



HERNHILL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2009

PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council took place on 26th August. All Councillors were present as were Cllr Bobbin, the Clerk and two members of the public, welcomed by the Chairman.

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th July were signed as a true record. The Chairman reported on a telephoned complaint resulting from an entry in those minutes, concerning a development at Staple Street. Councillors were of the opinion that the complainant had misconstrued the wording of the minuted article.

Mr Morsman said that the state of the footpath from Summer Lees to the Fostall was now dangerously unsafe. The iron railing at the Fostall end had collapsed, whilst the path further up had been fenced with sheep netting and with builder's spoil heaped against it. He considered this to be unsafe. KCC's Footpaths Officer has been notified. Mr Chapman reported upon the parking of a vehicle on the Village Green during the recent hot weather. The driver, a customer in the

Red Lion, explained that it was necessary to park in the shade as her two dogs were in the car. The councillor advised the lady that this was not allowed. Oddly, two of the posts erected to prevent such action are missing exactly opposite to the inn. Various suggestions were put forward to prevent a re-occurrence, but none must hinder the easy access of Jim Young's lawnmower. (He continues to carry out this task regularly at no cost to the Council Tax payer). A service valued by the Parish Council. The clandestine placing of the 'dog faeces bin' on the Village Green was also debated. The provision of this piece of equipment could not have been placed in a more unsuitable position. It greets mourners and wedding parties alike. Councillors agreed that it should be moved to a suitable location by private enterprise.

Mrs Figgis had been advised of possible 'Rave' activity at Drove Lane. If anyone gets further information would they please contact the police (07800 675376).

Mrs Martin said that the overhang-

Chairman: Helen Figgis 01227 751149

e-mail helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com

Clerk: Terry Smart; phone 01227 274047

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 767423

and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

ing branches lining the road from Staple Street to Fairbrook have produced numerous complaints. The land adjoining the road is believed to belong to a farmer at Broadstairs and the Clerk will investigate. Complaints had also been received because of noisy bands playing at Farming World. This was also accompanied by the

noise of helicopters. The editor of the Hernhill News had received a letter (printed in this month's copy of the News) which he has passed to the Chairman of the Parish Council. Mrs Figgis has replied to the letter and the editor has commented in this issue of the News. No further action will be taken by the Council.

Betteshanger
Prize Band
Saturday 12th September

Snowdown
Male Voice Choir
Saturday 17th October



**TO GET YOUR
 TICKETS RING
 01227 752309
 OR
 01227 751293**

A display showing the repairs needed to the exterior of the church can now be seen in the church. There are many different aspects to this work. Some are small some are very large. Overall the costs are

considerable. However, it is hoped that some of you would be prepared to sponsor all or part of individual projects. See what is involved and let me know.
 Malcolm Rhodes 01227 751430

CRICKET

Some locals may have noticed that a concrete slab has appeared at the Village Playing field. This is the first stage of the construction of an all weather cricket net. The Three Horseshoes Cricket Club have managed to raise some money, with Parish Council & Village Hall support, towards what will be a village facility for those who wish to improve skills at cricket. It is hoped that like the vibrant Dawes Hernhill Herons Football Cub, it will encour-



age young people to take up the game & enable this traditional Village sport to flourish in the coming years. The old framework will be removed. It fell into disuse years ago due to a combination of location & being too small. Some money is still to be raised so if there is anyone out there who wishes to support this venture please contact me via the Three Horseshoes Pub on 01227 750842.
 Dave Brenchley

FROM THE VICAR

I am a great fan of 'The West Wing' that has just finished its final series on British television (there must be other fans out there?) One of the final acts of President Jed Bartlett was to sign a presidential pardon for Toby Ziegler, a member of his staff who he sacked and who faced prosecution after leaking classified information to the press. To sign the pardon wasn't an easy decision for the president to reach but I wasn't surprised he did it because Jed Bartlett is a compassionate man, and the best (fictional) president America has ever had. But compassion doesn't only belong to fictional characters as the recent news shows. At the beginning of August Ronnie Biggs, who was involved in the Great Train Robbery of 1963, was released from prison on compassionate grounds. Biggs has suffered a series of strokes and hasn't long to live. A few weeks later Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed al Megrahi, who was the only man convicted of the Lockerbie bombing and now has terminal cancer, was also released and allowed to return to Libya on compassionate grounds. The stories of Ronnie Biggs and Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed al Megrahi have aroused strong opinions as it can seem unfair that people with a jail sentence can be seen, in some way, 'to get away with it.' However compassion is a strong element in our legal system and Biggs is actu-

ally the forty-ninth prisoner granted compassionate release in the past five years. In the Jewish tradition God sought to create a world governed entirely by justice but he saw that it would not work and so he added compassion to justice.

Compassion is a deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the desire to alleviate it. To be compassionate takes strength and courage. We may not be national leaders but we still have opportunities to show compassion and in so doing we are reflecting the character of God. "The value of compassion cannot be over-emphasized. Anyone can criticize. It takes a true believer to be compassionate. No greater burden can be borne by an individual than to know no one cares or understands." Arthur H. Stainback.

I will be leading a six week course for people wanting to learn more about Christianity."Is there a God? Do we really need him? Who is Jesus? What is a Christian?" It will be informal, no strings attached, all welcome. It starts Tuesday 22nd September, 8.00pm in The Vicarage, but future Tuesday dates to be determined by group members. There will be a new course for the autumn looking at issues such as, 'Why does God allow suffering?', 'What about other religions?' and 'The Bible and creation.' More details in church or from me.

Revd Jean Burrows

SHOES NEWS

Saturday 12th September we have 'Earl Green and the right Time' and

then on Saturday 26th September we have 'Souled out'. Both start at 8.30pm.

Tales from the bar

Charlotte, our bar person, had a very nice holiday in Spain, all seven of them. The only thing was, they didn't get out of the country before things started to go wrong. At Gatwick, as you do, you check in and then all go and have a meal. Already excited about the holiday, all seven got into a lift. It went up for a few seconds then stopped. That's when they discovered it was a disabled lift and only meant to carry two people. What is more, there were only three steps to go up. To the amusement of passers-by, who by now were falling about laughing, they had to lighten the load to get the lift going again. Some of the lighter members of the group had to climb over the top of the lift till it started to move. So next time you go into Debenhams and pass the disabled lift just think of seven peo-

ple trying to go up three steps the hard way.

There was talking round the bar about radios. Lumpy looks at all of us, "Do you know I have two DAB radios, one in the kitchen and one in the sitting room, and they are two seconds apart. If I go into the sitting room I am two seconds in front, then I go back to the kitchen and I miss two seconds of what I was listening to. It's so annoying". Life is ---- sometimes.

Welcome to Staplestreet, Tracy and Nigel, our new neighbours.

Just a point of information while writing this for the News, I am sitting outside in the back yard on a lovely Sunday evening with my feet in a bowl of water. Nice, but I must take the bowl out of the sink next time.

Have a good month

Vera

FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

Recycle your old mobile phones & ink cartridges

How it works - £4 for every phone and £1 for every recyclable ink cartridge will be donated to Christian Aid. (Sorry, not Epsom, Epsom compatible or damaged cartridges)

£4 could provide a day's food for a family in Bangladesh made homeless by floods. If you have old mobile phones and/or ink cartridges to recycle please give to me or deliver to The Vicarage, 101 The Street. Thank you very much.

Revd Jean Burrows

SPONSORED BICYCLE RIDE & WALK

This takes place on Saturday 12th September. 50% of the sponsorship money raised goes to the church chosen by the participant and the remaining 50% goes into a fund administered by the Friends of Kent Churches. Please support St

Michael's Church by taking part. This is the perfect opportunity to get fit, enjoy the Kent countryside and raise money for your local church. If you're interested please contact me for sponsorship forms and a list of participating churches.

Pat Hall 01795 529156

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee I would like to thank the Fete Committee for their very generous donation of £2000-00 from the proceeds of the Fete.

Like many others I thought this year's event was a great success, and thanks go to all of those involved in its organisation, the stall

holders & the event supervisors for making it so enjoyable.

Our thanks also to Tony Chapman and his helpers for arranging and helping with the trimming of the trees around the Playing Fields, its made a great improvement visually to the area.

David Mann

MUSIC CLUB

Musicians are of all standards, and every effort is much appreciated by the audience of fellow performers and friends. The meetings are free, although a contribution to the nibbles and/or drinks we enjoy at half-

time would be appreciated. The next meeting is at 8.00pm on Friday 18th September.

For details of the private house venue please telephone me.

Hilary Masters
01227 750366.

FREE TREES

For the first time, residents and local communities can get up to 25 native trees or hedge mix absolutely free in all parts of the county from the Kent Free Tree Scheme. More information and application forms

are available from: www.kent.gov.uk/publications/environment/kent-free-trees-brochure or you can phone 08458 247600. The closing date is Friday 30th October.

ADT

CALENDAR FOR 2010

The glossy calendar featuring paintings by local artists has been so popular that a second printing has been ordered. More copies are now available. They can be had at

the School Fete, at the two concerts and from me. The price is £4.50 but since all profits go to the Fund, you might wish to give more.

Brian Jelfs
01227 752309

RESTORATION FUND

In times past religious and social pressures ensured that the local church was supported by the local community. Everyone from the squire down automatically contributed. The whole village was involved in ensuring that the fabric was in good repair. They provided for improvements too. And so, over

the centuries its shape and size changed and 'luxuries' like seating, heating and lighting were introduced. Of course, the building is not only a place of worship. It is also a significant part of the landscape. As such it plays a part in attracting visitors to Hernhill.

The costs of maintain the building and of keeping it relevant to today's

needs are considerable and beyond the means of a village such as ours. However, although difficult to get, there are grants available to help with various projects. It is invariably necessary to show the support of the whole community if there is to be any hope getting one. This is the role of the Restoration Committee.

The Restoration Committee is working to grow an awareness of the value and needs of St. Michael's Church. Our aim is to involve the whole village and beyond. We organise and encourage others to organise a wide variety of activities and functions. These provide interest and entertainment and in return we are building the Fund. This in turn provides evidence of the support from the community at large. Some grants are made on the basis of the funds raised; the bigger the fund, the bigger the grant. Experience shows that with no funds, there is no grant. We have already raised over £31,000 but that is not enough. In any case it is essential to show ongoing interest; that is to say, we need to show that the funds are still coming in. We need to keep going, and have every intention of

doing so.

Our next major functions are concerts in the church. All who came to the concert by the Betteshanger Prize Band last time said it was terrific. This time they will be under a new Director of Music but with the same enthusiasm to entertain. The date is Saturday 12th September. We are singularly fortunate to be able to follow them with a concert by the Snowdown Male Voice Choir. They give about twenty concerts a year in this country and abroad. Also having their roots in the Kent collieries, Snowdown can give the Welsh Miners' Choirs a run for their money any time. They are here on Saturday 17th October. Tickets for each concert will be £12.50 including refreshments in the interval. However, you will be able to go to both concerts for £20, a discount of 20% if paid in advance. You can get further information for the first concert on 01227 752309 and for the second concert on 01227 751293. Don't miss this opportunity; we may well not be able to get them again.

ADT

VILLAGE HALL AGM

The Village Hall Committee are inviting all residents to attend the Hernhill Village Hall AGM Meeting on Monday 7th September at 8.00pm in Hernhill Village Hall. The meeting will take no longer than one hour.

We would like to see as many as

possible attend to let us know if you are happy with the way things are going or would like to see any improvements/changes that may make you use the hall more in the future.

Usage of the hall is down, and so is income, while costs continue to rise so it is important we all try to use

the hall wherever possible so please mention it to your friends and family etc.

We also need additional representatives of Village Organisations on the Committee and you are invited to join us, even if not part of a village group. Your input and assistance will be greatly appreciated as our numbers are falling for various reasons. Without new members the Committee will find it hard to continue in the future.

We know it is an old "cliche" but it

really is **YOUR** Village Hall, and without **YOUR** support and **YOUR** involvement it will not function or continue to be the asset it is to the Village and surrounding areas. It involves about one hour per month for Committee Meetings - not a lot of time to put back into your community - to help protect (probably) one of the reasons, one of the assets you live here for!

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the night.

The Village Hall Committee

Autumn is not with us yet but I am indebted to my old friend, Steve Castle for this contribution.

AUTUMN

In summer the garden looks after itself.

In winter you take a nice book from the shelf

The ground is so hard that you can't do a thing

But read about gardens and wait for the spring.

In springtime you wish, though the daffodils glow

That the summer would come and that winter would go

But in autumn you gird up your loins, my son

For that's when the work in the garden is done!

Reginald Arkell

STAPLEGATE WI

The Garden Party.

Our August meeting took the form of a garden party "Posh frocks and parasols" in the sizzling heat of a perfect summer's day. We were joined by members of our link institutes to eat a proper WI tea which was provided by our excellent cooks in the garden of our president. The parasols were inventive--craft work having taken pride of



place - but it was a bit too hot for posh frocks! Having had a lovely afternoon and a browse round the 'bring and buy" we raised the splendid total of over £100 towards our charity, Monkshill School for Deaf Children.

Our next meeting will be on Wed evening 9th September at 7.45pm and we look forward to seeing faces old and new.

Liz Walton

FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

The East Kent Federation is celebrating 90 years of existence and Staplegate, along with over 60 other Institutes, entered a display of items of craft, cookery and floral arrangement in a competition/exhibition at Canterbury High School. The theme of the competition was "Celebrating Kent" which needed to be obvious when viewing the display. 13 members of Staplegate had some input into

choices and decisions whilst 10 of these actually produced the items used in the display. Staplegate's entry was beautifully presented and comments from the judges reflected this. What a wealth of talent was on show in the School Hall and Staplegate's entry was up there with the best; only a few marks separating the winning entry from that of Staplegate. Well done to all who participated

Leslie Holmes

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The outing to the Salutation Gardens, was an enjoyable afternoon. Seventeen members attended. Thank you to Isabel for organizing the outing.

The Autumn Show will be held at the village hall on Saturday 19th September. Staging for exhibits is 9.45am to 11.15am. The show opens to the public at 2.00pm with presentations at 3.00pm followed by an auction of produce. Everyone

is welcome.

The Social Evening is to be held on Thursday 22nd October at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Following the presentations, a Wine & Wisdom will take place with tables of 4 or 6 people. Please contact Mark James on 01227 751607 evenings or Peter Bentley on 01227 276032 evenings to book tables anyone will be welcome, prizes for winning table.

Peter Bentley

DEAR SIR

I do not know if the rather effusive paean to Michael Woods as the new Tree Warden was intended as a slight on Steve Castle but if I were Steve I would have interpreted it as such. It is customary to thank the outgoing office holder and I know Steve Castle has done a lot for this village, however I did not see a scintilla of gratitude or thanks in the August 2009 Hernhill News.

I have lived in Hernhill for some years and read and appreciated the Hernhill News but may I now make

an observation? The month in month out (not particularly subliminal) message of the Hernhill News appears to be that only a minority of people in the village do anything civic minded and that those people who do so deeply resent the fact. I have a young family and I commute four and a half hours each weekday and I think I am fairly typical in these environs. I do not recall my father being particularly civic minded under similar circumstances and yet today in his seventies he is an elected local politician and an active

member of numerous local committees and pressure groups. I dare say I could do more but then I'd like to play more golf 1 spend more time in the Three Horse Shoes 1 learn another language etc. If I was now to suddenly find I have a lot more time on my hand I might be inclined to use it selfishly rather than get involved in what appears to be (from what I read) a fairly divided and unhappy local scene.

For example, I am astonished at the broadside aimed at the owners of Forge Orchard by the Chairman of the Parish Council in the 29/07/2009 meeting minutes - there may be any number of reasons why under the current economic climate construction of their new home may be delayed. It is hardly a "welcome to the village".

Finally, as a public servant myself I have news for the Hernhill Times and the Parish Council. Endless criticism and snide remarks will not endear Swale Planning Services or Swale Highways Unit to your cause. Four years ago when I sought the advice and help of the local planning authority I was bemused as to why they dragged their heels and were so reluctant to engage. It all makes sense now. If the Parish

Council and the Hernhill Times persist in sarcastic sniping and cheap throw away remarks (in print) local government will not treat Hernhill as a priority, indeed I would hardly be surprised if an application or a complaint from Hernhill is met with anything but a knowing insouciance

This is a beautiful village set within sublime countryside and within shouting distance of two unique historic towns and a medieval walled city (Faversham, Whitstable and Canterbury respectively). Near to hand are some very good schools, great pubs and restaurants, theatres, up market shops and excellent civic amenities (in comparison with most places). I am not in the Conservative Party but I believe that in Andrew Bowles and Hugh Robertson we are represented at Maidstone and Westminster respectively by two dedicated politicians with integrity and you cannot ask for a lot more. There are a lot of industrious, interesting, amusing and fascinating people in the village. If the Parish Council and the Hernhill News really want to reach out to them I would advise a different approach.

Yours faithfully,
Ian Hird

Orchard View, Staplestreet Road

BOLTED HORSES?

At approximately 3.00pm yesterday afternoon, Monday 3rd August, someone entered on to our property and stole two stone, rearing horses garden ornaments from in front of our garage. These have been in our possession for a number of years

and we have been greatly upset by their removal.

I thought it wise to warn other residents to be watchful so they do not experience the upset we have both endured since this happening.

In the hope that somebody might see these stone horses in a boot fair

or somewhere similar (one has had its head cemented back on so looks as if it has a collar on) please can

you call us.

Sylvia and Ken Reveley
01227 750715.

BITS AND PIECES

I almost felt that I should entitle this piece, 'Crime wave in Hernhill'. The event which materialised more police than I have ever seen here, was the attempted raid on the cash dispenser at the Lychgate Garage. The initial stories spoke of a large gang with AK47's. Eventually it seems that it was two inept criminals with perhaps a toy gun. They failed to get anything. However, it must have been a very frightening experience for those involved. Then there is the letter from Sylvia and Ken Reveley. Not a frightening experience perhaps but certainly upsetting. And then; we are like many in the village who at this time of year put out fruit, flowers and vegetables for sale. We all depend on the honesty of people to put their money in the pot provided. On Sunday 16th August many of us suffered the upset of having produce or money or both, stolen. It leaves a bad taste in the mouth. The amount of money involved is small, but the erosion of trust is significant. However, in our case there was ray of sunshine. We had a note posted through our letterbox. It reads, "We were at the Dove having a drink and, along with others, witnessed a boy from a car, steal the money from the jar. We managed to get the number of the car. It is **N 731 TEC**". Barbara and I would like to thank the anonymous author for their kindness. Thank you

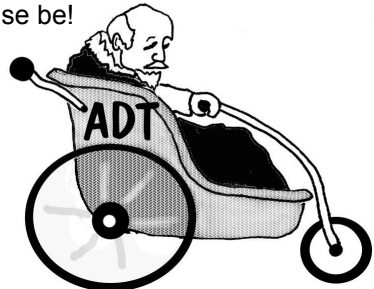
so much for taking the trouble.

There is a point in the letter from Ian Hird on which, as editor, I feel I must comment. I suspect he thinks that there is an editorial policy governing what goes into the 'News'. There is: it is, "What you get is what you, the readers, write".

The first article in an issue is always a précis of the draft Council minutes. The last article is mine, for which I take full responsibility. As to the rest, I positively encourage everyone to send in whatever moves them. Providing the letter is not abusive, not illegal and not anonymous, it has always been printed and always will be. If space does not allow it to get in first time, it will definitely go in next time.

A word now on behalf of those who currently are active in the village. It is a fact that there are not many of them. It is also a fact that not all of them are retired. Many of them are in employment, they do commute daily and they do have homes and families to run etc. Despite this, they make time to contribute to village life for the benefit of others.

Praise be!



Sep 1 Tues	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 2	7.30pm	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 AGM
Tues 8	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 9	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Chris Barkaway, meat cuts & uses
Sat 12	-----	-----	Sponsored walk or ride
	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Betteshanger Brass Band
Sun 13	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
	-----	Mount Ephraim	Apple Sunday
Tues 15	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Fri 18	8.00pm	Tba	Music at home
Sat 19	Tba	Village School	School fete
	9.45am	Village Hall	Hort Soc - Autumn Show staging
Sun 20	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion - Patronal festival
Mon 21	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	7.30pm	Jubilee Room	PCC
Tues 22	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 27	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 29	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 30	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Oct 4 Sun	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Harvest festival
	2.00pm	Crafts Center	Natter afternoon
Mon 5	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 6	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 7	7.30pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 11	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 13	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 14	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - AGM & quiz
Sat 17	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Snowdown Male Voice Choir
Sun 18	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All ages service
Mon 19	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	7.30pm	Jubilee Room	PCC
Tues 20	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Thurs 22	7.30pm	Village Hall	Hort soc - Social evening
Sun 25	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 27	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 28	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Fri 30	7.00pm	Village Hall	WI - Beetle drive



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**COPY
DATE
Mon
28th
Sep**

