

Parish Council News

July 2020

At last, in June, some rain to break the drought, save our gardens, the trees, the crops and of most interest to some, water our newly sown **Glebe Field (Village Green)**. It has been rolled and received its first cut since being reseeded. Perhaps the children in our parish will be able to play on their new pitch this year after all.

Time does not stand still. Future activities need to be planned and many organisations are already looking forward to the autumn. Goudhurst Parish Council, which has worked on through the lockdown in various ways, is similarly looking forward. For example, will the **Royal British Legion** be running a Poppy Appeal this year, and how? On Remembrance Sunday, will there be a parade, will we close the road, and will we be allowed to? GPC is working with RBL to make sure arrangements are in place, so, hopefully, the answer to all these will be yes, if safe to do so.

Meanwhile Your parish council has been busy. The new fencing is in place at **Goudhurst Village Pond** which has tidied and opened up area on the south side. In **Kilndown** the remedial works (blocked drains) at the **Quarry pond** are completed and the area is to be restored to good appearance.

The **Neighbourhood Development Plan** has now been submitted for its next stage review by TW Borough Council where it will be posted for public view and comment. Then hopefully on to the Inspector, a Referendum and adoption. Thank you to Colin Willis and Craig Broom and all those from our community who have contributed to the amazing document.

The Yew restoration works by The Living Forest in the **Goudhurst cemetery** have continued. 6 of them have been pruned this year as part of a rotating programme to do some each year. The area is now more accessible and several amazing tombs have emerged from beneath. The hedges either side of the Back-Lane play area have been reduced in height. You can now sit on a bench on the **Top glebe** and look across the countryside to the far-reaching views to the south.

Thanks to a huge community effort and a number of very generous donations (more information later) £47,182 has already been raised for the refurbishment of the **Back-Lane Play area** and an order placed with Wicksteed the suppliers. "Unlocks" permitting we hope that this will be installed in the next few months.

It is worth noting that the installation includes the cost of a new surface and after much consideration it will be safety matting with natural grass giving a strong, safe surface and a natural look appropriate for the area.

We were pleased to hear that a number of organisations were successful in their applications for government **hardship grants** covering the shutdown period (up to £10,000) including The Parish Hall, the Kilndown Village Hall, The Goudhurst Social Club, the Quarry Centre and the Scout's Hut. We look forward to the safe reopening of more of our shops and establishments so that some semblance of normal life may return, and economic survival ensured.

We hope all in our community are surviving and avoiding the **Corona Virus** and we wish you well. Thank you Corona Kindness team for all your community support and all those who have donated to or manned the G&K Community Cupboard.

The Goudhurst **Parish Website** is now working with additional information being added progressively. It is **goudhurst-pc.gov.uk** and it is receiving several '000 hits per month from UK and elsewhere. The Goudhurst Parish Magazine can also be sourced through a link to the Church website. Your Parish Council remains at the end of the phone 01580 212552 for Clerk or our new email address clerk@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk. Individual Parish Councillors have **new email addresses**: e.g. xxx.yyy@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk

Your Parish Councillors ... David Boniface, Craig Broom, Chris Ditton, Alan Foster, Antony Harris (Chairman), Phil Kirkby, David Knight, Barry Noakes, Caroline Richards, Jayne Russell, Guy Sutton and Peter Wood.