

HERNHILL NEWS

DECEMBER 2009

There is no Parish Council meeting in December so the next issue of the News will be for February with the copy date Monday 25th January

**VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**



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

PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Council took place on 25th November. With the exception of Mrs Taylor, who sent apologies, all Councillors were present, as were Mr Bowles, three members of the public and the Clerk. Mr Bobbin also apologised for his absence.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28th October were signed as a true record, and there were no matters arising.

The first item on the agenda - a discussion on the need for members of the public to be able to address meetings of the Parish Council was approved, but with some safeguards. After lengthy debate, the following substantive proposition was agreed, "That Hernhill Parish Council adopt a procedure that, at the end of a council meeting, members of the public may ask questions or even make statements. The period to be made available for this purpose shall not exceed fifteen minutes and it must be clearly understood that they may not take part at any other time, unless expressly invited to do so by the Chairman. Failure to comply with this motion will result in the Chairman declaring the meeting to be closed". This procedure will bring Hernhill Parish Council into line with most other parish councils and also Swale Borough Council, which permits each speaker only three minutes. Further, the Swale Borough Council procedure requires that, having spoken, the speaker is not then allowed to speak again on the same subject. It appears from the Parish Council's records that this practice was in force in the early 1980's, but fell into disuse because of the lack of need.

Reports: Mr Chapman said that he had attended a meeting organised by Mr

Bowles, which had proved useful. There are certain small sources of funding for approved schemes. The Parish Council has already put forward a tentative application by the Village Hall Committee for improvements to the Jubilee Room. Mr Bowles also said that the clearance of drains remained a priority, but potholes were an ongoing problem.

The Clerk gave the monthly financial report, which demonstrated a satisfactory amount to counter the Audit Commission's contention that this Council was not maintaining sufficient year-end balances. The five-month period in which discussions between the Commission and the Council has ended in vindication for the Council's methods, and thanks are due to careful expenditure by Councillors. At this point, the Precept for the year commencing 1st April 2010 was set. On a proposition by Mr Morsman, which was seconded by Mrs Martin, it was decided that the amount of the Precept remain the same level as 2009/10, i.e., £6500. Correspondence was read and reviewed - Mr Elliott, representing the Council, will attend the Carols and Readings service at the Church.

The meeting was then jointly addressed by Mr Wraight, of Horsehill Farm and Mr A Barten,

of Mallards Farm, both of Waterham. Both farm land in the Waterham area, and are greatly concerned at the danger of flooding in their area, following groundwork carried out on land situated adjacent to theirs. The Chairman assured them that various authorities, among them being the Environment Agency, and Swale Borough Council's Planning Department, were aware of the groundwork which is taking place.

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They have raised no objection. Both farmers allege that land surrounding their land is gradually being built up, and if present weather patterns are followed the situation could become alarming. Reluctantly, Councillors felt

that they had no powers to help alleviate the problem. There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting to be closed at about 9.10pm.



CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Hernhill

Saturday 19th 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 church if it is wet.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES at St. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Sunday 20th Nine lessons and carols at 6.30pm

Christmas Eve Crib Service at 4.00pm

Midnight communion at 11.30pm

Christmas Day Holy Communion at 8.00am

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

I wonder if those words strike horror or delight in your heart? Delia Smith once wrote of arriving at church on Christmas Eve for the midnight service only to realise as she sat there that she was too worn out to celebrate anything. She had made all the preparations, nothing was forgotten, but when it came to Christmas she was too exhausted to celebrate with joy the birth of the Christ child. These are feelings we can all probably identify with.

Before we celebrate Christmas we have, in the church's liturgical year, the season of Advent. The word 'Advent' comes from Latin and means 'coming,' Advent is a time of waiting and of preparation for Jesus' coming. But it is preparation that enables us to enjoy Christmas to the full, not preparation that leaves us shattered before the event even starts.

The gift of Advent is time for listening rather than talking, for waiting rather than action, for silence rather than proclamation but it is a time of the year when

the church and our society seem to have very different agendas. Our society seems to have been preoccupied with Christmas since August but the church isn't ready for Christmas until Christmas Eve. That is the theory anyway, but we know we will all be caught up in the 'Christmas rush.' How can we experience the 'spirit of Advent' before we're engulfed by the 'spirit of Christmas?'

Perhaps we need to consciously give God some time, even just a little time each day, a time of silent waiting on him, a time of prayer and penitence. The problem is we often think we can't give this time when we have so much to do, we may feel it's a waste of time or a luxury we can't afford. But we give time to what is important, if we want to celebrate a meaningful Christmas then we have to invest in the preparation – both practical and spiritual.

I pray that as you journey through Advent and celebrate Christmas you will experience the real peace and deep joy that only Jesus can give.

The eccentric Revd Robert Hawker (last month's 'Bits and Pieces') who 'invented' the harvest festival also dressed up as a mermaid, with oilskins round his legs and seaweed round his shoulders he sat on a rock out in Bude Bay and sang, the holiday makers couldn't believe their eyes, now per-

haps I could try that out in the Swale!!!

I shall be the
first on the spot
with my camera

Revd Jean Burrows
01227 751410

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

The Vicarage, 101 The Street
Saturday 12th December
2.00pm till 5.00pm
All ages are welcome to drop
in for tea and cake.



HELP ME OUT OF A JAM

I am desperately in need of a number of standard jam jars. Not coffee or pickles etc. If you can let me have some please give me a ring.

Barbara Taylor
01227 751293

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The Children's Society annual diocesan Christingle Service will be held in the nave of Canterbury Cathedral on Mon-

day 28th December at 3.00 pm. The speaker will be Captain Graham Nunn from the Church Army.

Jan Rhodes



MEET YOUR FRIENDS

Village Hall Saturday 5th December. Come and meet your friends, eat a mince pie,

drink a cup of coffee or tea and do some Christmas shopping! There will also be a raffle for you to enjoy. 10.00am till noon.

Barbara Taylor

SHOES NEWS

Music at the Shoes. On Friday 4th December the Blue Devils are playing from 8.30pm. Then on Saturday December 19th it's 'Open Harp Surgery' with an 8.30pm start. Roger Betts, Kent's top bluesman will be seeing the New Year in starting around 9.30ish. Into 2010 and Keith James will be playing from 8.30pm on January 9th. Dave Gwilliams and his friends will be here to entertain us on Saturday 23rd January to celebrate Burn's Night.

Tales from the bar. Well no matter how you try and train staff it just does not work, not in this pub anyway. It's bad enough getting customers through the

door these days but when the staff decide to chase them out it makes you wonder which side they are on. Guy was trying to reduce the number of logs on the fire when Windy told him that she was feeling cold and to leave it alone. Guy took no notice so Windy took matters into her own hands. Seizing the poker, she chased Guy out the door. She does still work here!

On Spooky Night, Leslie decided that to enhance her spooky costume she would put on white make-up. She thought it would give her a witch-like look. Unfortunately it seemed to have had the reverse effect. Instead of frightening people, everyone told her how

well she looked and what a healthy glow she had.

One day Mick, the Shorts, called into a motorway service station to fill up with petrol. While paying, he thought he'd treat himself to a couple of packets of wine gums. On the way home he got caught up in a traffic jam. To help relieve the boredom while stationary in the traffic he decided to open one of the packets. Before he knew it, he'd eaten the whole packet! Not wishing to appear greedy, he turned off the ignition, took out the keys, opened the glove box and put in the second packet of wine gums. He locked the glove box to make certain that he wouldn't be over the limit if he was stopped by the long arm of the law.

Tales from Windy's bar. To help Vera's joint pains she was bought a 'Tens Therapy Machine'. This is an electronic gadget which helps to relieve aches

and pains. But Vera, being Vera and like a bull in a china shop, took it out of the box, attached the electrodes to her aching joints and turned it on. Wanting instant results, she turned it onto full power. In seconds she was screaming her head off. Frantically trying to get the thing off. It was a good job she wasn't pregnant as this could have had some very serious consequences, not that that was likely anyway. As always, Vera never reads instructions and she paid the price for it. Glad to say she recovered from the shock but you can understand why the bar staff get into so many scrapes. It must rub off from Vera!

All that remains is to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Don't forget we are open for breakfast on New Year's day from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Vera

Dear Editor,

Our mum, Nellie Foster, passed away 13th December last and I wondered if you could put this poem, written by her brother John Giblin in the 'News'. Mum loved visiting the open gardens when she was able and we opened ours and placed her crystals in the children's grotto.

As sunbeams dance
A shaft from heaven
Grass grows from where?
And flowers with celestial colours
Soft textured like an angel's wing
And in a tiny children's grotto
Swinging shining Nellie's things

Thank you from Helen and Peter Bentley and all mum's children and families

Sent in by Steve Castle

BIRD TABLE BLUES

In Winter, Grandma feeds the birds
With kindly thoughts and friendly words,
And biscuit crumbs, and broken baps,
And bacon rinds, and breakfast scraps,
And plates of freshly buttered toast,
And bags of chips and Sunday roast,
And dumplings (huge and hot and steamy),
And home-made pies and gravy (creamy),

And every sort of cheese and bread,
Until each hungry bird is fed
To BURSTING point, to bitter end,
Until their legs begin to bend,
Until they cannot flap or fly,
Until they simply want to die,
Until they roll around on the floor
And weakly twitter, "Stop! No more!"
Then Grandma smiles and says, "Oh good.
I think they're ready for their pud!"

Clare Bevan

....and this too

THE SWEET

I've found a sweet
In my jeans' pocket
It could be a toffee
Or whats' left
Of a sherbet rocket.

It's all covered
In fluff and other stuff

And stuck to some stones
I found in the street.

Scrape off the fluff
And the slime
And all that stuff
Till it looks almost clean

And just.....pop it in .

Tony Bradman

MONDAY CLUB

Well I never – the over 60's group, 'Hernhill Monday Club', has just celebrated its' 36th anniversary. Sadly the number of members has depleted, so the question remains; "Is there anyone out there who would like to join us?" We meet on alternate Monday afternoons for games, chat, possi-

bly speakers, and of course a cuppa with biscuits and a raffle. We meet from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the Village Hall. We also gad about for lunch and for visits. You can get more information from Ann and Peter Saddleton on 01227 751486 or from me.

Letitia 01227 276695

QUANGOS

A new quango appointed by the Government, actually termed a super-quango, has been set up to take a "drive-thru" approach to major national building projects. These will be mainly concerned with nuclear power stations, wind farms, airports, runways and motorways. No objections to any of these new schemes will be permitted, scope for judicial review will be limited and only brief public hearings will be held. It appears to me that the appointment of such a self-ruling body, operating

outside well-defined planning legislation, is a further step along the road to the totalitarianism pervading what used to be a free and democratic country. This whole scheme – 'The Infrastructure Planning Commission' - will be overseen by Sir Michael Pitt. He is the one-time Chief Executive of Kent County Council. His salary - a paltry £184,000 per annum indicates that he will only be working part-time (surely no one works a full week for such a pittance).

Terry Smart

PLAYERS SOCIAL CLUB



There will be another fun evening of 'Wine and Wisdom' in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 9th January.

For information and tickets please ring Jan Leaning (01795 534937) or me.

Jim Parker 01227 275777

HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING

A big 'thank you' to everyone who supported the Hospice coffee morning. Together we have raised £610 for the worthy cause.

Anne Butler

BITS AND PIECES

Having just come back from a holiday in Egypt, I can speak with authority on the repetitious nature of their art. When you have just seen the tenth depiction of Ramesses II making offerings to the Gods I think my point is fully established. And that was just in the first temple. Of course, there is no reason to suspect his devotion to the Gods, but I have a sneaking feeling that carvings of goddesses in topless dresses and diaphanous skirts may have given him some encouragement. However, as far as I am concerned, with the temperature outside at over 90°F, the temptations of a cold gin and tonic under a sunshade were greater.

When I rang home, I was sorry to hear that you were experiencing gale force winds and heavy rain. However, that was nothing compared with the weather in the North since I came back. The situation in Cumbria has been truly appalling. What it must be like with extensive floods, your home ruined and bridges washed-away is hard to imagine.

Of course, being on holiday was not without its problems. There was the food. There were only twelve in our party and three of them managed to go down to 'Gyp tummy'. They failed to obey the warnings about the water, salads and unpeeled fruit. There was also another food hazard. Too much; cooked breakfast, four course lunch, tea with fresh-cooked doughnuts and a five-course supper. There can be little

doubt that a crash diet is required. And now Christmas is coming! That won't help a bit.

I have just received an Easter card from Aunt Agatha. She says that there is great unrest in the 'Royal Pelagonian Postal Service'. The main dispute is about the change of name to the 'Regional & International Post' and especially with respect to the new cap badge. Because of the problems Auntie says that there is little point in sending me a Christmas card and hopes that her Easter card will arrive in time for that festival. Never-the-less, I still intend to send her a card this Christmas; in time for 2010.



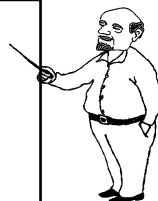
A date for your next year diary. The concerts this year have been so well received that we have been encouraged to have more. The Restoration Committee is now working on getting a professional vocal quartet from St Petersburg to give a concert in our church. The date will be **Saturday 27th February**. If we are successful in booking them, it will be something really special and you I urge you not to miss it by being double-booked.

May this Christmas be a happy one for you and your family and friends. Best wishes for the New Year.

ADT

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**COPY
DATE
Mon
25th
Jan**



Dec 1 Tues	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 2	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 6	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Mon 7	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 8	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 9	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Janet Bryant - Christmas tales
Sat 12	2 to 5.00pm	The vicarage	Open house
Sun 13	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 15	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sat 19	5.00pm	Village Green	Carols on Hernhill Village Green
Sun 20	6.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Nine lessons & carols
Mon 21	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 22	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Thurs 24	4.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Blessing the crib
	11.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Christmas Eve service
Fri 25	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Mon 28	3.00pm	Cant Cathedral	Cristingle Service
Tues 29	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Jan 3 Sun	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Mon 4	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 5	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 6	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
9 Sat	7.30pm	Village Hall	Wine and Wisdom
10 Sun	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
12 Tues	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
13 Wed	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI Peter Kennet - Old Faversham Slides
17 Sun	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Plough Sunday
18 Mon	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
19 Tues	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
24 Sun	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
26 Tues	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
27 Wed	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
31 Sun	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	School Service - all welcome