



HERNHILL NEWS

APRIL 2010

PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council took place on 31st March. All Councillors were present, as were KCC Councillor A Bowles, a member of the public and the Clerk. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24th February were signed as a true record and there were no matters arising.

Reports were received from some of the Councillors, including one from Mr Chapman, who had attended an all-day meeting arranged by the National Association of Local Councils, and which Mr Chapman had found to be useful. Parts of his notes are to be copied, and circulated to other members of the Parish Council.

All present condemned County Highways for its inaction in dealing with both potholes and drainage problems around the parish. A lady representing KCC Highways Department had offered to talk to Councillors. However, when invited to address the April meeting, she remarked that that would be too late, as all of the holes would have been attended to by then.

Financial report: The Clerk gave an end of year report, which indicated a figure of £1004.67 will be carried for-

ward to 1st April. Because of such an increase in the bank balance, it has been decided to increase the Fidelity Insurance Guarantee to £4500. This is a figure arrived at by valuing the annual Precept and adding a proportion of the bank balance. This increase, it is hoped, will placate the Audit Commission that has fruitlessly urged the Council to increase the guarantee to a ridiculously high rate over the past few years. The same body also requires an annual endorsement of the risk assessment reported last year - this was confirmed by Councillors, all of whom reported as having met with no accidents whilst employed about the Parish Council's business. The Clerk requested permission to approach the usual person to act as the Council's External Auditor, and this was approved.

Correspondence: This was read and reviewed. The Kent Men of the Trees Association have suggested a meeting with the Parish Council's Tree Officer - Michael Woods. He has been asked to join one of their own in a joint inspection of the village trees. Mr Woods has undertaken this duty before, and is willing to meet the KMO-

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

TA on site.

The Parish Council had no observations to offer on Swale Borough Council's 'Gypsy and Traveller Policy Site Assessment' consultation.

A list of councillor's allowances has been received - this has little relevance as our councillors never claim allowances.

Planning: Permission has been granted for a upvc conservatory at Sandown, Church Hill. No information is yet to hand concerning the withdrawal of a planning application for Dale Farm Oast.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting to be closed at 8.50 p.m.

WILLIE MCKEEVER

Willie died on Wednesday 24th March, aged 77 years. He and his wife Anne moved into Waterham Farm after his mother, Betty McKeever, died in 1990. He was very active in the Village; vice-chairman of the Dawes CA and chairman of the fund that raised over £30,000 to restore and re-hang the church bells.

With thanks to Steve Castle:

Wind break

The wind that whistled from the West
Was blowing all the day
And so we had to plant a wood
To keep the wind away

The wind attacked our little trees
In such a savage way
We had to plant another wood
to keep the wind away

If you should ever plant a wood
You'll find that it will pay
To always plant a second wood
To keep the wind away

Reginald Arkell

FROM THE VICAR

Easter is a movable feast and a common question is 'how is the date of Easter calculated?' It is actually quite complicated and is to do with the full moon and the spring equinox. Every now and again Parliament discusses whether the date of Easter should be fixed but hasn't managed it yet.

Maybe the continual changing of the date of Easter has a point, perhaps

we're not meant to be able to pin it down because the events of Easter are absolutely amazing. That a man should die and rise again is beyond belief but Jesus was no ordinary man. Many have tried to come up with alternative explanations of what happened to Jesus, perhaps he didn't really die, perhaps his followers were all hallucinating when they saw him, perhaps the women went to the

wrong tomb and really did mistake the gardener for Jesus, but when you analyse each of these theories they all fall down.

None of them explain the change in Jesus' followers, most of them died a martyr's death for their belief that Jesus rose from the dead and thousands of Christians have been tortured and killed in terrible ways over the centuries because of their belief in Jesus' resurrection. No-one would die for what they knew to be a lie.

Christianity is based on Jesus' bodily resurrection, if we are believing a made up story today we're to be pitied, no resurrection – no Christianity

– it's as easy as that. So no wonder we will celebrate on Easter Day because we know Jesus rose again, he gives meaning and purpose to our lives today, he brings peace but also challenge, he gives forgiveness and a new start, and he builds us into a new community – his church.

If you've never seriously considered Jesus' claims maybe they're worth looking at, read a gospel, talk to a Christian friend about the difference Jesus makes to their life or go on the website www.rejesus.co.uk. Jesus could transform your life - I know he did mine.

Revd Jean Burrows

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The spring show was a great success with 26 entrants & 209 entries the highest in two years.

The judges commented on the number of entries compared with other spring shows this year. The number of visitors to the show was the most we have seen for a long time and we thank everyone who supported us and look forward to seeing you all at the summer show.

Cup winners

Wade Cup Best bloom in show Mark James Woods Cup Best vegetables Peter Saddleton

Greville Cup for Home Economics & Handicraft Margaret George Childrens Class Hanna Bentley.

Bird watching walk: Saturday 10th April with Mark James meeting 2:00pm at Harty Ferry. If you are interested, please contact Mark on 01227 751607

There will be a Horticultural Society stall at the fete. If you have any plants you don't need could you bring them

along to our stall? Thank you.

Garden visits

Evening visit: We are going to Godmersham Park gardens on Thursday 27th May at 6:30pm, meeting at the gardens. Car share is a good idea, so contact a friend.

Day outing: Thursday 15th July will be a full day outing to two gardens. Nymans Garden in West Sussex (The garden has disabled access). Also, High Beeches in West Sussex (This garden has limited disabled access).

A deposit of £10 per person will secure your seat on the coach (balance of payment is due by 1st July). The outing will cost no more than £25 per person, depending on numbers going. The coach will leave Mount Ephraim car park at 9:00am prompt. Visit to Great Comp Garden near Sevenoaks on Saturday 7th August. We will meet at the garden at 11.00am. Again, car sharing is a good idea to save petrol.

For more details contact Isabel Pettifer on 01227 751128.

CHURCH URBAN FUND

Tremendous thanks to all who sent in their collecting boxes. The boxes contributed a magnificent £288, mostly in small change. A truly painless way of helping churches in deprived areas. Pam Jacobs is the stalwart who helped to count the hundreds of coppers which, with donations, add up to such a worthwhile total.

Barbara Taylor

IS SINGING GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH?

The 'Silver Song Club' research project is trying to find the answer. They are looking for people aged 60 years or over who are not already in a singing group to take part. The study will last for six months and volunteers will be divided into two groups. Half will sing weekly for twelve weeks starting after Easter. The other half will not sing but will be a comparison group. Everyone will have the chance to join the free sing-

ing group when the study is completed in the autumn. No previous experience of singing is needed, beginners most welcome! All participants will receive a small 'thank you' gift token at the end of the project. The project runs in Boughton village Hall every Tuesday from 20th April to 6th July, 2.00pm. to 3.30pm. If you are interested in taking part please contact Isobel Salisbury at the University Centre, Folkestone between 9.00am and 4.00pm. Phone 01303 242031

CHURCH & CHURCHYARD SPRING CLEAN

Our churchyard is kept in good condition throughout the year by a dedicated band of volunteers. Their hard work is appreciated by visitors and villagers alike. At this time of year there are always extra jobs to be done so we are holding a churchyard clean up/maintenance day on Saturday 24th April between 10.00am & noon. Any help will be greatly appreciated. Please come with your own tools etc and help us keep our churchyard looking good.(There will be refreshments for the workers!)

For more details please phone 01227 750453 or 01227 750247.



Peter Willcock, Churchwarden

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

2010 will see some changes to our usual routine. The first and most important change is that Doreen Jelfs has kindly agreed to take over the responsibility as Secretary/Co-ordinator for this parish. The other changes are: change of venue to Doreen's house, Crockham Farm

Cottage, Crockham Lane, and change of time for the Box Opening Coffee Morning, 10.30am to 12.30 on Saturday 21st August. Please make a note of the date in your diary. Malcolm and I will continue to support the Children's Society and we intend to offer our help on 21st August. We look forward to meeting you there.

My thanks to Doreen for taking over the post of Honorary Secretary. I should like to wish her well and I

hope Doreen finds the job as enjoyable and rewarding as I did.

Jan Rhodes

STAPLESTREET WI

At our March meeting members had a talk from Rachel Clark telling us which flowers and plants attracted bees and wildlife into the garden. We also learned that there are several species of bumble bees.

The meeting on the 14th April at 7.45pm in the Village Hall will be open

to anyone interested in hearing the Reverend William Mowl's talk on, "My trip to India – The Golden Triangle". This trip was subscribed to by parishioners on his retirement from the parishes of Boughton, Dunkirk and Hernhill. Do come, you will be most welcome.

Anne Butler

SHOES NEWS

Music: on Saturday 10th April, we have 'Breakthru' at 8.30pm. Then Saturday 24th April, 'Engine Clutch and Gearbox' will be playing at 8.30pm.

Tales from the Bar

It never rains, it pours. Guy was on strong antibiotics last week which meant, "No alcohol". His strength was then further tested when, after playing hockey, he was confronted with a free bar and then to add salt to the wound, it was one of those rare occasions when he didn't even have to drive!

A certain person from Boughton, who will not be nameless (Graham), left the Shoes one night having had a little too much to drink and started to panic half way home that his wife was not going to be that pleased with him. Especially as he'd had too much to drink on a previous night. So, he decided to put himself in the spare bedroom to avoid any unnecessary grief. However, when he got up in the morning, feeling fragile and anticipating the worst, his wife was absolutely fine and surprised that he had not come to bed. I think this is known as a case of paranoia!

A sticky situation for one of our life-long villagers. After having had a few

drinks with his friend in Hernhill one Sunday afternoon, they both decided to then head for Boughton. On the way he needed to stop for a rest and sat against a bollard for a few minutes, only to discover that his new trousers were now covered in tar. By the time they reached Boughton he had forgotten about his trousers and they went to a pub for another drink. Unfortunately, when getting up to leave, he found himself stuck to the seat and had to carefully manoeuvre himself to go.

Extract from the Old Wives Lees Parish News.

A 75 year old lady rang her local hospital with a polite enquiry. "Please could you give me some information on one of your patients? She is Mrs Tiptree in Ward 3. She was admitted last week with chest pains and I just want to know if her condition has deteriorated, stabilised or improved."

The nurse on the ward checked the notes. "I'm pleased to say that Mrs Tiptree's condition has improved. She has regained her appetite, her temperature has steadied and after some routine checks tonight, she should be well enough to go home tomorrow."

"Oh that's wonderful news, I'm so

happy, thank you ever so much!"
"You seem very relieved. Are you a close friend or relative?"
"No, I'm Mrs Tiptree. Nobody tells me anything in here!"

Crispin, Parish Pond Warden, "Fancy you dropping your mobile in to one of your first ponds!"
Have a good month

Vera

VILLAGE HALL CLEANER.

Sadly Deanna Baber who has cleaned the Village Hall for many years has decided to stand down. I would like to thank Deanna for her excellent service in the past. We wish her well for the future.

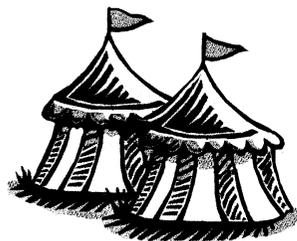
Now we need a part time cleaner to look after the Village Hall, set heating times for bookings and report on any

damage etc that may occur.

The post is flexible in terms of hours but amounts to around 2 or 3 hours per week on average.

If you are interested please contact me on 0773 6463921 or email dsmannSO@msn.com for more information.

David Mann



THE VILLAGE FETE

The Fete will be taking place on Saturday 1st May from 2.00pm on the Village Field.

We plan to have new attractions alongside the traditional. Let's hope that the weather will smile on us as it did last year.

As ever we would be grateful for any help that you can give. There is a general call to arms to give the Red Lion team a match this year at Tug of War. Any face painters who would like to volunteer their services

would be especially welcome. If you feel that you are able to help in any way please call me on 01227 751252.

Rob Ward

RESTORATION EXTERNAL QUINQUENNIAL REPAIRS

Since the Fabric Committee's report in February, additional funding from grant applications has been received; £3,000 from The Garfield Weston Foundation, £1,000 from The Manifold Charitable Trust and £10,000 from the Colyer-Fergusson Trust. This brings the total combined fund from grant awards and money raised by the Restoration Fund Committee to £84,000, leaving a further £6,400 needed for these essential repairs.

There has been fresh damage to the church exterior created by the snow and severe cold weather this winter. The Parochial Church Council at their March meeting agreed that the repair work to the external envelope to the church should start before any further damage occurs, despite the shortfall. It is proposed to start the work in June to be completed in October.

It would be a disappointment to have to stop the work before completion due to a shortage of funds. The PCC are extremely grateful for the financial support received so far, however, if anyone feels they can help a little

more to raise the last £6,400, thus ensuring the work is completed, it would be brilliant! Joyce Robb, Restoration Fund Treasurer, or Reverend Jean Burrows would be delighted to

accept any donations. Forms for 'Gift Aiding' are next to the display in the church.

Malcolm Rhodes

BITS AND PIECES

Watch out! There are thieves about. After 'Brogdale' had a number of fruit trees stolen, it was to Mount Ephraim that thieves turned their attention. William had nearly seventy cherry trees stolen from Crockham Lane. If you see anything suspicious, don't hesitate to report it. It is sad enough that many orchards have been grubbed-out. Don't let thieves spoil the orchards that remain.

Beryl Chipperton sends a big thank you to all who attended the Badger Wine and Wisdom at the Village Hall. It raised £440. Gerry Dickson's table took the cup this year. She hopes you will all join again next year.

Everyone has been commenting on the lateness of spring this year. Yet despite this the Horticultural Show had an encouraging number of entries. On the subject of flowers, Mount Ephraim Gardens and the Crafts Centre both open at Easter. As ever, the gardens offer acres of colour and calm, and the Crafts Centre displays a wide range of quality items produced by local people. I must say that I didn't know that a season ticket for the gardens is available to people in the Village. The season ticket has a number of

attractions which Claire Francis will explain if you give her a call (01227 751496 or 07952 486015). My poor plot doesn't compete. I am looking out on a garden that has lakes on the lawn. I wonder if they will dare to suggest a hosepipe ban this summer.

I have received a letter about local youngsters who are doing well in the theatre. With limited space I can't put it in this month. I will do so next month and would welcome other news of the achievement of the many talented people in the Village.

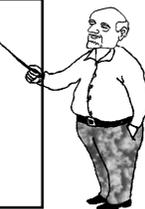
Someone was talking to me about the 'News' and asked where I got the 'clip-art'. As an aspiring pavement artist I was most hurt; especially since it suggested that the caricatures of aunty and I were not recognisable. Like the old school reports, "I must try harder".

ADT



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

**COPY
DATE
Sun
26th
Apr**



Apr 2 Fri	2.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Good Friday - a quiet, reflective Service
4 Sun	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Easter Day - Sung communion
	2.00pm	Crafts Centre	Opens for the season
Mon 5	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 6	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 7	7.30pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 11	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Mon 12	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 12	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 13	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Will Mowl, Trip to India
Sun 18	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service
Mon 19	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 20	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 25	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 27	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 28	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
May 2 Sun	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
	-----	Mount Ephraim	Pat-a-lamb
Mon 3	-----	Mount Ephraim	Pat-a-lamb
	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 4	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 5	7.30pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 9	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 11	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 12	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Resolutions & coffee tasting
Sun 16	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service
Mon 17	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 18	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 23	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 25	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 26	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 30	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion