



# HERNHILL NEWS

## APRIL 2013

### WELL DONE THE SCHOOL

The head teacher, staff and governors at Hernhill Primary School are delighted to be able to be able to share the Ofsted report on the school which has been published recently.

The school has been judged to be 'Good in all areas' which means that it is 'effective in delivering outcomes that provide well for all its pupils needs'.

The Inspectors found that pupils across the school achieve well and that standards at Hernhill are above average in English and Mathematics, with more pupils reaching the higher levels than found nationally. The Inspectors observed a number of lessons and found that teaching in the school is consistently good, and at times outstanding. The Governors were pleased to note that those pupils 'with special educational needs, achieve as well as their peers, making and exceeding the



progress expected .... because the work that is planned for them ..... is closely tailored to their needs'.

The Inspectors listened to pupils in different year groups reading and said that in all classes children talked with confidence

about what they have learnt in each lesson. It is encouraging to see that the school's positive promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development means that pupils work co-operatively and get on well together, regardless of age, gender or ethnicity and that incidences of bullying and cyber-bullying are rare. Ofsted commented that there is equal opportunity for all groups of pupils and there is no discrimination. They acknowledged that pupils enjoy coming to school and said that the very large majority of parents and carers are happy with our school.

The Governors can see that plans for development have been suc-

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e-mail [herhillclerk@gmail.com](mailto:herhillclerk@gmail.com)

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 752840  
and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

cessful in raising achievement and appreciate that the head teacher and other leaders, working effectively as a team, are ambitious for the school.

If you wish to view the full report it

can be found on the school website at [hernhill.kent.sch.uk/kent/primary/hernhill](http://hernhill.kent.sch.uk/kent/primary/hernhill)

Helen Figgis  
Chairman of Governors

### PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 27th March.

**Present:** Mrs H. Figgis (Chairman), Mrs J. Geliot, Mr A. Chapman, Mr G. Morsman, Mrs S. Muteham (Clerk). Apologies were received from Mr A. Bowles, Mr G. Bobbin, Mrs B. Taylor, Mr M. Woods and Mr A. Elliott.

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27th February were amended regarding the planning application to Dunster House which should have read 'The Council reported no adverse comments on the application, although raised concerns over the number of retrospective applications that have been applied for'.

**Matters arising:** potholes continue to appear and those in Kays Lane & Wey Street bridge were noted as being particularly bad. The Clerk is to report these to KCC. The trees won from the Kent Men of the Trees competition have been delivered and are awaiting suitable weather for planting out. It was suggested that one tree be placed in the copse on the edge of the playing field, and one in the churchyard (after consultation with the church). Councillors continued to express concerns over the increasing level

of litter in the Village. After discussing the possibility of a litter-pick it was decided that it would be better to request that residents help by paying attention to their local area and where possible tidying away any visible litter. This would greatly help to keep the Village generally tidy and a pleasant place to live.

**Reports:** Helen Figgis held a site meeting with John Gannon (KCC) regarding the blocked drains in the Village, in particular those in Plumpudding Lane and Kemsdale Road. It was agreed that KCC would clear the drains within 28 days. It was also established that individual drains are only cleared when reported, and neighbouring blocked drains are not cleared if they have not been reported. The Clerk is to contact Councillor Bowles for clarification on drainage policies. Hernhill School have been rated as 'good' by Ofsted. The fingerpost at the T-junction of Staplestreet by Farming World has been knocked down and the signs stolen. The streetlight at the same site has been knocked and now has a slight lean. Both matters have been reported to KCC for repairs. The footpath ZR513 which runs between Summer Lees and the Fostal was reported as needing clearing of excess soil from nearby

private land. The Clerk is to contact Michael Ellis at KCC. It was noted that the metal portacabins at Fostal House are unsightly and concerns were raised over planning permission being required. Draft standing orders were circulated among members and after discussion, all present agreed to adopt the new standing orders dated 27th March.

**Correspondence:** the Citizens Advice Bureau in Faversham is asking for a donation to support their work. There is also a membership renewal letter from CPRE.

**Allotments:** contracts between the Parish Council and the landowner

were signed at the meeting. Jill Ge-liot was nominated to replace Geoff Morsman as the Parish Council's allotment representative. A site meeting has been scheduled to be held on Good Friday for the new allotment holders.

**Planning:** applications were reviewed for SW/12/0653 Wey Street Farm and SW/13/0200 Shell Service Station, Thanet Way – the Council reported no adverse comments

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm

### **CLEAN-UP DAY**

We are hoping that Spring will arrive soon as we have our churchyard clean up and maintenance day on Saturday 13th April between 10.00am and noon.

The plan is to weed, prune and sweep to keep our churchyard

looking good. All helpers will be welcome, please bring your own tools if possible. Refreshments will be served during the morning.

Brian Jenkins 01227 273049

Peter Willcock 01227 750453

Churchwardens

### **ON THAT SAME SUBJECT...**

In their meetings last month and this month, Parish Council members noted the increasing level of litter in the Village.

The Chairman, Helen Figgis, has since suggested that Villagers could make a significant difference if they cleared litter for a distance of 100 metres either side of their front gate.

Anne Butler has written to me reminding me of the occasions when Villagers organised 'clean-up days'. These resulted in our being awarded 'Best Kept Village in Kent' more than once. Is there anyone keen enough about our environment to organise another? If so, Helen Figgis would like to hear from you (01227 751149)

### **CHOOSE WELL THIS EASTER**

Bank holidays are traditionally busy times for local hospitals and patients are being reminded to

Choose Well and use the most appropriate service this Easter. Many people automatically go to A&E outside surgery hours, but there

are other services, such as out of hours GPs, the GP walk-in centre and minor injuries units that can help.

Patients will often be seen faster than in A&E, saving both time and money and keeping emergency services free for patients who need them most.

GPs are appealing for people not to use hospitals unless their condition is life threatening.

Dr Mark Jones, Chairman of NHS Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group, said "A medical cabinet with basics including paracetamol is a good first line of defence. Pharmacists can also diagnose and treat a large number

of conditions so it's worth people dropping into their chemist and having a chat.

If people need advice outside surgery and pharmacy hours, they should ring their GP and wait until the end of the answer-phone message when they will be given the number for the out-of hours-service.

A&E is for serious or life-threatening accidents or illnesses. Please keep it free for those who really need the specialist treatment it provides."

Stephen Watkins  
NHS Kent & Medway

# HERNHILL FETE

Grand draw, stalls and side shows  
Come and join the fun



**Saturday 4th May**  
**Village Hall**  
**from 2.00pm**

As usual, help is (desperately) needed in the morning to put up the stalls (from 8.30am) and afterwards to take them down again. Last year we had a lot of unsold bric-a-brac left at the end of the Fete and disposing of it was a problem. For this reason there will not be a bric-a-brac stall this year; but there will be a stall selling china, glass, jewellery and unwanted presents in good condition. If you can donate any of these items please bring them along on the day or contact me.

Doreen Jelfs would appreciate some help with making small flower arrangements to sell on her stall. Please contact her on 01227 752309.

Pat Hall 01795 529156  
Fete Committee

### **FROM THE VICAR**

There can't be many weeks in Christian history that have seen the inaugural services of both the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury. I was privileged to be at the latter, especially as spaces were limited and I had to apply for a ticket in the clergy ballot. It was a colourful, international and inspiring service that welcome Archbishop Justin to Canterbury and saw him 'take his seat', in fact two seats. He was installed by Archdeacon Sheila as our diocesan bishop when he sat in his cathedra and then when he sat on St Augustine's Chair as the 'first bishop' in the country. This 'second sitting' has come to represent the Archbishop's inauguration as the spiritual leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The news programmes that day made much of Archdeacon Sheila installing Justin as our bishop, she was the first woman in history to do it, but she did it by virtue of her office not her gender. Another first is the fact that Archbishop Justin is the first Archbishop of Canterbury to appoint a female chaplain.

A common question is 'What can

we expect from our new archbishop?' I don't know, I haven't met him but one thing that comes across is his dependence on prayer, a quality he shares with Pope Francis. I was struck that when the announcement of the new Pope was made Pope Francis stood on St. Peter's balcony, bowed his head and asked the vast crowds in St. Peter's Square to pray for him. Amazingly the crowds fell silent as they did just that. Bishop Justin introduced his press conference after the news of his appointment with the words 'Let us pray,' much to the press's amazement. Then in the days leading up to his inauguration Archbishop Justin led a prayer pilgrimage to five cities in England. Archbishop Justin said, 'Prayer is in every possible sense the most productive way, and the most wonderful way, to start this new period'. In the cathedral we were able to surround our new archbishop with our love and prayers. May our prayers for him continue as he has responded to God's call and taken on the huge task of being the one hundred and fifth Archbishop of Canterbury.

Revd Jean Burrows

### **YOUNG BROS DEPOT**

As you may have noticed the verge on the slip road adjacent to our depot has sustained considerable damage where HGV's have driven over it.

I had a visit from an officer of Swale yesterday regarding a complaint

about the damaged verge. I explained to the officer that I know the two companies responsible for the damage and I have spoken to them regarding this matter. The first has agreed to repair the damage caused by their vehicle and the second has given assurances that they will refrain from driving over the

verge when making U-turns at the T-junction.

I called Swale Council to enquire if I could arrange to repair the verge and to erect timber bollards along the verge to stop a repeat of the

damage. They referred me to Kent Highways. They in turn have issued a reference number and advised me that an officer will be calling to discuss my suggestion.

Jim Young

The Crafts Centre opens its door to a new season in the Stable Block, Mount Ephraim at 11.30am on Easter Day and again on Easter Monday. For the rest of the season it is open every Sunday at 2.00pm and on Bank Holidays as well.



made, high quality goods for sale. They range from greetings cards to jams and marmalades, paintings to pottery, hand-spun garments and much

more. If you want to indulge yourself or find a present for a friend, this is the place to come.

There is a wide variety of locally

ADT

### THE SPRING SHOW

The entries for the spring show were lower than usual owing to the bad weather, there were 16 entrants and 102 entries.

**Cup winners:** 'Home Economics' - Helen Bentley, 'Best Vegetables' - Alison West, 'Best Bloom' - Mark James, 'Daffodil Shield' for most

points -.Mark James.

The prizes were presented by the President, Mr Sandys Dawes.

The committee would like to thank all members who entered the show and look forward to seeing you all at the summer show.

Peter Bentley



### CHURCH URBAN FUND

The splendid total of over £240 has been collected in the past year to help churches in inner cities with their charity work. Thank you so much all of you who have saved small coins throughout the year or made a donation. It is an excellent result.

Barbara Taylor

### BITS AND PIECES

By the time you read this 'summer time' will have begun. You may not have noticed it when looking

through the window, but that is what the clocks are saying.

The weather in the West and

North has been atrocious. Lashing rain or driving snow and bitterly cold winds, fallen trees, landslips and buried sheep. Newspapers have been printing stories and pictures of the arctic weather that some have been experiencing. Locally we have been spared the worst, but we have been suffering wild swings between fine, warm days and heavy rain with cold northeast winds. I don't doubt that it is the persistent erratic weather that has reduced the number of entries to the Horticultural Society's Spring Show. Although I am definitely not to be thought of as a gardener, my garden usually has a reasonable number of flowers at this time of year. This year however even the snowdrops and the daffodils have been cautious about getting out into the cold air. Despite April being upon us, I am keeping my snow shovel close to hand.

I was delighted to hear that Jane Bowyer is into the prizes again. The cheeses from her place in Dargate have won awards in 2008 and 2010, but this year they swept the board. Jane collected the 'Kent Artisan Producer' award, the

'Dairy Class' award and her cheeses were voted the best in the 'Taste of Kent Awards'.

Our vicar and few others from the Village were fortunate enough to get to Canterbury Cathedral for the inauguration of the archbishop. As Jean says, it was a splendid occasion and it also made very good TV viewing. But this was not the only big TV event in the cathedral. Some Villagers also participated in the 'Songs of Praise' programme which was recorded in the cathedral for broadcast on the Sunday before Easter with another later in the year.

If you are in the habit of going on a bus to either Sittingbourne or Whitstable, using the Chalkwell buses, beware. They are putting in a new timetable with effect from Monday 8th April. Murphy's Law says that the one you usually use is one of the ones they have changed. It is best that you check rather than stand in the cold. Notices are at the bus stops or [www.chalkwell.co.uk](http://www.chalkwell.co.uk)

See you at the fete.

ADT

To book the Village Hall ring the Red Lion 01227 751207

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COPY DATE

**Mon  
29th  
April**



<b>Mon 1 Apr</b>	11.00am	Mount Ephraim	Crafts Centre open
Tues 2	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 7	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion & Annual Meeting
	2.00pm	Mount Ephraim	Crafts Centre open
Mon 8	7.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 9	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 10	7.45pm	Village Hall	Staplegate
Sun 14	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	2.00pm	Mount Ephraim	Crafts Centre open
Tues 16	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sat 20	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 21	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service & baptism
	2.00pm	Mount Ephraim	Crafts Centre open
Tues 23	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 24	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 28	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	2.00pm	Mount Ephraim	Crafts Centre open
Tues 30	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
<b>Sat 4 May</b>	2.00pm	Village Hall	THE FETE
Sun 5	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
	2.00pm	Mount Ephraim	Crafts Centre open
Tues 7	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Wed 8	7.45pm	Village Hall	Staplegate
Sun 12	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	10.00am	The Bounds	Rogation Day
	2.00pm	Mount Ephraim	Crafts Centre open
Tues 14	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sat 18	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 19	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
	2.00pm	Mount Ephraim	Crafts Centre open
Tues 21	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 26	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	2.00pm	Mount Ephraim	Crafts Centre open
Tues 28	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 29	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council