



HERNHILL NEWS

JULY 2017

PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact the clerk for Parish Council business on 07740 706189 or hernhillclerk@gmail.com or hernhillparishcouncil.org. Copies of the approved minutes are available on the Parish Council website and the notice board.

The Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 28th June was attended by five Parish Councillors and one member of the public.

- One planning matter was discussed at the meeting: 17/502461/FULL (Plantation House, Plumpadding Lane).
- The Parish Council has donated a tree to the Village school.
- The Parish Council undertook its an-

nual review of policies and procedures. These are available to view on the Parish Council website.

•Members of the public are reminded that they can report highway matters such as potholes and vegetation obstructing the highway or footway either to the Parish Clerk or directly to Kent County Council at www.kent.gov.uk

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 26th July at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend. If members of the public wish to speak on a subject at the meeting then please can they contact the Clerk prior to Wednesday 19th July so that relevant items can be placed on the agenda for discussion.

YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Thinking ahead during yesterday as to what to include in my letter, I little knew that the late evening would bring news of the third recent terrorist atrocity in our Country. Suddenly most things, even this week's General Election seem so much less important. Every General Election is described by the press as the most important for a generation or even ever. This time the description may fit. As votes will have been cast and the results will be known before

anyone reads my words I can be honest with my opinions.

I believe the British people have a choice between a brand of Marxist Socialism which will take us back to Russia or Albania before the Berlin Wall fell (or Venezuela today) or a Capitalist Democracy with all its admitted failings. May has been a very busy month, I extended last month's report to include the County Council results. Since then we have had the first meeting of the new County Council. We have also had

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Clerk: Sarah Muteham phone 07740 706189
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Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 752840
and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

Swale Borough Council's 'Mayor Making'. The new Mayor is Councillor Colin Prescott who represents that part of my County Division which comprises the East Downs Ward of Swale Borough Council, eight very scattered rural parishes.

There have been many training days and half days at County Hall, essential for new members but equally useful for those of us returning. As well as the general induction day, I have attended sessions on the Code of Conduct and our responsibilities as County Councillors as Corporate Parents.

After my annual meeting with the County Leader and having declined two job offers I was able to secure the continued Chairmanship of the Regulation Committee. I shall also continue on the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee. The former has responsibility for approving or otherwise new and diverted footpaths, applications for new village greens and oversees action against illegal waste sites etc., a big issue in this Division. The latter acts as a sounding board for policy development to the cabinet members of both Growth, Economic Development and Transport and for Communities.

I will continue as a member of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, vital at this time of proposed changes within the Health Service Committee. I also have membership of two smaller Committees which meet less often, the Electoral and Boundary Review Com-

mittee which could suddenly become busy if the new Government goes ahead with the review of Parliamentary Boundaries and the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee. Outside of County Hall I will continue to represent the County on the Environment Agency Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Authority as well as continuing as a Trustee of the Benstead's Charity in Faversham.

During this period, I have attended Parish Councils at Norton and at Ospringe (both Annual Parish Meetings) and at Teynham and at Hernhill plus a special Planning Committee of Selling Parish Council. Other meetings attended include chairing a meeting of the Borough's WW1 Steering Group, the Kent & Medway Economic Partnership Board (a joint private/public sector board) and a meeting of Graveney School Governors.

Outside of Local Government I enjoyed two brilliant Saturday afternoons at Hernhill and at Throwley Fetes. I also supported the Soldiers, Sailors and Air Forces Association coffee morning at Belmont House.

A real highlight on Friday 2nd June was an all day conference on World War 1 and Africa. It was educational, at times entertaining and also emotionally draining. Serious papers presented by academics interspersed with poetry and African drumming.

Andrew Bowles



DELIVERING THE NEWS

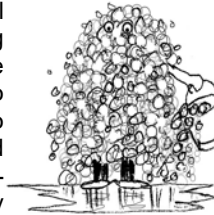
John Simms will be retiring as a distributor of the Hernhill News. We would like to say a big thank you to John for the many, many years of generously giving his time.

We now require a new distributor to deliver 38 copies for the Staplestreet area. If you can help, please contact me urgently.

Tony Chapman
01227 750874

VILLAGE HALL & DCA

Village Hall: We are proposing to go ahead and enlarge the storage area by the old entrance for which we already have planning permission and hopefully will provide benefit to the users of the hall. After an inspection we have decided to completely replace all the sanitary ware in the ladies toilets. We are also going to replace some of the items in the gents toilets. The rest will be given a deep clean to bring them up to an acceptable standard. We are planning to open up the snooker room so that access can be gained from the Village Hall and therefore making it available every day of the week as opposed to the existing arrangements. This week we have carried out some refurbishment of the children's play area which includes additional bark chippings and strengthening of the fencing. A few people may be aware of a tapestry that is currently in the Jubilee room. This tapestry was produced by the Staplegate W.I. back in 1978 and depicts all of the houses of character in the Village as well as the



three local pubs. Investigations are taking place into the feasibility of moving this to allow more people to view it. The AGM for the Village Hall & Playing Fields Committee will be held on Monday 7th August at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Both the chairman & treasurer are up for re-election and your support would be appreciated.

DCA: Following incidents of both fly tipping & criminal damage we have installed CCTV to cover all aspects of the Village Hall, including the car park. We are also investigating how we can improve the lighting around the premises that will be movement activated in support of the CCTV. Finally, we are planning to improve the entrance to the newly refurbished tennis court. Using either concrete or tarmac we will try to avoid mud being transferred onto the all-weather surface. Linked to this will be new boot scrapers at the Village Hall and tennis courts entrances.

Peter G. Rawlins, Chairman
Village Hall & DCA Committees

THIS LIFE OF OURS

This life of ours. So fragile, and so precious. As I write, it is a beautiful and hot sunny day. I've just visited a friend recovering from an operation. We talked about our teenage kids and the trials of hay fever. Right now I can hear the noise of the digger and the banter from the landscapers working on a neighbour's back garden, and the chatty voice of a pre-school child walking home for lunch with her mum.

Also as I write, a tower block is still blazing in London, firefighters are still doing all they can in the charred building and there are many people unaccounted for. The Bishop of Southwark and clergy are walking the area of Borough Market and praying where the terrorists

struck only days ago. Just over a week ago, Ariana Grande's 'One Love Manchester' concert was held to remember and to raise money in support of those injured or bereaved by the terrorist attack. 50,000 people attended and over ten million people watched on TV. This life of ours, the mundane and the wonderful and the heartbreakingly unimaginable, side by side. Many of us know what it is to hold our family a little closer when we see tragedy unfold for others, suddenly conscious of the fragility of life. Some of us will know for ourselves what it is to experience in an instant their whole world flipped over. For life to pitch suddenly from sunlight into darkness when the unthinkable happens to someone they love.

There is no answer to suffering that ties it up, makes it better than it is, or makes it fair. Nothing drowns out that agonised 'why?' with a nice, neat 'because'. I do however believe there is hope. There is light and hope in the response and fiercely loving humanity shown by the ordinary and extraordinary people who run to help their fellow humans when tragedy and suffering hit. We have seen so many amazing examples of this. And as a Christian, I believe there is light and hope in God. The singer/songwriter Justin Bieber told the thousands gathered at the Manchester concert 'God is in the midst, no matter what is happening in the world'. I believe he's right. Every single human life is special to God. He does get involved.

He is a sleeves rolled-up, get amongst us God. Jesus came to join us in life in all its human messiness and experienced suffering from the inside out.

I have hope that God really is alongside when we suffer. That the tears are never wasted, and that death is not the end. I might wrestle, shout at, cry and plead with God along the way, but I know when we hurt, God hurts too.

What can we do with such fragile, beautiful life? Love the good, squeeze all the juice out of it every day. Really love those around us. Build bridges. Run to those who are hurting, lean on God in the ups and downs and in the darkest of times. Guard the light of hope with everything we have.

Rev. Paulette Stubbings



CRAFTS CENTRE

In June members of the Crafts Centre had lunch to celebrate forty years since its start. We were delighted to have our President Sandys Dawes and Leslie with us.

As Shane and Violet have written, the Crafts Centre was the brainchild of John Dawes. Discussions began in the autumn of 1976. John was the driving force with help from Bill Dawes and with robust advice from Betty McKeever. John was keen that teaching should

play a key role and sought advice from Barbara who was teaching locally. I found myself 'detailed-off' to specify a formal organisation. John was also very keen that the Centre should have charitable status and I found that I had that task too.

The charity status didn't arrive until 1978 but everything else, tools and materials and decorating equipment, was ready for the Crafts Centre to be opened in Jubilee Year with Betty as President and John as Chairman.

ADT (vice chairman emeritus)

THE FIRST 40 YEARS

Forty years ago in 1977, as part of Hernhill Village celebrations for the silver jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, a group of Villagers under the leadership of John Dawes (1924 to 2004) founded the Hernhill Crafts Centre at Mount Ephraim. The idea was to create something of lasting benefit, and counter the loss of traditional skills that used to be handed down from one generation to another. It was setup as a non profit making organisation and gained charitable status in 1978 with aims to keep

alive traditional rural crafts in the village and, where possible, to provide education and demonstrations of these crafts. It's current President is Sandys Dawes, appointed in 2005.

The Crafts Centre was set up in the old stable block of Mount Ephraim, probably built at the turn of the 20th century. There were six horse stables, one feed room, garage for carriages (later cars), tack room and cottage. In the first two years volunteers from the Village cleaned and renovated the buildings, converting them into workshops, meet-

ing rooms and storage. Some of the original tools used in the crafts centre were a spinning wheel, table loom and treadle lathe, plus there was a working forge, no longer there. The treadle lathe was recently restored in 2015 and is once again in use. The Centre is currently based in the old tack room which is used for displays of locally made craft items and demonstrations, and the forge, now used for pottery and woodturning. If you look around you'll see some of the original fittings and some old tools that would have belonged to people who worked there. The tack room has three rooms on two floors, upstairs is where the stable hands would have lived and where we now have some displays, a working loom and some spinning tools.

The Centre has opened every year since its founding, originally held craft instruction courses and workshops to pass on skills, had regular visiting crafts people demonstrating their skills such as woodturning, took part in the village events such as the fete from 1979, and in 1980 the Boughton-under-Blean fete, and originally all members of Hernhill Parish were automatically members of the Crafts Centre. In 2001 the Crafts Centre took part in Dunkirk schools craft week, and members were able to demonstrate crafts and the children were encouraged to participate, furry finger puppet mice were in heavy demand, with new owners taking home a pair, one on each hand. The Centre also produced a seat for those waiting at the bus stop and the church notice board made in elm from the churchyard.

Today at the Centre there is a wide range of craft items being exhibited including pottery, woodturning, painting, drawing, prints, wool spinning and dyeing using natural dyes, weaving, knitting, sewing, embroidery, cards, soft toys, glasswork, jewellery, preserves, pyrography, screen printing, etc. And some of these skills have been passed on from one member to another. In the past crafts including, basket making with cane and hedgerow twigs, hurdle making, wood carving, chair caning, rug weaving, patchwork, leatherwork, and metalwork in the forge were practiced. Sadly many of these skills have been lost to the Crafts Centre. Current members of the crafts centre take part in various local events, including Hernhill Church's craft fair, usually held in November, and the church's summer art exhibition. On most Sundays we have pottery demonstrations where you can have a go, and to a lesser extent woodturning, spinning, glasswork and embroidery. We have 23 members.

You can see us as part of your visit to the beautiful and peaceful Mount Ephraim Gardens. From Easter to the end of September, every Sunday from 2.00pm till 5.00pm and on bank holiday weekends, Sunday and Monday, 11.00am till 5.00pm. We have a few examples of the craftwork for sale and try to arrange craft demonstrations and "Have a go days" on Mount Ephraim's event days (see their web site for details of when these are). New members are always welcome.

Shane & Violet Croll



WHEELIE BIN RACE

The Three horseshoes grand prix will be held on Saturday 15th July starting at 1.00pm. Entry for a team of four is £25.00 and bins for conversion can be obtained from the pub. The money raised goes to the Pilgrims Hospice. For details ring Buster or Charlotte on 01227 750842.

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

On Sunday 30th July at 11.00am on the Village Green, we will be having a special service to bless our pets. (If it is raining the Service will be in the church.) Bring your pets in a suitable carrier or cage or on a lead to keep them safe and

comfortable. Larger animals will be very welcome but if we have to have the Service in church, then please bring a picture of them! If the Service is on the Green it would be wise to bring chairs to sit on. The Service will be followed by refreshments.

Rev Jean Burrows

CHARITY LUNCH

Staplegate ladies will be producing a ploughman's lunch, together with strawberries and cream, in aid of Pilgrim's hospice. It will be at Dunkirk Village Hall on Saturday 8th July.

Please arrive by noon for a 12.30 lunch. Tickets are £8.00 obtainable from me. Come along and support this worthy cause.

Anne Butler 01227 750864

ART EXHIBITION & SALE



Local artists who have contributed to the 2018 Village calendar will be showing their work at an exhibition

in St. Michael's Church on the 8th and 9th July between 10.00am & 5.00pm. Many of the works on show will be available for purchase and a percentage of the price will go to St. Michael's Church.

Brian Jelfs

HERNHILL SCHOOL

During May our school council decided that they wanted to hold an election for a School Prime Minister! They told the whole school that

- Any child could apply to be School Prime Minister.
- The winner of the election would be able to be School Prime Minister for a day.
- If a child wished to be a candidate, they must write their ideas onto a piece of paper. This would be called a manifesto. The ideas should be things they could do that would improve our school.
- Once all the manifestos were handed in, School Council would meet and read the ideas from all the candidates. They would then short list and choose five children to go forward for election.
- After some preparation days, the five candidates would present their manifestos to the school in assembly.
- On the last day of term 5, the elec-

tion would be held and every child and staff member would get a vote.

And this is exactly what happened!

The children who were candidates in the School Prime Minister election were Maisy in Y1, Molly in Y2, Ella in Y3, Roisin in Y4 and Tom in Y6. After a careful count of the votes, it was announced that Tom was the winner.

On Wednesday 14th June, Tom became Hernhill Prime Minister for the day. His duties involved answering e-mails, opening up the school gates, visiting lessons and starting collective worship. One of his manifesto promises had been that the children would be allowed to get all the PE equipment out to play with at lunchtime. So on his Prime Minister Day the Year 6 sports prefects organised the equipment really sensibly and the children had a fantastic lunchtime!

Take a look at the photo gallery on our website to see more of what happened that day!

(www.hernhill.kent.sch.uk/News/Galleries).

We intend to hold a School Prime Min-

ister election every year from now on..... watch this space!

Sarah Alexander, Headteacher

BITS AND PIECES.

Everyone has been falling over themselves to 'explain' the unexpected results of the General Election. The trouble with commentators is that they have to sound as if they know and when they don't know, they make it up. When you add all the social media to the newspapers, to the radio and to television; that is an awful lot of 'don't know' pretending that it did know all the time. I can almost sympathise with Donald Trump and his fetish about fake news. And now we have had the appalling disaster of the blazing Grenfell Tower and the horrific deaths involved. This has brought out a whole new tranche of 'experts'. The source of the fire has been found to be a fridge freezer and an expert has been found who, ages ago, declared them to be a fire hazard. Many years ago, longer than I care to remember, we saved conscientiously to buy our first fridge. A real luxury item then. The very idea of 'saving' for something shows that this is history. The fridge eventually came. It was small, all metal and its insulation was fibreglass wadding. Clearly no fire hazard. Our current fridge is twice the size, mostly plastic and with plastic foam insulation. It was at least half the price of our first fridge in real terms. However, I have to presume that it is a fire hazard. But, who do we blame for that? The manufacturers, the regulators, the 'experts' or us? The answer is not straightforward.

After Manchester and Westminster Bridge there was another terror attack. This time against Muslims returning from prayer. But this time there was the extraordinary action of their Imam. He calmly protected the killer from the clutches of the angry crowd. He is an example to us all.

Thankfully returning to local matters, the main topic has been the weather. Not just the standard English obsession, but something genuinely different. For many days we have been watching the vegetation in the Village and in our gardens, wilting, and we with it. The temperature has hit 27 centigrade in my garden and humidity has been nearly 70. For us that is hot, very sticky and very uncomfortable. Then the weather tried something different. We had a heavy thunderstorm. Torrential rain that thudded on the windows, loud thunder and vivid lightning. The electricity authority said that the biggest lightning strike in the area was over Monkshill Farm. At home, that took out our electricity for some time. Barbara has to use an electric rise-and-recline chair. When our electricity went off she was left semi-prone in her chair, unable to get up. We have a stair lift and that has a battery back-up, but the chair doesn't. You just have to stay put. Fortunately, the storm was fairly brief and so was the power cut. I don't wish to think of the consequences if the break had been hours long. And now we are back with more rain but gentler, we hope.

The Teddy Parachute challenge did take place. The gusting wind added to the hazards. In fact two of the teddies sailed off into the giant oak tree on the Village Green. However, most made it to the ground with only a few showing signs of concussion. One way and another there was a good deal of merriment all round.

The saga of Plum pudding Land grinds on with another court hearing scheduled for Monday 10th July. Don't hold your breath.

ADT

Sun 2 July	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sat 8	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Art exhibition
Sun 9	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Art exhibition
Tues 11	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 15	1.00pm	Three Horseshoes	Wheelie Bin Race
	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 16	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 18	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sun 23	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 25	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Wed 26	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Sun 30	11 00am	St. Michael's Ch	Pets Service
Tues 1 Aug	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sat 5	-----	-----	Olympics open
Sun 6	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 8	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sun 13	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 15	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sun 20	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 22	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Fri 25	-----	Mount Ephraim	Pop Festival
Sat 26	-----	Mount Ephraim	Pop Festival
Sun 27	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	-----	Mount Ephraim	Pop Festival
Tues 29	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Wed 30	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting

To book the Village Hall go to www.hernhill-bookings.net

A copy of the Hernhill News and other local information can be found on the Village website. www.hernhill.net

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Articles by
Monday
24th
JULY

