



# HERNHILL NEWS

## FEBRUARY 2013

### PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 30th January 2013 from 8:05pm to 8:55pm

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

The minutes of the meeting of the full Council held on Wednesday 28th November 2012, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### Reports

1. The drains in Plumpudding Lane are noted as not working properly and will be reported to KCC.
2. Councillors discussed the usage of Hernhill Parish Council noticeboards, and agreed that they should only be used for Parish Council matters or advertising Village events.
3. Further to winning an award from Kent Men of the Trees, it was decid-

ed to request a Liquid Amber tree or Himalayan Birch tree as the prize.

4. It was reported that the public are generally supportive of the new temporary digital speed limiter signs that have been placed in Village. The location of one near Church Oast is in question as it does have some negative impact on local residential property.

5. It was reported that the caravans have been removed from Silver-sands Nursery.

6. The planning report and current planning applications were circulated among the Councillors .

The Clerk circulated a report on current financial matters to the chairman. It was agreed that the accounts report of 30th January be approved.

**Correspondence** there was nothing to report

**New allotments** Following a discussion, it was agreed that contracts for the new allotments need to be drafted and checked by a solicitor. It was reported that whilst the

Chairman: Helen Figgis 01227 751149  
e-mail [helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com](mailto:helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com)

Clerk: Sarah Muteham 01227 751053 or 07740 706189  
[sarah.muteham@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sarah.muteham@tiscali.co.uk)

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

majority of full size plots have been taken, there are still two full size plots available.

The next meeting of the parish

council is to be on Wednesday 27th February 2013 at 8:00pm.

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



### WINE & WISDOM

Run by the Players Social Club, this will be held on Saturday 23rd February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

All are welcome. Tickets are £6.00 from me with profits to charities.

Jan Leaning  
01795 534937

### HERNHILL CALENDAR

The P.C.C. has agreed to the production of a calendar for 2014 for the Roof Restoration Fund. This will be of work by local artists and preferably of local scenes.

If you have artwork that you would like to have considered I will take great care of it. It will made availa-

ble to you by the end of March.

I need to have your originals by the last day of February at the latest delivered to Crockham Farm Cottage, Crockham Lane, Hernhill with your name and phone number attached.

Brian Jelfs 01227 752309  
brian.jelfs3@btinternet.com

### CHURCH URBAN FUND

Time to start counting.

Please will you bring your boxes to me or one of the Church Wardens. Please include your name so that I don't ask you again after you have

already handed yours in.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Barbara Taylor  
01227 751293

### FROM THE VICAR

Christmas and New Year is a special time for thinking about, and perhaps renewing, friendships. I receive many letters and cards from people who I don't see or hear from the rest of the year but we still stay in touch and I love to hear their news and see their photos. Not all those people are friends but they are significant people from my past including previous colleges and parishes, Guiding and holidays. I

think friends are people who I speak to, if not see, regularly and to call all my acquaintances friends is not quite true. Lent begins on 13th February. This is a time for Christians to think about friendship, particularly our friendship with God. That may seem a strange topic for Lent but it is a time when we reflect on our growth as Christians.

Being a Christian is about having a relationship with God, and Jesus

tells his disciples (and therefore us as Christians) what sort of relationship it is, 'No longer do I call you servants but friends.' To be called a friend of God is a great privilege and something to be valued. The basis of our relationship is simply spending time with God, perhaps in silence, maybe talking and listening to him.

Use the season of Lent to first of all assess your friendship with God and then to act on deepening that friendship. It may be through a variety of ways, there's no rule that says you only do one thing in Lent. You may read a Christian book you wouldn't normally read, there are many Lent books that come out each year. You may wish to spend more time in prayer and quiet reflection, go to an extra service in church, take yourself out for a prayer walk. Your friendship with God will grow more deeply and more quickly than you imagine.

The word 'Lent' is connected with 'growth'. Let this Lent be a season of growth for you and God together so when you come to celebrate Easter your friendship with God is deepened and renewed.

Several families from Hernhill have been coming to Messy Church and having a great time. It is for all the family to enjoy together and includes a story, lots of crafts, singing and sharing a meal together. It is on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 3.30 pm in St Barnabas in The Street, Boughton. It is free although you are invited to give a donation on the day. The next is February 16th when we are looking at the story of Joshua and the walls coming tumbling down. Lots of exciting messy ideas there. Visit our Facebook page for photos: [facebook.com/messychurchboughton](https://www.facebook.com/messychurchboughton)

Revd Jean Burrows

### **LION'S ROAR**

It was great to see so many of you over the Christmas and New Year period and now the decorations are down and the snow has passed I wish you all a prosperous 2013.

As January is notoriously a quiet month in the pub trade, with everyone treating themselves to a well deserved detox and purses recovering from the Christmas excess, we decided to make the most of this time and spruced up with some new wooden tables and comfy leather chairs in certain areas of the pub.

With the heavy footfall during the winter months the floors needed a well overdue sanding down too, so we are now ready for 2013!

So for all of you guys preparing for Lent we will be celebrating Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday for you traditionalists, on Tuesday 12th February. All day we will be serving PANCAKES! This will work on an "all you can eat" basis for £5, so let us do the hard work and keep your kitchen batter splatter free. Our big event this month is of

course Valentine's Day. Impress your loved one with our new chef's special Valentine's menu; three tantalising courses for £24.95. Choose from a variety of dishes including classic French onion soup with heart shaped croutons, braised Kentish beef in red wine and orange and passion fruit brulee. If those don't take your fancy come in and peruse the other options at your lei-

sure. Do book in advance as reservations will be a must!

Finally, as many of you already know, Nick O'Shea and Will Dawes are running the London Marathon again this year in aid of Action for Hearing Loss. They will be holding a fund-raising quiz night in the coming months, so watch this space for details on how to book your table!

Ben Edwards

### **WHITSTABLE & TANKERTON HOSPITAL**

The reception at Whitstable and Tankerton Hospital is being moved temporarily while maintenance and improvement work is being carried out by NHS Kent and Medway in the New Year.

The reception area will be accessed through the car park rather than at the front of the building between early January and March.

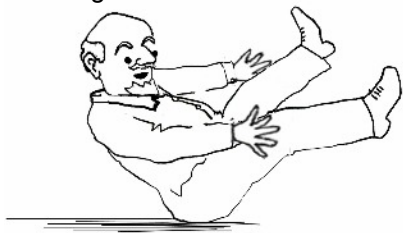
NHS Kent and Medway is working closely with Kent Community

Health NHS Trust and East Kent Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust to minimise disruption to patients while maintenance and updates are carried out to the electrics, fire safety, plumbing and some patient areas.

Nearby residents have been contacted about possible parking disruption while the work is ongoing. Anyone with concerns can contact the project manager Clive Baker, on 01227 791172, or 07818 587337

### **ICED UP?**

Sarah Muteham has organised a one tonne bag of grit/salt free from KCC which has been put by the bottle banks at the Village Hall car park. It is for local residents to come and take for their own use. Now the weather is cold we might need it!



# **Many Thanks**

View the results & share a glass  
with the Committee Members

**St. Michael's Church  
Sunday 17th February  
at 11.30am**



# RESTORATION FUND

St. Michael's, Hernhill, Kent

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 249972

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At the end of January this year the Restoration Fund Committee retires. There have been six years of dedicated effort from its members who deserve and have my heartfelt thanks. Over that period they have been responsible for 31 fund-raising initiatives varying from concerts to clay pigeon shoots, breakfasts to beetle drives.

All that the Committee set out to do has been achieved. The vital work on the tower, the porch and the stonework around the windows is now complete. The building is no longer in serious danger.

When we started, the task before us looked daunting if not impossible. Grants were available from various charities, but almost without exception they required that we should provide funds by our own efforts. Often it was the case that grants had to be matched, like for like, with our own contributions. This meant that we had to find tens of thousands of pounds by our own efforts. We have enjoyed the sup-

port of both individuals and Village organisations in this task and with your help, we have succeeded. From so small a community I think this is a remarkable achievement.

Thank you for helping us to maintain this beautiful building. We are truly grateful for your support over the years. Of course, essential maintenance of this ancient building must continue in the future. We now have to deal with the roof, and some £24,000 will be needed for that project. The unused money that has been by raised for the original Restoration Fund will help to start a 'Roof Restoration Fund' for this purpose.

The Restoration Committee members would like to thank you for your support by treating you to a pre-lunch drink and nibbles in St. Michael's Church on Sunday 17th February at 11.30am. All Villagers and church members are most welcome. Please come, enjoy a drink with us and see for yourselves what has been achieved.

Alan Taylor, Chairman

## THE FABRIC

The quinquennial inspection of 2006 revealed the need for urgent repairs to the external stonework, the replacement of some roof lead

and new guttering and down-pipes. The work was due to start on 1st June 2010 with completion the following October. Scaffolding was erected in July, remaining in place

until May 2011 as unfortunately things were worse than anticipated and the severe winter of 2009 had not helped. The tower's turret was in such a dangerous state it had to be virtually rebuilt and additional damage to the tower was discovered. Work included replacement of the wooden louvers, so stopping jackdaws nesting in the belfry. New lead was put on the vestry roof (forensically coded against theft). Repair/replacement of all rainwater goods was needed. Also, several bees' nests had to be safely removed. Once the scaffolding was removed it marked the end of the high work (everything two metres above ground).

With the project cost increasing it was decided not to proceed with the second phase until more funds were available. Conscious of further deterioration and spiralling costs if

left too long, after obtaining more grants, the second phase was authorised and started in March 2012. This involved the repair and/or replacement of the stone around the windows, the west door and the porch. Completion was in June.

External stonework repairs to the chancel are planned for later this year. The cost of this will be met by the Church Commissioners.

Structurally, the church is probably better now than it has been for years. However, the work to ensure our beautiful church remains in good condition continues with the repair of the north aisle roof this year. Furthermore, the next quinquennial inspection is overdue and what surprises will that bring?

Peter Willcocks,  
Church Warden

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

### **Income 2012**

It was a relatively quiet year as we only held two main fund raising events; the BBQ breakfast which raised nearly £900, and the cake stall in Faversham which made £735.

Other income included the rest of the money from sales of the 2011 calendar and postcards. This amount was over £600. The total over both years exceeded £1,160; a magnificent sum. The raffle of a giant Easter Egg in the church raised £100. Sales of books at the fete totalled £64 and plant sales made a further £142. Also included

were the donations from the Crib Festival in the church in December 2011, which raised nearly £23. Many thanks to all who worked so hard on these occasions.

Money donated throughout the year totalled £1,515 and the Gift Aid was £831.

We are very grateful for the support of the Dawes Community Association who on three occasions have donated some of the profits from their Firework displays.

We were very fortunate to receive £27,000 in grants, and the repayment of the VAT was £7,489.

## **Expenditure 2012**

Phase two work on the church building was completed. The cost of the work this year was £45,835

## **Six-year totals**

The figures for the whole of the six years of our fund raising are as follows:

Events and other fundraising	28,350
Donations	£23,228
Gift Aid	5,118
Total of fund raising	£56,696

This represents an average of nearly £9,500 per year for the six years. I am sure you will agree that this is

a magnificent total for a very small village to have raised.

Also we have been generously supported by several outside organisations who have made us grants totalling £87,000.

The total income from all sources over the six years was £143,696. The cost of the work was £159,567 which was reduced by the £21,066 that we could reclaim for the VAT paid on the bills. Total expenditure was therefore £138,501.

This gives a surplus of £5,195, which will provide the beginning of the 'Roof Restoration Fund' and there is a further sum due to us for Gift Aid of the order of £400 to add to that figure.

Joyce Robb, Treasurer

## **VICARS 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 1 listed building, receives no financial help from the government at all (apart from Gift Aid on donations) so any 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

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2012

### INCOME

#### Profits from events

BBQ Breakfast	£881.15	
Market cake stall	£735.10	
Total		£1,616.25

#### Other fund raising

Crib festival	£22.73	
Calendars and cards	£602.90	
Easter egg raffle	£100.00	
Sale of books	£64.00	
Sale of plants	£142.00	
Total		£931.63

Gift aided donations		£1,175.00
Other donations		£340.00

#### Grants

Colyer Fergusson	£5,000.00	
Viridor	£13,000.00	
Friends of Kent Churches	£5,000.00	
Marshalls	£4,000.00	
		£27,000.00
Gift Aid		£831.61
VAT repayment		£1,489.44

TOTAL INCOME **£39,383.93**

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### EXPENDITURE

S & T Fullers Builders Ltd	£10,771.03	
Atlas Stone	£33,106.85	
Lee Evans, Architects	£1,957.32	

TOTAL EXPENDITURE **£45,835.20**

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INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE for 2012 **-£6,451.27**

Amount in bank	£11,606.15	
Cash in hand	£40.27	
Total		£11,646.42

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**OVERALL TOTAL £5,195.15**



### **BE A FRIEND**

During 2012 I took on the role of Friends secretary once more and I am looking forward to reinvigorating the scheme and I hope that in 2013 more people will become Friends. A huge thank you to those who have

been a friend for a number of years (some as long as ten years). If you have an e-mail address, please let me know ([jill@geliot.plus.com](mailto:jill@geliot.plus.com)) as I can then e-mail newsletters to you, so saving costs. Best wishes for 2013  
Jill Geliot

### **STAPLEGATE?**

Our Institute was joined by two Federation advisors this month to formally take a vote on the future of our group. Consequentially it was decided to suspend our membership of the National body of the WI for three years. However, many longstanding friendships have been formed over the years and members were keen

to continue meeting in an informal manner, and therefore we will be following a full programme of events and speakers under the aegis of a women's group. We will still meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in Hernhill Village Hall at 7.45pm and we will welcome anybody who would like to join us.  
Liz Walton.

### **CAROLS ON THE GREEN**

Although the wind and rain meant we had to use the church instead of the green plenty of people came to sing lustily and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies afterwards. The collection was in aid of Embrace the Middle East, an organisation that works with Christians in Israel and Palestine, Lebanon and Egypt, to tackle poverty and injustice. We were very pleased to send them a

cheque for £111.69. Their work includes counselling sessions for psychologically affected children and their families, guidance and support for childcare professionals and mobility equipment for children with disabilities. Their website is [www.embraceme.org](http://www.embraceme.org) if you would like to know more. Thank you very much to everyone who came and gave so generously.  
Pat Hall, St Michael's Church

### **NO SMOKING PLEASE!**

Recently, the excessive amount of bonfires during the day has become a big problem for my family and I. We live off Butler's Hill between Hernhill and Dargate. It seems that almost every day at the moment, when there is not rain, a bonfire is lit. During daylight hours, for hours on end, the polluting smoke continues to billow over my garden, either preventing me from hanging out my washing to dry, or causing me to have to re-wash linen that has picked up its

smell. Just venturing out to collect my washing leaves me smelling like charred remains for the rest of the day! When I open my windows to air the house, important, since two of the family suffer from asthma, induced by house-mite dust, the same distressing and toxic fumes enter my home and cause more breathing difficulties. Like most people, I feel that I ought to be able to enjoy my own property without fear of pollution from elsewhere. Most families that live in rural Kent, do so to enjoy the

countryside and fresh air!

I am sure that residents who light bonfires are unaware of the extreme distress, irritation and inconvenience it causes to others. On most occasions it is difficult to ascertain from whence the offending smoke arrives and I can appreciate that sometimes it is not obvious where the smoke will travel to, or who it can inconvenience. I have sought advice from Swale Borough Council who assure me that although Kent is not a smokeless zone, daily fires of this sort would constitute a public nuisance and can be reported to the Environmental Health Office for investigation. Clearly, this is not an avenue any neighbourly person would choose to

pursue.

I am therefore asking PLEASE if you have fires to light, to do so after dark or consider taking your rubbish to the tip. If you must light a bonfire, please not all day on a decent washing drying day! And if you live in an area where you know there are likely to be full washing lines, let your neighbours know BEFORE you light a fire. Bear in mind that we all like to enjoy use of our gardens all year round. At the very least, think about families who have vast swathes of washing to dry, unable to do so because you have lit a fire in a place that clearly doesn't inconvenience you, but everyone else!

Michelle Harris

### **BROADBAND**

Perhaps your broadband is so poor that you have not been able to benefit by the advice that Simon Carroll has put forward on the 'hernhill.net' site; here it is:

"Following on from the responses I received about broadband speeds in the Parish it's pretty clear that they vary wildly, even houses quite close to each other (and therefore the same distance from Boughton exchange) can have considerably different speeds. If you want to improve the speed of your internet connection then you can try the following:

1. Ensure your landline phone signal is clear. Broadband is affected by poor quality lines. If you have any noise on your phone then report it to BT (don't mention broadband as that will muddy the waters). They will perform various tests and then hopefully tell you that they will send an engineer. It is important to ensure that

none of your own equipment is responsible for the noise. The best way to do this is to use an analogue phone (that is non-digital old type which takes its power from the line ) plugged straight into your master socket which is the first phone socket in your house which the outside line connects to. Dial 17070 to do a silent line test and if your line has problems then you will hear interference quite clearly

2. Get an I-Plate. These are very cheap and act as a filter on your line to improve the connection. See here [www.broadbandbuyer.co.uk](http://www.broadbandbuyer.co.uk)

3. Ensure you have a good connection device e.g. one of the leading brands of routers.

Alternatively there is a service available from [www.vfast.co.uk](http://www.vfast.co.uk) Vfast will connect you to the Internet using Wimax, a wireless service. This involves putting a transceiver externally, normally on your roof which will

connect to transceiver on Boughton mast. It needs clear line-of-sight but if you can't see the mast from your

roof then it may still be possible by 'bouncing' off another transceiver.

Simon Carroll"

### **BITS AND PIECES**

And so 2012 ended with the weather men undecided as to whether it was the wettest or only the second wettest year since records began. Either way, I'm sick of having to put on wellies to walk in the garden. Our lanes are awash again but we have been very lucky compared with other parts of the country. It must have been horrid for those who, because of the floods, had no heating, lighting, water or sanitation over Christmas and then to suffer deep snow. We have friends in Yorkshire. Although their house was not flooded, a local bridge collapsed and the children had to be taken 25 miles to school instead of the usual nine miles. With the present fuel costs, that was another unplanned burden on an already strained household budget.

I was disgusted to hear that someone had dumped an emaciated and dying pony in a local field and that Ian Machin had the trouble and expense of dealing with it. The Chairman of the Parish Council has asked everybody to be alert to any suspicious behaviour and to report it to the police. A case in point is a major theft where you might be able to

help. On the evening of Monday 28th January thieves broke into a trailer just off Plum Pudding Lane and stole a load of computer equipment. If you have any information, call the police on 101 referencing XY/002453/13 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Peter Bentley has asked me to pass on his New Year's greetings to members of the Horticultural Society and remind them that the AGM is on Thursday 21st February in the Village Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

The bins on the Village Hall car park will be out of use for a few weeks, so save your recycling for later. If you can't wait, there are bins in Faversham and at Tesco's in Whitstable. Staplegate WI has morphed gently into an independent group but is struggling to find a name. Members have suggested Staplegate Women's Club but some are unhappy with that. They are even less enthusiastic about Staplegate Ladies And Girls Society. Perhaps you have a better idea.



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](mailto:taylornews@hotmail.co.uk)

COPY DATE

**Mon  
25th  
Feb**



<b>Sun 3 Feb</b>	10.00am	Hernhill School	Special Service
Mon 4	7.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 5	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 10	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 12	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 13	7.45pm	Village Hall	Staplegate
Sat 16	3.30pm	St. Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 17	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
	11.30am	St. Michael's Ch	Restoration Comt, 'THANKS'
Tues 19	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Thurs 21	7.00pm	Village Hall	Horticultural Soc AGM
Sat 23	7.30pm	Village Hall	Wine and wisdom
Sun 24	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 26	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 27	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
<b>Sun 3 Mar</b>	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 5	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 10	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion Mothering Sunday
Tues 12	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 13	7.45pm	Village Hall	Staplegate
Sun 17	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 19	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 24	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion Palm Sunday
Tues 26	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 27	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council