



HERNHILL NEWS

MARCH 2016

PARISH COUNCIL

Full copies of the approved minutes are available on the Parish Council noticeboard or online hernhillpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council Meeting held on 24th February was attended by five Parish Councillors, one Borough Councillor and one member of the public.

Upcoming Events

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 30th March at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

An annual Parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th April at 7:00pm in the Village Hall. This is a meeting for the community and is NOT a designated Parish Council meeting. It is hoped that there will be a guest speaker and that local community organisations will attend to give an overview of events during the last year.

News from the Parish Council

Three planning matters were dis-

cussed at the Council meeting. 16/510617/FULL - Retrospective application for the change of use of agricultural land to garden, erection of a three bay garage with room over and creation of balcony to north elevation on main dwelling. Forstal House, Church Hill. 15/510551/FULL Conversion of existing redundant outbuilding into single dwelling. Brook Farm, Butlers Hill. 15/507710/OUT Erection of one dwelling. Land adjacent to Marley, Highstreet Road, Dargate. Appeal notice.

Councillors discussed the results of the Housing Needs Survey which was conducted last year and which identified a requirement for some affordable housing within the Parish. It was agreed to progress the project to the next stage of identifying potential development sites. This is not linked to the Hernhill Housing Model that is being presented by Clifford Construction.

Following a request for an organised litter pick in the Parish, the Clerk informed those present that

Chairman: Michael Woods 01227 751027

e-mail bjwoods53@gmail.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

both the Parish Council and Swale Borough Council were not able to organise such an event due to insurance constraints (pedestrian safety on country lanes). The Parish Council would like to take the opportunity to request that residents try to ensure that they dispose of their litter correctly.

The Parish Council noted that there continues to be signs of work in the

vicinity of Evaluna and neighbouring land on Plumpudding Lane.

The Parish Council supported the KCC proposal to reduce the mobile library service (removing the Staplestreet stop and retaining a fortnightly service to the school/Village Hall). The public are welcome to complete the online consultation at 'kent.gov.uk/mobilelibraryservice' before 4th March.

YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

As this is my first message to you in 2016 can I wish you all a Happy New Year.

We are currently awaiting the Planning Inspectors Report on the Swale Local Plan. Swale Borough Council has fought hard to produce the lowest possible housing figure but we know the "Objectively Assessed Need" points to a necessary target of 770 houses per year. Developers, land owners and house builders have argued strongly for this to be raised to a figure between 800 and 1200 per annum. Also the Labour and UKIP parties have argued that we have not allocated enough houses in Faversham and the Rural Areas and that the Plan should be adjusted to move housing from Sittingbourne and Sheppey to Faversham and the Rural Areas.

We do now have the final decision of the Boundary Commission regarding the County Council seats in Swale. Local lobbying has been successful in ensuring that in East Swale we will continue to have one County Councillor for all of Faversham and one for the rural villages

rather than two with split responsibilities. This was supported by all local parties other than UKIP.

February will see local Budgets set leading to the level of Council Tax we pay next year. Swale Borough Council is proposing 'freezing' its Council Tax at the current rate for the 6th year in a row. Kent County Council has been hit by a reduction of £58 million in Government Grant and increasing costs of £80 million mainly in Adult Social Services. Members are likely to agree a 1.99% rise plus accepting the 2% Social Care Levy permitted by Government. This will still require £94 million of savings to balance the Budget. The Police and Crime Commissioner is forecast to increase her Budget by 3.4%.

One piece of good news now confirmed is the signing of an agreement for the cinema operator as the key part of the Sittingbourne town centre regeneration. It is having the cinema, (8 screens), on board which enables the signing of the leases for the new restaurants. It also means we can quickly move to start construction of the new multi storey car park allowing some of

our existing car parks to be released for apartments. The new cinema will be sited immediately in front of the railway station allowing Swale residents the option of travelling by train.

Another piece of good news is that after several years of campaigning, especially by me, the County Council has set up a select committee to look at Grammar Schools and the effect on Social Mobility. Any resident who feels that county policies such as that on home to school transport has disadvantaged them please contact me even if you have previously done so.

Since my last message to you I have, besides my usual County and Borough Committees, attended meetings of Hernhill, Ospringe, Boughton, Graveney, Teynham, Dunkirk and Selling Parish Councils as well as a meeting of the Four Horseshoes Residents Association in Graveney.

Please keep an eye on your local

Parish Magazines and Notice Boards for details of your local Annual Parish Meeting, some of which will be held before my next newsletter. I shall be attending as many as humanly possible subject to other County and Borough commitments. Although the agendas may vary they should all include a Chairman's report on the Parish Council's activities on your behalf over the preceding 12 months as well as a report on the state of the Parish Council's finances. Although normally chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council this is very much your meeting as residents and tax payers where you can bring matters to the attention of the Parish Council and to hold them and your other elected representatives to account. Several Parish Councils choose to invite a guest speaker to these meetings and even supply refreshments and the opportunity to chat informally.

Andrew Bowles

LIVE ACOUSTIC DUO

Miranda Sykes & Rex Preston return on Friday 11th March. The inspirational melding of musical chameleon Miranda Sykes and mandolin maestro Rex Preston has produced one of the most unex-

pected and exciting new pairings on the acoustic roots scene.

To find out more and get tickets email info@thebandcompany.co.uk or call 01227 392560

Liz Jeffrey

BREATHING SPACE

Friday 11th March
7.30pm to 8.30pm Hernhill
Church

I had a look on Amazon Books at the best sellers list the other day. Out of twenty titles, four were adult

colouring books and two were books on mindfulness, all of these offering solutions to help bring peace and calm to those feeling frazzled in life.

'Mindfulness' is a way of focusing awareness on the present mo-

ment, the world around you and being aware of the thoughts, sensations and feelings that you feel as you respond to the moment you are in. This sort of meditation doesn't have to have anything to do with religion, although some people who have a faith will meditate in this way. Whether you subscribe to these ideas or not, the current popularity of these practices in our culture may tell us something about the needs we have, the pressures we suffer, and what we believe will help. I like to be busy and I find it hard to sit still without something to occupy my hands or mind. But I was feeling a little stressed in the run up to Christmas, and had the opportunity to spend an hour at a similar event run near my home. I came in feeling rather squashed. Even making time to come along had been tricky, but I left feeling such a sense of peace, calm and renewal. Could you do with an oasis of peace in your busy life right now?

This month, Boughton and Hern-

hill churches are offering something new: 'Breathing Space'. Breathing Space will run from 7.30pm to 8.30pm on Friday 11th March at Hernhill Church. St Michael's Church is beautiful and peaceful. It will be mainly in darkness with only candlelight. There will be some music playing, and some periods of silence during the hour. There will be no words, no instructions, no expectations and no need to say or do anything. Just turn up (bring a torch, it will be dark outside), find a seat and enjoy the atmosphere and the peace. Have some breathing space. Leave when you are ready. At the end of the hour, someone will say a short prayer to end the time.

You will be most warmly welcome whether you are a churchgoer, or whether you have never set foot in a church in your life, whether you have a faith, no faith or are just curious. Nobody will make you talk to them or try and make you come back again! Maybe see you there.

Paulette Stubbings

LITTER IN THE VILLAGE

Further to Anne Butler's suggestion of a Village Clean Up, we think it is a good idea and we would be willing to help, particularly around the playing field and Village Hall. However, we think that a big vote of thanks should

be given to our neighbour Peter Lintott, in Kays Lane, who voluntarily is out in all weathers regularly picking up litter from Kays Lane, the area around the Village Green and Church Hill. A true good neighbour.

Sylvia and Brian Philpott

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

However long it takes, our Samaritan volunteers will talk through

what has brought a caller to the point where they feel they cannot cope anymore; spiralling debts, ill

health, redundancy, perhaps hearing voices telling them to harm or even kill themselves or just loneliness. The list is endless.

We know a lot about what can help our caller through tough times. We can help them explore their options, understand their problems better or just be there to listen. We do not give advice, are not judgemental and our conversation is in confidence.

Could you be that Samaritan?

Would you be able to listen and, using the training we give you, help that caller find a way through whatever problem is causing them distress?

At Canterbury we respond to well over 1250 callers a month by phone, email or text. We also reach out to the community throughout the area by working with schools, colleges etc.

If you feel you could and would like more information please visit samaritans.org or contact us by email

at the.samaritans@btconnect.com.

Should you need us: phone 116

123 (this number is free to call),

01227 457777, e-mail:

jo@samaritans.org, text: 07725

90 90 90 or visit: 32, Northgate, Canterbury CT1 1BL.



BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

There is always a large number of books for sale in the church. They cover the fullest range of topics from thrillers to travel and all subjects between.

There are also many DVD's. We take trouble to ensure that the books are in 'as-new' condition and all

are ridiculously cheap at only 50p for paperbacks, £1.00 for hardbacks and DVD's.

The church is open every day, so just walk in, make your selection and leave your money in the box by the bookcase. Enjoy a good read.

Barbara Taylor

VICTOR COLLAR

Many villagers will know of Victor who lived at number 5, Staplestreet with his mother and two brothers until they all sadly passed away. It is an end of an era for a Village family.

Victor Albert Collar was born on 3rd April 1921. He had an elder sister Lilian and two brothers, George and Bill. The family moved to Staplestreet in 1935.

At the age of 20 Victor joined the Royal Artillery, where he spent his time traveling the South of England with his anti-aircraft gun. Towards the end of the war he was sent to Egypt where he travelled around the Middle East assisting with the running of the Naafi. After six years in the army he went to work in London where his army training helped him to get a job in an office. He would often tell sto-

ries of his experiences with his company's clients as they were quite well known; Joe Loss being one of his favourites. He lived in lodgings during the week coming home to Hernhill on a Friday and returning to London on Sunday evenings. On taking early retirement he settled in to a more re-

laxed life with his brothers at Staple Street. The last year of his life was difficult for him, but he was still able to tell his stories of army life and his life in London, even though we had heard them many times before. Life will not be the same without them.

Sarah Morgan

PUMP ORCHARD

As I look out of my kitchen window I wonder how many others in the area would dearly love to see the Pump Orchard returned to its former glory and live up to the name again.

Since the removal of the trees the habitat has changed considerably. There has been a loss of the indigenous birds, e.g. fieldfare,

some of the woodpeckers, owls etc. In their place we have the large black birds and seagulls, all of whom predate the smaller birds that visit our gardens.

Please lets bring back the trees, whether it be apples, pears, the Kentish cob, or even a mixture!! Anything has to be better than an empty space.

Barbara Glykeriou

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

It was encouraging to see so many people at the AGM on Friday 6th February.

Election of Officers and Committee

Jill Geliot was re-elected as Chairman, Louise Harding as Secretary and Rebecca Parr as Treasurer.

Peter Bentley wished to stand down from the committee but all other members were re-elected (Tony Bentley, Violet and Shane Croll, Mark James, Sylvia and Brian Philpot, John Sim, Michael Woods) and Sally Bryce elected as a new member.

Presentations

Presentations were made to Pe-

ter Bentley as thanks for his work on the committee and to Mark James as thanks for his two interesting talks about Mount Ephraim.

Vote on Name

There was a large majority in favour of keeping the name of the Society as Hernhill Horticultural Society.

Awards of Annual Cups

Roses; John Sim
Dahlias; Violet Croll
Pot Plants; Violet Croll
Fruit and Vegetables; Richard Walton
Floral Art; Kath Stone
Floral Art runner up; Sally Bryce
Home Economics; Helen Bentley

and Anthea Moon
Tomatoes; Jill Geliot
Photography; Kath Stone
Maximum Points; Violet Croll and
Tony Bentley.

There was a short but challenging
quiz that was won by Louise
Harding and Jean James and the
afternoon ended with a buffet tea
including a delicious 50th birthday
cake made by Peter Bentley.

Future Dates

Friday 8th April; Village Hall Beetle
Drive at 7.30pm start. Adults
£3.00 Children £1.00. Prizes for
the winners. Bring your own bottle
and glasses if you wish.
Tea/coffee /soft drinks and nib-
bles provided. Family and friends
welcome. Laughter guaranteed.

Sunday 15th May; Doddington
Place Gardens. Adults £6.00
Concessions £5.00. Refresh-
ments available. An NGS open
day with additional events. A
group will meet there at a time to
be advised.

Several other outings are
planned. Details will be circulated
later. Please try to come to at
least one outing. Car lifts are al-
ways available. Please contact
Sylvia or Brian Philpot on 01227
750259 if you want more details.

Could I ask members to be as pro-
active as possible in the running
of your Society. Give us your ide-
as, complain, give items for the
newsletter etc. Phone 01227
750974.

Jill Geliot

FROM THE VICAR

Painting the modern garden 'Mon-
et to Matisse' is proving to be a
very popular exhibition at the Roy-
al Academy in London and I was
able to visit it as a recent birthday
treat (to myself). The climax is
Agapanthus Triptych which is
huge. The three canvasses are
normally exhibited in different gal-
leries in America but they were
reunited specifically for the RA ex-
hibition, the first time in Europe
since they were painted by Monet
towards the end of his life. Many
of the artists were also keen gar-
deners and often exchanged vis-
its to talk about painting and
gardening. It was an exciting time

when new plants were being de-
veloped but I hadn't realized that
this period also coincided with
rapid industrialization and gar-
dens were an opportunity for peo-
ple to reconnect with nature.

Gardens play a large part in the
Easter story from the Garden of
Gethsemane where Jesus went
after his last supper with his disci-
ples to the garden tomb. He
prayed in anguish to his Father
and asked his friends to keep
awake with him but they couldn't.
Later that night Judas led the sol-
diers to Jesus, betrayed him and
Jesus was arrested.

After Jesus' death his body was
taken down from the cross and

placed in a tomb in a nearby garden with a large stone sealing the entrance. That is the garden of resurrection, where the women came early the first Easter morning to anoint his body. The stone was rolled away, the tomb empty, they even saw the risen Christ and their lives were turned upside down.

Through the garden, the people of the 19th century were trying to reconnect with nature. Jesus through his passion, death and resurrection was reconnecting us with God. Adam and Eve failed in

the Garden of Eden when they succumbed to temptation, Jesus triumphed in a garden, conquering evil and death. If we believe in Jesus and commit our lives to following him, one day we shall be with him where he is. For now, he is with us where we are, enabling us to live life to the full through his love and power. Jesus is still alive and turning lives upside down today as people are reconnected to God.

With best wishes for a very happy Easter.

Revd Jean Burrows



SHOW YOUR DOG

There will be a Fun Dog Show at the 2016 Hernhill Village Fete, 7th May. We welcome pedigrees and family pets, it's just for fun. Please check the Hernhill Forum website hernhillforum.wordpress.com, facebook & twitter pages for details of classes and times.

Miriam Layton

PASSOVER MEAL

On Maundy Thursday evening (24th March, 6.45pm for 7 00pm) we will celebrate a Passover meal in St Barnabas. This has now become a biannual event as it is so popular. As well as enjoying a cooked meal together and drinking a lot of red wine or red grape juice we will learn more about the significance of Passover for Christians as it was at Passover time that Jesus was killed. It was also at a Passover meal that Jesus instituted the new Passover, the Holy Communion service, so

there is a lot of rich symbolism to be unpacked.

Our Passover meal includes some symbolic starters such as haroset and the traditional roast lamb (or there is a vegetarian/vegan option) and is suitable for all ages except very young children. Tickets £8.50, children £4.00, will be limited as we want to keep a family feel to the meal so book early to avoid disappointment by contacting Keith and Teresa Clark on 01227 750739

BITS AND PIECES

So after all the noise about the EU negotiations, the deed has finally been done, or has it. Time will tell. Regardless of what you think of the outcome of the talks, you can be certain that you will be bombarded by claims and counter claims from now until voting day. Even if by then you are sick to death of all the clamour, be sure to have your say by voting on Tuesday 23rd June.

Locally there are also issues that need the attention of all. These are with respect to land-use and property developments in the Village. Again, it is important that your views are made known to both the Parish Council and Swale. Information can be found on the Council notice board and the Swale Planning Office.

You will no doubt not be surprised to hear that thieves are still about. Last month an Apple i-pad and a bicycle were stolen from outbuildings in Staplestreet.

News from the school is both good and bad. We are



all sad that Brenda Windsor is retiring in September. The good news is that a new head has already been appointed. Mrs Sarah Alexander will take over at the beginning of the autumn term. She is planning to meet staff and children before the end of the current year. We wish her well in her new role.

I echo Barbara Glykeriou's plea for the return of the orchards that were so much a feature of the area. There was a time, not so many years ago, when Hernhill was officially designated an 'orchard tour' at blossom time.

Thanks to contributions from Jo Dawes and Gabi Johnson I have been able to include some extra dates in the annual calendar. Any subsequent dates will be shown,

as usual, in the usual diary. Before the next issue of the 'News' you will have already enjoyed your chocolate eggs and perhaps finished them, so let me wish you now, a very happy Easter.

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

NEXT ISSUE

**Mon
23rd
Mch**



Tues 1 Mch	-----	-----	Blue bin collection
Sun 6	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Mothering Sunday
Tues 8	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Fri 11	7.00pm	Village Hall	Miranda Sykes & Rex Preston concert
	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Breathing space
Sun 13	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	-----	Mount Ephraim	NGS Open Gardens
Tues 15	-----	-----	Blue bin collection
Sat 19	3.30pm	St Barnabus	Messy Church
Sun 20	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Palm Sunday
Tues 22	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Wed 23	9.30am	St. Michael's Ch	Hernhill School Easter Service
Fri 25	2.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Good Friday Service
Sun 27	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Easter Day
	-----	Mount Ephraim	Easter Egg Trail
Mon 28	-----	Mount Ephraim	Easter Egg Trail
Wed 30	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 3 Apr	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 5	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sun 10	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 12	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 16	3.30pm	St Barnabus	Messy Church
Sun 3 Apr	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Annual Parish Meeting after Service
Tues 5	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sun 24	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 26	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Wed 27	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council

UPDATED VILLAGE CALENDAR

Mch 6	Mothering Sunday	16	Wheelie Bin Race
11	Sykes & Preston concert	17	Jazz on the hill
13	Mt Ephraim Open Gardens	Aug 5	Olympics Opening
19	Hort Soc Spring Show	5 - 7	Pop Festival
20	Palm Sunday	20	Children's Soc Tea
23	School Easter Service	29	Bank Holiday
25	Good Friday	Sept 10	Ride & Stride Day
27	Easter Day. BST begins	10	Hort Soc Autumn Show
27/28	Easter Egg Trail	17	School Fete
Apr 16	Church AGM	18	Teddy Bear Jump alternative
May 1/2	Pat-a-lamb	Oct 2	Harvest Festival
2	Bank Holiday	30	BST ends
7	Village Fete	Nov 12	Craft Fair
30	Bank Holiday	17	Remembrance Sunday
June 10	Organ Recital	Dec 11	Christingle
12	Open Gardens	17	Carols on the Green
19	Father's Day	24	Crib Service
25	Hort Soc Summer Show	24	Midnight Service
July 10	Teddy Bear Parachute	25	Christmas Day



**PUBLISHED BY
COURTESY OF
HERNHILL PARISH
COUNCIL**