



# HERNHILL NEWS

## MAY 2012



### GREAT VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
2.00pm VILLAGE HALL



#### PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Hernhill Parish Council took place on 25th April. With the exception of Mrs Taylor, who sent apologies, all Councillors were present, as were one visitor and the Clerk. Apologies for absence had also been received from Mr Bowles and Mr Bobbin. The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 28th March were signed as a true record.

**Matters arising:** Jubilee celebrations - the various Councillors concerned said that arrangements were proceeding well, and that the printing of posters and leaflets was well in hand. The Clerk reported that the Council's Insurers had been contacted and that they had shown little concern about the proposed celebrations. Suitable road closure signs were being made, and the roads programmed for closure had been approved. Council Tax payers should be assured that no part of the funding of any of the activities will stem from the Parish Council.

**Reports:** Mr Chapman said that the ongoing saga of the puddle adjacent to his residence will not now be rectified until mid July. He has been informed that the road concerned will be closed

for a minimum of two weeks. Some temporary action has been taken e.g., a sludgegulper has been seen at the site, and a small channel dug as a soakaway.

Mr Morsman detailed two trips he had made around the Parish, accompanied once by the Clerk and once by the new Highways Inspector. Numerous improvements have been made in the repairs to potholes, and to the provision of roadside signage, all of these being as a result of this joint venture. Mr Morsman was thanked by the Chairman for his efforts.

Mr Woods reported that he had visited two residences, where tree work had been requested. He found no objection to either of the owners' application. He also commented on the disappearance of the two 30 mph road signs, which had proved so useful. It is not known who removed them, and it is hoped that the original donor will soon replace them.

Mr Elliott reported the muddy state of the highway at the building site at the old school development, and also commented on the overgrown hedge adjoining the road. The Clerk is to write to the builders.

The Chairman commented on the deci-

Chairman: Helen Figgis 01227 751149

e-mail [helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com](mailto:helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com)

Clerk: Terry Smart; phone 01227 274047

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 752840

and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

sion by the Clerk, to retire after almost 25 years, and thanked him for his past service. A replacement it is hoped, could be in place by July. A notice is to be placed in the next Hernhill News, and KALC will be approached, to ascertain whether that organisation still car-

ries lists of putative clerks.

The Clerk reported on the finances: the usual External Auditor has been approached and has agreed to audit the accounts.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

### STAPLEGATE WI

Although hats have fallen out of favour for everyday use, we were treated to an evening of how to choose wear and trim a wide variety of headwear for every occasion, from Teresa of Heseldon Hats based in Faversham. This is a retail shop which sells, hires and advises on the right hat, along with handbags, belts, jewellery and scarves. Also hats for men are available. Some evenings at the shop are devoted to poetry readings and demonstrations to which all are welcome.

We thoroughly enjoyed the evening, especially as we were able to try all the hats, some with more success than others. Barbara modelled a cloche which

moved us to tears of laughter, while Ann Butler and Mary Gransden seemed to look good in most of them.

We were reminded of the Fete on 5th May for which we are having a "home-made" stall, so all cooks and crafts are called to help to fill the stall.

We have a lunch in June and two of our members will be judging a cake competition at the Orchard Place Garden party on 16th June.

We will be hosting the Top Team Quiz this year starting on 18th May.

Next month we will be meeting at Mount Ephraim on Wed 9th May at 7.45pm for a tour of the house and gardens, courtesy of the Dawes family.

Liz Walton.

### SCARECROWS

With a Royal Twist

As part of the celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee Year over the weekend of June 2nd we are going to organise a Scarecrow Trail. We plan to include the whole Dunkirk, Boughton and Hernhill area. The theme, obviously, is the Royal Jubilee. Any connection, however vague and wacky would be good.

If you are going to put up a scarecrow please let us know. Please write a brief note about your scarecrow and include your name and address. Please pop your note through the letter box of Prospect House, London Road, Dunkirk ME13 9LG. It is the house on top of the hill with a King Hen-



ry scarecrow advertisement. We need to know by May 19th so your's can be included in the Trail. Scarecrows need to be on show from that date.

From Wednesday May 23rd maps will be provided at May Tree Nurseries, Dunkirk Village Farm Shop, Boughton Post Office, the Three Horseshoes and the Red Lion at Hernhill. You will be able to visit the scarecrows, judge and mark them on the map.

Pop your completed map back through Prospect House where the results will be collated for each area. The winners will receive a right 'royal' prize as part of the Jubilee Celebrations in Dunkirk, Boughton and Hernhill.

Thank you for taking part.  
Roger & Isabella Jobson



## HERNHILL VILLAGE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



DATE	TIME	WHAT	WHERE	CONTACT	
Friday 1st	T.b.a.	Childrens' party	Hernhill School	The school	01227 751322
Sunday 3rd	10.00am	Jubilee Service	St. Michael's Church	Jean Burrows	01227 751410
	Noon	Jubilee lunch	Village Green	Joy Pritchard	01227 750372
	3.00pm to 5.00pm	Jazz on the Green	Village Green	The Red Lion	01227 751207
	5.00pm	Pork rolls & apple sauce	Red Lion	The Red Lion	01227 751207
	5.00pm to 9.00pm	Disco	Village Green	The Red Lion	01227 751207
Monday 4th	3.30pm	Pimms, ploughmans & music	The Dove	The Dove	01227 751360
	8.00pm	Beacon lighting and B-B-Q	Crockham Bank	Jane Foreman Ian Machin	01227 751295 07808 077864
Tuesday 5th	Lunch- time	Great Brit- ish roast	The Dove	The Dove	01227 751360

### VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Committee will be holding the AGM on Monday 6th August in the Village Hall at 8.00pm.

All residents of the Parish and users of the hall are invited to attend to listen to reports by the Committee and ask questions or put suggestions for improvements or additions they would like to see to the Village Hall in order to

maximise its use by local residents.

The meetings do not normally take very long so there will still be time to go to the pub afterwards!

Please come along, it's your hall, you have a right and should be interested in its future.

If you want to volunteer to be Chairman, or join the Committee, there is still time!!

Village Hall Committee

### BEACON BASH

Monday 4th June

As part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations Summer Lees event team with the help of a generous donation from the Parish Council are putting on a Beacon Bash on Monday 4th June from 8.00pm at Crockham Bank Hernhill. This is an informal event where folks can relax and enjoy a B-B-Q with music while taking in beautiful views of the land-

scape of Hernhill, The Swale and Thames estuary. The evening will end with the lighting of the beacon between 10.00pm-10.30pm. The beacon will be lit as part of the national chain. We ask you to bring your own chairs, rugs and drink. Tickets are £2.50 for both adults and children, these are available from Ian Machin 07808 077864 or Joy Pritchard 01227 750372 or from me.

Jane Foreman 01227 751295

### THE FIRST OF THE DIAMOND YEARS

On the 2nd February, sixty years ago, George VI crossed the bar and the event is etched in my mind. I was on HMS "Superb" heading for Gibraltar when news of the King's death was received. At midday a fifty-six gun salute (one for each year of the King's life) was fired at one minute intervals.

For tho' from our bourne of Time and  
Place

The flood may bear me far  
I hope to see my pilot face to face

When I have crost the bar.

Tennyson

That evening about half an hour before sunset, a service was held on the quarterdeck during which the above lines from Tennyson's poem were quoted. The service concluded with the sailor's hymn, "Eternal Father", accompanied by the Royal Marine band. At the moment of sunset the ensign was lowered. It was a privilege to be part of such a moving experience and, in this Diamond Jubilee year, still vividly recalled.

Alan Elliott

### NEED SOME EXTRA SEATING!

The Village Hall is going to replace and update all its current stacking brown PVC chairs with new space saving models and is looking for a home for the ones it already has! There are about 60 in total and a donation of £3 per chair or £100 for them all is being sought for the current ones (£10 - £15 each new).

The sale will need to coincide with delivery of the new ones, for obvious reasons!

If you are interested, or know someone or an organisation who is, please put them in touch.

Thank you.

David Mann0773

6463921dsmann50@msn.com

### SHOES NEWS

The Three Horseshoes look forward to a busy few months and would love you to join them. The following dates are planned:

- 4th May Music from the 'Crispy Duck Combo'
- 11th May Music from 'Train Set'
- 26th May Music from 'Roland Chadwick'
- 8th June Music from 'Cultured

Pearl'

•23rd June Music from 'The Hooks'

All music begins at 8.00pm and all are welcome.

Wheeler Bin Race: On 21st July we will be holding the race and there will also be a B-B-Q and a live band. Bin places are filling up fast so please hurry and contact the pub on 01227 750842 for further information.

We have a new bar menu with light bites as well as full meals. We are pleased to say that all meat is supplied by local butchers Barkaway in Faversham and fruit, veg and salad by Vaughan Howland in Dunkirk. A roast

is served on a Sunday as well as the full bar menu so why not come in and treat yourself? Food is not served on a Monday as it is chef's day off!

Look forward to seeing you soon  
Lucy and Marc Everett

### FROM THE VICAR

In the past the villagers of Hernhill would have known the three days prior to the Feast of the Ascension as the Rogation Days. The word 'Rogation' comes from the Latin 'rogare' - to ask - and these were the days when God's blessing was asked for the crops.

The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.

About 465 AD the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic so the Archbishop of Vienna, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that Christian prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension Day.

The custom spread rapidly and was firmly established in Britain by the eighth century and was an annual

event. On Rogation-tide the priest and people would walk the boundaries of the parish stopping at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, to implore God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At one point beer and cheese would be waiting.

Our Rogation service will be held at Henry Bryant's farm, The Bounds, on Sunday 6th May at 10.00am. We will meet at the brown metal gates on your left in the slip road off Bull Lane that leads to Boughton village hall parking. Henry will give us a guided tour of part of his farm and we will sing and pray a blessing on various crops. Unlike the 8th century there won't be any beer or cheese waiting for us, but everyone is welcome to come along and join us. If it is wet the farmers will be rejoicing but our service will be in Hernhill Church instead, with pictures of where we should be walking.

Revd Jean Burrows

### BIG JUBILEE LUNCH

#### Sunday 3rd June.

On and around the Village Green from 12 noon (set up from 11.30am). Bring your own table, chairs, rugs and picnic lunch for an afternoon of food, friendship and fun. Why not make a few extra sandwiches or bake another batch of muffins to share with friends and neighbours on the day. The Red Lion will be open and is kindly making its children's play area available all day. To make the event feel more like a street party and also safer for families and children

the two roads that border the Village Green will be closed for part of the day.

•11.30am – 3.00pm. Church Hill from Mount Ephraim Coach Drive to the junction with Kay's Lane.

•11.30am – 9.00pm. In front of the Red Lion from St Michael's Cottages to the junction with Church Hill.

•Car Parking areas will be available by kind permission of Will Dawes, Ian Machin and Jane Foreman.

•Church Farm – no entry or exit between 11.30am and 3.00pm

•Bottom of Church Hill at Mount

Ephraim Coach Drive

•Crockham Lane behind the Manor Houses

•Next to the old shop at Dale Farm  
Please do come – it would be lovely to

see as many of you as possible there and for the whole village to celebrate together this very special occasion.  
For more information or any queries contact Joy Pritchard 750372

### I'M NOT ALRIGHT JACK

It is often said that the Union Flag should only be described as the Union Jack when flown in the bows of a warship, but this is a relatively recent idea.

Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries the Admiralty itself frequently referred to the flag as the Union Jack, whatever its use, and in 1902 an Admiralty Circular announced that Their Lordships had decided that either name could be used officially. Such use was given Parliamentary approval in 1908 when it was stated that "the Union Jack should be regarded as the National flag".

The jackstaff argument is weak. In the 18th century the small mast on the bowsprit on Naval ships was replaced by staysails on the stays between the bowsprit and the

Serves me  
right for  
trying to be  
too clever  
the last  
time



foremast. By this time the Ensign had become the principal naval distinguishing flag, as opposed to the jack, so it became the practice to fly the Union Jack only in harbour, on a specially

rigged staff in the bows of the ships, the jackstaff. Therefore the jack flag had existed for over 150 years before the jackstaff came into being, and its name (jack) was related to its size rather than to the position in which it was flown.

In short, it's absolutely fine to wave your Union Jack for the Queen's Jubilee - or your Union Flag. But just make sure that it's the right way up if it's attached to a pole.

Next week - why it's perfectly acceptable to split infinitives in English (but impossible in Latin).

Crispin Whiting

### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**Evening outing:** There will be an evening visit to Old Bladbean Stud Gardens on Wednesday 16th May meeting at the gardens at 6.30pm. The gardens are between Barham & Elham. The price is £7.50 to include light refreshments.

**Full day outings:** The outing to Loseley Park Gardens on Thursday 14th June will be leaving Mount Ephraim car park at 9.30am prompt and leaving Loseley Park Gardens for the return trip at 4.00pm. The full £18.50 must be paid by Thursday 31st May. Cheques made payable to Hernhill Horticultural Society and monies sent to the Treasurer, Rebecca Parr, Southlands, Church Hill,

Hernhill, Kent ME 13 9JX.

Anyone interested in either or both trips please contact me so that I have an up to date list for catering at Bladbean as light refreshments are included in the admission price, and for Loseley Park Gardens visit so that I can hire the appropriate size coach.

Isabel Pettifer on 01227 751128

**Open garden:** We will be opening our garden on Sunday 17th June 1.00pm to 5.00pm at 41, Clover Rise, Whitstable CT5 3EY. Entry for Adults £4.50, Children £2.50 to include tea & homemade cake. All proceeds to go to Pilgrims Hospice & The Kidney Transplant Federation

Helen & Peter Bentley 01227 276032

**Summer show:** this is to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 9th June. The staging time will be 9.45am to 11.15am, all exhibits must be staged by 11.15 am. The show will be open to the public

at 2.00pm, presentations will be at 3.00pm followed by an auction of produce. ENTRY FREE

Peter Bentley

### BITS AND PIECES

I thought it was a good idea to take a short break in mid April to see the Spring flowers in Cambridge. As it turned out, the only thing that broke was the weather. It started by just raining and then developed to include thunder, lightning and hail. And, apart from some very brave daffodils, the spring flowers stayed in the warm underground. If the forecasters are to be believed, we can now look forward to a colder than usual May. However, perhaps that means that it is going to be dry for the Village Fete. Three cheers for that.

On Easter day we raffled a massive chocolate egg. It was about 15 inches high, or it was until.....

Humpty Dumpty jumped off a pew.  
It wasn't the cleverest thing to do.  
He broke into pieces. Some large and some small.  
But still you bought tickets so thank you all.

.....the resultant chocolate jigsaw raised £100 for the Restoration Fund. Terrific!

For all you surfers, the computer ones not the athletic types, Alice Edgington sent the following: "Since moving to Hernhill two years ago we have struggled with our slow internet connection.

We have recently installed VFast internet after being recommended it by a neighbour. We are now back in the 21st Century and I am keen to share the news with everyone! For those who are technically minded our internet connection went from under 1 Mb to 15Mb immediately. For more information go to [www.vfast.co.uk](http://www.vfast.co.uk) happy surfing."

In the report on the Horticultural Society last month it would appear that Peter Bentley stole the Woods Cup from Peter Saddleton. In fact it was merely a typing error. Sorry Peterssss.

Last month I passed on an appeal for volunteers to help the Citizens' Advice Bureau. This month Geoff Hall has a similar request. "Have you ever thought

of becoming a Samaritan volunteer? Possibly the most worthwhile job you will ever do. We don't advise, we are not judgmental, we listen.

We are there 24/7 for people going through distressing times in their lives. For more details please ring 01227 457777 to talk to Canterbury & District Samaritans or email [the.samaritans@btconnect.com](mailto:the.samaritans@btconnect.com)."

See you at the Fete.

ADT



**To book the Village Hall ring the Red Lion 01227 751207**

Alan D. Taylor  
Yew Tree House, Dargate  
near Faversham, Kent ME13 9HG  
01227 751293  
e-mail [taylornews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:taylornews@hotmail.co.uk)

**COPY  
DATE  
Mon  
25th  
JUNE**



<b>Tues 1 May</b>	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 2	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sat 5	2.00pm	Village Hall	VILLAGE FETE
Sun 6	10.00am	The Bounds	Rogation Service
Tues 8	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 9	7.45pm	Mount Ephraim	WI visit
Sun 13	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 15	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 16	6.30pm	Old Bladbean	Horticultural outing
Sun 20	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All ages Service & Thanksgiving
Tues 22	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 27	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 29	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 30	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
<b>Sun 3 Jun</b>	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Jubilee Service
	Noon	Village Green	Picnic lunch
	3.00 - 9.00pm	The Red Lion	Music and food
Mon 4	3.30pm	The Dove	Pimms etc
	8.00pm	Crockham Bank	B-B-Q & beacon lighting
Tues 5	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
	Noon	The Dove	Great British roast
Wed 6	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sat 9	9.45am	Village Hall	Horticultural SummerShow
Sun 10	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Mon 11	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 12	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 13	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Salvation Army
Thurs 14	9.30am	Loseley Park	Horticultural outing
Sun 17	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All ages Service
	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 24	10.00am	Boughton Ch	Patronal festival - joint Service
Tues 26	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 27	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council