



HERNHILL NEWS

APRIL 2016



HERNHILL VILLAGE FETE

Saturday 7th May

From 2.00pm

Make sure you have
the date in your diary



PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact the clerk for Parish Council business on 07740 706189 or hernhillclerk@gmail.com or hernhillpc.kentparishes.gov.uk. Full copies of the approved minutes are available on the Parish Council noticeboard or online at the Parish Council web-site above.

Upcoming Events

Annual Parish Meeting

This is on Wednesday 27th April at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. This is a meeting for the community and is NOT a designated Parish Council meeting. There will be a guest speaker from 'A New Day Festival' and also local community organisations will attend to give an overview of events during the last year. All are welcome!

News from the Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting held on 30th March was attended by five Parish Councillors, one County Councillor, one Borough Councillor and five members of the public.

The following planning application was discussed at the Parish Council meeting: 16/501931/FULL - Installation of eight new floodlights, four metres high on the existing multi-sports court in the playing fields at Church Hill.

Councillors discussed the presentation on the Hernhill Housing Model as proposed by Clifford Construction and agreed to support the idea of the model at this stage.

A young local resident attended the Parish Council meeting to ask for support in progressing a project to

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e-mail bjwoods53@gmail.com

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

install a small skatepark somewhere in the Parish. The Clerk has agreed to pursue possible options available.

The Parish Council received notification from the Planning Inspectorate that the appeal against the enforcement notice at the Pitstop Cafe, Dargate has been dismissed.

The Parish Council received notifi-

cation of an appeal lodged with the Planning Inspectorate regarding application 15/507844/FULL for six gypsy and traveller pitches on Plumpudding Lane.

The Parish Council will be seeking to obtain additional litter bins for the Parish, in order to assist with the prevention of litter on the streets.

YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

I never cease to wonder at the vagaries of the British weather. During February we visited two gardens open for charity under the National Gardens Scheme, Doddington Place and Mere House, Mereworth. At both the Snowdrops, Hellebores, Daffodils and Camellias etc were well forward due to the mild weather. Then on Thursday 25th February I made my last but one visit of the month to County Hall, for the Kent Environment Strategy Implementation Workshop to find snow lying at both Detling and Maidstone!

To continue last month's themes, the Annual Budget/Council Tax meetings went as predicted. A 3.9% increase from Kent County Council and zero% from Swale Borough Council. Added to Precept increases from the Police & Crime Commissioner and Fire & Rescue Service this means approximately £40 per year extra for Swale Band D taxpayers not allowing for any small change in individual Parish Council Budgets/Precepts.

The Participatory Budget Meeting at which most of my Local Member Grants Funding is allocated was held at Teynham Village Hall on the

first Saturday in February. Many organisations based in or providing services to Swale East residents applied and in most cases were successful in securing funding. We even had a visit from a Dalek care of Swale Arts Forum. Luckily no one was exterminated as their bid for funding was successful!

The Inspector's Interim report on the Swale Local Plan was not unexpected in its content. She has opted for a house building target increased to 776 per year in line with the 'Objectively Assessed Need'. Importantly she has supported our twin track approach with most development in the Thames Gateway area of the Borough and far less in Faversham and the Rural Areas. We are now exploring options as to where the extra 3,000 required homes by 2031 could be built.

I have been extra busy in February with the County Councils Select Committee on Social Mobility and Grammar Schools meeting two to three times a week. I continue to explain how the Councils present policies are unfair to Rural residents especially the not so well off. It is promising how much support I appear to be getting. We will be final-

ising our recommendations during March.

Parish Councils I attended during February were Selling, Doddington, Boughton, Newnham and Dunkirk. I also had a meeting with representatives of Tonge Parish Council to discuss current planning and legal problems they are facing. Swale Borough Councillor Mike Whiting also attended. Following the fatal accident opposite the Dover Castle

in Teynham I attended a meeting with Gordon Henderson, MP, Borough Councillors Lloyd Bowen and Mike Whiting, the Police and the Landlord.

I hope to see some of you at the various Annual Parish Meetings. If you are unable to attend please remember you can contact me any-time by phone or email on any Council related issue.

Andrew Bowles

A LEGAL NOTICE

Going forward together

Making a new benefice is a legal process and we have now reached the stage of consulting more widely. A draft copy of what is called the pastoral scheme is on display on the front door of each of our churches and more detailed information is on display inside each church.

Back in 2011 the local churches started to look at the challenge of providing sustainable ministry, it is a challenge, especially for rural parishes such as our own. The three parishes in this area, Boughton with Dunkirk, Hernhill, and Goodnestone with Graveney, are a natural grouping and we have begun to work together more closely. After a careful and slow process involving a great deal of discussion between all involved we have decided to form a

new benefice, the official name for a group of churches. Each parish will remain separate with their own churchwardens and finances, they will continue to be responsible for their own day to day running and retain autonomy in decision making. What the new benefice gives each parish is the oversight of a full time stipendiary priest and the support and sharing of resources that being in a larger group provides.

When the new benefice comes into being I shall be licenced as vicar and Revd Paulette Stubbings as curate, Revd Gill Reed will continue as part time local priest in Graveney and Keith Clark as licenced Reader. All of us will play our part in continuing to provide ministry to all the people in the new benefice.

Revd Jean Burrows

Are you ready for the Fun Dog Show at the 2016 Hernhill Village Fete on Saturday 7th May? Classes include; fancy dress, best trick and best child-handler. Please check the posters, hernhillforum.com, facebook & twitter pages for details.

Miriam Layton



A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

"When you learn how to die, you learn how to live." – Morrie Schwartz, American educator and writer (1916 - 1995).

Well, here we are, surrounded by all the signs of spring in full flow – life bursting forth from every square inch of nature in the vicinity. Birds nesting, buds budding. Growth and vigour everywhere. So, trust the new curate to bring the mood down. The problem is, as a nation, we are pretty rubbish at talking about death. It really is one of the last taboos. Despite the certainty of it, we are almost superstitious about it, as if having the very discussion might make it happen. As a result, it's often not part of our reality until we are forced to face it because someone close to us dies, and by then it's too late to have discussions that might have made the whole thing a better experience for everyone concerned.

One of the things the Church of England is generally quite good at is being there for those who are dying and bereaved (whether they themselves have a faith or not). Our faith is founded on a hope that reaches beyond death, and actually, we believe that dying well is part of living well. Death is not somehow separate from life, it is a fundamental part of it. Death of course will always be in some way a shock, even if it is ex-

pected and planned for. And I'm in no way being trite about the tragedy of untimely death, suffering or the devastation of suicide. There are no glib words or easy remedies for this kind of pain.

But talking about dying while we are living can be a very freeing thing. Naming the thing we may be most afraid of, making sure those close to you know your wishes and plans; coming to terms with our own mortality and thinking about a few 'what ifs' can help us to enjoy fuller lives without running away from the inevitable. It also means that those whom we love the most have something that helps them when our time comes.

On Saturday 23rd April in the Vicarage from 9.30am till about noon we will be running a session called 'Dying Well'. Please do come along if you want to be part of this sort of a conversation in a safe environment. We've run it once before, and it was really good. As well as covering hopes, expectations and fears about dying, there will be helpful advice and ideas about how to plan well for death in order to live more fully now. Anyone is welcome, the session will include some material from a Christian perspective, but you don't have to have a faith to attend. Explore it yourself, or come and explore with us. Life is too important not to!

Rev Paulette Stubbings

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



We will be running a Beetle Drive in the Village Hall on Friday 8th April starting at 7.30pm. Adults £3.00 Children £1.00. There will be prizes for the winners.

Bring your own bottle and glasses if you wish. Tea/coffee /soft drinks and nibbles will be provided. Family and friends welcome and laughter is guaranteed.

Jill Geliot

PUMP FIELD

I feel inclined to reply to the article in the March edition of the Hernhill News titled Pump Orchard.

I have done some research on the matter and have a photograph in front of me from 1883 that shows sheep and some sort of fruit tree in the field probably cherry but impossible to tell. The point is that crops are always coming out and new ones replacing them. Orchards have a life span and have to be grubbed. What replaces those orchards is up to the farmer depending on financial reasons, practical ones or even whim. To give you some facts and figures on fruit growing, the variety that was grubbed from the orchard in question was Braeburn and my returns for Braeburn this year were on average £64 per bulk bin. In the 1980s bin prices were regularly over £100 per bin. I am sure I need not

mention how much wages and all our other costs have increased since the 1980s. Whilst the notion that I grow fruit in order to keep my neighbours happy would be extremely admirable, the harsh reality is that I grow fruit in order to try and make a profit. I can only do this on the very best land and unfortunately Pump Field does not fall into this category. You might be interested to hear that I have planted four new orchards this year although only one of these is apples for the reasons mentioned above.

In the interests of good neighbour relations I would be more than happy to host a farm tour in order to explain more about what we do and even to discuss some of the issues facing the industry. Please contact me through the Mount Ephraim website should you wish to take me up on this offer.

William Dawes

CHURCH URBAN FUND



Will those of you who thoughtfully put your spare change into an 'Urban Fund' box please let me have them. Please bring them to church and give them to Alan or Peter Willcock.

I will contact those who usually make donations by cheque or cash.

Barbara Taylor

HELP PLEASE

The Village Green, the church and the churchyard are at the heart of the Village and have been maintained in beautiful condition by a dedicated few. Maintenance of the churchyard in particular has been helped by having the assistance of 'community workers'. Sadly these have now been withdrawn and help is desperately needed to continue to keep the

churchyard looking beautiful as before.

Help is needed from those who would be willing to spend a few hours over the summer months. The main requirement is to use the grass trimmers (which are provided) to keep the lawns in good condition.

Please could one or more of you help me with this for the benefit of all.

Brian Jenkins 01227 273049

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.

The annual meeting is a time when the church family reflects on its life together. How have things been for us in the past year, and what are we facing together for the future?

It's also an important meeting as we elect two churchwardens and three

PCC members for the coming year. Every family on the church electoral roll should be represented at this meeting which will be held after a shortened 10.00am Sung Communion on Sunday 17th April in Hernhill Church. The meeting should last no more than one hour.

BREATHING SPACE

Three weeks ago on a Friday we ran 'Breathing Space' for an hour in the evening in Hernhill Church, sitting in the darkness with candlelight, silences and music. It was well attended, and the atmosphere was just amazing – such a sense of peace.

We have had a lot of very positive feedback from the experience (thank you to all those who took the time and trouble to get in contact about it. Your thoughts and comments were very much appreciated). Many said that it had been just what they needed, and



there have been a number of requests to run it again.

So, we will. Because the days are getting longer now, we will run 'Breathing Space' again from the Autumn once the clocks change again. The autumn evening darkness adds to the peaceful atmosphere. The candlelight makes it easier to slip in and join us if you want to come but would rather be left alone with your thoughts.

We will advertise and put up posters again nearer the time.

Paulette Stubbings



There are a number of events going on at Mount Ephraim. As usual the gardens are open and the Crafts Centre has already started its

Summer season opening every Sunday afternoon and on Bank holidays. On Saturday 23rd April there is a murder mystery evening with a three course dinner in aid of Kushi Feet . There is more information about this

charity at kushifeet.org.uk Nick O'Shea and Will Dawes are running marathons on consecutive Sundays (Ashford 10th April and Brighton 17th April) for the Kent based homeless charity 'Porchlight'. If you would like to support them in this challenge for a very worthwhile charity please visit virginmoneygiving.com/WillDawes. 'Porchlight' is also being supported later in the year by 10k run through the Village on Sunday 14th August.

Jo and Will Dawes

BITS AND PIECES

At last, I finally got my grass cut. The first time this year. It really has been a year of soggy gardens and now 'Kate' has produced a deluge cou-

pled with some near gale force winds. The daffodils, that were magnificent this year, have been bludgeoned to the ground The grass is again waterlogged and looking unhealthy. Pre-

sumably the lack of sunshine is to blame for the yellowing grass. My complexion isn't looking too good either.

In the last issue I somehow managed to make a mess of the diary for April. Amongst other things I got the bin days wrong, Blue when it should have been Green etc. Sorry, I'll try to do better this time. I might even get it right and the next month's too.

There has been a suggestion that there should be road signs saying, "Unsuitable for HGV's" set up to discourage huge lorries from entering our narrow country lanes. The problem has been particularly bad during the lane closures on the A2 when a number of large lorries tried to beat the delays. This is in fact an ongoing problem that needs to be addressed. I can vouch for the need from my own experience of massive vehicles thundering past my house, breaking branches off the trees and destroying the verges. "No entry to HGVs" would be a better solution.

The thieves seem to be getting ever bolder. On Tuesday 8th March between 8.00am and 2.20pm a trailer was stolen from the back of a work's

vehicle parked at Lavender Farm. As ever, be on your guard and report anything suspicious.

The web-site based on stories of those recorded on the Village War Memorial is to be hosted for another two years. This is thanks to a grant of £100 awarded by Councillor Andrew Bowles. The web-site produced by Julian and Sue Owen is boughton-dunkirk-hernhill-warmemorials.com. It contains a wealth of very interesting information.



The Village Fete is always on the first Saturday in May and this year that is a little later than usual. So, reserve the afternoon of Saturday 7th May for one of the first, and one of the best fetes in the area. This year we have been promised that Kent Fire Brigade will attend, music will be provided by a steel band and as usual there will be many different stalls, the dog show and lots of really good food and drink. Don't miss it.

ADT

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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NEXT ISSUE

**Mon
25th
Apr**



Sun 3 Apr	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 5	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Fri 8	7.30pm	Village Hall	Beetle Drive , Hort Soc
Sun 10	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 12	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sat 16	3.30pm	St Barnabus	Messy Church
Sun 17	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Annual Parish Meeting after Service
Tues 19	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 23	9.30am	The Vicarage	'Dying Well'
	-----	Mount Ephraim	Murder Mystery Dinner
Sun 24	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 26	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Wed 27	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 1 May	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
	-----	Mount Ephraim	Pat-a-lamb
Mon 2	-----	Mount Ephraim	Pat-a-lamb
Tues 3	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 7	2.00pm	Village Hall	Village Fete
Sun 8	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	10.00am	The Bounds	Rogation Sunday
Tues 10	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sun 15	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 17	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 21	3.30pm	St Barnabus	Messy Church
Sun 22	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 24	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Wed 25	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 29	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 31	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection