



# HERNHILL NEWS

## SEPTEMBER 2012

### PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council took place on Wednesday 29th August. All Councillors were present, as were Mr Bowles, the Clerk and two members of the public. Also in attendance was the new Clerk, Mrs Sarah Muteham, who is already a Deputy Clerk in another parish; she is therefore already familiar with the post.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25th July were signed as a true record. The only matter arising was the complaint of Mr Reaveley, of New Cottage, Fairbrook who made various accusations against the wording of a letter sent by the Parish's Clerk, which were found to be unfounded. The salient point which emerged from the unpleasant affair is, in future, anyone who wishes to address the Council on, for example, a planning application, will be given three minutes to complete the address. This stipulation will also be included in the Parish Council's new Code of Conduct when these are updated.

**Reports:** Mr Morsman said that he had received a number of complaints regarding the disgraceful state of the childrens' play area at the Village

Hall. It is not the duty of the Parish Council to maintain the area, but the Council is, nevertheless, concerned at the untidy site. Mr. Chapman reported that, after many years the ground area flooded after only a light shower of rain. Repairs of a permanent nature had taken place which, in his opinion, would last for many years. Mr Woods said that Boughton Parish Clerk had sent a copy of Boughton's 'allotments agreement form', which is normally an expensive publication. Mrs Figgis said that she had yet to hear from Mr Dawes, who it is hoped, may have some available land for this purpose.

**Correspondence:** The forms relating to 'Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests' were completed at the meeting. Six out of seven Councillors were reasonably happy with the detailed questionnaire. The new 'Code of Conduct Regulations' was discussed. It was finally decided, on a proposition made by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Woods, that the Swale Code appeared to be less cumbersome than that provided by the alternative from the National Association of Local Councils. Numerous planning applications were discussed, some of which had

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e-mail [helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com](mailto:helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com)

Clerk: Terry Smart; phone 01227 274047

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 752840

and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

already been approved by Planning Services. Various accounts were passed for payment, including the cost of Village Hall hire. There being no further business, the

Chairman declared the meeting to be closed at about 8.50pm. Councillors then went into private session to discuss Terms of Employment for the new Clerk.



### **LOST BOXER DOG**

I found him this morning in my garden with a spaniel. The spaniel ran off but the boxer came home with me. He is brown, docked

tail, blue fabric collar but with no phone number. I phoned Swale and the Dog Warden has just come to collect him. The owner should phone Swale to get the number of the kennels that he has been taken to.

Helen Figgis

### **VILLAGE HALL STRIKES GOLD!**

Thank you to the "thongs" of villagers who gave up watching the Olympics on Monday 6th August to attend the Village Hall AGM! Thankfully Peter Rawlins, a complete unknown until just before the event, came through to take pole position in the race to be the new Chairman of the Village Hall. He crossed the line a clear winner, taking Gold, Silver and Bronze medals, as only runner. In reality there were very, very few who turned up, which in some ways is very sad, but I will put it down to the Olympics!

Peter will take up his role officially from October (after our next meeting

on Monday 1st October) and we will be breaking him in gently.

There will be an update on this in the October edition of Hernhill News but in the meantime please welcome Peter to the Committee and give him your support as he, and the Committee, look after the Village Hall on your behalf in the coming years.

I have really enjoyed my time as Chairman and would like to thank all the Committee for their support over the last ??? years – it does not seem that long! I will still be there as Treasurer and look forward to supporting Peter as the Village Hall continues to evolve in the future. Thank you

David Mann

### **SHOES NEWS**

We continue to serve food on a Friday and Saturday, and then a fantastic roast on a Sunday between noon and 4.00pm.. On Saturday 22nd September there will be a 'Quiz and Curry' night, teams of four or more. Tickets are £7.00 per head, please book at the pub.

On Friday 2nd November decorate your pumpkin lantern and bring it along to the pub where there will be prizes for the best designed pumpkin. Judge for the day will be local pump-

kin farmer, Vaughan Howland. Why not come in fancy dress and maybe win a prize for that as well. For further information phone the Shoes.

Our annual Karaoke competition will be on Saturday 1st December. Come along and see if you can beat our last year's winner, or just come along and enjoy it.

Looking forward to seeing you soon in 'The Shoes'.

Lucy and Marc  
01227 750842

## **FAVERSHAM MARKET STALL RESTORATION FUND**

The sun blazed, and it was a boiling hot day. We arrived at the market at 8 o'clock to set up, and unloaded boxes and boxes and boxes of cakes, jams and marmalades. Fortunately for us, the plants man was on holiday so we were able to use his pitch, and we therefore had lots of space. We arranged the tables, the tablecloths, the jam stands, and our creations and Joy, Sylvia and I waited for our customers. And we waited and waited. Unfortunately for us, the hot weather meant that a lot of people were not in the town. Most selfishly for us, they decided to go to the seaside or elsewhere, or stay at home. Someone unfortunately had a car accident which closed the A2. Several of the nearby traders told us it was the quietest day they had had this year, and their takings were well down. We encouraged and cajoled the people who were there, and we sold lots of goodies.

We made over £510.

We had been hoping that we would be able to top last year's fantastic total of £786, as this was the third market and the last event to be arranged by the Restoration Committee. We had had such fantastic support from so many cooks and bakers, we were very disappointed not to be able to sell everything, at the market.

However, Sylvia took some cakes to the Horticultural Society's quiz evening and, thanks to the brilliant auctioneering skills of Peter Bentley, all of those cakes were bought for the huge sum of £86.20. Then Joy sold some more cakes to her friends for another £20.

Next day, the people came to church with money hoping to buy cakes and jams, and that is what they did. They spent over £110, an incredible sum. So our grand total over the weekend was £735.10. Very many thanks to all of you for your marvellous support.

Joyce Robb

## **FROM THE VICAR**

The Olympics were wonderful, a fortnight of the very best in sport and human achievement. From the fantastic opening ceremony we cheered and celebrated the successes and cried at the disappointments. I felt quite exhausted by the closing ceremony, being an, armchair athlete can be hard work. Now we have the Paralympics which originated in Stoke Mandeville Hospital in 1948 with the International Wheelchair Games, the idea of a doctor there, Ludwig Guttmann. He wanted to use sport to enhance the lives of people injured or wounded during the 2nd World War. His dream was of a worldwide sports competition held every four years as the equivalent of

the Olympic Games. Twelve years later his dream became reality with the first Paralympics in 1960. Since then the Paralympics has grown dramatically from 400 athletes from 23 countries to more than 4,000 athletes from 147 countries watched by television audiences around the world.

The word heard most often is how inspirational paralympians are, so many have overcome adversity and trained incredibly hard to represent their country. None of us can know how we would react if we faced such life changing circumstances but we are often tested in small ways in our normal everyday lives. What is our reaction when things don't go our way or life is hard? Do we moan or com-

plain or do we try to stay cheerful and make the best of a bad situation? Some of the most positive people I know are people who battle with physical disabilities and they are an encouragement to all of us to try and 'look on the bright side of life.'

Being a Christian isn't an insurance policy against anything disastrous happening in our lives, but neither does God send disaster or disability to test us, how many people say 'These things are sent to try us,' I wouldn't want to believe in such a God. Neither is it true that 'what doesn't kill us makes us stronger,' many people don't cope and 'go under.' As a Christian I know that God is there to help me through the hard times as well as the good. The poem 'Footprints' is an encouragement to many, it's when our lives are at their bleakest that God carries us, our face so close to his that we almost can't

see him.

Enjoy the Paralympics, be inspired and encouraged by the indomitability of the human spirit and give thanks for what you are able to do.

A date for your diary: Saturday 8th September a 'Quiet Morning' in Hernhill Church. 'Breathe on me breath of God fill me with life anew' Beginning at 9.30am for coffee, 10 00am start, 12.45pm finish followed by an optional bring and share lunch. This is an opportunity to enjoy some quiet time and the beautiful countryside around Hernhill Church. No group work, no discussion, just worship, one talk, ideas on how to use the morning and quality quiet time to spend as you wish. There is no need to book, there is no charge but donations would be welcome on the day; tea, coffee, hot water and biscuits are provided.

Revd Jean Burrows

## BROADBAND

As you are no doubt aware, the Government has an ambition for the UK to have the best superfast broadband in Europe by 2015.

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport has made funding available to county—level local authorities which is intended to ensure that by 2015 around 90% of premises nationwide will have access to superfast broadband, with the remaining 10% achieving a minimal 2Mbps connectivity.

Even with match-funding from KCC, significant investment from private-sector broadband suppliers will still be essential if these targets are to be met in Kent. If the county is to attract



this investment, we need to be able to demonstrate that there is a real demand from consumers for better broadband, in order that suppliers can be confident

of a level of sign-up to a superfast service which will justify their investment.

You may also be aware of the Make Kent Quicker campaign, a simple website where residents and businesses can register their interest in better broadband. This is the primary means by which KCC aims to demonstrate Kent's demand to the private sector, and is thus a vital component of the work to improve connectivity in the county. People can register their interest and support at

www.makekentquicker.com (or alternatively by phone to 08458 247 247). Whereas Make Kent Quicker was originally expected to close in August, I am writing to let you know that because of delays at central government level in the national procurement process, the campaign

will now remain open until October. It makes sense to capitalise on this delay by re-launching the publicity around the campaign to encourage more people to register, and I would like to ask for your help with this.

David Clifford  
Swale Borough Council

### STAPLEGATE WI

The much talented members of our Institute came together at our meeting this month to show what can be done in any spare time. We admired crochet, knitting, spinning, painting and drawing, as well as embroidery, cross stitch and examples of quilting. This was all shown and demonstrated against a background of chatter and laughter. We then enjoyed refreshments after the business part of the meeting. We are all encouraged to advertise the

upcoming Village treasure hunt organised for the afternoon of September 2nd and hope that it will be a fun time for all the family. It starts from the Village Hall at 2.30pm. Call Mary on 01227 751624 for tickets; adults £5.00, children £2.00.

The meetings of our Institute are held in Hernhill Village Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm and we would welcome anyone to come along and join us.

Liz Walton

### BEEBLE DRIVE

Staplegate WI is holding a Halloween Beetle Drive in the Village Hall on Saturday 27th October. It will start at 6.45pm to begin playing at 7.00pm. This is a fun family evening. No skills are required; just roll a dice and mark your



score sheet. Tickets are £4.00 for adult, £2.00 for a child or £10.00 for a family of two adults and two children. Light refreshments are included in the price. Put the date on the calendar now!

Margaret Heathcote

### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**Autumn Show:** This will be held on Saturday 15th September in the Village Hall. The staging time will be 9.45 am to 11.15am. All Exhibits must be staged by 11.15am at the latest, no entries will be accepted after this time. The show will open to the public at 2.00pm. Presentations will be at 3.00pm followed by the auction of produce. Entry is free. We would be grateful for any plants for our stall.

**Summer Quiz:** The Quiz held on 18th August proved to be a great success. We had seven tables and the winning

table received garden vouchers as their prize. Not only was it a quiz but ended up with an auction selling cakes for the Church Restoration Fund and a 'heads and tails', with the winner receiving £29.00 pounds. Thank you to Mark James for organizing the quiz and Mark Thomas for helping.

**Social Evening:** Will be on the 19th October. Please note that this is a Friday this year. The annual cups will be presented and afterwards there will be entertainment (probably a quiz) and a buffet will be provided.

Peter Bentley

### **RINGING IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES**

At 8.12am on Friday 27th July, Hernhill Church bells joined in with Big Ben and bells all over the Country to ring for three minutes to herald the Olympic Games. It was not practical to assemble a full band of eight ringers for such a short time so we used the chiming apparatus at the base of the tower. With this equipment the ropes are connected to small hammers located under the bells and run via a series of pulleys down to ground level where they can be rung by one person - not so loud as when the bells are rung full circle by a band of ringers but quite effective all the same. Later in the day

we rang the full peal for a wedding so this provided an additional tribute to the Games.

We are still looking for more recruits to ensure that this ancient craft of bellringing is continued for the future as the age range of our band is 60+ to 90+ with the exception of Fred and Lucy from Boughton who are highly valued members and our hope for the future. Anyone who would like to know more and would like to give it a try, come along to a practice night at 7.00pm on the 1st or 3rd Tuesday of the month or speak to one of the ringers after Sunday morning Service.

Peter Willcock

### **CATCHING LIVES**

It is with deep regret that I have to notify you of the impending suspension of service at 'Catching Lives', Canterbury Open Centre.

Over the last 3 years we have worked hard to establish a vital, community based service and have, by and large, succeeded. We have helped to sustain many hundreds of individuals in crisis, worked with our colleagues to change many lives, supported a local youth service, mentored and trained volunteers and students, and involved the local community as a whole. The Open Centre is our core service and it is the last remaining homeless day centre in East Kent, but it is a service that is very difficult to find funding for. This means that we have had to use our reserves to underpin the service, and despite the fact

that we have had to let staff go and cut back on costs where we can these reserves are almost exhausted. We of course have not stood idly by and let this happen, and have the contingency in place of selling our existing building. This would have released the funds which would allow us to continue our service. Sadly this process has taken too long and we are left with little choice but to suspend service until we can complete the sale. This will be the case unless we can raise the £50,000 necessary to fund the service until April 2013.

Without a day centre in Canterbury, many individuals, now and in the future, will be left without support and access to the basics that we all take for granted. If anyone is able to assist us, please get in touch. Phone 01227 464904

### **AUTUMN CLEAN UP.**

We are holding another clean up/ maintenance day in the churchyard on Saturday 29th September between 10.00am and noon. Any assistance will be appreciated to help keep our churchyard looking good. Please bring your own tools, if possible. The emphasis is on the churchyard but, alternatively, if you wish you can help with the cleaning of the interior of the church.

Refreshments will be provided during the morning.

The 29th September is Michaelmas or the feast of St Michael and All Angels so a good day to ensure St Michael's church and churchyard in Hernhill are looking their best.

For more details please contact.

Brian Jenkins 01227 273049  
Peter Willcock 01227 750453  
(churchwardens)

### GONE MISSING!

Would the persons who "borrowed" two stacks of dinner plates and a large green table cloth from the Staplegate W.I.

drawer in the Village Hall kitchen, kindly return them without delay.

Lesley Holmes  
Staplegate secretary

### CHILDREN'S SOCIETY TEA PARTY

There will be a tea party in aid of the Children's Society on Sunday 9th September, from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. It will be held at Crockham Farm Cottage, Crockham Lane, Hernhill. There will be tea, biscuits,

a raffle, stalls selling cakes, books, plants and much more.

All are invited and if you have a Children's Society collecting box, please bring it with you. We are looking forward to seeing you.

Doreen Jelfs

### BITS AND PIECES

After the 29 gold medal, exhilarating Olympic games, we have come down to earth again with a bit of a bump. Down here, there is still the same old economic gloom, the Euro is still clinging on by its teeth and the English Test team have lost their number one rating to the South Africans. To crown it all, a forecaster has just said that the summer is over. It's over? Where did that go? Still, the London Olympics were spectacular, and they showed that we can still put on a World-class show second to none.

I recently picked up a comment about the report on the Parish Council meeting that appears at the front of the 'News'. The report is taken from the draft minutes of the meeting. That draft does not become an official record until amended or approved at the next meeting of the Parish Council. Therefore there could be amendments. The approved minutes can be checked with the Clerk to the Parish Council.

The dates of two meetings have been changed, I think more than once. The final dates are: the Village Hall Committee is to be on Monday 1st October in the Village Hall at 8.00pm and the P.C.C. meeting is on Monday 8th October in



Dunkirk Village Hall at 7.15pm.

Do you spend time surfing the net on your computer, or down-loading films or sending e-mails? Even if you don't, be sure to read the letter

from Swale about 'broadband'. You may not be a user yourself but please put on record your support. Even if you don't know a computer from a combine harvester, you could benefit indirectly by getting a better service from retailers and others.

Last month Lizzie Cook wrote about the splendid work done in Canterbury under the banner, 'Catching Lives'. Sadly, this month there is an article saying that operation is likely to close down for want of adequate funds. If you would like to know more, I'm sure that Lizzie Cook (01795 536195) or Sue Owen (01227 750203) will be able to help.

Janet Gee has just come up with a great idea. Set your password as 'iNcoRrecT'. When you enter a wrong one your computer will tell you, "Your password is incorrect".

ADT

**To book the Village Hall ring the Red Lion 01227 751207**

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**COPY  
DATE  
Mon  
24<sup>th</sup>  
Sept**



<b>Sun 2 Sep</b>	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
	2.30pm	Village Hall	WI Treasure Hunt
Tues 4	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 5	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sat 8	9.30am	St. Michael's Ch	Quiet morning
Sun 9	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	2.30pm	Crockham Farm	Children's Soc tea party
Tues 11	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 12	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Tesco
Sat 15	-----	-----	Horticultural Soc - Autumn Show
Sun 16	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
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
Sun 30	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Said Communion
<b>Mon 1 Oct</b>	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 2	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 3	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 7	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Patronal festival
Mon 8	7.15pm	Dunkirk V.H.	Joint PCC
Tues 9	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 10	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - David Harper, Pubs & pub signs
Sun 14	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 16	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Fri 19	7.30pm	Village Hall	Horticultural social evening
Sun 21	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Harvest festival
Tues 23	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sat 27	7.15pm	Village Hall	WI - Beetle drive
Sun 28	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 30	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 31	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council