



HERNHILL NEWS

MARCH 2014



The hour changes at midnight on Sunday 30th March, but, I can never remember if it goes forward or back. I find that this helps: '**spring forward, fall back**'.

It's Spring, so we must lose an hour.

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 26th February

Present: Mrs H. Figgis (Chairman), Mr G. Morsman, Mr M. Woods, Mrs J. Geliot, Mr A. Chapman, Mr M. Woodcock, Mrs S. Muteham (Clerk). Also Present: Mr G. Bobbin (Borough Councillor) and two members of the public.

The minutes of the full Council held on Wednesday 29th January were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising: The clerk reported that KCC (Highways) are currently inundated with reports of potholes and blocked drains, and are prioritising repair works.

Reports: Mr G. Morsman reported that the footpath which runs along the edge of the village hall is becoming obstructed by an overgrown hedge. The mains drain at Oakwell is now regularly flooding again and the clerk is to write a letter of complaint on behalf of the parish council to Southern Water. Mr M. Woods reported that the telephone box at Staplestreet has an internal light flashing on/off. There are two deep holes in the footpath on Staplestreet

opposite Mount Farm Barn and a fouled drain cover near Cherry Orchard House which are to be reported to KCC. Mrs J. Geliot reported that BT Openreach have recently been in attendance to a sagging telephone cable outside Church Oast, and have now cut the cable into two. Mr M. Woodcock reported that the road sign at the Fostall turning off the Thanet Way remains at a lower height than expected. The clerk informed those present that KCC have decided to leave the sign as it is since it is not restricting visibility for vehicles using the junction. Mrs H. Figgis reported that the new Hernhill School recently held its 10th birthday party. It was also reported that a request has been made to use the Village Green to host a tea-party (to raise money for the Children's Society) to which the Parish Council made no objection. There have been several concerns regarding the recent site access through the hedge and the very muddy road, which is being generated from building site opposite the village hall. Swale Borough Council Planning Enforcement team are investigating the matter. The new parish

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e-mail helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com

Clerk: Sarah Muteham 01227 751053 or 07740 706189

e-mail herhillclerk@gmail.com

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 752840

and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

council notice board has been installed on the village green. The clerk will be able to assist with any requests to utilise the notice board for local information/activities.

Planning: SW/14/0045 - Outline application including access for a mixed use development comprising business park, hotel, pub/restaurant, health centre, 196 residential dwellings, open space including sports pitches, amenity open space and parkland, roads, allotments and a traveller site. Land east of Love Lane, Faversham. The Council wish to object to the application and make the following comments:

The existing road infrastructure in the immediate area of the proposed site is not suitable for building contractor vehicles/delivery (in particular the rail/road bridge at Whitstable Road) and there is concern that the proposed accesses to the site will be detrimental to the existing highways.

The existing commercial site on Whitstable Road (site of the old Nova Garden Centre) could be utilised as a business park to remove the requirement to build a new additional business as proposed in the application. The land in the proposed application is currently designated as countryside and is grade 1 agricultural land which would be better utilised if not built on. Concerns were made regarding the stress that a large

scale development could have on the water systems/infrastructure in the Faversham area.

Administration: Mrs Figgis reported that she had received a letter of resignation due to ill health from Mrs Barbara Taylor. The Council now has a casual vacancy for a Parish Councillor and any interested party should apply for the position directly to the clerk by Friday 14th March.

The annual contracts for the allotments are due for renewal on 1st May and will shortly be sent out to all current plot holders.

Correspondence: Letter received from Citizens Advice Bureau, requesting financial support for the coming year. The service is available to all those in the parish and it was agreed by all present to make a donation of £50.00. Letter received from Swale Borough Council regarding "Issues and Options Consultation for Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations" with responses to made by Friday 25th April. The planning documents can be viewed on-line at www.swale.gov.uk/gypsy-and-traveller-site-policy-and-consultation.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be on Wednesday 26th March at 8:00pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 9:00pm.

FROM THE VICAR

Pancake Day (Tuesday 4th March) is still a well-known event in the year, thanks to the supermarkets' publicity for all things connected with pancakes. The more traditional name given to it in the UK is Shrove Tuesday, but in some parts of the world it is known as 'Mardi Gras' or 'Fat Tuesday'. Pancake Day or Fat Tuesday comes from the practice of using up the richer foods, such as eggs and butter. Those foods used to be forbidden during Lent which began the

next day, Ash Wednesday.

Shrove comes from the word 'shrive' meaning 'confess'. In the Middle Ages people would go to church individually on Shrove Tuesday for confession and absolution, then on Ash Wednesday they would go to church for a corporate service to begin Lent. The 'Ash' in Ash Wednesday comes from the ash of the previous year's burnt palm crosses put on people's foreheads in the shape of the cross.

The ash reminds us that we are dust

and that when we die we will return to dust, so it is a reminder of our mortality. In the Bible ashes are a sign of repentance and mourning so that ties in with the confessing on Shrove Tuesday. The sign of the cross reminds Christians that through Jesus' death and resurrection they are set free from sin and evil.

Today most people's observance of Shrove Tuesday is limited to eating pancakes but services are still held on Ash Wednesday where people may receive the sign of the cross in ash on their foreheads. Then Lent begins, forty days (excluding Sundays) leading up to the greatest and most important Christian celebration, Easter Day.

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter, it is always in spring in the northern hemisphere so the image of spring cleaning is a good one, a time to look at

the bad habits which we seem to have picked up over the past year and which need addressing before they become too ingrained. Maybe we have let our times of prayer and Bible reading slip, whether that is private or communal, many in Lent resolve to spend more time with God. Lent groups are a great discipline during Lent, an opportunity to read the Bible and learn together. All are welcome to join a Lent group whether you normally attend church or not. You can get more information from me, just ring. I hope you have a holy Lent, a special time of spiritual spring-cleaning and renewed discipleship, so when you come to Easter Day you are ready to celebrate.

Revd Jean Burrows
01227 751410

WORD OF WARNING

I'm sorry to start the year with a grumble but many of the Village societies have ceased to exist because of lack of support, and our society is in danger of going the same way.

Only 27 people came to the Social Evening. The committee had engaged a speaker, organised food and prepared a wine and wisdom. We were very disappointed with the turn out on the night. We were aware that there was some confusion over the date, but nobody phoned to enquire. We also realise that some people may not like to come out on a dark autumn evening. At the last committee meeting we discussed these matters and have decided to try a very different formula.

In future, the annual cup awards and the AGM will be combined. We have

also decided to hold the AGM/Cup Awards on a Saturday afternoon instead of in the evening. We have therefore booked the Village Hall for Saturday 15th March this year. The business meeting will take place at 3.00pm, then we hope to have a speaker followed by a chance to socialise with food and drink provided free.

There is a lot of enthusiasm among the committee and some members to make society activities as interesting as possible, but we do need the support of members. Without member-participation the Society will eventually cease to exist.

Please come to the AGM and let us know how you wish the Society to be run.

Jill Geliot,
Chairman

YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

As many of you may be aware my wife Jo and I have just returned from our first proper foreign holiday for over 10 years. We achieved what has always

been a lifetime ambition for us both in visiting New Zealand. After a few days in Auckland we cruised down the East Coast of New Zealand, through Fjordland, across to Tasmania, then Mel-

bourne and finally Sydney where we spent a few days before flying home. A wonderful experience.

I am sure we are all thankful that despite the atrocious weather we have not, so far, in Swale East suffered as badly as other parts of Kent. I realise this is little consolation to those people who have suffered damage to their houses or property. I am also acutely aware that on the latest Kent Highways listing the only two roads in Swale closed due to flooding are both in my Division, Oversland between Selling and Boughton and Brickfield Lane in Boughton. With ground water levels at or close to the surface and both these roads below the level of the adjacent fields there is no easy solution. I have ensured the Highways Officers regularly visit and inspect both locations. Officers have accepted that despite spending a lot of money at Oversland Bridge they will have to seek funding for a more expensive long term solution. Brickfield Lane is one of several in the Division that badly needs pot holes repaired and more extensive surface works. I am working closely with the Parish Councils to ensure these works are carried out when conditions allow and finance can be identified.

It seems wrong that we cannot maintain our Highways in a useable condition and the Chairman of the Environment Agency says we must choose between

protecting Towns or Rural areas whilst at the same time we send Tax Payers money to Countries that can choose to afford major space exploration programmes. Residents views welcome.

As I write this I am preparing for the Budget, setting meetings at both County Hall and then Swale Borough Council. The current draft Budgets show a 1.99% increase from Kent County Council (and a similar amount from the Police and Crime Commissioner) and a zero increase from Swale Borough Council for what I think is either the fourth or fifth year in succession.

I am hoping later this year to again hold my participatory Budgeting Meeting if there remains sufficient Officer support to help run the day. The total amount available to be spent in each County Division by local decision is set to be approximately halved this year. Because Kent Highways will be charging a significant amount for design and administration on all highways schemes I shall be seeking to encourage applications from voluntary groups, sports clubs, village hall committees and parish councils etc. for community projects rather than Highways Schemes. I shall be writing further to Parish Councils on this subject after the Budget is finally agreed.

Andrew Bowles

FIREWORKS CANCELLED

There will be no DCA fireworks display at Mount Ephraim this November.

There was a meeting to discuss the problems with finding new volunteers for key posts on the organising Committee, but apart from the group already involved, only three new people attended. A decision had to be made by last Friday, which was the cut-off date for ordering the fireworks from Phoenix, which cost a minimum of £5,000.

No one has come forward to take on the

role of event manager, which is essential to fulfil health and safety requirements and someone was also needed to run the lighting and cabling teams which set up *and* take down the equipment. The event has become hugely expensive to run, not only in terms of financial outlay, but also in hundreds of hours unpaid work by a small group, many of whom no longer have links with the community association.

Last year's event made only a small profit despite all the work and several of

the DCA groups which have benefited over the years from fireworks cash are now running their own successful funding programmes.

The Organising Committee will continue to meet however, and it is possible that a different type of event will be launched, using the equipment which has been built



up over the years. If people come forward who are willing to take on the challenge, it is possible that the event might be resurrected in the future, possibly on a smaller scale.

Crispin Whiting

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE

Peter Saddleton and Ann Butler are standing down from the committee. Both have served for a long time and made a valuable contribution to committee work. Peter was Secretary for a number of years and recently has arranged all the judges for the shows. Ann has always contributed when we needed food and provides lunch for the show judges. She has kept our flower troughs at either end of the village planted, watered and tidy. A big thank you to them both.

Jill Geliot

STEPTOE'S YARD?

Has anyone noticed what an eyesore the Pump 'Orchard' field has become. It is starting to resemble Steptoe's Yard, with the possible exception of the sheep and the huge ugly hot-tub! This is the view we see from our homes each day, there are metal cabinets strewn around, a rotting chicken shed, the covering from the hay bales and plastic sacks left to blow around in the wind. This of course could end up wrapped around the electrical cables across Staplestreet as did the tarpaulin from there. Time for something to be done about it.

Barbara Glykeriou

SUMMER LEES EVENTS TEAM

Sunday 25th May
& Monday 26th May
10.00am to 4.00pm

Following the recent flooding of farmland across the country, we are hoping to raise funds for RABI (The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution.)

The plan is to hold a

GIANT GARAGE SAFARI

in the Village and surrounding area over the bank holiday weekend at the end of May. However we need your help! In order for this to be a financial success we need lots of you to be involved. If you are interested in having a "garage" or stall please contact us by the end of March so that we can assess whether this is a viable idea.



Cost per garage/stall: £7.00 for one day, £10.00 for both days.

Jane Foreman - 07767693345
Joy Pritchard - 01227 750372

HERNHILL CRAFT CENTRE



The Committee of the Hernhill Craft Centre will be meeting in March to plan the opening of the 2014 season.

Easter Day is Sunday 20th April and the Craft Centre will be opening from that date on until September. It will be open

every Sunday from 2.00pm until 5.00pm and additionally at Bank Holidays.

There are often demonstrations of craft work and always a wide variety of craft goods for sale at very reasonable prices. Unlike many crafts shops, all items are made by members of the Craft Centre. Nothing is bought-in. If you haven't been before, go and take a look at what is on offer.

ADT

THE LION'S ROAR

Well at the time of writing I have my fingers crossed for a bit of sunshine on Saturday 1st March for our reggae Village party! I am sure many of you will be up and dancing and enjoying the hog roast. If you are reading this and the date has passed, don't worry; join us for Shrove Tuesday on 4th March. As mentioned last month our very own "pancake factory" will be open from 3.30pm onwards, giving us the opportunity to try out our new crepe stone! For £4.50 treat your kids to pancakes and a drink. We are hoping for a bit of audience participation with the cooking too!

Of course Sunday 30th is Mothering Sunday, win a few brownie points with

your family matriarch, book now for a sumptuous roast dinner. Go on spoil your mum!

The only other thing to mention this month is the forthcoming arrival of our craft beer pump with exclusive guest beers direct from Belgium. This is the bonus of being a free house. We have more freedom to experiment with what we have on the tap.

Honey enjoyed a bit of pampering over half term as Charlotte had the week off from her placement. She loved the extra attention and looks so beautiful with her new haircut; Charlotte looks pretty good for the break too!

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Ben Edwards

BITS AND PIECES

I know that I am accused of 'banging on' about the loss of social events in the Village, but this month there are two events under threat, the Horticultural Society's social evenings and the firework display. In fact the latter is already moribund.

There is a vacancy on the Parish Council, and there are vacancies in the Horticultural Society. The fireworks team, are still hoping to launch an event of some kind but they will need your support. If you can get involved in any of these please don't be shy. Volunteer soon.

The news media has changed from showing endless pictures of the distress caused by flooded fields and houses, sink holes and coastal destruction. Now they have changed their focus to display photos of the horrendous events in Kiev. Dante's inferno and the French Revolution spring to mind. Thank goodness, that too has the early signs of calming. And so too does our weather. We have actually had a few days of fine weather. However, the ground will need a lot more sunshine before it will dry-out.

Swale have just put out a helpful leaflet about refuse collection rules. These in-

clude the use of the new black and orange and the silver collection bins for food waste. The bins are due to be delivered between the end of this month and the end of March. If you want to use plastic bags then, be sure that they are 'compostable' not just 'biodegradable'.

Recently I have had to apologise to Peter Rawlings and Simon Carroll. I kept printing the wrong e-mail address for booking the Village Hall. It should have had an 's' at the end of the word 'booking'. I am sorry if that caused anybody a problem.

As usual, the Village Fete in aid of St Michael's Church and the Village Hall will be on the first weekend in May, Sat-

urday 3rd May. That may seem a long way off but, there are two things that you can do now. Gardeners are asked to sow a few extra seeds or take some cuttings for sale on the plant stall. Sweet peas are always popular on the stall. The other thing is that if you grow tomatoes for the Fete, please label them with the variety. Help is always needed setting up stalls on the morning and taking them down afterwards. so please note the date and keep the day free to get involved.

Don't miss the fete, it is a great social occasion. One of the last of the many that have disappeared.

ADT

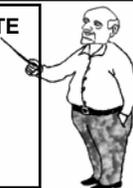


To book the Village Hall www.hernhill-bookings.net

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

COPY DATE

**Mon
24th
Mar**



Sun 2 Mar	10.00am	Village School	Education Sunday
Tues 4	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	SHROVE TUES Confirmation Service
Wed 5	7.45pm	Dunkirk Hall	Staplegate
	8.00pm	St Barnabas	ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion
Sun 9	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues11	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sat 15	3.00pm	Village Hall	Horticultural Soc AGM
	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 16	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 18	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 23	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 25	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 26	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sat 29	-----	Village Hall	Horticultural Society Spring Show
Sun 30	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	MOTHERING SUNDAY
	4.30pm	St Barnabas	Kenyan HC + refreshments
Tues 1 Apr	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 2	7.45pm	Dunkirk Hall	Staplegate
Sun 6	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion + Annual meeting
Tues 8	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sat 12	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun13	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	PALM SUNDAY Holy Communion
Tues 15	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Thurs 17	6.45pm	St Barnabas	MAUNDY THURS Passover supper
Fri 18	2.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	GOOD FRIDAY
Sun 20	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	EASTER DAY
Tues 22	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 27	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 29	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 30	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council