



HERNHILL NEWS

DECEMBER 2010



Happy Christmas

PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council took place on 24th November. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Taylor, Mrs Geliot, Mr Elliott, Mr Bowles and Mr Bobbin. The minutes of the meeting held on 27th October were signed as a true record.

Matters arising: Mrs Taylor had sent a message to the meeting concerning tree work at Plantation House, Dargate. The occupier had explained to Mrs Taylor that the contractor who was to carry out the work had undertaken to inform

Swale Borough Council as to the details of what was to be done, but had failed to do so. This omission would be rectified.

The situation at Wey Street, where mud is piling up on the road, shows no improvement. The Highways Department of Swale Borough Council and the police do not appear to be successful in dealing with the person responsible for the mud accruing at this site.

Other reports from Councillors indicate that the car parking situation at Wellside has improved recently. Thefts have taken place at various

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

places in the Parish and parishioners are advised to keep vigilant.

Finance: The setting of the Precept for 2011/12 took place. It was finally proposed by Mrs Figgis, and seconded by Mr Chapman that the figure for next year be £6500, representing a decrease of £1000,

compared with 2010/11. Accounts were passed for payment in respect of printing and distribution of Hernhill News, and the Clerk's expenses.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting to be closed at 8.35p.m.



CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Saturday 18th December at 5.00pm

Fun for all ages. Bring your lanterns. The singing will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

It will be in the in church if it is wet.



CRIB SERVICE

Hernhill Church

Christmas Eve 4.00pm

Children may like to come as shepherds and angels

BEWARE

Not only should villagers be vigilant about thieves who have been active in the area of late, there is a postal scam about. You get a note through your door saying that "PDS (Parcel Delivery Service)" was unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to ring them on 0906 6611911'. **DON'T DO IT.** There is no parcel and the number, if rung, will cost you at least £315. If you do get a card, ring Royal Mail Fraud on 0207 2396655.

ADT

VANDALS

Members of the Three Horseshoes Cricket Club are being inconvenienced by vandals who on several occasions have cut ropes surrounding the square and scattered them around the playing field.

These problems cannot be allowed to continue and the club will have no hesitation in reporting the culprits to the police when they are identified.

Tony Chapman

DCA FIREWORKS EVENT.

We have had another fantastically successful fireworks event this year. Someone must have been watching out for us as we were lucky enough to get the ONLY fine Saturday for the event!

Although all the figures are not fully collated, we think we are looking at a potential profit of £8,500 which is fantastic. We very much hope to be

able to offer donations again to other organisations in the village.

I would like to thank our hard working fireworks committee as well as all the helpers who turned out on the night, over the weekend and at all points in between. In addition, thanks are due once again, to the Dawes Family for their continued support.

Felix Krish

ONE, ONE, ONE

Pupils from Graveney School sang to Violet Wood, a former pupil of the Seasalter Road School, at the St Martin's care home in Whitstable. The visit was to celebrate her 111th birthday which took place in September. Violet, who lived for many years in Dargate is the oldest woman in Kent. Many congratulations.

ADT

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Are you hoping to receive books for Christmas? If you are, why not make room for them on your shelves by giving us the ones that you have already read? Your contributions during this year have raised more than £300 to help with the upkeep of our lovely, historic church.

The books sold in the church are for

all villagers, not just for church members. The subjects range from thrillers to travel and from romance to reference. Feel free to come in and get your holiday reading of 'as new' books; hardbacks at £1.00 and paperbacks at 50p.

Thank you all, and may I wish you a very happy Christmas.

Barbara Taylor

FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES

RIDE AND STRIDE

On Saturday 11 September George Bull, Anne Butler, Colin, Victoria, Ned, Archie and Dollie McGuire gallantly set forth on this year's sponsored event. Between them they raised a fantastic £944. Half of this comes to St Michael's and already we've received a

cheque for £472, for which we are very grateful. The other half will be paid out by the Friends as grants to churches in need of assistance with repairs and maintenance. In fact, right now the Friends are contributing towards the restoration work being carried out on our church.

On behalf of Hernhill PCC a huge 'thank you' to everyone taking part

and to those willing to sponsor them.

If you are interested in taking part next year please let me know and I can contact you with details nearer the time. You can choose how many churches you visit, eg just the ones in Faversham or Canterbury, and you can do this by bike or on foot (thus the 'stride' bit). It's

an excellent way of seeing the countryside and delightful churches as well as keeping fit, so much nicer than going to the gym. As an added incentive you will also get your name in the Hernhill News when I do this article next year - how can you resist?

Pat Hall
01795529156

GIFTS FOR GHANA

In February half term next year I will be visiting schools in Ghana with a group of teachers organised by Kent County Council for a teaching and learning project funded by the Ghanaian government. I will be collecting resources to donate to the schools and would welcome any donations of stationary equipment such as pencils, crayons and pens.



I am also collecting old football kits, maybe you play for a team that has an old kit they don't need or if your children have grown out of a strip they would be much appreciated! I am also collecting new footballs (un-inflated). Please leave any donations at 12, Swale View.

Many thanks!

Alice Edgington

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Outings for 2011

We would like your suggestions for outings for next year, as we have visited a lot of gardens in Kent it would be rather nice to venture further afield. Please contact Isabel

Pettifer on 01227 151128 with your ideas.

We hope to arrange an outing to Highgrove in Gloucestershire next year, anyone wishing to go please contact Isabel.

Peter Bentley

FROM THE VICAR

Christmas comes like a Christmas present - wrapped in many layers, a bit like 'pass-the-parcel' There is the layer of commercialism; the buying of expensive presents and all the extras, the consuming of large amounts of food and drink which are all encouraged by adver-

tising which has been around since October. Christmas is big business and many of the motives behind the sponsorship of this festival are far removed from the original event. Then there is the layer of sentiment. The setting of Christmas appeals to us, the baby in the manger, the animals in the stable,

the appearance of the angels to the shepherds out on the hillside, the visit of the mysterious visitors from the East. We love the way they are shown on our Christmas cards even though they bear little resemblance to the original.

Nostalgia gives us another layer. We remember our childhoods, the Christmas Days when it always snowed, memories of family gatherings, proper carol singers, children's excitement and carols by candlelight. These are all good memories but still part of the wrapping.

What is the real thing? The true gift inside the wrappings? Are we will-

ing to look inside and see the true significance of Christmas? The Christmas gift is Jesus who tells us that God, the creator of the universe loves us, his creation, even though we are often wayward and selfish. God, to help us, sent his own Son, part of himself in our human form, to live our life and die and rise again for us, conquering death forever.

Jesus is the original Christmas present, God's gift of love to us. Gifts are for receiving so take time this Christmas to make sure you don't lose God's priceless gift of Jesus under the pile of wrapping paper and tinsel

Revd Jean Burrows

DOVE DOINGS

After a fantastic bonfire evening on November 5th, we would like to sincerely thank our friends, locals and regulars who donated towards fireworks and firewood! I think the bonfire stood twice as tall as last year; we must have cleared out most of the 'dead wood' from the village! Local children brought along their guys to set alight - we had various imaginative masterpieces from 'Simon Cowell' to 'The Best Chef Ever' (Phill MacGregor). The prize for the best guy was awarded to 'Harry Hill' made by 4 year old Toby! Phill christened his new toy - an all singing, all dancing gas fired BBQ! A gift from South Africa. This beast

certainly succeeded in delivering the Dove's burnt offerings to the hungry spectators as the fireworks lit the sky. Let's hope the weather is as kind to us next year!

All are welcome, young and old, to join us for mulled wine and mince pies (or your favourite festive tipple!) on the evening of Sunday 19th December at our carol sing song. We hope to have a collection for the Church at this fun Christmassy event so get tuning those vocal chords! Hope to see you, then and if not, a very merry Christmas and happy New Year to you all. Thank you for your support and custom in 2010.

Sarah

STAPLEGATE WI

Anne Hill, the Kent organizer for the Poppy appeal on behalf of the Roy-

al British Legion, came to talk to the Institute this month. She is an extremely busy and committed fund-

raiser for the Legion all through the year and told us of the many events that she attends in order to keep the profile of the organization in the public eye. The mission statement of the Royal British Legion is to provide financial, emotional and social support to serving and ex-service-men and women and their dependents all year round. They are the custodians of Remembrance and are responsible for the two minute silence on Remembrance Sunday and 11th November. She told us of the many and varied ways in which the Legion is able to

help those in need, and the vast amounts of money that is required to fulfil that responsibility. Last year £83 million was raised by public subscription and this year it is hoped to raise £100 million. We very much enjoyed Ann's company and will give much thought to what she had to say. We made arrangements for the forthcoming coffee morning on 20th November in aid of the village hall and reminded members that our next meeting is an early celebration of Christmas, on 8th December.

Liz Walton

LYNNE HELYAR

I would like to say how sorry I am to hear the news of Lynne Helyar's death.

Mrs Helyar was a teacher at the 'old' Hernhill School that my brother Leslie and me attended. She was a breath of fresh air for us with her enthusiastic teaching methods and her bright red hair. I have many fond memories of her (as a working mother) combining a busy working life and looking after Mr Helyar and their two sons at home.

In later years I met her at social events through my sister Ann's church at Faversham. I never was

able to call her by her Christian name despite her insistence, she remained 'Mrs Helyar'.

Her vibrancy and positivity remained with her in her latter years despite her and Mr Helyar's illnesses. She was a very kind woman and always interested in other people and their families. I hope Mrs Helyar has found her particular paradise and I send my condolences to Mr Helyar and his family.

Mrs Helyar was a ray of sunshine and she will be missed by many.

Dawn Gorham (nee Foster)
37, Tonford Lane CT1 3XU

BITS AND PIECES

Hasn't it been a wonderful year for autumn colours? Even now that November is nearly through, and despite some occasional very strong winds, there are still many brightly coloured leaves on the trees and shrubs. Of course there is a chill in

the air and winter is beginning to let us know that it is not far away.

The weather was wonderfully kind to us on Remembrance Sunday, cold but dry. The Service on the village Green was well attended. Thanks to Duncan Taylor, the sounding of 'the last post' on the

bugle helped to make it a particularly moving occasion as did the reading by Helen Figgis of the names of the fallen in two World Wars. Such a long list for such a small village. And then into the church for coffee, and then the rain came down.

Although financially reasonably successful, the coffee morning in aid of the WI and the Village Hall was not as well attended as it might have been. There were car-parking problems for those attending the coffee morning and the football games. This may have had some effect on attendance numbers at the coffee morning.

I haven't heard from my Great Aunty in a long while, but today I had a long letter wishing everyone a happy Christmas. She tells me that, like us, they now have a coalition government. They too have been talking about the development of the 'big society'. However, from what she says, their idea has more to do with obesity. And then she goes on to salivate about the turkey she is going to have for Christmas, with all the trimmings. At this point I remember that Henry Bryant has had the nerve to go abroad for



Christmas instead of staying at home and producing his wonderful turkeys as he used to do. (Sic transit gloria....) for all you Latin scholars.

As Aunty is about to raise her glass, I would like to raise one too. My thanks to all who have contributed to the 'News' over the year. I really appreciate your help. It would be wonderful if more would do so. It is always interesting to hear what is going on in the Village and the thoughts you would like to share. If you don't feel confident about putting pen to paper, I am always willing to help. Give it a go; start

next year. It is easier for me if you e-mail your contributions; the address is always in the 'News' next to the last date for acceptance. If you do, please put "Hernhill News" as the title. There are so many viruses around that I might not open it as a precaution. But if you don't do e-mail, just get out the quill pen.

I hope that you have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

ADT

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**COPY
DATE
Mon
24th
JAN**



Dec Wed 1	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 5	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Mon 6	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 7	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 8	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Paul Harris, Theatrical Landladies
Sun 12	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 14	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sat 18	5.00pm	Village Green	Carols on the Green (wine & minced pies)
Sun 19	4.30pm	Boughton Church	Nine lessons and carols
Fri 24	4.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Crib Service
	11.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Midnight communion
Sat 25	9.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Sun 26	10.00am	Boughton Church	Sung communion
Tues 28	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Jan Sun 2	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Mon 3	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 4	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 5	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 9	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Mon 10	7.30pm	The Vicarage	PCC
Tues 11	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 12	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Peter Kennett , Old Faversham
Sun 16	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Plough Sunday
Mon 17	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 18	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 23	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 25	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 26	8.0pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 30	10.00am	Hernhill School	Education Sunday
	4.30pm	St Barnabas	Candlelit Taize Service (with wine & mince pies before)