



HERNHILL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2017

PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact the clerk for Parish Council business on 07740 706189 or hernhillclerk@gmail.com or hernhillparishcouncil.org. Copies of the approved minutes are available on the Parish Council website and the notice board.

The Parish Clerk is on holiday and so there is no report in this issue.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 27th September at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend. If members of the public wish to speak on a subject at the meeting then please can they contact the Clerk prior to Wednesday 20th September so that relevant items can be placed on the agenda for discussion.

YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

I suppose the inevitable downside to taking time off for a holiday in June as reported last month is a very packed diary in July? As well as my usual full days, I only had one evening Monday to Thursday off in July. I also had two Friday evening meetings and two half day Saturdays. Add in time to contact residents in person and by phone plus time to read Agenda papers I estimate I worked approximately 80 hours per week in July, 8 normal working weeks in 4 weeks! Having arrived home on Sunday 2nd July, on Monday I travelled via a meeting at Swale House, Sittingbourne to Birmingham for the Annual Local Government Conference. I feel as Leader it is part of my job to attend. As well as the Councils Chief Executive I always take another Councillor as part of their Personal Development Plan. This year it was Deputy Cabinet Member for Communities Nicholas Hampshire who repre-

sents Borden. Many of you will have met Nick recently as he played a major role supporting my Council election campaign and then Helen Whatley's campaign in the general election. The Local Government Association Conference is an unequalled forum to listen to and quiz Government Ministers and share experiences with major figures in the local government world.

The following weekend was the Kent County Show. I attended on the first day in a Council capacity. I was able to have long talks with 'de facto' Deputy Prime Minister Damian Green and Greg Clark, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy amongst others. Also, I joined Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott in a discussion with local and regional National Farmers Union Officers on Rural Crime and Policing. The Saturday and Sunday allowed me some 'family time'. We met my daughter and her family there on the Saturday and

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KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

on the Sunday we took my two eldest grandchildren to the Show. Archery, shooting and horses being the key attractions.

I have also travelled to London four times in July, twice representing Swale Borough Council at events (both held on the House of Commons Terrace), once to represent the County Council at a Southern Region Flood and Coastal Committee (usually held in Worthing). London by train is much more convenient. An especially important meeting as this is the time we start to finalise the list of schemes to be included in the programme to be built over the next three years. Kent is on course to do particularly well. The fourth visit to London was an invitation to be one of twelve senior local Councillors to discuss devolution and other current issues, under strict 'Chatham House' rules.

Amongst the many other meetings those worthy of mentioning included the County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee where I was able to quiz senior figures from the East Kent Health Trust regarding changes at Canterbury Hospital and the Swale Clinical Commissioning Group proposed changes to the delivery of urgent and emergency care in North Kent including Sittingbourne and Sheppey. As I write you can still watch these exchanges on the Kent County Council website. There have also been July meetings of both Kent County Council and Swale Borough Councils (more later), the County's Regulation Committee which I chair and the Kent Environmental Champions Group which I also chair amongst others.

In many ways the big news this month is the formal adoption of the Swale Local

Plan. Although we could all, I am sure, find something within the Plan with which we disagree most people and Councillors have recognised how important it is to have a Plan and one that complies with Government Policy. We will now have the ammunition we need to resist unwanted developments in inappropriate locations. Despite the heavy July workload I have also managed to attend meetings of both Oare and Dunkirk Parish Councils (on the same evening!), Graveney School Governors which I chaired in the Chairman's absence and spent one Saturday morning at Kent Association of Local Councils Executive Committee.

Other than the County Show there has been time for other weekend "outings". One afternoon I attended a garden party at Torry Hill organised by Swale Community and Voluntary Services to thank representatives of the many organisations that make our Community life better by giving their time freely. On the last Sunday of the month I was pleased to unveil an Information Board at the site of the first world war Throwley Airport. The Board was funded in part by Swale Borough Council's First World War Grant Scheme which I initiated and organised by Throwley Parish Council whose Chairman and his wife entertained the 60 plus who attended to "bubbly and nibbles" after. A truly uplifting genuine Community event.

The month concluded with two full days of Home to School Transport Appeals on Friday 28th and Monday 31st. I have three further full days of appeal hearings in the first half of August.

Andrew Bowles

'THE STORY OF STUFF' and ethical consumption

Over the past century those of us living in the economically richer countries increasingly define ourselves and each

other by what we buy, wear and consume. These days, 'you are what you consume' as well as 'you are what you eat'. We are in love with 'stuff'. We are told we need stuff to make us happy, we buy more stuff, we surround ourselves

with stuff, we don't like sharing our stuff and we waste stuff! What's more, all this stuff is not making us happy. Studies show that economically richer countries tend to have the highest rates of mental illness (with the USA leading the tables and Britain not far behind) including problems arising from substance use, psychoses, depression, anxiety, and eating disorders. We simply consume too much and we are depleting the earth's natural resources at an alarming rate. Too much of what we use is toxic and damaging to the environment, other animals and other humans. If everyone in the world consumed at the same rate as the average North American person, we would need five planet Earth. The average British person consumes the equivalent of three planet Earths.

Most of our stuff is made by people in the economically poor countries of the world, often by children. Despite (or rather because of) all the stuff we have in the rich countries, nearly one half of the world's population (more than three billion people) live on less than £1.65/day and at least one billion people still go hungry every day!

Every day we make choices. As consumers, we have a huge amount of power to change the world. Fairly traded goods, organic foods, vegan products, electric cars, cosmetics that are not tested on animals, up-cycled products and vintage fashion, eco-friendly cleaning products and many more have come onto the market and surged in popularity due to increasing public awareness and consumer pressure. As consumers, we have influenced the decisions of multinational corporations and governments through campaigns, petitions, boycotts and simply shopping in a different way; voting with our £'s.

What else can we practically do as individuals, families and communities to make this a fairer, less-cluttered, more sustainable world? We can reduce consumption overall. Do you really need that new gadget? Could you re-use or recycle something you already have? Always recycle if you cannot reduce or re-use something. Could you buy something second-hand? You can find amazing things in charity shops and by shopping in them you are not only reducing waste and helping you save money, you are supporting the charity's important work too. Support, or set up, a local swap-shop network. These are popping up all over the place now, made easier by the advent of social media of course. Sign petitions to encourage corporations to become more ethical and boycott unethical companies. Sign up to 'Ethical Consumer' and find out which are the most ethical companies and products – either online or receive their magazine. For over 25 years 'Ethical Consumer' has been the hub of the movement, helping consumers to shop ethically, campaigners to challenge corporate power and businesses to improve their supply chain. Their mission is 'to make global businesses more sustainable through consumer pressure'. There are useful links from which to get further information:

www.storyofstuff.org,
www.ethicalconsumer.org,
www.happyplanetindex.org,
www.oneplanetliving.com,
www.earthday.org

Each month I will be writing about different aspects of sustainable living. Please do get in touch with your questions and ideas.

Jo Kidd
jo.kidd@abbotsmillproject.co.uk

HERNHILL SCHOOL

We are here again at the start of another academic year and I wanted to start by saying thank you. I have had many kind comments from Villagers saying how

lovely it is to hear about the school since we started writing regularly for the HERNHILL NEWS. I am really glad our news is enjoyed by many and I hope we will be able to bring you lots more interesting

reports over the coming year.

Two things to highlight this month:

On Saturday 16th September (12.30 to 3.30pm) we are holding our annual fete. This is the biggest Parent Association (PTAFA) event of the year and our biggest fundraiser. Our band of wonderful parents work incredibly hard to organise this event and we are very grateful for their efforts. Please do come along and support us. It will be great to see you.

Secondly, we are looking to expand our group of volunteers. Without the support of our current volunteers, many children wouldn't be heard to read, many art

projects would take forever, our flower beds would become overgrown and many of those 'extra things' just wouldn't happen. In other words, we could not manage without them! If you have a spare hour every week or fortnight or month and would like to get involved with the school, we would love to have you. Whatever your skills or interests, I am sure we can find a way for you to be involved. Just pop in or phone (01227 751322) or email me headteacher@hernhill.kent.sch.uk – I'd love to hear from you!

Sarah Alexander

FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S

Looking up Hernhill in Alan Bignell's "The Kent Village Book" you can read the following, "On a hill looking northwards towards the coast west of Whitstable over Graveney marshes, Hernhill hovers in a thoroughly acceptable way round it's rectangular Village Green.....Hernhill is a very attractive village indeed and very understandably a designated conservation area over which the 15th century St Michael's Church presides with a sort of lofty indulgence."

It is very easy to forget how lucky we are to have such an attractive village centre and in addition how lucky we are that the church not only looks good but is an active place of worship and hosts a number of community events such as art exhibitions, concerts and flower festivals. Weekly services are held for regular worshippers and occasionally there are special services maybe for quiet contemplation or pet blessing. We can celebrate weddings and christenings and find solace in funerals. We can just go in for a quiet moment if we want to as St Michael's is open every day.

St Michael's Church does not receive grants or income from central or local government and can only apply for grants for specific building renovations. To keep the church in good order, clean, lit and heated and paying its share of the Vicar's

stipend costs in excess of £35,000.00 each year. This has to be raised every year by regular giving and fund raising events. Regular giving enables the church's Parochial Parish Council to budget its outgoings. Fund raising provides a welcome boost to income but is dependent on sufficient support and in some cases provident weather.



The Friends of St Michael's was started over ten years ago as a way of providing regular income from people who may not be regular worshippers but who value the church as a beautiful building, an important part of our community or who have some past connection to the church such as being married there or being a former worshipper who has moved away. We have some 'Friends' who have contributed since it started but over the years some have sadly passed away and some have lost contact with us. At present we raise about £1000 each year from the Friends Scheme but we would like to increase this to reflect ever increasing costs for the church. It is appreciated that there are many pressures on personal incomes at present but I would like to invite you to consider whether you are able to subscribe £30.00 (or more) a year to help to preserve for the next generation

a building and community asset, which has been part of our village life since at least the 15th century. You will find a leaflet which gives you more information

about the Friends and has a form for joining in this edition of the *Hernhill News*.

Thank you
Jill Geliot

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY EVENT

Hernhill Village Green
Saturday 9th September
2.00 to 4.00pm

Teas, cakes, strawberries etc for sale

Bring your Children's Society box to be opened
or give it to Doreen before

No tickets needed, just come

Hernhill Horticultural Society Autumn Show

Saturday 2nd September

At Hernhill Village Hall

Open to the public from 2.00pm

Entry, Tea, Coffee and Biscuits are Free

Entry and staging of exhibits from

9.45am to 11.15am

Raffle and presentation of prizes at
3.00pm and auction of selected entries

STICKS AND STONES

When she was very little, my daughter (as most children do as they get the hang of language) would often come out with sentences that didn't make much sense. After one such occasion she laughed and said 'Sorry mummy, sometimes the words just come, and I say them out!'. Well kid, I thought, we've all been there.

The power of words is astonishing. This week, Trump's trigger-happy twitter-habit has been met with the equal and opposite force of Kim John-un's state media rhetoric, with potentially earth shattering consequences.

Sincere words of praise or a harsh word of criticism, or unkind names we were called when we are young can stay with us for the rest of our lives, and both positive and negative can have a profound effect on our character and self-image.

In the wake of the wave of a string of protests and clashes in Virginia between white supremacist and neo-Nazi organisations and those standing against them, people are being urged to 'speak out' against racism and intolerance.

Scroll down pretty much any comments section on a contentious issue in social media and you will see people speaking out all the time. The anonymity of the In-

ternet seems to give some the sense that they can say whatever they wish to anyone, no matter how hurtful or uninformed their comment may be. Some love stirring up the drama, others try to broker agreement between warring factions. Pretty much everyone thinks they are right!

There is a time to use our voice and a time when it's better to keep silent, but it always makes sense to choose our words with care because they can have such a huge effect. There are some sayings in the book of Proverbs in the Bible that are true today despite being so ancient. "Rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing" is an example.

I think my favourite comes from the Gospels of Mark and Matthew where they refer to a person speaking good or bad "out of the abundance of their heart". This idea is that our speaking tends to reflect what is going on inside us, our attitudes and our motivations. Peacemakers and those who promote love will speak words that bring unity and encourage tolerance and understanding. Those who are angry about injustice will speak words that bring those issues into the light and call on others to account for trampling on the rights of others. Those who are wise don't get drawn into empty arguments or tit for tat responses just to have the last word. Those who

are hurting may struggle not to use their own words to hurt others. What's on the inside tends to spill out of us sooner or later when we speak. Our words to one another can build up and encourage or

inflict terrible damage, dramatically and instantaneously or gradually over time. It's practically a super power. And I wonder what my words say about me?

Revd Paulette Stubbings

BITS AND PIECES

For me there were two big events in August. One, I took the caravan away for a few days and, two, I was on duty at the Craft Centre for the "New Day" pop festival.

The weather was an important factor in both events. My camping in Devizes was a matter of getting out between heavy showers. It was great if you got it right, but there was a problem. The TV was not working so I had to rely on the weather forecasts in the newspaper. This was changed every day but rarely seemed to relate to what was actually happening. I decided that a great deal of time, upset and money could be spared if a permanent forecast were published. It might read something like this:

"A fine dry and hot day is forecast with temperatures in the high twenties but with lows of five or less in isolated areas. There will be clear blue skies throughout the day with the exception of the occasional cloud cover which will bring a risk of some light to heavy rain or even some thunder and lightning. Light southerly winds will back to the east and intermittently veer to the west via the north. Winds may reach gale force in certain areas clearing any mist or fog that may have settled. These stronger winds will shift any snow drifts but may expose the ice patches beneath which should then recede in the strong sunlight."

When I got back I repaired the TV by switching on the caravan aerial that I had forgotten to switch on when I was away. I got a better signal than I do from my web site.

The pop festival at Mount Ephraim was a different matter altogether. The weather throughout the weekend was hot and sunny. At times perhaps too hot but the people who came certainly seemed to enjoy

it, and there was a very large number of them. Without being rude, it was noticeable that the average age of the audience was a touch above the middle range. Perhaps as a result there was a general feeling of relaxed enjoyment. The sound amplification may have challenged the resources of the electricity grid at times but the weekend was undoubtedly a success. In September we have two much quieter but enjoyable events. The Horticultural Society Summer show is in the Village Hall on Saturday 2nd and the Children Society's Social Event for the opening of the collection boxes is on the Village Green on Saturday 9th. There will be teas and cakes and strawberries and other things to buy so do come and enjoy the fun. And of course the weather. If it rains, the whole affair will be moved into the church.

The bad news this month is that there are even more illegal developments along Plumpudding Lane. Worse still, there is no obvious resolution to the problem in the near future.

The, so called, 'George Bell Farm' seems to be involved in producing new and ille-



gal entries to the site. We can but wonder what comes next? More information can be obtained from the Swale Planning web site. Look there and despair, but also write and complain.

Finally, Stuart Read is looking for someone to do cleaning. If you have some time to spare ring him on 07825 613726.

ADT

Sun 3 Sep	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 5	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 9	2.00pm	Village Green	Children's Society event
	-----	-----	Ride and stride
Sun 10	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 12	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sat 16	12 30pm	Hernhill School	Annual Fete
	3.30pm	St. Barnabas	Messy Church - Harvest
Sun 17	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion & Baptism
Tues 19	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sun 24	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 26	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Wed 27	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Sun 1 Oct	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Patronal Festival
Tues 3	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sun 8	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 10	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sun 15	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Harvest Festival
Tues 17	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 21	3.30pm	St. Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 22	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 24	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Wed 25	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Sun 29	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Bible Sunday
Tues 31	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
	6.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Churchyard spooky stories

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

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SEP





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