



HERNHILL NEWS

FEBRUARY 2012

PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council took place on Wednesday 25th January. With the exception of Mrs Geliot, who sent apologies, all Councillors were present, as were Mr G Bobbin, two members of the public and the Clerk. The minutes of the meeting held on 30th November

2011 were signed as a true record. **Matters arising:** it was noted that Wellside is still in an unkempt state; however, the Parish Council is not responsible for it. The matters at the Black Oast have been resolved in as far as the Parish Council is concerned.

Reports: Mr Woods agreed to obtain quotes for the crown-lifting of the Village Green oak tree. The work will probably take place in the Spring. He also commented favourably on the Christmas Tree on the Village Green and wondered whether it could be made an annual fixture. EDF are to be warned about the dangerous height of trees grow-



ing through power lines at Fairbrook. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June: there appear to be various schemes afoot already and villagers are encouraged to join in. The Chairman pointed out that time is shortening

and all should try to make the day a success.

The Clerk has received a letter from Swale's Head of Community Services to the effect that it is considering the setting up of a Local Loan Fund to support voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors in the area. Applications to join in this initiative should be made before Friday 2nd March. Loans will only be granted to organisations and not to individuals. Any organisation interested can obtain details on reference to the Clerk.

The footpath down to the Fostall is again in need of attention and Mr Morsman will inform the appropri-

Chairman: Helen Figgis 01227 751149

e-mail helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com

Clerk: Terry Smart; phone 01227 247047

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 752840

and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

ate Department This he has already done twice, but so far without success. The resident adjacent to the old Silver Sand Nursery site in the Thanet Way area reported very little progress in his efforts to eject the squatter there. This matter has continued now for a number of months, with few signs of completion.

The Clerk is to write to Cllr. Bowles, protesting strongly over the proposed closure of the Salter Lane rubbish collection site. He is also to mention that the sites for placement of the speed restriction signs should be (1) at the top of Church

Hill and (2) at a point to be decided later somewhere between the junction of Church Hill and Staple Street, and a point along the road leading to the Mount Ephraim entrance. It is very difficult to decide exactly where the sign should go, as the whole stretch is treated as a speed track. If the sign is a mobile one, it should not be difficult to locate it elsewhere if the original placement proves to be faulty.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

VILLAGE HALL CHAIRMAN REQUIRED!!

We have not been inundated with applications for this post, or with new members for the Committee – surprise, surprise!!

It is essential we find a new Chairman by the end of August 2012, as I shall be standing down from this post after the next AGM.

PLEASE if you know anyone who would like to get involved with this very important Village resource to ensure its ongoing operation ask

them to get in touch with me, or any member of the Committee and come along to a meeting.

We meet currently every two months, so it's not a big commitment, and generally the meetings are over in 1 hour.

PLEASE do not ignore this request – it's YOUR Village Hall – ensure it has a good future.

Thank you
David Mann – Chairman
0773 6463921
email dsmann50@msn.com

HERNHILL HORTICULTURAL A.G.M

The committee have decided that the election of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer should be more formal. The people who hold these offices at present are willing to stand again but proposals for other candidates are very welcome. Proposals for all candidates (whether present holders or new)

for these offices should be made by using the official form and sent to Tony Pettifer at Casa Mia bella, Bounds Lane, Boughton ME13 9AR, or e-mailed to tonypettifer@gmail.com by the 14th February. Please make sure the candidate is willing to stand and that the proposal is seconded by another member of the society.

Jill Geliot

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

There is a long and unbroken tradition in our country of celebrating Royal Jubilees, weddings and coronations with the lighting of beacons, whether they be from church towers, castle battlements, town and village greens, estates and tops of mountains. We will be organising an event along with the lighting of the beacon at Crockham Banks, Hernhill to mark the Queens Diamond Jubilee. It will be lit on Monday 4th June along with 2012 (or more) beacons along the length and breadth of the UK to mark this important and historic moment in the Queen's reign. We have registered on the official beacon site and are awaiting further details of the time allocated to us in Hemhill for lighting the beacon, the queen



is to light hers at 10.30pm.

More details about tickets (mainly for number crunching and which will be sold in aid of charity) and times will follow but there will be a beef BBQ with the beef supplied having been reared on the same banks on which the beacon is to be lit! Another nice touch would be if villagers would place a torch or nightlight outside their home to mark the event on Monday 4th June. I have also just read on the official site that a 'Big Jubilee Lunch' on Sunday 3rd June has been announced, quite simply they want to get as many folks as possible to sit down and have lunch with their neighbours. It's all about community, friendship and fun. Activities will be announced shortly.

The Summer Lees Event team

THE LION'S ROAR

Well here at The Red Lion the last couple of months have raced by in a festive whirlwind of Christmas parties and New Year's Celebrations! I can't think of a better way to celebrate the New Year than as the village pub landlord with all my friends, family and loyal customers around me. I know I had a fantastic night and whatever you were doing, I hope you did too and that 2012 brings you good health and prosperity.

We kick started the New Year with a visit from the ever popular band, 'Hullabuloo' proving that there's life in January yet! We hope to see them return in the summer months. January also saw the return of the

Red Lion Go-Karting day out and with much personal annoyance I have to say congratulations to the winners "Leggs"! As promised, monthly Traditional Pie & Mash night is now in full swing.

I hope you will support the Lady Mayoress's Charity Quiz Night that we will be hosting on Wednesday 8th February at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12.50 including sausage and mash or a vegetarian option and are on sale at the pub. Proceeds from ticket sales will support the charities the "Dogs Trust" and "Hounds for Heroes".

Finally, if you get a chance please have a look at this pleasing review in www.news.caterer.com.

Ben Edwards



RESTORATION FUND

St. Michael's, Hernhill, Kent

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 249972

RESTORATION FUND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Restoration Fund Committee began its first year of operation in 2007. It had two particular targets to meet. One was to raise awareness of the importance of St. Michael's Church to the community and to the landscape. The second was to raise funds to restore the fabric where the architects report (the Quinquennial) identified that deterioration had occurred. This specific work of restoration, which will have cost nearly £160,000, is now in its final phase. Although there is still work to be done and money to be found, the goal is in sight. With your sustained help, with one final effort, we will see the end of this project by the end of this year.

A report from the Fabric Committee is included. Not only have Malcolm and Jan been supervising the work of the builders, they have been getting grants from a number of charities for the restoration work. You can also see that a number of improvements have been made to church facilities in

parallel with and in addition to the work of restoration.

It seems that new materials will now allow the continuous re-painting of the Forth Bridge to be a thing of the past. We don't have that possibility. We are dealing with a building that was built before Henry VIII was born. Inevitably there will be other parts of the fabric to repair or replace that are not in the present list. These will have to be addressed as they come to light, but for the moment we can be pleased that one very big project is nearly done. With your continued help, the Restoration project is expected to be completed by the end of 2012. With that belief, the Committee has decided that it will retire at the end of the year, its tasks fulfilled.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank you for all your wonderful support in the past. Please make 2012 another successful year for us.

Alan Taylor

FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT
Quinquennial Repairs, 2011 saw the completion of phase 1 of the project. This included all the work requiring scaffolding, that is, all necessary repairs to the tower down to the lower level and to the porch. Additionally repairs were carried out to the roof of the vestry (ex-organ chamber) and the replacement of the rainwater goods. Work outstanding ie phase 2, covers replacement and repairs to stonework at lower level of the tower to include the West Door and to the lower level windows and buttresses.
Additional to the offer of £13,000

from Viridor Environmental Company, an offer of £5,000 has been received from Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust.

Disabled Toilet Facilities. 2011 saw the completion of the disabled toilet together with the baby changing facility and the kitchenette area. This proves to be a welcome asset and helps to provide more opportunity for increasing the use of the church. We must thank the Architect, Robert George and the contractors B W May for their hard work in bringing the project to a successful conclusion.

Malcolm Rhodes

TREASURER'S REPORT

2011 has been another very successful year for the Restoration Fund. Events we have held were a Beetle Drive, which raised nearly £400; a smaller art exhibition than last year, but which still produced over £160; a cake stall at Faversham Market made £782, and the B-B-Q Breakfast in September raised over £600. In October the UK Paper Brass Band entertained us in the church and, in spite of a rather small audience, we made nearly £170.

Other fund-raising included the sales of; books (£110), plants (£150), a cake stall at the Open Gardens (nearly £470), and stalls at the Flower Festival raised a magnificent £621. At Easter, we were again given a giant chocolate egg to raffle which realized over

£65.

Brian Jelfs once more produced a high quality calendar which shows off the work of local artists. He also had the designs printed as cards. Thanks to his efforts he has made a profit of over £560 so far. There will be further income paid into the account, and there are cards still available for sale, so this amount will increase during 2012.

Donations have totalled over £2,660, and Gift Aid for the donations in 2010 and in 2011 contributed a further £1,594.

Many thanks are due to all the organisers and contributors of the above. As a result, £8,353 has gone into the accounts for 2011.

The first phase of restoration work has been completed, and phase two begun. We have paid out £72,199 so far for this work. In ad-

dition to local fund-raising we have had £13,576 of the VAT payments returned to us, and had grants of £36,000 from various bodies.
Joyce Robb

VICAR'S REPORT

How wonderful to have the scaffolding down at last and to be able to see the new stonework gleaming in the sunlight, especially on the tower. After the tower was finished we had work done on the porch but there is still restoration work to be done on the rest of the church and then there is the roof, a project for 2013. The challenges can seem unending but with a good team of workers and great support from the village we are slowly getting there. I still meet people who are surprised to learn that the church, even though a Grade I listed building, receives no financial help from the government. So any donations, especially Gift Aided donations, you can give us are invaluable.

Thank you to Alan Taylor and all the Restoration Committee for their creative and enjoyable fund raising during the year, with different events and the Hernhill calendar and cards we've seen a good amount raised. Thanks are also due to Jan and Malcolm Rhodes who have continued with grant applications and overseeing the whole project. Without such willing volunteers the fabric of the church would just continue to decay. It is a huge task for a small village like Hernhill to maintain an ancient building so thank you to everyone who has supported our fund raising efforts during the year and please continue your support through this coming year.

Revd Jean Burrows



DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

Boughton, Dunkirk and Hernhill Festival Choir will be performing **Stainer's Crucifixion** on Good Friday evening in Boughton Parish Church. All singers are welcome to join us. Rehearsals will start at St Barnabas Church, Boughton on Wednesday 8th February 7.45-8.30pm. Phone Philippe 01795 521470 for more details.

Boughton, Dunkirk and Hernhill Church Choir is looking for new members. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings, 7.00 – 8.00 at St Barnabas Church, The Street, Boughton for services at 10.00 am on Sundays. Enthusiasm is more important than experience and you do not have to be an existing church-goer. Phone me for more details.

Revd Jean Burrows 01227 751410

CHURCH URBAN FUND

Please would contributors bring their Church Urban Fund boxes to me in church before the end of February. If you are not able to do this, would you please ring me and I will arrange for it to be collected.

Thank you all for your continued support. With the difficulties that some families are facing, your gifts are even more valuable.

Barbara Taylor 01227 751293

HERNHILL ARTISTS' CALENDAR

Copies of this attractive calendar for 2012 are still available but stocks are diminishing fast. London Olympic dates and lovely images painted by local artists, what better adornment for your

home and all proceeds from sales go to the St Michael's Restoration Fund.

Cost £5. 00 with strong envelope; please contact me and if necessary, calendars will be delivered to your home.

Brian Jelfs 01227 752309

HERNHILL VILLAGE HALL

A belated happy Christmas and New Year to everyone.

We are extremely grateful to the Queenborough Fishery Trust and Councilor Bowles (through the KCC Community Fund) for the generous donations made to the Village Hall that enabled us to press ahead with the kitchen refurbishment. This has just been completed for us by Jask Builders to their usual high standard of work. I am sure those of you who have already seen it "in progress" will be very impressed. We believe that this now moves the Village Hall into the 21st Century! I would also like to thank Joy Pritchard, Joy Congdon and Liz Walton (plus others) for helping sort out the old crockery etc and select/locate the new crockery for the kitchen. The new "Range Cooker" and Fridge will help those using the

kitchen for events etc to reheat/keep cool food. We have also added in a "recycling" area with bins to segregate waste for recycling and a can and bottle crusher to reduce waste volume. A storage cupboard has been included for cleaning materials and all the cupboards have pull out drawers or corner systems that avoid reaching back into them to select items or store items with everything on view. We also took the opportunity to raise the floor level to remove the step down into the kitchen making it easier to enter for all concerned. If you have not been to the Village Hall recently, why not pop along and have a look. We think that you will be pleasantly surprised! It is hoped that this upgrade will encourage more villagers to use the hall facilities in the future as it's now a much more light and airy hall and is probably one of the cheapest to hire in the area. For bookings

please contact the Red Lion on the Village Green 01227 751207.

Thank you

David Mann
Chairman

The Village Hall Committee

DAWES CA

Open Dawes has had a busy year. The Exchange Cafe has been buzzing with table tennis, craft activities for children and golf coaching with Boughton Golf Club pros. We have held BSL signing brunches, Art Workshops and Nature Walks. The Festive Fun evening before Christmas was a great success, we filled the village hall with crafts, games, music and enjoyed a fish-and-chip supper. The children have also enjoyed participating in activities organised by other community groups, including making a display for the Flower Festival with the expert help of Vicky Hodgkiss and winning prizes for their entries into the Horticultural Society

Show. The parents, have really enjoyed seeing new faces and meeting villagers who move in different circles from those of us with young children.

2012 activities have included a walk on Elmley Marshes on 22nd January with RSPB expert Alan Johnson, a fun science workshop, tennis coaching and continuing music, art, craft and BSL workshops. Please check the DawesCA or Hernhill Forum websites for updates on all Open Dawes activities. Everybody is very welcome to join in and if you have skills or knowledge you would like to share with the village children & families, please contact me.

Miriam Layton
01227 752189

DOVE DOINGS

A belated Happy New Year to our friends and customers! The festive season certainly seems to have flown by and Phill is back in the kitchen after our break in the Forest of Dean! It looks like he has some brushing up to do as after our own 'Come Dine With Me' contest in which Phill came a mere third and I won, he is feeling a little threatened (as if...). On a serious note, Phill has returned to the kitchen with fresh cooking ideas and is busy creating the flavours that are to appear on his menu over the next few weeks.

We are looking forward to the Bat

and Trap season starting in May and we shall be having a friendly to decide on a team for The Dove ahead of May. Anyone who fancies their hand at this age-old Kentish pub game should come along and meet the rest on Sunday 15th April or contact us for more details. **YOUR PUB NEEDS YOU!** (and of course a wealth of supporters willing to cheer you on!).

Kicking off our events calendar for 2012, we have a Wine Tasting evening on Tuesday 28th February. The evening will be hosted by Sue Brooker, wine expert from Hatch Mansfield in association with Todds Wine Company and Shepherd

Neame. Accompanied by light bites prepared by Phill it is a snip at just £7.95 per person!

Finally I would just like to take this opportunity to recognise our staff who have helped us through yet an-

other Christmas at The Dove and indeed for their efforts, understanding and support during the ups and downs of 2011!

Sarah

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Highgrove Gardens Trip. I have looked on the website and visits to the gardens will cost £507 for up to 26 people, that works out at £19:50 per person if the full 26 people can be mustered. Last years quote for a coach to take us there was £500 so the total cost will be between £40 to £50 for the trip.

The Highgrove trip will be extra to the usual summer full-day outings and suggestions for these will be available at the AGM.

Isabel Pettifer.

The AGM will be on Thursday 16th February at the Village Hall 7.00pm

for 7.30pm. The meeting will be followed by a talk on dahlias by guest speaker Len Olives.

The Spring Show will be held on 24th March in the Village Hall

Peter Bentley



STAPLEGATE WI

Our first meeting of the New Year was held on 11th Jan, and we were very appreciative of the splendid new kitchen with the crockery and cutlery to enhance it. We look forward to using the brand new oven etc. at future events.

Our speaker was Peter Kennett who brought along a wonderful selection of old slides showing the evolvement of Faversham from a busy 19th century country town to the one we know now. We saw how buildings had altered, some not for

the better, how new roads had been built, and the construction of the modern station. Many members could trace the changes and much discussion was enjoyed.

We congratulated Barbara Taylor on her splendid contribution to the Institutes Fund through the Webb Ivory catalogue. We also sent our condolences to those who have suffered bereavements recently.

Next month's meeting will be on 8th Feb and we always welcome guests and new members.

Liz Walton.

FROM THE VICAR

Lent which begins on 22 February is often seen, sadly I think, as a

negative time of year when you are meant to give up chocolate or alcohol or yelling at the children. I

prefer to think of Lent as a positive time, a time of spring cleaning and of growth, a time to take stock of our relationship with God and with each other.

For Christians the relationship with God is one of friendship, not master/slave or monarch/subject. It may sound very presumptuous to say God is my friend but Jesus in John's gospel tells his disciples they are his friends not his servants, if we are Christians then we are disciples (which means learners) and therefore friends.

Our friendship with God grows, and is maintained, through prayer. We don't have to go through elaborate rituals to communicate with God, neither do we have to talk all the time, just as with earthly friends sometimes it is enough simply to be together. Just as with human friendship, our friendship with God will have seen many changes over the years. As with human friendship our friendship with God needs time spent on it, (but not just once a year!) and it means listening as well as talking,

prayer is a telephone not a Dictaphone. We have two ears but only one mouth and should try using them in those proportions. Learning to listen to God takes time as we learn to recognise his voice and the many and varied ways in which he speaks to us.

Why not use the time of Lent to deepen your friendship with God? It will take time and effort but that is part of what Lent is about. You could read a Christian book that will enlarge your understanding of God or of being a Christian. You could spend more time in prayer and quiet reflection, go to an extra service in church, take yourself out for a walk or do random (or planned) acts of kindness. Your friendship with God will grow more deeply and more quickly than you imagine. The word 'Lent' is connected with 'growth,' how about making a conscious effort for this Lent to be a time of growth for you and God together?

Revd Jean Burrows
01227 751410

BITS AND PIECES

Financial commentators are continuing to pump out forecasts of gloom and doom. In some European countries this is already being experienced and unemployment is rising throughout the developed World. One can only hope that we, in the UK, will be more fortunate although it is clear that some families are already in difficulties. In wishing everyone a happy New Year, I hope that those who are

anxious about their future find a happy solution to their problems. So passes another Christmas and New Year. Now we must get down to the serious business of losing the weight that we put on despite all the good intentions and resolutions that we made before the festive season started.

Although it was cold, the weather was kind to us in December. Unlike the previous event when, if you remember there was a blizzard, it did

not snow for 'Carols on the Green'. Well over 100 adults and children came to sing and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies in the church afterwards. It was a most pleasant start to the season and the church looked suitably festive with a magnificent Christmas tree and cribs from around the World on display. There were also cribs made by children from the school. Congratulations to all concerned.

And now it is just turning cold. After a very mild December the garden is not sure what season it is in. I have roses, wall flowers, and crocuses blooming and magnolias in bud all at the same time. I'm no gardener, but that is crazy isn't it?

If you see the Faversham Times, you will be aware of their front-page concern for the future of the household waste recycling centre at Salters Lane, Faversham. There is some concern that if it closes, there might be an increase in fly-tipping. Whatever the truth of that, there is certainly a blight of it in this Village. Most recently there was a load of builders waste dumped on the corner between Woodlands and Godfrey's Grave. There are frequently loads dumped on the road between Dargate and Dunkirk and there has been an unsightly mess at the en-

trance to Oakleigh Manor Landscape. If you want to know more, there is an consultation document at kent.gov.uk/hwrcconsultation.

If you would like to contribute to the discussion, you will need to make a submission by Thursday 9th February.

Fly tipping is not the only nuisance. There have been complaints about dogs fouling the footpaths, cats digging up flowers and the constant problem of litter. To think, we have been winners of the 'Best Kept Village in Kent'. That was long ago but if there is anything you can do as an individual to improve things, we will all benefit.

I have been advised that 'Kent Creative Arts has moved into the Alexander Centre in Faversham. This means that the Kent Photo Library, among other things, can now be found there. Their phone number is 01795 597576.

David Mann has again been forced to appeal for someone to take over from him as chairman of the Village Hall Committee. Surely there is someone, man or woman, who can spare a little time for this really worthwhile task. At the very least, talk to David and find out what is involved. Please, someone, help.

ADT

To book the Village Hall ring the Red Lion 01227 751207

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

**COPY
DATE
Mon
27th
Feb**



Wed 1 Feb	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 5	10.00am	St Michael's Ch	Plough Sunday
Mon 6	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Comt
Tues 7	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 8	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Heselden Hats, Millinery
Sun 12	8.00am	St Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 14	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Thurs 16	7.00pm	Village Hall	Horticultural Soc AGM and speaker
Sun 19	10.00am	St Michael's Ch	All Ages Service & thanksgiving
Mon 20	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	7.45pm	Village Hall	Fete Committee
Tues 21	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 26	8.00am	St Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 28	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 29	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 4 Mar	10.00am	St Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Mon 5	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 6	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 7	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 11	8.00am	St Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 13	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 14	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Colin Breen, Zeebrugge disaster
Sun 18	10.00am	St Michael's Ch	All Ages Service & baptism
Mon 19	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 20	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sat 24	-----	-----	Horticultural Soc Spring Show
Sun 25	8.00am	St Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 27	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 28	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council