



# HERNHILL NEWS

## JUNE 2014

### PARISH COUNCIL

#### The Annual Parish Meeting

This was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 28th May

**Present:** Mrs H. Figgis (Chairman), Mrs J. Geliot, Mr A. Chapman, Mr G. Morsman, Mr M. Cooper, Mr M. Woods & Mrs S. Muteham (Clerk). Also present was one member of the public. Apologies: Mr M. Woodcock, Mr A. Bowles (County Councillor), Mr G. Bobbin (Borough Councillor).

Mrs Figgis opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Mrs Figgis signed and confirmed the annual accounts of the Parish Council for the year ended 31st March 2014.

Mrs Anne Butler asked if the solid white lines at Staplestreet (near the junction with Church Hill) could be reinstated as the vehicles parking in close proximity to the junction appear to be causing road visibility problems.

A written report on events from the year was provided from County Councillor Andrew Bowles. Mrs Figgis then thanked those present for attending, and there being no further business, declared the meeting closed.

#### Minutes of the monthly meeting.

Mrs J. Geliot proposed and Mr G. Morsman seconded that Mrs H. Figgis be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Civic Year 2014/15. No other

nominations were received. Mr M. Woods proposed and Mr G. Morsman seconded that Mr A. Chapman be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Civic Year 2014/15. No other nominations were received.

The minutes of the full Council held on Wednesday 30th April having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters arising:** The conifers which have been cutback opposite the Village Green will be observed over the next few years to see if they can grow back. The Clerk has discussed the matter of water running down the hill at Fairbrook with Southeast Water, who at the moment do not believe that there is a water leak but that the water is coming off the land at the side of the road. The situation will continue to be monitored over the summer and any findings reported to the relevant persons.

**Reports:** Mr J. Morsman reported that he had strimmed the area around the wooden seat located at Staplestreet.

Mr A. Chapman reported that the roads near the village hall were very busy/full of parked vehicles during a recent football event which took place on the playing fields. The Clerk is to request that consideration for parking arrangements be made when large events are booked for the Village Hall playing fields.

Chairman: Helen Figgis 01227 751149  
e-mail [helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com](mailto:helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com)  
Clerk: Sarah Muteham phone 07740 706189  
e-mail [hernhillclerk@gmail.com](mailto:hernhillclerk@gmail.com)

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

Mr M. Woods reported that on behalf of the Parish Council he attended the recent Mayor Making Ceremony in Faversham on 12th May.

Mrs J. Geliot was disappointed with the lack of public attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting. She also reported that she had purchased some plants which are to be planted around the memorial. Mr M. Cooper reported that there is currently a half size allotment plot available for rent. Mrs H. Figgis said that a resident had contacted her reporting that the gate at the allotments was frequently left open and that there has been an increase in dog walking in the immediate area. One half size plot is currently available, please contact the Clerk for further information. Three existing plots still have outstanding fees due for the year 2014/15.

It was also reported that a tree had fallen into the road near Godfrey's Grave and that the works to refresh the white road markings at Wey Street along with the clearing of drains at Godfrey's Grave had yet to be completed by Kent County Council.

In regard to potential WWI commemorative events, the Clerk commented that Sue and Julian Owen have been collating information relating to the names of the war dead from the memorials in Dunkirk, Boughton and Hernhill and they may be hosting an exhibition of their findings later in the year. There will also be a website launched in the summer, providing lots of information about the war memorials.

**Planning:** The planning application SW/13/1447 regarding the caravan 'Evaluna', located in Plum Pudding Lane, was refused permission by the Council and an appeal has been lodged. An enforcement notice has also been served, however at this time no further update is available.

**Correspondence:** Letter received from Victim Support thanking the Parish Council for their recent donation of £50.00. Letter received from Swale Borough Council inviting members of the parish council to a meeting regarding the draft Statement of Intent on 2nd July 2014

The meeting was closed at 8:55pm.

### **YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Following the recent restructuring of Cabinet Committees I shall now sit on Environment and Transport as well as remaining on renamed Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee. I shall remain on Regulation Committee. I also represent the County Council on the Environment Agency Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities.

This year Kent County Council increased its Precept by 1.99% (36p/week for a Band C property). This

followed an 8.9% (35.2 million) reduction in Central Government Grant. Over the last 3 years Kent County Council has made £269 million of savings and shed 2,000 jobs. This year despite the small rise in Council Tax the cuts will start to show, reductions in street lighting being the most recent example. Kent County Council is responsible for 5,000 miles of roads, 4,000 miles of pavements, educating 130,000 pupils, providing social care and support to 32,500 adults and disposing of 700,000 tonnes of domestic waste per year

Andrew Bowles

### **GIANT GARAGE SAFARI**

A very big thank you to everyone who helped make this event a huge suc-

cess, and weren't we lucky with the weather?

At the time of going to press £1400 has

been raised for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Fund. A fabulous result. Thank you to the 40 stall holders who were part of the safari, the individual donations that accounted for over £250 of the total, and everyone who supported the event buying from the stalls and visiting the refreshment tent – sometimes several times during the day!!

Buyers came from all around East Kent and even holiday makers from as far afield as Ayrshire and Derbyshire found us and supported the stalls, proving that good advertising is so important. A couple driving up to Scotch Corner also found their way to the refreshment tent, where a picnic



bag was made up to sustain them on their long journey north. Thank you also to the loyal locals, who can always be relied upon to support events such as this so generously.

On the Monday a committee member from the southern branch of RABI visited us and was very impressed with what he saw and how much money we were on track to raise. RABI will make sure that it is put to very good use in helping the agricultural community affected by the flooding earlier in the year.

Jane, Joy &  
all the Summer Lees Events Team

### FRESH FLOWERS

Passing through Hernhill you will have noticed that the troughs at either end have now been planted with red geraniums. These have been supplied by Parry's Plants of Dunkirk at a discount price.

Anne Butler

### PILGRIMS HOSPICE CLOSURE

I was frankly shocked when BBC South East News reported that the Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury is to close its in-patient ward in 2016. My first thought was that the decision would result in a major reduction in support from the many who raise money for them. It was therefore no surprise that within a week our local in-fund raisers have said that they are withdrawing their support. Hospice Chief Executive, Steve Auty, has said that the closure will enable staff to provide an improved service by increasing their 'at home' work. If he were a carer himself he would know better than to think that this will be enough. From time to time residential respite care is absolutely essential for patients and carers alike. Home visits cannot be a substitute for that. The Hospice offers courses for carers but they don't offer any



solution to how a carer can be released from being on-call 24 hours a day, every day without in-patient care being available.

Based on his experience Dr. Garsed, who worked at the Hospice for 28 years, has strongly criticised the proposed closure. Julian Brazier, the MP for Canterbury, is lending his support for the retention of in-house care and public opposition to the closure is growing. There is to be a series of public meetings and more information about these is available if you phone 01227 782064 or further information is available on the web at [pilgrimshospices.org](http://pilgrimshospices.org).

A combination of formal protests and the withdrawal of financial support that has already begun may generate a return to a fuller understanding of the needs of sick people and their carers.

ADT

## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The stall at the Fete did very well. Thank you to all who donated plants. The evening visit to Copton Ash garden was well attended. There were 22 members and friends, thank you for your support and thank you to Sylvia & Brian for arranging the evening. The Summer Show will be held on Saturday 14th June at Hernhill Village Hall. The show will open to the public at 2.00pm. Presentations will be made at

3.00pm followed by the auction of produce. If you have any spare plants we would be pleased if you bring them on the 14th June for our plant stall. Please come and support us at the show, just one entry each makes a difference. Thank you. We are arranging more day and evening garden visits. There will be more information in July 'News'.

Peter Bentley

## THE VILLAGE FETE



Hernhill is always the earliest in the area to have its Village Fete. There is a risk that the weather may not be good so early in the year and this time we might have been unlucky. The weather in the preceding days was both cold and wet. But on the day the weatherman smiled.

A goodly number came to the fete and stayed to enjoy the stalls, the games the school maypole dance and the food.

Thanks to the many who ran the stalls and those behind the scenes, it was a great success both as an enjoyable afternoon and financially.

About £4,000 profit was made to be shared by the Village Hall and the Village church.

## FROM THE VICAR

An eight year old cub scout came to the front of church to do a reading in a St George's Day service. He began confidently but as he looked up at the large congregation which was watching him he lost his nerve and his voice faltered. He stumbled though a few more words and ground to a halt. Then the District Commissioner, a big man came forward and stood alongside the boy. He encouraged him, 'You can do it, I'm here with you.' The boy began slowly to read the rest of the passage. As he did so his confidence grew and he reached the end his strong voice filled the building.

That true incident speaks of human care and solidarity but it's also a helpful story in thinking about the work of God's Spirit. Jesus described the Holy Spirit as the 'one called alongside.' The Spirit inspires and strengthens Christians

and enables us to live as Jesus' followers.

The Holy Spirit was poured out on Jesus disciples at Pentecost and we celebrate that event this year on Sunday 8th June. It was a strange event, difficult to describe but there was a sound like a mighty wind and what seemed to be tongues of fire. The transformation in those first disciples was undeniable, from being frightened people they burst out onto the streets of Jerusalem and were accused of being drunk at 9 o'clock in the morning. They were filled with boldness and began to tell others what God had done through Jesus. In the book of Acts in the Bible we read of a growing church, with deep love for each other and passion to share God's love in word and action. As we compare our own lives and church with this picture we are challenged to pray for the Holy Spirit to renew, unite and energize us today.

The Holy Spirit is probably the least understood member of the Trinity leading some people to try and live their lives without him or to be very suspicious or even fearful of him. As a church we have a lot to learn about the work of the Holy Spirit, the gifts he gives to build up

Jesus' church and how we recognize him in our own lives. God is gentle with us and knows our apprehension but if we allow him, he will reveal more and more of himself to us and we will experience the changes he brings. That can only be good!

Revd Jean Burrows

### **P & J CHENNERY**

We have just realised that there are a number of residents still living in the Village who would remember both Peter and Joyce Chennerly. They ran The Three Horseshoes in Staplestreet until 1987. They then retired and went to live in Scotland.

Many of you will know that Peter died a number of years ago. Joyce's health had declined in the last few years and she spent the last two

years in a care home in Palnackie Castle Douglas. We visited Joyce a number of times in the home. She was always pleased to see us but we were not always sure whether she knew us or not. We spoke of the good times in the pub, hops round the bar and the cricket team. Sadly we attended Joyce's funeral on Monday 12th May. Peter and Joyce are now together in their retirement home of Creetown.

Peter and Sue Sinclair.

### **GOOD NEWS**

I have received a call from KCC Highways to say that work near the top of the badly damaged hill leading from The Dove to Courtenay Road (Dargate Road, Plumpudding Lane or Donkey Bob Hill, depending who you listen to!),

has been given priority and it will be repaired this year. This follows the additional grant money made available to tackle problems caused by the winter floods.

Mike Pearce

### **FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S**

In recent years, St Michael's has had major fund raising projects to pay for long overdue restoration to the building and repairs to the roof. Due to the generosity of local people and various grants these targets have been met and the work has been completed.

However each year about £35,000 has to be raised to maintain St Michael's. This is made up of utility costs such as heating and lighting, everyday building maintenance, and the contribution to the Diocese which includes the vicar's stipend and costs of the central support



and services we get from the Diocese. Many churches cannot meet this financial obligation with the result that in some cases the church is closed. St Michael's has always been proactive in securing the necessary funds but we are a small village of under 1,000 people and it gets harder every year to balance the

books.

The "Friends of St Michael's" scheme was started around the year 2000. It is a way that those people in the local community who are not regular church goers but who value the church as a beautiful building and the contribution it

makes to our community, can support the church and help to ensure its future. Since 2000 contributions from the Friends have amounted to several thousand pounds and are a significant part of the church's income.

Do look at the Friends leaflet enclosed and please become a Friend by filling in the form and so help to ensure that St Michael's will survive for future generations.

Jill Geliot

### BITS AND PIECES

I have been told of the death of Jack Bones in April. He moved from Hernhill some years ago and lived at Eastry near Sandwich.

There are a number of events for you to note in June.

On Sunday 8th June Monkshill Farm at Waterham is open to visitors. The Royal School for Deaf Children Margate purchased Monkshill Farm in 1995 and it is now part of The John Townsend Trust. It is a working farm with a strong educational focus. The children and young people are encouraged to look after the farm animals, understanding the value of caring for animals and at the same time enjoying an outside environment. Monkshill Farm's Education Centre offers a wide range of Land Based and Catering accredited courses for young deaf learners and also for other students who attend local schools and colleges. The farmyard is a home to breeding pigs with their piglets, boars and varying sizes of growing pigs plus hundreds of free range laying hens. They produce high quality beef, pork, lamb, free range meat and chickens and free range eggs. At Christmas they

sell free range turkeys and geese.

Mount Ephraim gardens will be open on Thursday 12 June as part of the National Gardens Scheme. All the entrance money will go direct to the scheme which supports a number of charities. Marie Curie Cancer Care and Macmillan and many others are beneficiaries. The Dawes CA annual general meeting is to be held in the hall at midday on Saturday 14th June. All interested are asked to make a point of attending.

If you prefer to eat locally produced food you can do so by buying strawberries at Tesco. David Figgis is producing the 'Vibrant' variety for them.

I'm sorry to say that thefts still plague us. Between 28th and 29th April, three Scott bicycles, a leaf blower and a lawnmower were stolen from garden sheds in Laurel Place, Staple Street.

Shortly before noon on 28th April, gardening equipment was stolen from a works van while it was being unloaded in Swale View and as the result of a burglary in Dargate a large sum in cash was stolen. If you saw or heard anything suspicious, please phone the police on 101.

ADT

To book the Village Hall go to [www.hernhill-bookings.net](http://www.hernhill-bookings.net)

A copy of the Hernhill News and other local information can be found on the Village website. [www.hernhill.net](http://www.hernhill.net)

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COPY DATE

**Mon  
23rd  
June**



<b>Sun 1 June</b>	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 3	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 8	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion, Pentecost
	-----	Monkshill Farm	Open day
Tues10	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Thurs 12	-----	Mount Ephraim	National Gardens Scheme
Sat 14	-----	-----	Horticultural Summer Show
Sun 15	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion, Trinity
Tues 17	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sat 21	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 22	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 24	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 25	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 29	10.00am	Boughton Church	Sung Communion, Patronal Festival
<b>Tues 1 July</b>	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 6	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 8	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sat 12	-----	3 Horseshoes	Wheelie Bin Race
Sun13	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 15	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sat 19	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 20	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion, Ringers & singers
Tues 22	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun27	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 29	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 30	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council



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