



HERNHILL NEWS

FEBRUARY 2010

PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on 27th January. With the exception of Mrs Geliot, who sent apologies, all Councillors were present, as were Councillor G Bobbin and the Clerk. Nine members of the public also attended the meeting.

The minute of the Parish Council meeting held on the 25th November were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Reports: Noise levels from the Farming World complex will be much lower in the future, with aircraft noise in particular being cut. Councillors were very pleased to hear this news.

Complaints of the huge puddle near to the old shop continue to be received by Councillors. Ms Jane Foreman, present at the meeting, gave a concise account of the drainage problems which have been experienced at this point over the years, and all

present hoped for a satisfactory outcome. Mr Chapman said that he had contacted Mr Rowan, Councillor Bowles's aide, for help in finally tackling this ongoing problem in a lasting way.

The Clerk reported that the credit balance at the bank stood at £2666.19, a figure which agreed with the Council's financial records.

Each Councillor has received a questionnaire from Swale Borough Council, requesting views on alterations in electoral arrangements. The Clerk is to abstract the details from each form. It would appear that Hernhill's Councillors are against any change, largely on the grounds of unnecessary cost. The Clerk also reported on an Information Pack relating to Kent County Council Grants Scheme.

Swale Borough Council has notified the Parish Council that it has completed its Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment - no sites are men-

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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

tioned within the Parish of Hernhill.

Planning applications: no adverse comments have been offered on the change of use of the barn at Dale Farm Oast, or to the development of tourist accommodation at the Black Oast. Both applications were considered to be attractive and enhancing. Councillors had no objections to development of the former school house, to a rear extension at Hillside (the Fostall), or to a conservatory at Sandown, Church Hill.

The Editor of the Hernhill News has asked that the following criteria be minuted, to reaffirm the conditions for the advertising future events in the village:

In general, the notification of future events must relate to activities or organisations in the village, and meet one of the following criteria:-

1. Where there is no charge for those attending the function;
2. Where there is a charge but where ALL proceeds less ex-

penses go to a recognised charity, or to a village organisation (e.g., the Dawes CA) or a village event (e.g., the Fete). The accounts must be available for public inspection.

The Parish Council endorses these rulings.

The Chairman then invited comments on any subject from those members of the public who were present. Mostly there were criticisms of the state of the Weystreet slip road. A number of vehicles are dumping soil on land adjacent to this road, and in spite of the constant use of mechanical road sweepers, the mud has become compacted and hazardous to vehicles and pedestrians. The Chairman stated that permission for the undertaking had been sanctioned by the relevant Authorities and that every effort was continuously being made to keep the roadway clear.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting to be closed at 8.55 p.m.

From Steve Castle:

Her and Him

Women are easier than men
The misses grumbles now and then
She's always giving you the sack
And then of course she calls you back
It kind of clears the air a bit

But nothing ever comes of it

The master doesn't act like that
He knows exactly what he's at
He doesn't fidget you or fuss
He understands the likes of us
But when his kettle's on the hob
You've got to get another job
Reginald Arkell

The St. Petersburg LYRA VOCAL QUARTET



Saturday 27th February

at 7.30pm

St. Michael's Church Hernhill

tickets £12 (including refreshments)

01227 752309

01227 751293

FROM THE VICAR

Ash Wednesday is 17 February and I wonder how many of us will look to the six and a half weeks of Lent with some trepidation, all that sackcloth and ashes and doom and gloom?

In the 18th century Dean Swift, the author of *Gulliver's Travels*, wrote that he hated Lent, 'I hate different diets and firmity and butter, and herb porridge and sour devout faces of people who only put on religion for seven weeks.' Swift's view contrasts with George Herbert, who began one of his poems, 'Welcome! Feast of Lent.'

A lot of people will skip Lent and just celebrate Easter but the church is fond of preparation times for the highlights of the Christian year just as we all spend time preparing for the big events in our own lives whether it is the birth of a child, a marriage, a special birthday or anniversary.

In Lent we can stand back and take stock, one writer said it is a time 'for looking hard at our at-

tachments and addictions.' What are the things, who are the people, what are the activities that keep us from God? What or who are the gods before God? (If you show me your bank statement or credit card bill I could give you a pretty good answer!)

As we identify what keeps us from God we can work, with his help, on removing those barriers and drawing closer to him, experiencing more of his forgiveness, his cleansing, his immense and searching love. As we make more time for God we allow him to enter into our lives in a deeper way than before.

Lent demands time and effort, it always seems the marathon of the church's year, but well worth it for those who stay the course. May this Lent be a special one, for us as individuals and as a church, as we journey towards Easter, that great celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

Our Lent course this year is 'Everybody Welcome,' where

we'll be looking at how we welcome both visitors and regulars to church. All are welcome to join us, there will be a wide choice of days and times, it is a 5 week course starting the week beginning 22 February, more

details from me or in church. Please note: the normal pattern of services has been changed as the Russians will be joining us at morning service in St. Michael's on Sunday 28th February.

Rev Jean Burrows 01227

SHOES NEWS

On Saturday February 13th we have a Music Quiz starting at 8.00pm. Saturday 20th February sees the return of the 'Marble Tones' and on Saturday 27th February we have 'King Size Slim', both starting at 8.30pm.

Tales from the bar

There we were all gathered round the bar and Martin, who happens to be the designer and surveyor for Shepherd Neame, popped into the pub for a beer. A friend called David had also called in. Martin was talking to Mike regarding logs that had been left with him. We all know the ones made of waste etc. Popping out to his car, Martin brought some back for Mike. The subject got onto breweries and what they do and not do. Martin then went to the little boy's room. Thinking Martin was a sales rep for logs, David said, "By the way, who is that guy and what is his name?" When we told David who he was all you heard was, "x*%\$^! I thought he was just selling logs". Just before Christmas one of the customers had gone outside for a cigarette but had no lighter. While

someone was getting him a light, I was standing in the back yard.

"Do you need a light Chris", I called. So he came and stood next to me. He was also sneezing, so I got him a hanky. He lit the fag and at

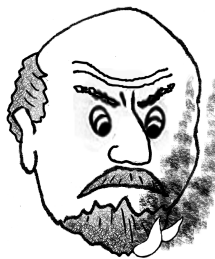
the same time lit the hanky while blowing his nose. Like all good friends I just stood there laughing and shouting at him that he was on fire.

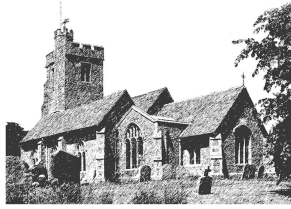
Talking about cigarettes my brother bought me a very expensive lighter and complained that I never used it. I had put it in the safe.

Well it was our 25th wedding anniversary last October, and some very dear friends got together and booked us a night at the Mermaid Inn in Rye. Being such a nice place I thought I'd take my lighter with me. What a sad person I am. Who is going to see my lovely lighter when you are standing outside looking like Norman Normates and it was raining.

Have a great month.

Vera





RESTORATION FUND

St. Michael's, Hernhill, Kent

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 249972

VICAR'S REPORT

In these difficult financial times it is a great credit to the Restoration Committee and the people of Hernhill and beyond that so much money was raised during 2009.

The concerts have continued to be of the highest quality and are always enjoyable and the Hernhill Calendar was a great idea, special thanks to Brian Jelfs for masterminding that. We are hopeful that restoration work will start this year which will encourage all of us as we see the hard-raised money being put to the use it was intended for.

If you ever need any proof about what Hernhill Church means to people then just read our visitors' book. People come from far and wide. They appreciate the church being open during the day (with thanks to Brian Geliot), the historical building and the peace and tranquillity that they find there, but Hernhill Church is not only the stones but the people, a living com-

munity of Christians.

Alan has thanked all his committee members but I would like to thank Alan for his continued enthusiasm, hard work and commitment. Heartfelt thanks are also due to Malcolm and Jan Rhodes for all the painstaking work they have done with grant applications. Each application requires different information and it is almost a book that needs to be filled in every time. Not all applications are successful (it is tough work competing for limited grant money) so it is not always encouraging but without them the work of the Restoration Committee would be almost unending trying to raise £90,000 and a toilet for the disabled still to come.

Thank you all for your support during the year, please continue to come along to our events, bring your friends, and with all your help we'll see the restoration work completed and paid for.

Rev Jean.Burrows

THE FABRIC COMMITTEE

Since our report a year ago, the Committee is pleased to announce encouraging progress. As usual we shall divide the restoration work into two categories.

External Quinquennial Repairs

The PCC has received a certificate from the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) approving the specification of works as prepared by our architects, Lee Evans Partnership. The PCC were then able to obtain the faculty giving us approval to

proceed. Quotations to carry out the work were sought from appropriate building companies which resulted in us needing a total of £90,018.00. Applications for grant funding have been made to: Allchurches Trust Limited, Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust, English Heritage, Friends of Kent Churches, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Idelwild Trust, The Leche Trust. The Manifold Charities Trust, National Churches Trust and Viridor Credits Environmental Company. A cheque for £1,000.00 has been received from Allchurches Trust whilst a refusal was received from English Heritage. The project has received £10,000 from the Friends of Kent Churches and £30,000.00 funding from Viridor Credits Environmental Company through the Landfill Communities Fund. Results of the other applications will not be known until up to the end of May 2010. However, it does mean that we are able to continue with the preparation of a Schedule of Works for commencement in the Spring of this year.

Viridor Credits Environmental Company distributes funding through the Landfill Communities Fund. Funding is available for community and environmental improvement projects within 10 miles (priority to projects within 5 miles) of an active Viridor Waste Management Landfill Site. Since 1996 Viridor Credits has allocated over £60M to over a thousand projects across the UK.

As you can see, together with the money raised by the Restoration Committee, real progress is being made. Dare we make another plea for your support to help close the final gap in funds!

Disabled Toilet and Kitchenette Project

The proposed changes as reported last year have now been approved in principle by the DAC. Our architect, Robert George Architects, have been requested to prepare a full specification for presentation to the DAC. The procedure will then be similar to that for the Quinquennial repairs project.

Malcolm Rhodes

TREASURERS REPORT

2009 has been another successful year for the Restoration Fund as we have raised nearly £5,500.

We started our year with the clay pigeon shoot. Due to the economic climate, this event did not raise as much as in the previous year, but even so £320 was added to the fund. Steve Pocock took part in a sponsored bike ride and raised a marvellous £170. This result was even more spectacular as he was feeling very unwell around Easter.

Well done Steve.

Another major event was held at Summerlees Farm in July, when Jane Foreman and Joy Prichard organised an Old Time Music Hall. Thanks to their extremely hard work and that of their many helpers, £1,000 was contributed to the fund. Very many thanks for all your efforts. We held two concerts in the church at the beginning of autumn. One saw the return of the Betteshanger Brass Band, and the other introduced Snowdown Male Voice Choir

to the area. Both were very successful, and we had audiences nearing 100 at each. The total raised by these concerts was over £1,340.

Another fund raising idea came from Brian Jelfs, who 'persuaded' local artists to provide works of art for a calendar. It took months of preparation, negotiations, and some wonderful sales techniques, but Brian has sold all the calendars printed, and raised nearly £1,000. Very well done, Brian. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Thanks also go to Doreen Jelfs, as she has taken cuttings from her garden and potted them on to produce many plants to sell, some in the church and some from outside her house. She has raised £300 - a truly magnificent effort. Thank you, Doreen.

We have had many money donations left in the church or sent to me,

and this raised a further £882. Alister and Kat Taylor have also continued to sell books at the village fete and at the flower festival, and all you book-worms have contributed nearly £150.

Of course Gift Aid is an important area, and donations this year raised £560 from the tax man. If you can make a donation to the Fund and you are a tax payer, please consider signing a form for us. They are available by the stand in the church that shows the work that needs to be done.

In addition to the £5,500 that was raised, we have received a £1,000 grant from the All Churches Trust. Hopefully this will be the first of many successful bids being made by the Fabric Committee.

Joyce Robb

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Restoration Committee, with the help of many in the Village, has again been able to provide a number of entertaining, money raising events. The details are to be found in the Treasurer's report. Once again we have been able to beat our annual target of £5,000. This year the figure was nearly £5,500 plus an added bonus of £1,000 from the All Churches Trust.

It may be worth looking at just how much has been achieved in the three years since we started. Over

that period, fundraising has produced £19,116, donations have realised £11,308, we had grants of £2000 and the taxman very kindly gave us back £2,692 by way of gift aid. That is a total of £35,117. For a small village I think that is remarkable a remarkable sum.

To date this money has been used for repairs (£2,628), specialist's fees (£1,566) and miscellaneous expenses (£ 110). That total is £4,305. Of course the big expenses will begin to come in this year as the major repairs

are started.

Naturally, we will continue with our fundraising, and this month we have a very special event with the concert by a group from Russia. However, it is always very difficult to come up with new and interesting ideas. If any of you can think of an event that would be worth a try, please get in touch. We welcome your ideas.

Committee members are often overlooked in reports. I believe the members of this committee

should be feted. They are (in alphabetical order of course); Brian Jelfs, Steve Pocock, Joy Pritchard and Joyce Robb. From the treasurers report you can see their individual contributions but their work in committee is outstanding. It is not often that a group of independently minded individuals can work together as a team. The Restoration Committee is just such a group and I consider it a privilege to be their chairman.

Alan Taylor

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We are holding the AGM on Thursday 18th February at 7.00pm for 7:30pm in the Village Hall. We will also be collecting membership subscriptions for 2010 on that night. New members will be most welcome.

Peter Bentley

WINE AND WISDOM

The Badger Conservation Group is running a wine and wisdom in the Village Hall on Saturday 20th March at 7.00pm. Cheese and wine will be provided but bring your own glasses. Please come and join us for an evening of fun. Tickets are available from me at £6.00 per head.



Ring Beryl Chipperton
01227 752912

AGM DAWES CA Monday 22nd February

The DCA is holding its AGM at 7.30pm. This is an opportunity for all members to come and hear what we have been doing over the past year as well as an opportunity to give your views on what we

should be doing for this year.

I shall be standing down as Chairman at the AGM and would very much welcome new members who might be prepared to join the committee or assist the Association in any other way. The Association is currently in good shape

but can only continue to work successfully in the community if we have good support from **within** that community.

We will also be providing wine and cheese on the 22nd of February, so please do try and attend.

Felix Krish

The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral
GIANT BRING AND BUY SALE

On Saturday 13th February in the Chapter House, Cathedral Precincts, Canterbury at 10.30am to 1.30pm

Pick up a bargain at The Friends'

Pam Doyle

friends@canterbury-cathedral.org

DOVE DOINGS

Entering our 3rd year at The Dove, our presence in the Hernhill News is long overdue! As we look forward to a good year ahead all is set to change and we wish to share with you our 'happenings'. Firstly behind the bar – we would like to thank Kim Coleman for her work and support and wish her every success in her new job. We also raise a glass to congratulate Julia who recently attended Canterbury Cathedral for her graduation. Finally we would like to welcome Cubby Woof as our newest edition to the family. She

is now nearing 6 months and as our youngest member of staff we hope to train her to be a fine guard dog – or is that asking too much?

On the restaurant side, celebrity master chef, Gregg Wallace and his guests visited us to put Phil through his culinary paces. Needless to say Phil survived and Gregg summed up the meal as 'fantastic'!

Apologies to all who came along to our 'Beer and Food Matching Event' on January 20th. With so much beer available we fear there may have been a few sore heads the next morning!

Phil and Sarah

BITS AND PIECES

So, how are the New Year's resolutions? I will admit that I did not go down that track because I know that I would have hit the buffers before now. Better to be honest with yourself. If you haven't managed to do that diet

before New Year's Day, what makes you think that you can do it after? Of course, I did reduce my intake after the indulgences of Christmas. However, in truth that only meant that I went back to the level that I was on before Christmas; and I bet that I am not the

only one. Somehow I don't think that counts as making an improvement.



After the January that we have just had, 'Global Warming' can't come soon enough for me. But, haven't we been lucky compared

with other parts of the country. Friends of ours sold their house and bought one in Kendal. They moved just before Christmas. Because of the bad weather they had to make an unplanned overnight stay at a motorway motel. When they finally arrived at their new home, there was no heating, no lighting and no furniture. Fortunately they had relatives in the area, but it was several weeks before they got their furniture and could actually move in.

The weather in some parts of the country has been bad but nobody here has suffered as they have in Haiti. The effects of the earthquake have been atrocious. Getting things back to normal, poor though that was, will take months.

The people there had precious little and now they have nothing. It is encouraging that so many have given so generously to the aid funds but there is little doubt that even more will be needed in the future.

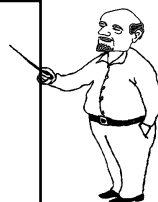
On Saturday 23rd January the Players had a wine and wisdom. It was a noisy, fun evening. I understand that Jan Leaning did all the refreshments and Joy Pritchard did the raffle. Both typically went over-the-top. Well done to them and their helpers whose efforts raised well over £300 for various charities.

After a great deal of negotiating, we have finally been able to book a vocal quartet from St. Petersburg to give a concert in the church. They are professional singers with a wide repertoire of classical and folk music. I have heard some of their recordings and I was most impressed. The concert is on Saturday 27th February in aid of the restoration fund. The church can only hold an audience of about 150, so please make sure that you are not disappointed. Let me know what you want as soon as possible.

ADT

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

**COPY
DATE
Sun
21st
FEB**



Feb 1 Mon	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 2	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 3	7.30pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 7	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Tues 9	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 10	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Colin Breed - Royal visits to Kent (2)
Sun 14	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Mon 15	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 16	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Thurs 18	7.30pm	Village Hall	Horticultural Soc - AGM
Sun 21	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Mon 22	7.30pm	Village Hall	Dawes CA - AGM
Tues 23	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 24	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sat 27	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Russian Concert
Sun 28	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Special All Ages Service
Mar 1 Mon	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 2	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 3	7.30pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 7	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Tues 9	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 10	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Rachel Clark - Wildlife to the garden
Sun 14	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Mon 15	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 16	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sat 20	7.30pm	Village Hall	Wine and wisdom
Sun 21	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service
Tues 23	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 28	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion - Palm Sunday
Tues 30	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 31	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council



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