

# MERNHILL NEWS MARCH 2011

#### **PARISH COUNCIL**

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council took place on 23rd February at the Village Hall. Five Councillors and the Clerk were present. Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Figgis, Mrs Martin, Mr Bowles and Mr Bobbin. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th January were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Reports: All Councillors spoke of feelings of disquiet which were arising throughout the parish. It was difficult to actually define the reasons for this but indications of any signs of suspicious activities will need particular vigilance throughout coming months. e.g., indications of illegal development, or possible changes of use. This matter will be further addressed at the April meeting.

Mr Elliott said that he had been having difficulties in gaining entry to the Dawes CA centre in order to print the Hernhill News. Security systems have been altered, and the Clerk is to write to the Dawes CA, asking for egress to be made easier. Mr Chapman said that he had been told by Mr Ronan, from Maidstone, that the owner of the land adjacent to the large puddle at Hernhill had now given permission for the pipework to be renewed, but only when the land had dried considerably. This news was welcomed by Councillors.

The Clerk gave a financial report, which indicated that the Council's bank balanced with records. The Clerk also gave details on a different Insurer to the one used previously for many years. Not only is there an annual saving of more than £82 but cover is increased for Public Liability, Fidelity Guarantee and Personal Accident.

Residents of the Crockham Lane area have asked the Parish Council for support in their request for a sand bin. This area has several dangerous bends and corners which are very hazardous in the recent snow conditions. Councillors readily offered support to this very reasonable idea. The Clerk is to contact Councillor. Bobbin as

Chairman: Helen Figgis 01227 751149
e-mail helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com
Clerk: Terry Smart; phone 01227 274047
Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 767423
and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388
KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

soon as practicable to find out the outcome of the planning application in respect Belvedere Farm. It has been announced that 17 windmills are to be erected off

Whitstable, to add to the 30 already there.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting to be closed at about 8.40 p.m.

#### **BRIAN BONES**

We regret to announce the death of Brian on 5th February 2011. He was born at Church Farm and lived and farmed there until 2005 when he retired and moved to Benderton, Stoke Climsland, Cornwall in order to be near his family. His funeral took place on Saturday 19th February. He leaves his widow, Jean and two daughters.

#### RESTORATION BEETLE DRIVE

Friday 1st April



This is always a popular evening which raises a laugh for young and old alike. Most are sceptical until they have played and then they become enthusiasts. The rules are simple and the excitement is great. The only problem is that numbers are limited so book early to be sure of a place. Partners are better but we have always been able to make up pairs so don't be put off if you are a loner. Give me a call for tickets. £4.00 for adults and £2.00 for under 12yrs. Play starts at 7.00pm so that children are not kept out late. Coffee and biscuits will be provided at the interval and there will be a raffle.

Alan Taylor 01227 751293

### Hernhill School PTAFA MUSIC QUIZ

Saturday April 2nd at 7.30

Do you enjoy music? Singing a long even? Make up a table (8 maximum) and join in!

 ${\mathfrak L} 8$  per person, payable in advance and this includes a fish and chip supper

Please provide your own liquid refreshments Please contact the School Office, on 01227 751322 to book and pay.

#### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The AGM for the Society was held at the Village Hall on Thursday 17th February and it was very well attended.

Mr Tony Pettifer was elected as the new secretary, as Mr Peter Saddleton has retired after 10 years service. The Society would like to thank him for all the work he has done over the years and hope he will continue to remain in the Society.

Helen &Peter Bentley have donated a shield for the most points in the daffodil class at the Spring show. The show is on Saturday 2nd April at the Village Hall. Staging for the show is from 9:45 am to 11:15 am

All exhibits must be staged by 11:15 am. The Show is open to the public at 2:00pm. The presentation of awards will be at 3:00pm followed by an auction of produce. Tea & Coffee & Biscuits will be available.

**Annual Summer Outing** 

The outing is still being decided. Would members please check their newsletter for the options for trips. Contact Isabel Pettifer on 751128 for details. The trip will be open to everyone on a first come first served basis.

Peter Bentley

#### WITH THANKS

On Sunday 6th Febuary a Quiz Night was held at the Red Lion Public House in order to raise sponsorship money for the London to Paris Bike Ride, the money going to the Child Brain Injury Trust in memory of Tom. A great night was had by all with 22 teams from the local area, a massive £895.55 was raised for the charity. We were overwhelmed by the number of people who came to support us and the cause and with their generosity.

Many thanks also to Martin, Ben and the team at the Red Lion for all their help on such a busy night and to Jerry Dickson for being a great Quiz Master.

Anyone who wishes to sponsor the London to Paris Bike Ride please contact us on 01227 752864.

We wish to thank the people of Hernhill and the surrounding area for their continual support and kindess.

Jackie & Dave Brenchley

#### **DOVE DOINGS**

As promised, the full list of dates for your diary is now up and running - some events will be sold on a ticket only basis so book early to avoid disappointment. Our next

event will be the Wine and Food Matching evening on April 6th brought to you in association with Shepherd Neame.

We had a successful Valentine's evening at The Dove entertaining

lots of lovely couples and a very timely power cut further enhanced their romantic mood! (but sadly not Phill's!).

The location of the Bat and Trap pitch has been marked out ready for work to start. Unfortunately the hens will be 'relocating' to accommodate our new pub game! Lets hope they forgive us and keep lay-

ing!

We look forward to seeing all teams for the 'Punters Pub Quiz' on Saturday 12th March when we shall also be fundraising in memory of Tom Brenchley for the London to Paris Charity Ride on behalf of the Child Brain Injury Trust. The quiz starts at 7.30pm.

Sarah

## VILLAGE HALL BUNTING Donations of cotton fabric needed!



We need your old cotton or poly/cotton sheets, shirts or any cotton textiles to make new

bunting for the Village Fete. Any colour, plain or patterned.

Please leave your donations at 1 Manor Cottages. You can leave it on the doorstep if I am not in.

Many thanks. Miriam Layton

#### **PUMP ORCHARD**

The Pump Orchard is being grubbed out, all apple trees are now felled. The orchard was home to a wide variety of habitat which we can see is being displaced the further the work goes on. I live in Staplestreet and the orchard backs onto my property. We requested that the part of the orchard closest to our houses be left intact and for it to be rented to us as residents and we be responsible for the maintenance. This of course was refused out of hand. We even suggested that it be turned into allotments but this

was also refused. We do try to talk to the parties concerned, particularly about the promises they made regarding the use of barbed wire so close to our properties. Promises were made to keep the boundary at least 2 metres from us but this has not happened and when we have approached said party we are met by a brick wall. As a big part of the orchard is in a conservation area we thought maybe the council would help, unfortunately apple trees do not come under the conservation laws. This is the story thus far and I now feel we have to take any steps open to us. If this is not with- for your time. in your 'News' required standards I totally understand and thank you

Barbara Glykeriou

#### **COFFEE MORNING**

Saturday 9th April There will be a coffee morning in the Village Hall in aid of the Pilgrims Hospice, starting at 10.00am.



I need offers of help and/or donations. Please give me a call Anne Butler 01227 750864

#### **NEW WEB-SITE**

The Hernhill Forum is a brand new website for the local community. an opportunity to exchange ideas to enrich the life of the village and those connected with it. Recent events have included the launch of the new Exchange Cafe in the Village Hall every Friday from 3.00 to 4.30pm, and a singing workshop supported by the

#### Dawes CA.

The Forum is your chance to find out about all that s going on in Hernhill and also join in with the planning of future events and activities

Go on line at hemhillforum.wordpress.com to find out more! **Daniel Harding** 



#### **CRAFTS CENTRE**

The new season is fast approaching. The AGM will be held on Sunday 20th March at 2.0pm in the Craft Centre at Mount Ephraim. Please be sure to attend. New members would be most welcome.

Frances Attree

#### SINGING IN CANTERBURY **CATHEDRAL**

Members of choirs and choral societies from across Kent will come together to perform excerpts from Haydn's Creation in the nave of Canterbury Cathedral at 7.30 pm on Sunday 27th March.

Dr David Flood, Organist and Choir Master of Canterbury Cathedral will be conducting the volunteer choir and rehearsing with them for most of the Sunday afternoon before the evening performance. He says: "This will be our third annual 'Come and sing' concert in the Cathedral. Each one has been huge fun and a great success. The Creation is a truly wonderful and very colourful piece, and we hope to see the nave full of people supporting the choir and our local orchestra and, at the same time, helping to fund the conservation of the Cathedral" Audience tickets are £10.00 each and free for children if accompanied by a paying adult. They can

be purchased from either the box office on 01227 464764, or the Canterbury Gift office at 27/28 Burgate, Canterbury or via email tickets@thecanterburygift.com

#### WINE AND WISDOM



The Badger Conservation Group will be running its annual Wine and Wisdom on Saturday 2nd April at 7.00pm for 7.30pm in the Village Hall Bring your own glasses.

Come and join us for some fun!

Beryl Chipperton 01227 752912

#### FROM THE VICAR

The last Sunday in January saw many of us from our church, school and village gather together in Hernhill School for a special Education Sunday service. I think the children who put on their school uniform and came to school on a Sunday morning are to be congratulated and they contributed very positively to our worship.

Education is much in the news at the moment with the raising of university tuition fees, the closing of some public libraries to save money and government plans for schools to become academies. With so much uncertainty around it was good in our service to focus on the firm foundations that education gives us. Many people had favourite teachers or favourite

subjects when at school, some of us paid tribute to the great influence a good teacher can have on our life, affecting perhaps our choice of career or the values we hold today. A church school, such as Hernhill, also has a Christian ethos and Christianity is very much part of the school's firm foundation.

This year we are celebrating 200 years of Church of England schools, they were the first free schools in the country, other churches followed and this led to free education for everyone. As we give thanks for our own local school and the good links there are between church and school give thanks also for your own education and all that it has enabled you to achieve.

Revd Jean Burrows

#### **BITS AND PIECES**

Having just had a birthday, to my chagrin, I have come to realise

that I am a fully paid-up, senior citizen.

Not so long ago I would have

called people of my age, old fogies. It is amazing how a change of perspective also changes ones ideas. I have to admit that I have not kept up with the gizmos. My mobile phone is merely a phone. I have not got into texting, twitting and the like. In my day 'a.p.p.s' was a post, postscript to a piece of writing not something to tell me where I could get the cheapest meal or where the nearest lap-dancers could be found. Also, I have to admit to reading books printed on real paper.

However, I am no Luddite and therefore welcome the introduction of a new, local web-site

hernhillforum.wordpress.com. The 'News' has been available on the other web-site (hernhill.net) pretty well from its inception. Now, however, if you can't wait for your copy to drop through your letterbox, you will be able to get the latest 'Hernhill News' on-line via the new site as well as on the older one.

In 2009 I visited both Tunisia and Egypt. I'm glad it wasn't this year. Nearly all of the Arab countries in North Africa seem to be in turmoil. When I was there as a tourist I had not the slightest idea that there

was any problem. In fact, Tunisia seemed to be a particularly safe place to visit and the locals were



welcoming and seemed to be quite relaxed. It is now clear that to be a tourist was to be a blindfolded sightseer.

So, this year I'm seeking my relaxation in this country. If for financial or other reasons you too are in 'staycation' mode, look no further. With the 'News' and two web-sites available, there is no excuse for missing a village event. There are some excellent things planned this year for both adults and children. Local events provide an opportunity to meet and make friends and save on time and travel costs. Village organisations are already hard at it and will be be offering a wide variety of interesting events through the year until late into the autumn

If you have not yet discovered the simple pleasures of being part of the local community, why not start this year.

ADT

Alan D. Taylor Yew Tree House, Dargate near Faversham, Kent ME13 9HG 01227 751293 e-mail taylornews@hotmail.co.uk Mon 28th



Man 4 7			ODEEN him called the
Mar 1 Tues			GREEN bin collection
Wed 2	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 6	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Mon 7	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 8			BLUE bin collection
	8.00pm		Craft Centre Committee
Wed 9	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Bob Cooper, Wood turning
	8.00pm	St. Barnabas	Ash Wednesday - Holy communion
Sun 13	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 15			GREEN bin collection
Sun 20	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service
	2.00pm	Mount Ephraim	Crafts Centre AGM
Mon 21	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 22			BLUE bin collection
Sun 27	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 29			GREEN bin collection
Wed 30	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Apr 1 Fri	7.00pm	Village Hall	Beetle Drive
Sat 2		Village Hall	Horticultural Spring Show
	7.00pm	Village Hall	Wine and Wisdom
	7.30pm	Hernhill School	PTAFA Music Quiz
Sun 3	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Mothering Sunday
Mon 4	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 5			BLUE bin collection
Wed 6	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sat 9	10.00am	Village Hall	Hospice coffee morning
	7.00pm	Village Hall	Badgers' Wine and wisdom
Sun 10	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 12			GREEN bin collection
Wde 13	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Janet Gee - Oberammergau
Sun 17	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Palm Sunday
Mon 18	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 19			BLUE bin collection
Sun 24	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Easter Day - Holy communion
Tues 26			GREEN bin collection
Wed 27	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council