Gardening Association
Last Mon	7:00 pm	Parish Council (Small Hall)

WHO'S WHO

WHOLE COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

Planning

Governance

Charities

Insurance

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL & COUNCIL CORRESPONDANCE

Neil Harris
clerk@bidboroughpc.org.uk

CO-OPTED

Martin Derham
Birch Wood Association

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Deenah Wheeler
01892 520967

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Brendon Le Page
brendon.lepage@tunbridgewells.
gov.uk

Mark Ellis
mark.ellis@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Joe Opara
joe.opara@tunbridgewells.
gov.uk

Newsletter

*This edition was put together by Cllr Karen Vidler and she apologises for any errors or omissions and formatting issues! The next edition - Spring 2025 - is likely to be distributed in March/April 2025. Anything you would like included (articles, adverts), should be submitted to karen@bidboroughpc.org.uk by **21th March 2025.***

WHO'S WHO



Dominic Cole

dominic@bidboroughpc.org.uk

Responsibilities: To Be Advised



Pete Eames

pete@bidboroughpc.org.uk

Responsibilities: Bidborough Sports Association, Birch Wood



Stephen Hinds

stephen@bidboroughpc.org.uk

Responsibilities: Finance, Allotments, ANRG CoM*



David Marriott

davidm@bidborough.org.uk

Deputy Chair of Trustees **

Responsibilities: Finance, Risk Assessments, ANRG CoM*



Quentin Stevens

quentin@bidboroughpc.org.uk

Responsibilities: Cemetery, Allotments, Birch Wood, Village Care, Village Hall Rep, Facebook, Highways, ANRG CoM*



Sandra Summers

sandra@bidboroughpc.org.uk

Deputy Chair

Chair of Trustees **

Responsibilities: 20 is Plenty, Highways, Website, Finance, ANRG CoM*



Karen Vidler

karen@bidboroughpc.org.uk

Chair

Responsibilities: Bidborough Sports Association, Newsletter, Website, 20 is Plenty, Highways, Pavilion Development Group

** Arthur Nicholson Recreation Ground – Committee of Management*

*** The Council as Trustees of the Arthur Nicholson Recreation Ground*



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