



HERNHILL NEWS

MAY 2014

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 30th April.

Present: Mrs H. Figgis (Chairman), Mr G. Morsman, Mr M. Woods, Mrs J. Geliot, Mr M. Woodcock, Mr M. Cooper, Mr A. Bowles, Mrs S. Muteham (Clerk). Apologies were received from Mr G. Bobbin and Mr A. Chapman. Also present were two members of the public. Prior to the start of the meeting Mr M. Cooper signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor.

Minutes: The minutes of the full Council held on Wednesday 26th March were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising: The Clerk confirmed that the private road between the Village Green and church is scheduled for re-surfacing works on Friday 2nd May.

Reports: Mr Morsman mentioned that the rubbish bin on Staplestreet is full and requires emptying. Mr Woods confirmed that the broken light in the phone box by the Three Horseshoes pub has now been repaired. It was also reported that there have recently been two thefts from properties along Staplestreet. It was noted that the conifers opposite the church on Church Hill have recently been trimmed, but not to a satisfactory standard. It was also noted that the pot-hole near Holly House has not yet been

repaired and that a cyclist recently fell off a bike whilst riding through it. Mrs Geliot commented that the water continues to run down the hill at Fairbrook and fails to drain away properly. Mr Cooper reported that there is currently a half plot available at the allotments. Mrs Figgis reported that she had received a complaint from a member of the public regarding the new-build development on Staplestreet. It was agreed to respond with the following: "Thank you for your e-mail. I am sorry that you were offended by the mention of your property in the April edition of the Hernhill News. It is the duty of the Parish Council to look into all concerns that are raised at their meetings from members of the parish. In this case the Clerk has spoken to the Swale Borough Council Planning Officer who informs us that "there is nothing of concern for the Planning team regarding the building on the site". Jane Foreman from Summer Lees asked the Parish Council if the 'Giant Garage Safari' could be held on the Village Green on 25th and 26th May. This was agreed.

Planning: SW/14/0391 Proposed dwelling to replace former cottage and associated works on the land adjoining Acorns, Butlers Hill. The majority voted in favour of the application. The Parish Council requested that the application

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

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

be taken to Swale Planning Committee and that a site meeting take place. The current planning report was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was reported that there are concerns that development work at the new build property at School Mews has been undertaken outside of agreed working hours.

Administration: The clerk will be chasing outstanding payments for allotments. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 28th May at 8.00pm. It was agreed that this would be advertised as an event where parishioners should come along to meet Councillors

and discuss local issues, and tell Councillors what they would like to see being done in the Parish. Refreshments are to be provided.

The clerk had obtained quotes for the Parish Council insurance. It was agreed to continue with the current insurance provider (Came & Co) at a cost of £265. The Annual Parish Meeting is to be on Wednesday 28th May at 8:00pm, with the Parish Council meeting (AGM) following immediately after.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

CHURCH URBAN FUND

May I send a big thank you to all the kind friends who, between them, con-

tributed £242 for inner city church causes.

Barbara Taylor

COMMUNITY COMPOSTING 15 years on.

We now finally have a weekly kerbside food waste collection in Swale.

It is now almost fifteen years since we ran our kerbside scheme, collecting from around 100 households in the Hernhill Parish. Taking the material to Mallards Farm to be composted and then offered back to the community. Whilst the new scheme is very welcome, it is disappointing that the material has to travel some distance within the borough with no likelihood of the final product being offered back to the community. However, it is a massive step that the material collected, which is a resource rather than waste, is actu-

ally being returned to the land rather than being mixed with an assortment of toxic materials which are land filled or incinerated.

Obviously, the best thing is to compost one's food at home if at all possible. But for a lot of people this is neither possible or desirable. So I urge anyone who is putting their food into the green bin for incineration, to just stop for a second and put it in the new orange top bins provided. For those residents who remember our fight to stop the landfill site in Dargate, the weekly collection of food waste represents an important step. Though fifteen years on we still have some way to go!!

Felix Krish

YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

It is a beautiful time of the year to be out and about in the Swale Countryside. Bluebells, primroses and the fruit tree blossom all seem particularly vibrant this year. As I write this we are looking forward to the Eastling Bluebell Walk on Monday the 5th May. So much work goes into organizing this, especially the

refreshments laid on in the Village Hall that I hope we are blessed with good weather and that the bluebells are still out on the day. There are so many community events where volunteers put in tremendous efforts on behalf of their Villages and deserve recognition and support from us all. Another forthcoming event is Hernhill's Village Fete, always

the first in the season, due to be held this year on Saturday the 3rd May.

During April I was involved in two separate meetings with Government Ministers. South East England Councils had requested a meeting with Local Government Minister Brandon Lewis to discuss the difficulties of managing the impact of Gypsy and Traveller Sites under current Planning Laws. As Swale suffers disproportionately from this problem and I suspect due to my being so vocal on the issue, I was asked to lead the delegation. We met Mr Lewis in a Committee room in the House of Commons and whilst I do not expect immediate results I thought we had a very fair hearing. The Minister seemed very aware and engaged with the issue and certainly granted us a longer time slot than one usually gets from Government Ministers. Future Legislation or indeed Election Manifesto commitments may show if we have had any concrete effect.

Far less satisfactory was the joint South East Strategic Leaders (i.e. Counties and Unitaries) and South East England Council's meeting with the Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss tackling flooding in the South East. In particular we wished to focus on securing Government support for, ensuring sufficient funding for immediate repair and response work, investing today to reduce the cost of future flood emergencies, ensuring effective and efficient Council led multi Agency action in times of flood, progress on taking forward sustainable urban drainage schemes. Whilst we welcome Government's recognition of the need to make additional funding available we are not sure wheth-

er the funds will really be sufficient to address the scale of the problem.

April and May is the period for Annual Parish Meetings. I urge you to attend as this is your meeting, although chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council, it is the opportunity for Parishioners to receive the Annual Reports of both the Parish Council's activities and finances. Many Parishes also include reports from other village organisations and sometimes the Borough and County Councilors. Most important of all it is your opportunity to question your elected representatives. So far I have attended Annual Meetings at Sheldwich, Graveney, Selling and Eastling. All had members of the public in attendance but I am sure the Parish Councils would welcome more public involvement. At Graveney we had an excellent presentation from former RSPB Warden Bob Gomes. I have also attended monthly Parish Council Meetings at Lynsted, Ospringe, Newnham and Dunkirk. I will continue to attend Annual Parish Meetings and Parish Council Meetings whenever possible subject to clashes with Swale Borough Council commitments. I hope to see some of you at forthcoming meetings.

On a final note many of you will have just received notification as to which school your child has been allocated. I wish to remind you that if you are unhappy with this allocation and wish either to appeal or discuss whether to appeal I am always happy to talk with you and possibly support you at the appeal hearing. I can also support you at home to school transport appeals, indeed I already have one such hearing in my diary for the 16th May.

Andrew Bowles

THE LION'S ROAR

Let's face it, May is a brilliant month, two bank holidays which is good for you and good for me too!

On Sunday 4th May we will have a day

of music, our regular traditional Irish group will play as normal in the evening and we hope to have another band in the afternoon. 'Hullabaloo' will be here on Sunday 25th from 8.00pm, so book

your Sunday roasts and then stay on with us into the evening!
Our marble bar has been installed upstairs. It has made quite a difference. We are now awaiting the arrival of our new settees to kick back in and enjoy some fizz! Watch this space for an opening night.
See you all at the Village Fete for a pint

or two. Fingers crossed for good weather but I'll be there rain or shine as I'm sure you will too.
Honey has been pampered again with a trip to the "salon". She certainly is a pampered pooch but I wouldn't have it any other way!
Looking forward to seeing you all soon.
Ben Edwards

**HERNHILL
GIANT GARAGE SAFARI**

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

Over 30 garages are taking part in this event, being held over the Sunday and Monday of the late May bank holiday and a wide variety of items and local produce will be available for sale. Safari HQ will be in the field opposite Hernhill Village Hall, where maps showing the location of all those properties taking place can be purchased for £1.00. Refreshments will also be available all day next door at



Woodfield.
The money raised from the stall fees and map sales is to go to R.A.B.I. (the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution) and their emergency fund, set up to help farming families across the country following the extensive flooding in the early part of this year.
For further details please contact:

Joy Pritchard, 01227 750372
Jane Foreman, 07767693345

**HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
SPRING SHOW**

The spring show proved to be very successful with 22 entrants and 235 entries. Trophy winners: Home Economics Greville Cup - Anne Butler, Woods Cup Best Vegetables - Tony Bentley, Dargate House Cup for Floral Arrangement - Jill Gelliot, Ben Bones Cup for Best Photograph - Helen Bentley, Wade Cup for best Daffodil - Violet Croll, Peter Bentley Shield for most points for Daffodils - Mark James. Children Class for

flower arrangements: first place - Ethan, second place - Kayla , third - place, Tom.
Outings: An evening outing to Copton Ash on Tuesday 13th May. Please meet at the garden at 6.30pm. Entrance £3:50, Tea & biscuits £1.00, Tea & cake £2.00. For further details call Sylvia Phillpot on 01227 750259.
The Society would like to welcome all the new members.

Peter Bentley

FROM THE VICAR

Thursday 29th May is an often forgotten festival in the church's year. It has escaped being commercialized, no

cards are sent, no presents given. Ascension Day is tucked away, always on a Thursday, and it can easily pass us by. Jesus' ascension, celebrated on the

40th day after Easter, marks the return of Jesus, in resurrected human bodily form, to heaven.

Saying goodbye, especially for the last time, can often be difficult, leaving us with a great sense of loss. But before he was removed from their sight, Jesus commissioned his disciples as witnesses of all he had said and done, telling them to continue his teaching 'to the ends of the earth' and promising to be with them forever.

The Ascension is Jesus' coronation day, the day Jesus was crowned, to use the imagery so loved by hymn writers. It marked both an ending and a beginning. The end of Jesus' earthly ministry, the end of a Jesus limited by his physical body in space and time. The beginning was of Jesus' heavenly reign and the giving of the Holy Spirit which we'll be celebrating next month at Pentecost. The challenge is that a limited Jesus is easier to deal with, we know where he is, what he's doing, but we cannot and must not limit Jesus in any way. He is to be found everywhere, not just in churches and cathedrals but in schools

and shops, factories and farms, war zones and disaster areas, in respectable places as well as the seedy back streets of our towns and cities. Jesus will not be tied to a particular church or denomination or style of worship. We have to be aware of the ways in which we limit Jesus to what we feel comfortable with. We all have our own preferences, and prejudices, but we cannot imprison Jesus within them.

There is a saying that 'Jesus came to comfort the troubled and trouble the comfortable'. Many Christians are comfortable, materially as well as spiritually, do we ever sense Jesus challenging that sense of comfort?

Jesus calls his followers to go where he went, serving him wherever they are, being aware that Jesus was often found on the edges of society talking to those every respectable person shunned. Jesus is enthroned in heaven but his call to us remains the same as when he was on earth, love God with all your being and love your neighbour as much as you love yourself.

Revd Jean Burrows

MY DAD'S TATERS

My Dad he was a gardener, a
gardener quiet and wise.
He grew his veg well every year. a
twinkle in his eyes.
He tended them and talked to them,
and told a merry joke
To people who did visit him, 'the
interested folk'.
Sometimes when he was busy, he'd
sing a merry tune,
And always planted out his seeds
according to the moon.
One year he planted carefully his
usual crop of 'spuds'.
Telling them to grow well and not to
tun out duds,
He earthed 'em up, and weeded 'em,
fed 'em good ol' muck,

They must have 'took' his word to
heart, it couldn't be just luck
For when he came to dig 'em up, he
had a great surprise,
Cor! luv a duck! you should have seen
their great 'Majestic' size.
The first one that he lifted was bigger
than a marrow,
So big it was he had to stop and go
and get a barrow
And as he wheeled his 'tater' home,
he had to cross the road,
The traffic stopped to let him pass with
such a heavy load,
It took six weeks to eat it up, and then
he said to Mother,
"I'll take me barrow back again and go
and get another".

Kath Stone

THE SHOES

To the friends and denizens of the public bar, The Three Horseshoes is never anything but 'The Shoes'. Consistent though that may be, you may find that things aren't quite the same next time you go in for a pint. Buster" has taken over.

Clive "Buster" McDonnell is a regular at the Shoes and has been for ten years. A year or so ago he started to come in to cook the Sunday roasts. Now he is 'Mine Host', there every day to cook his specialities and to greet his customers. The Shoes is a lively pub. They are currently organising the annual Wheeliebin Race, from the pub to Mount Ephraim and back. Last year it raised £1400 for the Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury.

Buster also runs his transport business

from his yard at Oare. So where is he going to find the time for both jobs? He says, "I think it will work out well though my in-tray during the takeover period at The Shoes was pretty full."

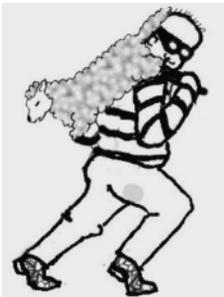
The Shoes is essentially a family affair. Daughter Charlotte is 'front of house' having been behind the bar for nearly two years. Her elder sister Cassie works there part-time and mum, Kay, is there to help out when necessary. In fact, it was a family consideration that helped bring Buster to The Shoes.

When the previous licensees were about to leave, Charlotte, who has the flat above the pub, was going to have to move. Buster said, "I thought I'd give it a go at being a pub landlord. Stepping into the breach. But isn't that what Dads are for?"

LAMBS

We had two full-sized, resin lambs stolen from our field, at some point during last weekend. The theft has been reported to the local PCSO and a crime number given XY/13440/14.(but no baa code!!!)

Not only do these lambs have great sentimental value but they have given hours of pleas-



ure to passersby and walkers who use our lane. If the miscreant reads the 'News' maybe their consciences will be prodded enough to feel guilty and return the lambs to us.

Gill Couzens
Thread Cottage
Hernhill

THE WAR MEMORIALS

The work continues to find the stories behind the names on our three village war memorials; we are still looking for help filling in gaps in the information, and still aim to gather all the stories on to a web site, to be launched in the summer. We're taking special care to make sure that the information is as accurate as possible, and list all our sources.

Many thanks to Don Coles for unearthing a treasure trove of Dunkirk Parish Magazines from 1915. Early in the First World War, relatives shared the con-

tents of letters home with the then editor, who was the headmaster of Dunkirk School and who was later to lose his own son in the conflict. It would seem that after about a year he and the families were reminded of the need not to give out information useful to the enemy, so this feature disappeared from the magazine shortly before the magazine was itself a casualty when the printer's workforce were called up and printing as a separate publication ceased.

Boughton and Hernhill would have had

similar publications, that we haven't yet been able to find, so if anyone can help, either with old magazines or with any other family records, we'd be very grateful. If you think your family have old photographs or documents about

anyone on the memorials that we might not have seen, please get in touch with us, ideally send an e-mail to sue.owen@tiscali.co.uk or phone us on 01227 750203

Sue and Julian Owen

ROGATION WALK

This will be at The Bounds on Sunday 4th May at 10.00am. Local farmer Henry Bryant will give us a guided tour of part of his farm and we'll sing and pray a blessing on his crops. All are welcome including dogs and buggies but dress warmly if necessary as we are outdoors all the time.

This is an ancient ceremony. The word 'rogation' comes from the Latin 'rogare'

which means 'to ask'. It's the time of the year when we ask God to bless crops and animals, remembering that all life is a gift from God.

We will meet at the brown metal gates on your left in the slip road off Bull Lane that leads to Boughton Village Hall car park. If it is wet we will instead meet in Hernhill Church and use photos of the farm instead.

Revd Jean Burrows

BITS AND PIECES

Barbara has asked me to pass on her thanks for the many kind comments after the announcement of her retirement from the Parish Council.

It is a characteristic of the Taylor household that I am subjected to unkind observations on every possible occasion. The latest is about my new e-mail address (newsadt@gmail.com). Elder son says that this should be read as, 'new sad t'. As far as I'm concerned if that is easier to remember, so be it.

Crispin has reported what I hope will prove to be good news for the future. He wrote, "The village has been hit by a lot of crime in recent years and many burglaries seem to go unsolved.

However, one at Godfrey's Grave a year ago has just resulted in the offender being brought to book, thanks to a mobile phone....a search of his flat turned up several mobile phones. All phone companies have to keep records of the location of mobiles and it showed that this one had been at 42 properties at the exact time and date when burglaries were committed- one of these being in Hernhill. The owner had been circling the M25 and M2 in a stolen car and thieving left, right and centre....He is now facing a prison sentence."

Come rain or shine I will be at the Fete. I hope to see you there.

ADT

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

A copy of the Hernhill News and other local information can be found on the Village website. www.hernhill.net

Alan D. Taylor
Yew Tree House, Dargate
near Faversham, Kent ME13 9HG
01227 751293
e-mail newsadt@gmail.com

COPY DATE

Mon
26th
May



Sat 3 May	2.00pm	Village Hall	VILLAGE FETE
Sun 4	10.00am	The Bounds	'Beating the bounds' Service
Tues 6	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 11	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 13	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sat 17	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 18	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues20	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 25	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	-----	-----	GIANT GARAGE SAFARI
Mon 26	-----	-----	GIANT GARAGE SAFARI
Tues 27	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 28	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 1 June	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 3	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 8	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion, Pentecost
Tues10	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
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