



HERNHILL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2010

PLEASE NOTE

There will not be an October issue of the 'News'. Notes on the Parish Council meeting for September will be reported together with those for October in the November issue.

The last date for articles to go into the November issue is Monday 25th October.

PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council took place on Wednesday 25th August. All Councillors were present as were Ward Councillor Mr G Bobbin and the Clerk. Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor A Bowles.

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th July were signed as a true record, and Mr Chapman and Mrs Geliot were thanked by the Chairman for deputising.

Matters arising: Parish Councillors were impressed by the public spirit- edness of Mr Michael Woods (Parish Tree Warden) and Mr Crispin Whiting (Parish Pond Warden) and grateful thanks are to be officially recorded.

Reports: Mrs Figgis said that devel- opments in the Drove Lane area had left a drop of some 2112 feet between the two ends of the footpath, The County Footpaths Officer had been made aware of the problem. Mrs Tay- lor addressed the meeting in the long

ongoing problem of blocked drains in the Dargate area. One of the worst affected residents had taken a series of photographs which clearly showed the lack of attention to drain clear- ance over the past months. There appear to be at least two huge prob- lems to overcome - one to convince County Highways' staff that there is such an area as Dargate, the other to get the contractor, when he ar- rives, to carry out the obviously re- quired work, and not just the duties specified by an inefficient 'jobsworth' who invariably writes down inaccur- ate details. Mr Bobbin undertook to take up this problem.

Planning applications: no adverse comments were offered on proposals for minor developments at either Chudley House, Dargate or at The Paddock, Staplestreet Road.

Correspondence: Swale Borough Council has notified the Parish Council that the installation of wrought iron gates at the Manor House will be ap-

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

proved. It is considered that the proposal is in accordance with the development plan, and would enhance or protect the special architectural or historic interest of the listed building.

Affordable housing across Swale: the Borough Council recognises the need for this within many parishes and the Rural Housing Enabler from Action with Communities in Rural Kent will be contacting this Parish Council shortly, to organise a survey of needs.

Swale Borough Council has decided to change the electoral arrange-

ments to whole Council elections. This means that all elections of any kind will take place on the same day Borough-wide. The Clerk warned Parish Councillors that, should Hernhill's election be either contested or not contested, the Parish's precept, normally set in November in any year, will probably have to be increased by between £750 and £1000, to pay election expenses.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting to be closed at 8.45pm.

VILLAGE HALL BOOKING CHANGES

Please note that all booking and collection of keys for the Village Hall are now made at the Red Lion, Church Hill, Hernhill, near Faversham, Kent. ME13 9JR (opposite the Church) during opening hours seven days a week (Please note that they are closed between 3.00pm and 5.00pm Monday to Friday) or by phone, 01227 751207. Keys will also be returned to the Red Lion. The current conditions and policy of booking in advance to confirm your hiring, up to one year in advance, are unaltered. Martin and his staff have very kindly agreed to take over this role for the Village now that Vera and Mike are retiring from the Three Shoes in Sta-

plestreet. We are very appreciative of this offer and look forward to a long ongoing relationship for this important function.

On behalf of the Committee and everyone who has used the Village Hall for more years than I can remember, I would like to record our heartfelt gratitude and thanks to Mike & Vera for carrying out this role for all these years. The benefit it has brought to the Village should not be underestimated and their help and support has been greatly appreciated by the Committee. We wish them every happiness in their retirement and hope to see them at future Village events.

David Mann
Chairman.

Michael Woods, the Parish Council's Tree Warden, has recently completed a tour of trees in the Parish with a representative of the Kent Men of the Trees organisation. A subsequent report from this person shows that almost without exception, arboriculture in the village is being well main-

tained. Visits were made to trees both within the public domain and in private property and the thanks of the Parish Council are extended to these latter persons. Individual reports have been sent to tree owners.

Crispin Whiting, the Parish Council's Pond Warden, has reacted strongly to the

Kent Trust for Nature Conservation's request for the sum of £100 from the Parish Council, for "training purposes". Mr Whiting tells me that he is doing the job as much for himself as for the Parish Council, and would not consider accepting any funding towards training, or indeed, any contribution towards the cost of equipment such as oilskins or rubber boots.

To have to write one pro bono publico account for the Hernhill News is gratifying; to have to write two accounts in one month is amazing. These two parishioners are a credit to Hernhill.

The Government has announced that the Audit Commission will be abolished within the next two years. The Local Government Secretary, in giving this news, painted an alarming picture of the Commission's extravagances, including visits to race meetings and massage parlours. I cannot

conceive why an auditor would need a massage, but if, as is stated, over 2000 persons are employed by the AC, massage parlours might be a good investment for savers. More good news reveals that the Government is to close a loophole used by travellers and gipsies, who commonly use Bank Holiday weekends, when no planning department staff is available, to offload a few loads of asphalt, erect a simple fence and claim squatters' rights over derelict or abandoned land. Planning law is so cumbersome and long-winded that the illegals can stay on the site for 18 months or more. Hernhill Parish Council has to stay alert on this problem - there are several sites attractive to travellers scattered along, and adjacent to the Thanet Way.

Terry Smart



HERNHILL SCHOOL FETE

This is to be held at the school on Saturday 18th September from 12.30pm till 3.30pm. There will be fun for everyone with go-karts, stalls and entertainment. There will also be a bouncy castle, a bar-b-que, tea, cakes and lots more. Come and join the fun.

Miriam Layton

RESTORATION FUND MARKET STALL

What a wonderful day we had on 31st July in Faversham. The sun shone - well, in the middle of the morning and again mid afternoon - and people came and bought cakes and jams and marmalades and scones. (Some asked if we were going to be there each week. After the look of horror had passed from my face, I replied, 'Afraid not'.) The few cakes we did not sell in Faversham were eagerly bought after the Hernhill church serv-

ice on Sunday.

The total raised was the huge amount of £635.

Of course, none of this was possible without a lot of help. Barbara Taylor, who booked the stall and did so much organising and pricing before the day; Fran Ward and Mary Gransden, who set up and arranged the stall on the day; Mary, Gina Jenkins and Sylvia Phillipott who manned it. We were there for about seven or eight hours, but we all felt the day passed very quickly. As you can imagine, there

was a lot of chatting and laughter! And none of it would have been possible without the cooks and bakers. We had help from the church, Staplegate WI, the village, and residents of Boughton, Whitstable, Faversham, Canterbury and even Maidstone. It made it very special that we had contributions from the wider community - people willing to help restore our lovely building, but who are not necessarily connected with the church.

Another plus, was that no one claimed any expenses. I even persuaded some of the bakers to Gift Aid the cost of their ingredients, so the tax man should contribute another £35 to the total!

Many, many thanks to our helpers, providers and supporters. Without you, the day would not have been the success it was.

Joyce Robb

THOMAS WILLIAM BRENCHLEY

Tom Brenchley died tragically on Wednesday 28th July after the moped he was riding the evening before was struck from behind by a car on the Thanet Way. He was 16. Tom's funeral in Hernhill Church, on a bright summer's day, was a service which combined deep grief, thankfulness and love. Over 300 people were there to remember, cry and smile together. Dave and Chris as well as two school friends and a friend of the family, all spoke of Tom's love of life and the impact he had on their lives. Tom had a

cheeky grin and the ability to make others happy, with a good sense of humour he was a true and loyal friend as well as a keen sportsman. A pupil of Hernhill School and then Archbishops, Tom was about to start a carpentry apprenticeship. After we had commended Tom to our loving heavenly Father we laid his body to rest in the churchyard. Our love, thoughts and prayers continue to be with his parents Dave and Jackie and older brother Chris in the months ahead - they simply miss him.

Revd Jean Burrows

SHOES NEWS

On Saturday 11th September Geoffrey Richardson and Jim Leverton play from 8.30pm, then on Saturday 25th September at 8.30pm we have 'Dun Tol Mama'. And don't forget about the Cricket Club Auction on Sunday 12th September at 8.00pm.

Tales from the bar

Les, known as Lumpy, came to clean the pub windows then left to clean the windows of the lady in the bungalow across the road to us. As he finished her windows, a workman nearby said, "Sorry mate, she's moved".

When he came back to the pub that night he asked me how long ago she had moved? "A few months", said I and then started laughing, "That's the second time you've cleaned them!" "Well", he said, "I don't go looking in windows." I tried not to laugh but just could not stop it.

We had a cricket match in memory of Tom Brenchley. What was our team thinking about, I think they had more drink up at the ground than we have in the pub and then to cap it all the other team won. Good old Buster put a few ringers in and won the game.

The only thing Nigel kept complaining about every time he tried to catch the ball was that he landed on his lighter and it hurt him. "But", he said, "Look on the bright side. It could have been my fags".

Kate Boshier, with a lot of hard work and sponsorship plus a cricket match by the Three Horseshoes raised £2.406 for 'Help for the Heroes'. This year's Wheelie bin race raised £738 for the same cause.

Well, as I am sure most of you saw in the paper, the ducks came to visit. It was so funny the way they walked round the pub, but not so funny when they pooped all over the place. I think the ducks were a fitting end to us leaving the pub. Over the years, I can't remember how many dogs we have taken in "until their owners have turned up"; nearly kept some of their parcels, kids (didn't want to keep any of them), plants, even a parrot. I've also lost count how many customers

have come to the pub on a bike and it's been left here for weeks.

So now we are nearly packed and YES Mike has thrown out lots of things, but I think lots have got hidden away before I could see them.....and I've found even more tapes and videos!!

Have a good month
Vera



"Off went the van....."

STAPLEGATE

If we had to send anybody to the Olympics we would certainly not choose anyone from our WI! Bob Holiday was quite bemused by our ineptitude at indoor games that he arranged for us to try, including short mat bowls, skittles, and darts using the biggest dartboard invented. And we still managed to hit the floor! However we had a

great evening and we hope to better next time.

We are looking forward to a "baked potato" lunch next month and then we will be planning our autumn agenda. Our next meeting is on 8th Sept at 7.45 in Hernhill village hall and we welcome guests.

Liz Walton.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, August 21st at Crockham Farm Cottage, Hernhill. A change of venue this year and a day of changeable weather. However, the experienced team of stall holders, cake, tea and coffee makers, ensured enthusiastic participation and hope-

fully an enjoyable gathering for all who visited.

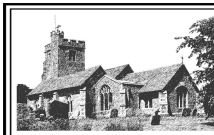
Having a meadow to run around in certainly provided entertainment for the children – thanks to all the youngsters who helped on stalls or were waitresses – more families perhaps next year. Grateful thanks to all who provided goods for the stalls, the

'bring & buy', raffle and gave time to serve and count all that small change in the charity boxes. We raised a total of nearly £572 of which £273 was from the boxes.

If you would like to be a new box holder to help our children's charity,

please contact me on 01227 752309. Many thanks to all concerned and especially to Jan and Malcolm Rhodes who ran this event for so many years and were a great help this time too.

Doreen Jelfs



RESTORATION FUND

St. Michael's, Hernhill, Kent

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 249972

KENT WIND SOLOISTS

The Restoration Committee is delighted to have the Kent Wind Soloists to perform a concert at St. Michael's Church, Hernhill on Saturday the 23rd October at 7.30pm. The concert will be in aid of the Restoration Fund and will include works by Bach, Debussy, Mozart and Grainger. The Kent Wind Soloists is one of the leading professional chamber groups in the South East

and comprises: flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon. It has performed at many notable venues including Eurotunnel (opening ceremonies), Leeds Castle and Jack Straw's 25th Wedding Anniversary at Chevening as well as many concert halls and churches.

For more information please contact me.

Steve Pocock
01227 770222

FROM THE VICAR

To search is a way of life. The average person does it fifteen times a day. We search for train times, restaurant tables, sports results, shoes, houses, partners even. Search engines are the first place you go for almost everything these days. But there are some things you can't google. Big questions. Life questions -like, 'Why am I here?' and 'Where am I headed?' We've created a place where you can fill in the blanks.

The Alpha course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith. In some ways it's a bit like a search engine, but we like to see it as more like a search party - it's relaxed, low-key, friendly and fun. It's a place where people with questions can

come and ask them, delve into issues and look for answers together.

That's the introduction to the publicity for this autumn's Alpha initiative, a nationwide campaign to encourage people to take part in a local Alpha course. You may see posters on buses and billboards especially in city centres. Alpha is not new in Hernhill, a course was run very successfully some years ago and this autumn we are running a course again. In this copy of the Hernhill News there should be an invitation with more information on it and a reply slip. The Alpha Supper on Tuesday 21st September is an opportunity to hear more. about the course before you decide to join. Anyone who would like to is very welcome to join the course,

you don't have to live in the parish so why not invite a friend to come along with you? If, after a couple of weeks, you discover the course isn't for you you can drop out and no-one will try

and persuade you to come back. Why not google "Alpha" to find out more? It could change your life!

Revd Jean Burrows
01227 751410)

BITS AND PIECES

Mike and Vera are due to leave the Shoes in September. This is going to be a great loss to us. They have made a tremendous contribution to the village and to local charities over the years that they have been here. In particular I am going to miss Vera's astute but kindly observations in her 'tales from the bar'. I hope that from time to time she will find more stories for us. Many thanks for all those in the past.

Don't forget the event on Saturday 11th September to raise money for Kent churches. George Bull is bike riding and Ann Butler is going to walk. Both need your sponsorship. Please ring Anne on 01227 750864 or George on 01795 532196.

It has been suggested that austerity measures proposed by the Government would mean that roads would be repaired less frequently. If this is so, the road up to Dunkirk from Dargate will be no more than a cart-track before the next repair. Mind you, the last set of patching that they did merely moved the lumps from one place to another. Perhaps they were trying to ensure that we didn't memorize the original lumps and so learn to avoid them.

On the subject of driving, we have just had to get a car that is strong enough to pull our caravan. We found a model that is specially recommended for the task, but having got it, we hit a problem. They haven't produced tow bars for that model yet. I wonder how they tested it!

Joyce Robb has passed me this strange article. It comes from a study at Cambridge University which indicated that only 55 out of every 100 can read it. See how you manage.

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Well, how did you get on?

ADT

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**COPY
DATE
Mon
25th
Oct**



SEP 1 Wed	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 5	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Mon 6	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 7	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 8	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Amanda Cottrel, Kent now & beyond
Sat 11	-----	-----	Church bike ride
Sun 12	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
	-----	Mount Ephraim	Apple Sunday
Mon 13	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall AGM
Tues 14	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sat 18	-----	Hernhill School	School fete
Sun 19	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service
Mon 20	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 21	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 26	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 28	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 29	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Oct 3 Sun	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Patronal Festival
4 Mon	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
5 Tues	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
6 Wed	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 10	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 12	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 13	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI AGM
Sun 17	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Harvest Festival
Mon 18	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 19	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sat 23	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Kent Wind Soloists Concert
Sun 24	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 26	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 27	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 31	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion