



HERNHILL NEWS

JULY 2010

PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Council took place on 30th June. With the exception of Mr Chapman, who was on leave, and Borough Councillor Mr Bobbin, all other Councillors were present, as was the Clerk.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th May were signed as a true record.

Matters arising: Car parking at the Church Hill/Staple Street junction - following the report of last month's meeting, the situation at this dangerous point appears to have marginally improved. The proposed gipsy site on the Thanet Way - under the new administration at Whitehall a certain level of democratic choice by local authorities will, in future, be made locally, rather than by Governmental decree.

Reports: Mrs Taylor spoke of the dangerous state of hedging and verges in Dargate, and other Councillors mentioned similar situations throughout the parish. These have been attended to by Highways once this year, and the Clerk is to contact that Department demanding some

immediate action. Mr Elliott spoke of the large heap of spoil left on site at the old school development. A suggestion was made that Swale's Planning Department be made aware of this. Mr Morsman made an alternative proposal - that the builders responsible for the construction of the site be approached to ascertain the firm's future intentions. This proposal was adopted. Mrs Figgis announced that the school would welcome all villagers who may be interested in visiting on the Open Morning.

The Clerk reported the satisfactory conclusion of the 2009/10 audit. This is some 4 to 5 months faster than usual, and is mainly due to the advice of the Council's External Auditor (See later).

Correspondence: the grant application for the building work recently carried out at the Village Hall has been passed to the relevant authorities.

Planning: the planning application by Moneypeak, at Waterham Nurseries which had been rejected by both the Parish Council and Swale

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

BC, had its appeal upheld by the Planning Inspectorate. What had appeared to be valid arguments made by the Parish Council were largely ignored and overturned by that body. Permission has been granted in respect of a timber conservatory at Sutherland House Sta-

ple Street, and for extensions at 4, Monkshill Cottages. A side extension at 8, Swale View has been refused permission on the grounds that its projection, size and design would have an adverse effect on neighbouring property.

AUDIT COMMISSION

At last, some good and cheerful news on the Audit Commission front. Instead of prolonged nitpicking, I have received the completed Audit Form. Bearing in mind that it usually arrives with my Christmas cards, this is a considerable achievement. Only one proviso was imposed - I ought to have included Councillors' and the Clerk's application for subsistence claims in Box 6 of the Audit Form, not in Box 4. Since no Councillor, nor myself, has ever made a claim for subsistence in over 20 years, (and I doubt that the late Clerk would have permitted such a liberty) I have to wonder from which area of Cloud 9 the Audit Commission managed to dream up this complaint.

The secret of my success was suggested by our External Auditor, who

said that as much unnecessary information as possible should be included with the Audit Form. Accordingly, 14 extraneous photocopies of insurance policies, letters to and from insurance companies, copies of 12 monthly bank statements and other trivia from the bank. This ridiculous ploy worked, for it was all returned with a very curt note - "This information has not been examined, and was not asked for".

I was delighted to read that Eric Pickles, the new Administration's Chief Executioner for Quangos, is to concentrate on the Audit Commission, at its headquarters in Plymouth. A ritual place of dismemberment would ideally be on Plymouth Hoe, and I have already booked a front seat.

Terry Smart

FROM THE VICAR

'Jesus is Lord' we happily sing in our Sunday services or we use 'Lord' in our prayers almost as a punctuation mark, it is such a familiar phrase but what does it mean? To many people today the word 'Lord' conjures up an eccentric old relic from a bygone age opening his stately home to all comers in order

to survive. Or do we think of the 'House of Lords,' people who through an accident of birth or political patronage are elevated above their peers? One of the dictionary definitions of 'Lord' is 'master, ruler, chief, prince, sovereign,' and that is nearer to a Christian understanding of the word than the first two pictures.

'Jesus is Lord' was the earliest and simplest of all Christian creeds but wrapped up in 'Lord' for them was the idea of Yahweh (printed LORD in our Bibles) as well as earthly rulers who demanded allegiance. When early Christians refused to say, 'Caesar is Lord,' they knew it was no courtesy title that Caesars claimed, but a title that implied his right to receive divine honours and in that sense they could give the title to no-one but Jesus.

One of the most challenging verses for me in the Bible is found in Luke 6:46, 'Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and not do what I tell you?' If we call Jesus 'Lord' we need to understand how that impacts on our daily lives as Christians.

To help us think through the lordship of Jesus in different aspects of our lives we are having a sermon series starting in July titled, 'Jesus Lord of my life' and will look at areas such as our time, our giving and our fellowship. Hopefully we will never be forced to give lordship to any earthly ruler but one early Christian who we know refused to was Polycarp. Polycarp lived in the second century and was arrested on the charge of being a Christian. The Roman proconsul took pity on this old and gentle man and urged him to proclaim, 'Caesar is Lord.' Polycarp only needed to make this declaration and offer a small pinch of incense to Caesar's statue to escape torture and death. Polycarp refused to compromise his beliefs and was burned alive at the stake. Polycarp, like many other Chris-

tians to this day, was only able to die for Christ because he lived for Christ. What a challenge for us!

Alpha

Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting over ten thought-provoking weekly sessions with a day away one Saturday. Over 7,000 courses are currently running across the UK in rural and urban settings. We are planning to run an Alpha course in the autumn, day, date, venue, time all to be decided. If you are interested in finding out more about Christianity then you are very welcome to come along. Alpha is also the course to do if you are interested in being baptised and/or confirmed as a teenager (school year 8 and above) or an adult. Alpha is a safe place in which to ask questions and if, after a few weeks you decide Alpha is not the course for you there is no pressure to finish the course.

Each session consists of a meal together followed by a talk and small group discussion. There is no charge for the course but you are invited to give a donation towards the cost of the meal.

If you are interested in being part of our Alpha course or want to know more, look out for the publicity in the autumn or contact me.

"What distinguishes Alpha from other initiatives is the easy-going, relaxed feel of the proceedings - that, and its astonishing success." The Times, London

Revd Jean Burrows

A BENCHMARK

It was a perfect summer afternoon in the water gardens at Mount Ephraim as glasses were raised and a bench unveiled in memory of Mary Dawes.

Mrs Dawes, known as Miz, restored the gardens at Hernhill with her husband Bill in a labour of love which lasted some 40 years.

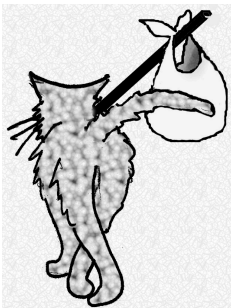
After her death last May, Hernhill Horticultural Society wished to honour her many years as president and on Sunday presented the fine bench and plaque, which the family felt would be best placed in the

beautiful grass and flower filled water garden below the lake.

Dragonflies and damselfly darts darted above as her son Sandys Dawes and society chairman Jill Geliot unveiled the bench in front of a crowd of members and friends.

After a toast to Mary's memory and canapes, Society members were given specialised tours of the gardens led by Sandys Dawes and his wife Lesley and head gardener and Society deputy chairman Mark James.

Crispin Whiting



MISSING CAT

We live in Staplestreet. Our cat Mollie went missing on 14th-15th June, we have put notes through doors in Staplestreet and pinned notices up, but without success.

She is black & white, with long fur and a bushy black tail. If anyone has any news please phone 01227 751262. Thank you

Stewart & Eve

ART EXHIBITION

June 12th and June 13th

There is of course nothing new about the association of fine art with religion and its expression in places of worship. In fact, the religious motivation for artists to express their ideas and beliefs in wonderful icons and windows is well known to us all. Perhaps this is what lay behind the vision of an art exhibition in St. Michael's Church and certainly for me, there is something very special about celebrating, in a place of worship, the creative mind in works of

art.

Over 30 artists, largely from the local area, contributed to a magnificent exhibition of fine art and beautiful textiles. There were countless remarks from visitors about the very, very high standard of creative endeavour on display.

Over £700 was raised through the exhibition for the St Michael's Restoration Fund and this certainly surprised and delighted all of us involved with the project.

The exhibition was a team effort

and it is very difficult indeed to list everyone who, in all sorts of ways, assisted Janet Macintosh and myself in seeing through the project to its splendid conclusion. Clearly, to all the artists contributing to the exhibition, we owe an enormous debt of thanks. In addition to Janet, who supported me throughout a long period of organisation, others made a major contribution behind the scenes for which I am very, very grateful. To Alan Taylor, Joyce Robb, Frances Attree, Jane Potter,

Colin Macintosh, Andrew Macintosh, Ian from Sunny Lees Farm, George Bull and to Jean our vicar who never doubted the project would succeed ; my thanks to you all.

Perhaps not next year for a repeat but sometime in the future another exhibition would, I think, be well received. By the way, I hear talk of a Restoration Ball in 2011, costumes and all.

Brian Jelfs
for the Restoration Committee.

VILLAGE HALL AGM

The Hernhill Village Hall Committee would like to advise all Hernhill residents, and anyone else who would like to attend, that it will be holding its AGM for the year 2009/10 on Monday 13th September in the Village Hall at 8.00pm.

The Committee would be pleased to see as many residents as possible on the night to review past and future plans for the Village Hall and

Playing Fields.

We also need to recruit additional members to the Committee to represent the Village and its organisations and if you would like to know more about what's involved please talk to one of the current Committee or contact the Chairman & Treasurer David Mann on dsmannSO@msn.com or 07736463921.

Thank you
Village Hall Committee.

SHOES NEWS

On Saturday 10th July the last Wheeliebin Race starts at midday. Racing takes place from 1.00pm and then there is music from 3.00 pm, a raffle and a B-B-Q.

Then on Saturday 24th July, Roland Chadwick and guest are playing starting at 8.30pm. Then on Saturday 31st July, the 'Fat River Band' has an 8.30pm start.

Tales from the Bar

We all know how your nerves get to you when getting married. One of our customers was sitting on a chair

trying to calm his nerves when his chair collapsed leaving him shocked on the floor. The bride and bridesmaids fell about laughing.

Mike and I were out shopping at Wincheap. We were not thinking straight as we walked towards Argos. Mike suddenly said, "That's not the way in. It's the exit". So there I was, following Mike, looking for the way in when I read that notice. It said, "Extra" not "exit". We did feel fools walking round the building.

Well, for those who are not familiar

with the Shoes, we have two poles in the bar. Many a time they have saved people from falling over. When you have had too much to drink, they are really good to hold onto. This has not happened for a while and we did not think it would happen before we left but, thank you Mr John Barns. He not only had trouble clapping to the music by missing his hands, but he tried to hold on to the post but slowly slid down it. What a sight! It was only fitting that one of the employees of Shepherd Neame should make our

day. Well, he has finally done it after 12 years. Mike has twice assaulted me in the kitchen. I turned round, he turned round and he smacked me in the face with the tongs. He sent me flying and bruised. There is no way Alan would print what I said. Then, to add insult to injury, on the Sunday he got me with a knife. Me thinks he is getting his own back for making him throw things away before we move.

Have a good month
Vera

COOKS NEEDED

If you make fabulous cakes and mouth-watering jams, then we need your help. We have booked a stall at Faversham Market on Saturday, 31st July, when we will be selling home-made goodies - cakes, scones, chutneys and jams, etc to raise money for the Restoration Fund.

Please, could you help by baking and cooking for us? We are NOT asking you to give the goods; we will pay your expenses, though, of course, we will accept any donations. We have a costing sheet to help you work out what to claim. We would appreciate your telling us what you can do, so we know where any gaps might be. There will be a list to sign in the church, if that is easier for you. We would also like



your claim with your goods, so we can price things for sale, and also to know what profit we might make. Mary Gransden (012277516244) and Barbara Taylor (01227751293)

will be loading up on the evening of Friday 30th. It would be very helpful if you could label the main ingredients in your cakes, and if possible, to wrap them. If you cannot, do not worry, we will deal with them. If you will be in Faversham on that day, you could bring your contributions to the stall in the Market Square, preferably before 11.00am.

If you have any further queries or require our letter and costing sheet, please contact Barbara or me. Very many thanks and we hope to see many of you in Faversham, on the 31st.

Joyce Robb 01227 274746

A COINCIDENCE

Unfortunately, I had to miss the Horticultural Society Show due to work commitments, but managed to go to the art exhibition. And what a lovely display – well done to all the entrants. Jean Burrows' "angel" at the altar is lovely, Peter Bentley's "zebra" is very striking and I think that Mark James' "It's not what you know" was one of my favourites.

I overheard a couple discussing "the turkey shed". The lady said that she was born in The Homestead in Staplestreet and should have known where it was. At this point I

spoke to them and found out that I was talking to Doreen Gibbs and that she had had the same midwife as me when I was born, some years later, also in The Homestead. What a coincidence.

I'm told that the house is now called Cherry Orchard Garden. The couple (Mr and Mrs Wood) now live in Beltinge and their daughter lives in France. We had quite a chat and learnt a little more of our mutual history.

Well done to all exhibitors and helpers at the exhibition. I'm looking forward to next year.

Dawn Graham

THE CHURCHYARD

We urgently need more helpers to keep St Michael's churchyard in order. We have an existing band of stalwart helpers, but just at present they could do with extra help because the late spring this year has concentrated all the growth into a shorter time than usual. If you could

spare some time during the summer months to attack some of the vegetation, please call either of the churchwardens: Peter Willcock on 01227 750453 or George Bull on 01795 532196. Equipment is provided for you to use if you wish.

Churchwardens

S.O.S JAM JARS

It's that time of year again when jam-making begins. Please will you contact me if you have any jam jars to spare. I'm afraid that pickle and coffee jars are not any use, but others would be most welcome.

Barbara Taylor
01227 751293

WROUGHT IRON GATES

After I put up the ornamental gates at The Manor House, there was a complaint made. I quite understand and respect that different people have different views about property. However, since then I have had many words of encouragement

from people in the Village. Not only that, many have written to the Council expressing their approval of the gates. I would like to thank them for taking so much trouble on my behalf. It is much appreciated.

Ted Roffey

STAPLEGATE WI

This month we heard a moving and informative talk from Sandra Shere about the help that the Samaritans offer to the community. She herself is a 'Sam' as they refer to themselves, and she gave us an insight into the sort of support that is there for the desperate and confused people who appear to have nowhere to turn. The Samaritans are a charity and depend on donations to continue their work. Sandra was very gracious in answering our

many questions and joined us for coffee later in the evening.

We hope to start our regular walks now that the weather is improved and we have had a lunch this month. We are also discussing fundraising events for both our charity, the Royal Lifeboats Society, and for WI funds, so we will keep everyone posted!

Our next meeting is 14th July at 7.45pm in the Village Hall

Liz Walton



OPEN MORNING

We are having an OPEN MORNING for the local community at Hernhill Church of England primary school on Thursday 15th July between 9.30am and 11.30 am. Refreshments will be available.

DOWN AT THE DOVE

Where has the year gone - we are already this far down our list of diary events yet it feel like I only wrote them yesterday!

We would like to invite everyone to our Summer Bank Holiday Garden Party which will take place on Monday 30th August 2010. For your entertainment 'Ian Shawcross and Friends' will be playing live in the garden from 5.00pm. Ian has been entertaining Kent audiences for over 40 years with an eclectic range of jazz, pop and blues. His fantastic talent coupled with his unique wit and charm promises a thoroughly enjoyable and vibrant session of live music. The garden party is open to all and at no charge so there is no need to book. To complement

the music, Phill will serve his Al Fresco Menu to you in the garden from his one-time 'Open-Air Kitchen'. Let's hope for a warm and sunny evening! - Rain, rain stay away!!! I must say goodbye and thank you to Julia Puttick AKA 'Jules' as she leaves The Dove. Julia has been with Phill since he began here almost three years ago. She has supported us through the ups and downs of running a pub as a new business not to mention having put up with Phill's sometimes 'hairy' kitchen antics and my endless notes, lists, laminates, photocopies and post-its!!!! She has without a doubt played a significant part in the development of The Dove for which we are very grateful. We wish her every success for her future.

Sarah.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Summer Show: An excellent show saw a good number of members and visitors who were invited to vote for their favourite rose in the show, most popular of which was awarded the Mary Dawes Memorial Vase. This is presented annually. This year the vase was won by John Sim, with his hybrid tea rose. Ingrid Bergman.

Other cup winners: Greville Cup - Anne Butler, Woods Cup - Margaret Heathcote, Wade Cup - Isabel Pettifer, Childrens Class under 9 - Emily Wallis, Over 9 - Hannah Bentley. The cups and prizes were presented by the President Sandys Dawes. Refreshments and home grown plants were available for purchase and these, along with raffle and auction of produce took £241. The plant stall and the refreshments were a new venture and much appreciated by the visitors.

Thank you to all that helped to make the show a success.

Garden Outing 1: We still have seats available on our outing on Thursday 15th July to Nymans and Highbeeches Gardens. The coach will leave Mount Ephraim car park

promptly at 9.00am. If you would like to come on the trip the price is £25. If you are a member of the National Trust you will be refunded your entry money to Nymans garden but only if you produce your card on the day. For information on this trip contact Isabel Pettifer on 01227 751128.

Garden Outing 2: There will be a visit to Great Comp Garden near Borough Green on Saturday 7th August. Meet in the car park there at 11.00am. The entrance fee is £5:50 (concessions £5:00. Car share if possible and contact Isabel if you have a spare place or if you wish to travel with someone else. The garden has a Plantsman's Paradise award winning nursery. (Disabled access)

Open Garden: Helen and Peter Bentley are opening their garden at 41, Clover Rise, Whitstable on Sunday 4th July between 1.00pm and 5.00pm . Entry: Adults £4.00, children £2.00 to include tea and cake. All proceeds go to the Pilgrims Hospice and Air Ambulance. We look forward to seeing you.

Peter Bentley



B-B-Q BREAKFAST

It is some years since we ran a B-B-Q breakfast, but when we did it was very popular. So, we are going to do it again. This time it will be to raise money for the Restoration Fund. There will be a very full, full-English-breakfast together with stalls and a raffle. Just the thing to get the Bank Holiday Weekend off to a good start. The date is Saturday 28th August from 9.00am to noon.

Barbara Taylor



BITS AND PIECES

June for once has really turned out to be a strawberries and cream month. The sun has been blazing in a clear blue sky and we have had the World Cup, the One-day International and Wimbledon to watch. Fortunately, I'm not a soccer fan. Had I been, like thousands of others I would have been bitterly disappointed. However, as a cricket fan I had the pleasure of England defeating their deadly enemy, Australia. So far it stands at three wins out of five, although they very nearly made a mess of the last match. Of course, there always has to be a loser and in my case it has nothing to do with sport. For me it is the lawn. Much of it has turned brown and shrivelled; the rest just hasn't got cut. Mechanical problems haven't helped. Once upon a time I had three trimmers: a very old

electric one, a new electric one and a petrol trimmer. All three broke down on the same weekend. Have you tried getting such things repaired in summertime? Hence the shaggy verges. However, the roses and the clematis are a consolation this year.

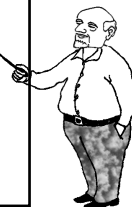
There is an unusually sad note in the piece from Vera at the Shoes. She says that it will be the last wheelie bin race. I'm not sure who would be willing to take on the task after the Skippers retire. It has been such a great success that it would be a shame if it were to finish now. Perhaps a group might take on the task of running this fun event which raises money for charity.

I was talking to someone in the Village about travel. He had come back from abroad and remarked on how dirty we have become. He was not talking about personal hygiene but about the state of our countryside. I have to agree. When I came back from a holiday in Italy the contrast was depressing. I saw no way-side litter there, but in the village it is everywhere. Not that many years ago we won the 'Best Village' in Kent award. The food cartons, cigarette packets, cans and bottles in our lanes would make that impossible today.

ADT

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

**COPY
DATE
Mon
26th
June**



July 4 Sun	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
	-----	Mount Ephraim	Cherry Day
Mon 5	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 6	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 7	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 11	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 13	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 14	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Carol Phillpott, Rag rugs
Thurs 15	9.00am	Mount Ephraim	Horticultural day out
	9.30-11.30am	Village School	Open morning
Sun 18	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service
Mon 19	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 20	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 25	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 27	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 28	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sat 31	-----	Faversham Mkt	Restoration Market Stall
Aug 1 Sun	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Mon 2	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 3	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 4	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sat 7	11.00am	Great Comp	Horticultural Soc outing
Sun 8	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 10	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 11	-----	Tba	WI meeting
Sun 15	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service
Mon 16	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 17	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sat 21	10.00am	Crockhm Fm Cot	Children Soc Coffee Morning
Sun 22	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 24	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 25	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sat 28	9.30 - noon	Yew Tree House	RESTORATION B-B-Q breakfast
Sun 29	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Said communion
Tues 31	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection



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