



# HERNHILL NEWS

## MARCH 2010

### PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council took place on 24th February. With the exception of Mrs Taylor and Mrs Geliot, who both sent apologies, all other Councillors were present, as was one member of the public, and the Clerk.

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27th January were signed as a true record. The Chairman pointed out that, due to a double-booking error regarding the Village Hall, the meeting had actually taken place in the Dawes CA property.

**Reports:** Mr Chapman said that a gully-emptier had attended at the flooded area near to the shop in the centre of Hernhill but had to cease operations after a short while when the machine started to suck gravel and other detritus. The County appears not to appreciate exactly what the problem at this site actually entails. Mr Chapman said that he had (as tactfully as was possible) telephoned Mr Ronan, who is the aide to Councillor Bowles at Maidstone, to suggest that a qualified drainage engineer should be sent to Hernhill, where he (the engineer) could meet a local person who was aware of the situation. They could then agree on what effective action needed to be taken.

Mr Chapman also reported that his

training day had been rearranged for the coming week. Mr Elliott said that the 'Hernhill News' production continues to proceed smoothly, each copy costing only 10 pence, which Councillors felt was very satisfactory.

The Chairman remarked on the erection of a new road sign at the Fostall turn-off, but also had to mention a flattened road sign in the Wey Street area, which the Clerk is to report to KCC.

The Chairman said that she would be attending the planning appeal which will take place shortly at Swale House in connection with the polytunnels at Waterham.

Mr Chapman reported on a meeting which he had attended, arranged for the residents of Manor Cottages. He said that opinions appeared to be divided and that no firm decision was reached.

The Clerk said that he had that day heard from the Chairman of the Village Hall. His message was that the Village Hall Committee would be grateful for any possible Village Grant Scheme money to help pay for the newly-installed boiler. As time is running out, the Clerk is to write to Swale forthwith, asking for financial aid.

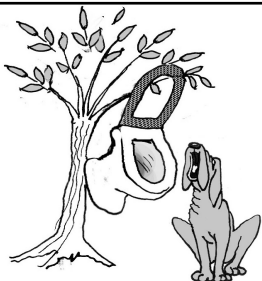
The Clerk also reported that the annual Precept is to be increased by £1000. Part of this will be spent on

additional fidelity insurance, which is, for reasons best known to itself, required by the Audit Commission. This is in spite of protestations by the Clerk.

Crispin Whiting has been officially appointed as Parish Pond Warden, and the British Trust for Nature Conservation has been suitably informed. Mr Whiting is an enthusiastic volunteer, and any person within the Parish who owns a suitable pond is asked to contact him.

The Clerk also reported that Councillor Bowles had contacted him, regarding the allegation that new local government voting legislation would be more expensive, as reported in the January News. Councillor Bowles states that the new legislation is expressly designed, in fact, to make the whole process cheaper.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting to be closed at 8.35p.m.



### **DOG WALKERS ON MOUNT EPHRAIM FARM**

Whilst we have an open farm policy which allows dog walkers, within reason, access across the farm, we would kindly request that dog mess is not tied to our trees in plastic bags. This is quite frankly an absurd and disgusting habit. The mess would be much better left on the ground for nature to deal with it.

Many thanks,  
Will Dawes

### **CHURCH URBAN FUND**

Many thanks to those who have already given me their boxes for this year.

May I have the rest please? Either to me at home or to Peter Wilcox, our church warden, in church.

We have had so many calls on our charity in the past year, I am anxious that the splendid work in deprived inner-city parishes does not suffer. You are all so generous, please carry on!

Barbara Taylor

### **FROM THE VICAR**

Fairtrade Fortnight ends on March 7<sup>th</sup> and you may have seen promotions and adverts encouraging you to swap your usual purchases and buy Fairtrade instead. I have been buying and promoting Fairtrade for many years and it is amazing how Fairtrade has grown and developed over that time. From not very pleasant tasting coffee and a few brands of tea bags Fairtrade has now grown to a wide range of products including food, wine, cotton

and flowers. In the supermarkets many own brand products are now Fairtrade making it so much easier for us to choose it. We now have Fairtrade towns, universities, dioceses and I hope our churches will become Fairtrade churches this year.

When you buy a product with the distinctive blue, green and black Fairtrade logo you know you are helping 3rd World farmers. Currently 5 million people – farmers, workers and their families – benefit through Fairtrade.

They receive a fair and stable wage for their labour, they are part of trading relationships which enable them to plan for the long term and they are able to work their way out of poverty. While international market prices fluctuate the Fairtrade price remains stable. If international market prices are low, farmers receive the Fairtrade price. If international market prices rise above the Fairtrade price, farmers receive the market price and a community premium as well.

Fairtrade gives each one of us an opportunity to be part of a movement that is changing the world for the better. An unequal world is an unstable world, the more we ask for Fairtrade products in our shops and supermarkets, the more Fairtrade products we buy and the more we can encourage others to buy, the greater the positive impact will be. We can make a difference, choose Fairtrade and help the 3rd World farmers to get a fairer deal.

Revd Jean Burrows

### OPEN GARDENS

This year the date for the Open Gardens is Sunday 27th June.

Last year was the best ever, lets make this year even better. Have you thought about opening your garden but are not sure what it entails? Do you have a friend or neighbour who has an interesting garden to open? If you live in Hern-

hill, Dargate, Staplestreet, and would like to chat about the possibility of opening your garden then do get in touch with me. It is always nice to have one or two new gardens opening. You can contact me on 07801 824867 or e-mail [alison.west@kemsdale.plus.com](mailto:alison.west@kemsdale.plus.com)

Alison West

### VILLAGE HALL

May I wish everyone a happy New Year from the Committee - a bit late I know but we only held our first meeting in February!

We have decided, until further notice, to hold Committee Meetings bi-monthly as there are not a lot of urgent matters to attend to currently and as most (sorry all of us) sit on other Village committees or organisations as well. We felt this a sensible course of action. We will of course revert to having monthly meetings should the need arise! Therefore the next meeting will be on 12th April (a week late due to the Bank Holiday) then the first Monday every other month.

We have approved the replacement of the existing boiler and its controls and this work will be completed (hopefully) by the time you read this! This will improve resource efficiency and hopefully make the system easier to operate and less prone to "unauthorised" adjust-

ment by hirers upsetting future settings for other bookings. The new system will also do away with the hot water storage tank in the loft providing "direct" hot water to kitchen on demand! I know many of you will welcome the passing of this old "friend"! We will place a "help" card in the hall by the kitchen door to explain to hirers how to use the system in an emergency.



The Committee is now in need of additional members from the Village to help it continue its work on your behalf. I know I have made this request before (falling on deaf ears) but it is going to be important to strengthen our numbers by the summer or we may need to consider other

options for managing the hall. It is unfair to expect some of our members to continue as they have done for many, many, many years without a break. Everyone deserves to retire at some time! So please do try to help, its not onerous or difficult it just involves a little

bit of your time!

Please contact me if you are able to help. 01227 794869 or e-mail dsmann50@msn.com Thank you.

David Mann  
Chairman and Treasurer.



### 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.

Beryl Chipperton  
01227 752912

### CELEBRATION MEAL

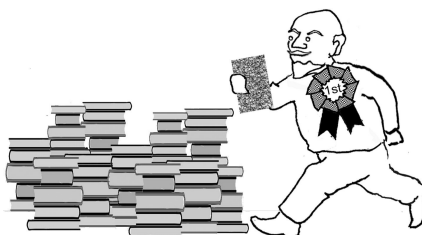
**Maundy Thursday Passover meal**  
On Maundy Thursday evening (1st April) we will celebrate a Passover meal in St Barnabas. We did it last year for the first time and everyone who came enjoyed it (which is what celebration meals are about, Passover does mean a lot of wine, or red grape juice, is drunk) as well learning more about the significance of Passover for Christians. It was at a Passover meal that Jesus instituted the new Passover, the Holy

Communion service, so there is a lot of rich symbolism waiting to be unpacked. Our Passover meal includes some symbolic starters such as haroset, and the traditional roast lamb (or there is a vegetarian/vegan option) and is suitable for all ages except very young children. Tickets, £6.50, children half price, will be limited as we want to keep a family feel to the meal so book early by contacting Keith and Teresa Clark (01227 750739).

### BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

Books given to the church in 'as new' condition have raised another £100 to help with church expenses. Please keep the books coming and many thanks to all villagers and church members who 'bring and buy' them.

Barbara Taylor  
01227 751293



### SHOES NEWS

**Music:** On Saturday 13th March we have Steve Whalley and Nigel Hardy at 8.30pm, you can find them on 'my space'. Then Saturday 27th March 'The

Fat River Band' will be playing at 8.30pm. They have a web site, just go to [www.thefatriverband.co.uk](http://www.thefatriverband.co.uk) or [www.myspace.com/thefatriverband](http://www.myspace.com/thefatriverband) for a sneak preview.

**Tales from the Bar:** Now let's hope all the snow has gone for this year and we can all look forward to the spring and summer. All the while there was snow everybody was complaining that the snow plough had not been through. So what happens when it does arrive? They all come in complaining that the snow plough had pushed the snow to one side and they could not get their cars out. Don't you just love them!

Our music quiz night was a good one. We raised £122 for breast cancer, but that was not before we took mobile phones and music books off some people looking for the right answer. Everyone had a really good evening with only

one point separating first and second. So how many of you watched East Enders. By all accounts there were 16.6 million plus 2. The two were me and the barmaid; and I don't even watch it or know the story lines. But it was not to be missed. So we left our son in charge of the bar and Mike cooking on his own. I think I need counselling. When I lived in the East End I never saw that much aggression, so what did I miss out on. I may add that I was lucky not to have seen it if it really did happen in that part of London.

Have a good month.

Vera

### **CRAFTS CENTRE**

We are opening again this season beginning Easter Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April and things will be operating as usual. It will be lovely to see you and I hope that you may be able to contribute in whatever way suits you; whether by selling your goods, manning the sales or demonstrating. Any of these activities are very helpful to supporting the Centre.

We are holding the AGM on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00pm in the Craft Centre. Biscuits and tea are provided. Brian



Jelfs has organised a different booking-in form for us this year. This will make life simpler and he will explain the new system. All previous forms are to be disposed of and he will issue new individual ones at the meeting.

Any goods submitted for sale will need to be at the Craft Centre by Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March to give those setting up time to make the display as good as possible. Lets hope we have better weather and a successful season.

Frances Attree

### **HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

The AGM was held on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> February and was well attended. We would like to welcome the two new members who have joined our society.

#### **GARDEN OUTINGS**

We are arranging a full day coach-trip visiting two gardens; Nymans Garden, West Sussex,(the garden has disabled access.) and also High Beeches Garden, West Sussex (this garden has limited disabled access). A deposit of £10.00 will secure your seat on the coach.

**Shared Car Trip:** This will be to Great Comp Garden near Sevenoaks on the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> August. The garden has a 'Plantsmans Paradise' award winning nursery (there is disabled access).

**Evening Garden Visit:** This will be to Godmersham Park Gardens in late May or early June.

All these dates are to be confirmed. For more information please call Isabel Pet-tifer on 01227 751128

**The Spring Show:** This will be held in Hernhill Village Hall on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March. The staging time is 9.45am to

11.15am. All exhibits must be staged by 11.15am. There will be a small entrance fee. Members who were not at the meeting should contact Sylvia Philpott on 01227 750259 for your schedules.

The show opens to the public at 2.00pm. Presentations are at 3.00pm and will be followed by an auction of produce.

Peter Bentley

### BITS AND PIECES

I know that many of you are disappointed about the cancellation of the Russian singers. I and the members of the Restoration Committee are too.

Negotiations with the group started as long ago as November and I have lost track of the number of e-mails involved.

Just two weeks before the concert I received an e-mail to say that the granting of visas by our Government agency had been delayed and that visas would not be available in time for our concert. It appears that the rules had been changed. Despite the quartet being committed to giving concerts for charities, they now have to go through the process of obtaining work permits before a visa can be issued. Since work permits take much longer than visas, there was not enough time left for our concert. The Committee is already working on some more events for your entertainment during the year.

In the last issue I was welcoming 'global warming', and that is no surprise. Today my daily newspaper is saying that this has been the longest, coldest winter on record. Not only is it cold, it is wet. The ground is so soggy that, with the recent spell of rain, I now have a stream running through my garden. However, there is always someone worse off. The same paper also reported that the breeders of fighting bulls in Spain are

worried. The bulls are not developing as they should. The bulls don't like the wet and refuse to eat when the ground is sodden and so they are significantly under weight. It appears that in that area of Spain they have had continuous rain for three months. "The rain in Spain stays mainly....."

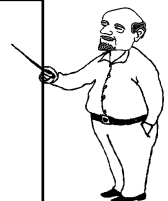
Barbara and I are not sports fanatics but the Winter Olympics have become compulsive viewing. We can't believe the things that some of them are doing. Their speed is such that I would insist on seat-belts and air-bags for the ride. The dangers are enormous. Commentators say that the contestants do it for the adrenalin-rush, but watching four skiers flying down the slopes together looks like sheer madness to me. It was like watching a gladiatorial competition with the knowledge that someone would probably get injured and that someone might even get killed. Curling is of course much more soothing to watch but we have now decided that the excitement of doing the crossword is quite enough for us.

The new boiler system for the Village Hall is in and working. I understand that there is a short learning curve to be overcome and perhaps a few teething problems. However, well done the Village Hall Committee!

ADT

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**COPY  
DATE  
Sun  
28th  
Mar**



<b>Mar 1 Mon</b>	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 2	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 3	7.30pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 7	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
	2.00pm	Crafts Centre	AGM
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
	-----	Crafts Centre	Last day for entries
Tues 30	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 31	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Apr 2 Fri	2.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Good Friday - a quiet, reflective Service
4 Sun	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Easter Day - Sung communion
	2.00pm	Crafts Centre	Opens for the season
Mon 5	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 6	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 7	7.30pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 11	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Mon 12	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 12	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 13	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Will Mowl, Trip to India
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



PUBLISHED BY  
COURTESY OF  
HERNHILL PARISH  
COUNCIL

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