



HERNHILL NEWS

DECEMBER 2012

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 28th November from 8.04pm to 9.13pm. Mrs Figgis, Mrs Geliot, Mr Chapman, Mr Elliott, Mrs Taylor, Mr Woods, Mr Morsman and the Clerk were present. Apologies were received from Mr Bowles and Mr Bobbin.

The minutes of the meetings on the 26th September and 31st October were approved.

Reports: The pothole in Kays Lane has been repaired. Concerns were noted over the number of blocked drains in the Parish, in particular at Oakwell.

Planning: Current applications were considered, with particular attention being paid to the retrospective application for signage at Dunster House.

Next Precept: That the precept for the year 2013/14 be set at £8,000 was proposed by Mrs Figgis and seconded by Mr Chapman. The proposal was passed.

Correspondence: Letters of thanks for donations to the Royal British Legion and Kent Air Ambulance were received. "The Kent Men of the Trees" has awarded the Parish a new tree for being one of the top ten villages in Kent with well maintained trees. The Parish Council thanked Mr

Chairman: Helen Figgis 01227 751149
e-mail helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com

Clerk: Sarah Muteham 01227 751053 or 07740 706189
sarah.muteham@tiscali.co.uk

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

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

Woods for his assistance in maintaining the trees in the Parish.

holder. The proposal was approved.

New allotments: The Parish Council will be financially responsible for the initial cost of fencing for the allotments. Mrs Geliot proposed and Mr Morsman seconded that the annual rent be set at £30 and the annual 'facilities charge' be set at £10 for each allotment

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be on Wednesday 30th January 2013 at 8:00pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed.



CAROLS ON THE GREEN

This annual event has been growing in popularity and loved by the children. This year it will be at 5.00pm on Saturday 22nd December. Bring your lantern and your voices. Afterwards enjoy a hot drink and a mince pie in the warmth of the church.

Children will also especially enjoy the Crib Service at 4.00pm in St. Michael's on Monday 24th Decem-

ber when they can come dressed as angels or shepherds.

There are of course other special Christmas Services. Sunday 24th, Lessons and Carols at 4.00pm in Boughton Church and midnight Communion at 11.30pm in St. Michael's Hernhill. On Christmas Day at 10.00am in St. Barnabas, Boughton there is the Christmas Cracker Service, a celebration for all ages.

1972 AND ALL THAT

The Hernhill News was started by Ricky Holdstock and continued by him until his sudden death in 1999. I only have a few of the early issues, however, I do have the issue for forty years ago this month. In it the Mothers Union proudly reported that they raised £8.00 (not

£80.00) at their Beetle Drive and Bring and Buy. Others did rather better, the Harvest Festival raised £70.00 and Dawes CA raised £158.15 with a sponsored walk.

I was particularly intrigued by something else that Ricky wrote. I quote, "How many people, young

and old, like writing letters these days? Well, if you do, there's a new idea been started, You know those Visitors' Books that most churches have? You've doubtless signed your name in many. It occurred to one or two of us that it seemed a bit pointless - writing name and address down to no purpose. So there has been a spate of letter writing recently, from Hernhill to all parts of the World from whence visitors have come to our parish church and recorded their visits in

our Visitors' Book. Short letters, nothing elaborate, simply saying in effect, "Thank you for coming, hope you liked the Village, think of us from time to time". And we have received replies from Canada, the United States, France, New Zealand, Holland, as well as from many parts of our own country."

The visitors are still coming from all parts of the World and they are still leaving their names and addresses. How about doing it again?

ADT

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE

Dawes CA AGM

All Dawes Community Association members and other interested parties are invited to the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Saturday 8th December at 11.00am in the Dawes CA centre (next to the Village Hall).

We will be carrying out all the usual activities such as electing the committee and presenting the years accounts. In addition, we would

like to discuss our plans for changes and refurbishment to the facilities including the mixed use court on the playing field.

Please come along and engage in the discussions, the Dawes CA is for everyone in the community not just for a few.

Thanks

Simon Carroll

Dawes CA Chairman
www.dawesca.co.uk

THE LION'S ROAR

Well today is "Stir-Up Sunday" so I hope like me you've been making your Christmas pudding. The smell of the rum and spices has been driving me crazy and making me actually feel quite Christmassy, although I'll be leaving the shopping to Charlotte! Don't worry if you haven't made yours, there'll be plenty here (and alternative deserts if that's not your cup of tea). We look forward to seeing you over the festive season. Our open-

ing times are: Christmas Eve 11.30am to 2.30pm and 6.00pm to 11.00pm, Christmas Day noon to 2.00pm, Boxing Day noon to 5.00pm, New Year's Eve 11.30am to 2.30pm and 5.00pm till late. Bring in the New Year with us entertained by Nicky Alexander, a DJ and of course bottles of bubbly!

To beat off the January blues we have two events! On Friday 4th January, Pilgrims Hospice are hosting a 70s and 80s themed night with a disco and Shepherd

Neame have donated bottles of beer that can be purchased on the night to take home. Also Steve Waterman and Buster McDonnell have personally challenged me to a Chilli off on Thursday 10th January; you decide you're favourite from the three dishes to award the winner the 'Chilli Champion'.

We will be serving from 8.00pm, make a discretionary donation to the Pilgrims Hospice for your bowl! All that's left for me to say is of course a very Merry Christmas from all of us here at The Red Lion.

Ben Edwards
01227 751207

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The outing for 2013. A coach trip to the Eden Project and the Heligan Gardens has been arranged with Newmarket Holidays for four days and three nights leaving on Friday 26th April 2013. The holiday includes bed, breakfast and evening meal at a hotel in Torbay at a cost of £219 per person with a supplement of £57 for a single room and entrance to the Eden Project & Heligan Gardens.

There is only one single room remaining but there are still a few double rooms available if anyone else would like to join the group. So far there are seven members of the Society going. Travel insurance is offered with the company at £11.00 each.

Please contact me on 01227 751128 as soon as possible if you are interested in this trip. A £15.00 deposit is required.

Isabel Pettifer

GOOD AS NEW BOOKS

The book service in St. Michael's Church is open to all Villagers. Come in at any time and browse and then buy at the attractive prices of £1.00 for hardbacks and 50p for paperbacks.

Although we already have a wide range of books for sale, we need your help to replenish them from time to time. We want fiction or non-fiction but they must be in 'as new' condition. Unwanted Christmas gifts of books would be most welcome. Thank you.



Barbara Taylor
01227 751293

FROM THE VICAR

The Christmas story has all the elements of a good yarn, poor Mary and Joseph up against the might

of Roman authority and power. It has a cruel villain, Herod, simple workers, the shepherds, and mysterious visitors from an exotic, far

away land, the wise men. It has music sung by the heavenly angelic choir. It has tensions, we wonder where will the baby be born, will Herod find the baby and kill him? To our relief it has a happy ending when the baby is born safely and all rejoice. It has lasting appeal but sadly to many it remains just a story, the baby never grows up, they never stop to wonder what it's all about.

Two thousand years ago in Bethlehem Christians believe that God became flesh. It sounds crazy, that the creator of all that is, should come and live as one of us. Not, as many think, to give us a new moral code of conduct, the world already had enough of those, but to show us what God is like; pure, perfect love. And to show us that it is possible for us to know God and have a living relationship with him.

The baby born in the manger grew

up, he taught, healed and challenged and he died on a cross. That wasn't the end, he defeated death and gave power to his followers to love the unlovely and to change the world. He showed us that God knows and cares about each one of us, surely that must change how we think of ourselves and of others. No wonder that millions around the world today worship Jesus, the Son of the living God, and will join in celebrating Jesus' birth on Christmas Day.

Will you allow Jesus to grow up or will you just stick with the nativity story? It may seem safer, a baby can't influence anything, but you are missing out on the greatest life changing good news there is.

Celebrate Christmas, but let Jesus be part of it and allow him to grow up.

Revd Jean Burrows
01227 751410

STAPLEGATE WI

Our president welcomed 20 members to the November meeting. They were informed of the successful Beetle Drive that was held last month when funds were raised for 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf'.

Arrangements were made for our visit to the White Cliffs at Dover on Tuesday 4th December; for Christmas refreshments and, hopefully a walk, weather permitting. For our Christmas meeting at the Village Hall on Wednesday 14th December members were asked to bring

food for two and a parcel for the Christmas tree.

Our speaker for the evening was Eileen Booker. She showed us Christmas decorations that she had made and demonstrated to members how to make some of the items.

We meet at the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm. All are welcome to come along and meet us; we have a very friendly group.

Anne Butler

SHOES NEWS

We, the new landlady and landlord of the Three Horseshoes, would like to say a big hearty welcome to all new and existing customers. A great night was had by all on our opening night including great food and entertainment enjoyed by all. Food will be

available from Tuesday 4th December and we will look forward to seeing you. We would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and hope to see you during the Christmas period.

Charlotte and Ben

BUSY PEOPLE

In response to the 'Bits & Pieces' in the November issue of the Hernhill news, I would like to say a few words on behalf of those of us who do not join the established committees and societies of the village. There seems to be a misunderstanding about how we spend our time and I hope that I can rectify this by explaining how many of our lives work: Most of us 'newcomers' to the village have school-aged children and, yes, we do enjoy watching telly, surfing the internet and playing on the Wii, but, unfortunately, we have little time to enjoy such leisure activities, for the same reasons that we are not able to join village societies and groups. During the day, when our children are at school/nursery, we have to work; after school we become taxi drivers, taking our children to their various extra-curricular activities; in the evening we have to do the household chores, help with homework, reading etc. Once the children are finally in bed, we cannot leave the house because our other halves,

if we have them, are at work and we cannot leave the kids at home alone. I understand and share your regret that established community groups are dwindling, but please don't imagine that the reason we do not join is because we are watching telly or are disinterested in our community. The fact is that we *are* very sociable and do organise community activities, but they are, almost always, activities we can do at home and/or with our children, because our child-free, work-free time is practically non-existent.

If you would like us to join your committee or community group, you need to adapt and organise meetings and events at a time when we are able to attend, (which will be difficult), and you must be prepared for us to bring our children along. If you are not able to do this, then you will, like us, have to wait until our children are grown and our lifestyle allows us to join you in your established routine.

Miriam Layton

BITS AND PIECES

From the preceding article, it is clear that I touched a raw nerve when regretting the passing of so many Village activities. I truly welcome the challenge to what I wrote,

but I don't wish to withdraw it. Perhaps Miriam has a rose-coloured view of what it was like when those Village Societies were in full swing. It was then the rule, not the exception, for both husband and

wife to go out to work; usually it was a financial necessity. It was not uncommon for families to have two or three demanding children. Babies in need of constant attention or older ones who were involved in after-school activities and sports and who needed help with their homework. The parents then, as now, had little time for themselves but such time as they had they shared with others in the Village. The Village societies of 30 and more years ago were not just a refuge for OAP's. They were enjoyed and run by busy working people with homes and families to run.

I don't know about you, but I'm fed up with this persistent rain. The grass is now so saturated that it is like walking on a sponge. True, the grass is not growing much, but it would be impossible to cut in its present state. Also, the leaves that have fallen are so wet that they are difficult to collect. To think that they had the cheek to put on a hose-pipe ban for a couple of weeks earlier this year. As things are I don't think that they will be able to justify that for the next couple of years. However, as I have said before, we have been lucky compared with the north and west of the country where they have suffered flooding and gales. It may be time to start on the ark.

I was sad to hear that Les Holmes,

husband of the WI secretary, has died. He had been suffering from cancer for some months. The funeral was held at Barham Crematorium on Wednesday 28th November.

Great aunt Agatha has sent her Christmas card early, not to avoid the rush but to avoid a massive increase in the price of Pallagonian postage stamps. I understand that in this country many are avoiding the extra charge by not sending cards at all. It is a shame that the Royal Mail is causing a reduction in the annual contact between friends and acquaintances.

I was surprised by the note that auntie included in her card. She has been voted in as Police Commissioner for East Pallagonia. There was a poor turnout but a close fought contest. Eventually the only two voters agreed to just spin a coin. Auntie used her two-headed Victorian counterfeit sovereign.

There is no Parish Council meeting in December and therefore there is no 'Hernhill News'. The next issue will be printed at the end of January. I look forward to hearing from you then and, in the meantime, may I wish you very merry Christmas and a truly happy New Year.



ADT

To book the Village Hall ring the Red Lion 01227 751207

Alan D. Taylor
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01227 751293
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COPY DATE

**Mon
28th
Jan**



Sun 2 Dec	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Mon 3	7.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 4	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 5	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Committee
Sat	11.00am	Dawes Centre	Dawes CA AGM
Sun 9	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 11	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 12	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Games evening
Sun 16	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Sat 22	5.00pm	Village Green	Carols on the Green
Sun 23	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	4.30pm	Boughton Church	Lessons and Carols
Mon 24	4.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Crib Service
	11.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Midnight Communion
Tues 25	9.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	10.00am	St. Barnabas	Christmas Cracker Service
Wed 26	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 30	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion with carols
Sun 6 Jan	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Wed 8	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Committee
Sun 13	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 15	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 16	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI meeting