



# HERNHILL NEWS

## MAY 2010



Yes, I did make a right cobblers of the diary last month. I did what I never should have done. Being short of time I didn't have it proof-read. So, it was nobody's fault but mine.  
Sorry.

ADT

### PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting took place on Wednesday 28th April. Present were Mrs Figgis, Mrs Taylor, Mr Chapman, Mr Morsman, Ward Councillor Andrew Bowles, and the Clerk.

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st March were signed as a true record.

**Matters arising:** the Chairman commented on the speed with which the parish's potholes had been repaired and thought most of the worst examples had been mended.

**Reports:** Gordon Ottaway, much-respected Chairman of Boughton Parish Council, has died recently; Mr Morsman considered that a letter of sympathy be sent to Boughton Councillors, as most of Hernhill's Councillors had known of his fine reputation.

An excellent report has been received from Crispin Whiting, a beautifully-produced document detailing his first few months as Village Pond Warden. He remarks on his good fortune in having the County Amphibian Recorder for Kent, and the ecologist Amy Wright, living in adjacent parishes at Dunkirk and Boughton. Mr Whiting's enthusiasm shows through in his report, and the Parish Council is grateful for his valuable services.

Mrs Figgis commented on the most recent actions at Boughton Hill, and it would appear that some concrete action is at last imminent.

**Planning applications:** no seriously adverse comments had been offered on the four planning proposals: the Manor House - wrought-iron gates (there were comments critical of retrospective approval) 4, Monk's Hill Cottages, Waterham - single-

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Clerk: Terry Smart; phone 01227 274047

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 767423

and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

storey extension; Pear Tree Cottage, Dargate - rear extension and Sutherland House, Staple Street - conservatory. A recently received application was also discussed at length - the construction of B1, B2 and B8 industrial units in linear blocks, proposed by Cedar Holdings (UK) Ltd. on the derelict site at the Duke of Kent. All Councillors were resigned to the fact that a development would take place here, sooner or later, but this application before the Parish Council was not the answer. All Councillors mentioned the superfluity of industrial sites on, and leading from, the A299 Thanet Way, many of which were empty and out of use generally. One Councillor pointed out the in-

cident dangers of increased road traffic, which could be in the HGV class. One Councillor considered that, if the site is to be developed eventually, then residential housing, perhaps cheaper rural housing, could be considered. The Clerk is to write accordingly.

**Correspondence:** communications are still proceeding with Swale Borough Council's Planning Enforcement Team concerning an alleged 'Change of Use' offence in the village.

Mr Bowles gave details of the ongoing Parish Grant funding - there is a possible source from Kent County Council. The Clerk is to call Mr Bowles's personal aide at County Hall for the necessary application forms.

### WELL DONE THE DOVE

Phil and I attended the Shepherd Neame pub awards held at Brewers Hall in London last week. We are very proud to announce that The Dove has won the Shepherd Neame award for 'The pub restaurant of the year 2010'.

We do hope that our regular customers and those local to the area will celebrate our success and we would like to thank all those who have passed on their good wishes. Credit must be extended to our staff both front of house and behind the scenes for their contribution in helping The Dove to warrant this award. Also, just to keep you updated with



our fundraising events, our monthly 'Day of Roast' has raised £32.50 for MacMillan Cancer Support to date. The 'Huge Egg Hunt' held on Easter Monday and the 'Guess how many eggs in the jar' competition raised £64.00 for our chosen charity. We hope to build on these totals during the year.

Oh yes and before I sign off - Many thanks to those villagers who gave up their valuable drinking time to look for and find our dog 'Cubby Woof' when she recently took herself off into the woods with an unsuspecting group of walkers!

Sarah

### NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

The Restoration Fund has run a wide variety of events Now we are going to have an art exhibition in the Church.

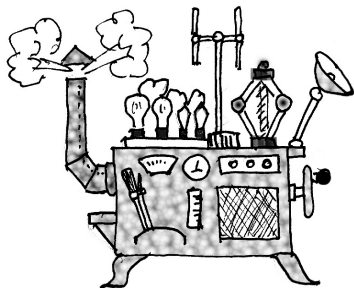
It is expected that over twenty artists, including many distinguished local artists, will be exhibiting their paintings, drawings, textiles etc. You will be able to purchase some of the items on display. This will be a rare opportunity so make a note of the dates in your diary;

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th June, 10.00am till 6.00pm.

If you would like more information about the exhibition, please contact Brian Jelfs, 01227 752309 or Janet Macintosh 01227 750374  
ADT

### FROM THE VICAR

I have come up with a new invention which will help us all to know who to vote for at our forthcoming general election.



It is a computer where we type in all the policies that we agree with or are important to us and then the answer comes up telling us which party best fulfils our preferences.

It can be difficult to know who to vote for when elections come round. In my previous parish our local MP was a Christian; at the hustings (organised by the church), he was obviously the best candidate to be our constituency MP but for many he belonged to the 'wrong' party. In that situation one had to decide whether to vote for a man or a party.

We do have to try and engage with

the issues and make an informed decision based not primarily on what is best for me but what is best for our country and our world. We also need to pay attention to the underlying beliefs and values of the individual candidates.

It is easy to feel apathetic about politics, all the sound bites, the point scoring, the sleaze, the negative campaigning, to mention just a few of the things that may turn us off but Christians have a responsibility to be involved in politics and to vote.

Alan Beith, who was one time deputy leader of the Liberal Democrat Party is a Christian and he wrote that, "Apathy is not a Christian virtue. There is a primary Christian responsibility - duty - to act responsibly and that usually means voting, and doing so with careful consideration." You probably know the quote, attributed to Edmund Burke, the 18th century political thinker, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." In 2001 only 59.4% of the UK population voted, in 2005 it was 61.4%, this contrasts with at least 70% from 1955 onwards. I am hopeful that this election will see a

higher turnout because who wins is not a foregone conclusion (as it was in 2005 hence the low turnout) and there is a possibility of a hung parliament.

Democracy is not to be taken for granted and no vote is wasted, please make sure you vote on Thursday 6th May.

Revd Jean Burrows

### **HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

The Summer Show is on Saturday 12th June opening at 2.00pm to the public. This is the show at which the Mary Dawes Memorial Vase is presented for the best rose as voted by people attending the show. We need lots of roses and lots of people to vote, please support us.

Garden outing on Thursday 15th July is a full day coach trip visiting two gardens. Nymans Garden, West Sussex, (the garden has disabled access) and also High Beeches Garden, West Sussex (the garden has limited disabled access). This is our annual coach outing and the coach will leave Mount Ephraim car park promptly at 9.00am . To book a place please phone Isabel Pettifer on 01227 751128 and send a deposit of £10 per person to Rebecca Parr at Southland, Church Hill, Hernhill, Faversham, Kent. Cheques should be made payable to Hernhill Horticultural Society. The total cost of

the outing depends on numbers, but will not exceed £25.

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 wish to travel with someone else. The garden has a 'Plantsmans Paradise' award winning nursery. (Disabled access).

There will be an evening garden visit to Godmersham Park Gardens (between Chilham and Ashford on the A28) on Thursday 27th May at 6.30pm. Meet at the gardens. The entrance fee is £4.00. Please car share if possible. Isabel apologises for increase in entrance fee to £4.00 instead of £3.50 as originally quoted.

For anymore information on outings please call Isabel Pettifer on 01227 751128

Peter Bentley

### **YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE SUCCESSES**

You may be interested in the activities of my son and daughter. Davina is a pupil at Kent College and studies part time at Trinity College of Music, London. Last summer Davina was a participant in one 'Youth Music Theatre's shows,

"According to Brian Haw". This was staged at the Barbican Theatre, Plymouth. The show, devised and directed by Eddie Latter, but incorporating ideas from the cast, was based on the life and experiences of Brian Haw who's protest camp is outside the House of Commons. He began his protest against the war in

Iraq nine years ago and was voted, "Most inspiring political figure" at the 2007 Channel 4 political awards. The cast was pleased to be involved in a musical that had a political message; unusual for this type of production. Following the initial performances, the cast has taken the show to the NASUWT (Teachers' Union) Congress in the International Conference Centre, Birmingham.

Davina has also successfully auditioned for a new Youth Music Theatre show, "New Dawn". This is a contemporary rock-vampire musical that is to be performed at the Aberdeen Youth Festival on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> August this year. The previous musical showcased at the festival was transferred to a London West End Theatre over the Christmas period last year.



Her brother Jasper, has also had success at Youth Theatre. He was picked by Alan Ayckbourn, out of nearly 2,000 hopefuls, to be one of his principals in "Orvin, Champion of Champions" which Alan Ayckbourn directed in the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough. Jasper then appeared in the Youth Music Theatre's production of "Amy's Wedding" with

Lcuy Griffiths. She went on to become Maid Marion in the BBC production of "Robin Hood". Jasper was in "The Count of Monte Christo" before going to the Royal Northern College of Music where he is studying composition. One of his pieces will be performed at St. Gregory's Centre for Music on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Christine Brownrigg  
The Fostall

### SHOES NEWS

On Saturday 8th May we have 'The Blue Devils' playing from 8.30pm, and on Saturday 29th May the return of 'Stormy Monday' with an 8.30pm start.

#### **Tales from the Bar**

You always get one in the bar. Poor Charlotte was very busy Sunday lunch time. A family walks in But trying to get an order from them was a nightmare. Eventually Charlotte came out to the kitchen with the order. "Just give them lamb, any lamb, I don't care what lamb, just lamb!" A very flustered and frustrated Charlotte.

I went outside to have a cigarette, and coming back in announced, "You know, going outside for a fag you get to know all the flight paths." How sad is that?

Two strangers came in the pub and the lady recognized Bill the builder who had worked for her. Bill said to her, "You used to keep chickens and a goat." "Yes" she said, "The goat died, the fox got the chickens and my best friend had my husband and she is still wearing my house slippers!" Not much you can say to that.

For those who don't know; we are leaving the Three Shoes on

Wednesday 6th October. All the hairdressers in Faversham seem to know. We never realised we were so newsworthy. I must have my hair cut more often. Well, the first of the boxes have been packed. Mike never throws anything out. He is always saying it will come in handy one day. Well, 'Andy' is not coming

with me this time. Mike has every one of the episodes of Star Trek recorded from the TV. They have moved with us three times and they are not coming this time. Anybody want them?

Have a good month  
Vera

### STAPLEGATE WI

Our meeting this month was open to all members of the two parishes of Boughton and Hernhill. This was because we were treated to the inaugural talk by Will Mowl about his trip to the Golden Triangle of India. He was his usual entertaining self although it was obvious that he had suffered from a certain amount of culture shock and was overcome by the beauty of the Taj Mahal. He showed us some artifacts he had brought back including a beautiful piece of handcrafted inlaid marble, a hand woven rug and some examples of printing on cotton. We had

lots of questions for him and we had the impression that it had been a trip of a lifetime. If there is a chance of hearing him talk in the future it would be well worth going!

The rest of the evening was taken up with discussions of future plans and we were pleased to welcome the president and secretary of the newly formed Selling WI which already has a membership of over 30. Well done ladies!

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in Hernhill village hall at 7.45pm and we welcome visitors and guests.

Liz Walton

### BITS AND PIECES

"Going outside I was hit on the head by bags of frozen chips, frozen peas and frozen burgers falling from the sky. It seems that it was the fall-out from Iceland." (Don't blame me. Blame younger son.) I hope that none of you got caught in the problems created when that volcano with an unpronounceable name blew up in Iceland. I don't believe that the embargo on flying was necessary since all the ash that was thrown up landed on my car. Mind you, if we had waived the Icelandic debt the volcano might not have

been ignited in the first place.

Editing the 'News' is always a matter of feast or famine. Last month there was a surplus, this month there is a shortage. But nothing is new. The 100<sup>th</sup> issue was published in 1989 by the then editor, Ricky Holdstock. He wrote the following: "From the very first issue, appeals have gone out with some degree of regularity for organisers of events, societies and individuals, to let the editor know of future plans and past activities. As it said in the first issue nearly 17 years ago (*September*

1972) 'Hernhill News' is an attempt to keep as many people as possible informed of what goes on within the boundaries of this scattered parish which would help to make for greater unity within our community. Proudly, we feel that attempt has proved successful. But that plea is re-iterated today. If you may wonder why it is that such-and-such a happening has not been mentioned, or the date of some event in the next month has not been given, it is usually because the editor hasn't been told of it. He tries to cover everything, but he can't belong to every organisation in Hernhill. So please, Hernhill societies, secretaries, use Hernhill News."...a bit verbose, but I do agree.

I am very sad to hear that Mike and Vera are retiring from the Shoes. They do a tremendous amount for the village and I shall certainly miss Vera's 'Tales from the Bar'.

By the time you get this issue of the News, the Fete will have been and gone but at the moment it is very much a priority for many in the Village. A dedicated few put a great deal of effort into organizing this event. They create such a fun day out but the weather can wreck it if it is really wet. I hope that it will be as kind to us as it was last year. Fin-

gers crossed!

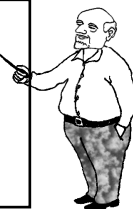
Someone wrote to a newspaper complaining about roads being 'coned-off' for weeks with nothing happening. But there is something that I find even more irritating. You are driving on a two-lane road that is de-restricted. This changes into a three-lane road but one of its lanes has been coned-off. Road conditions are no different from the previous section but a speed restriction has been put in place; sometimes as low as 30mph. And there is still nothing happening!!! However, there is at the moment one pleasure to be had from the roads; the leaves are on the trees, the blossom is out and there are primroses on the embankments. Of course this presupposes that you can afford to drive your car with unleaded petrol at nearly 122p per litre and rising. These days one tends to think twice before using petrol driven lawn-mowers. But I had a worse problem. My lawn tractor has been playing-up. It was belching so much smoke that someone thought I had converted it to a wood-burning steam engine.

ADT



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**COPY  
DATE  
Mon  
24th  
May**



<b>May 2 Sun</b>	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
	-----	Mount Ephraim	Pat-a-lamb
Mon 3	-----	Mount Ephraim	Pat-a-lamb
	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 4	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 5	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 9	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 11	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 12	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Resolutions & coffee tasting
Sun 16	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service
Mon 17	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
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
Thurs 27	6.30pm	Godmersham	Horticultural Society outing
Sun 30	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
<b>Jun 1 Tues</b>	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 2	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 6	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Mon 7	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 8	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 9	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Sandra Shere, The Samaritans
Sat 12	10.00/6.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Art Exhibition
	-----	Village Hall	Hort Soc Summer Show
Sun 13	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
	10.00/6.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Art Exhibition
Tues 15	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 20	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service
Mon 21	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 22	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 27	10.00am	Boughton Ch	Joint Patronal Service
Tues 29	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 30	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council