



# HERNHILL NEWS

## DECEMBER 2014



### PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**Present:** Mrs H. Figgis (Chairman), Mr G. Morsman, Mr A. Chapman, Mrs J. Gelliot, Mr M. Cooper, Mr M. Woods, Mr M. Woodcock & Mrs S. Muteham (Clerk). Also present were two members of the public. Apologies were received from Mr A. Bowles & Mr G. Bobbin

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters arising:** The matter of the blocked drains at Godfrey's Grave was discussed by councillors and the public attending the meeting. It was agreed that everyone was finding it extremely difficult to get any response from KCC on the matter and it appears that very little physical progress has been made in dealing with the issue. It was noted that the matter has now been highlighted to Cllr Bowles and the Clerk will continue to chase KCC for a site visit and

further information on how the matter can be resolved.

**Reports:** Mr Morsman had received a report that the road by Mallards Farm had become impassable at times due to water on the road. Mr Chapman commented that the sinkhole on Church Hill near the old school is still slowly sinking and that KCC are monitoring the situation. Mr Woods has made a preliminary assessment of posts on the Village Green and noted that approximately 14 need to be replaced. There will be a site meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the matter in further detail. It was also noted that KCC had been spotted at Fairbrook on 26<sup>th</sup> November apparently undertaking work on the drainage system which has recently been blocked. Mr Woodcock reported that he had received several comments from residents regarding the blocked drains and flooding at Godfrey's Grave. Mr Cooper commented that there is currently one full size and one half size allotment plot available to rent. The matter of road/pedestrian safety was highlighted after it was noted that sev-

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e-mail [hernhillclerk@gmail.com](mailto:hernhillclerk@gmail.com)

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 752840

and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

eral pedestrians/dog walkers had been observed on the roads at night time with very little or no reflective clothing or torches making it difficult for drivers to see them. The parish council would like to suggest that residents do their best to make themselves as visible as possible to drivers when walking on the highways. Mrs Geliot commented that parking continues to be a problem at the junction of Church Hill and Staplestreet, with cars being observed as parking on the white lines. The local police are aware of the situation and continue to monitor it. The Clerk will investigate the possibility of additional road signage to notify drivers of the concealed junction. Mrs Figgis commented that the Village meeting held on Wednesday 12th November had a good turnout. It was noted that Swale Borough Council are investigating the matter of rubbish dumping on ground at Thirwell Farm and are also investigating whether planning permission is required for the burger van located near to Lychgate Service Station at Dargate. Mrs Figgis, on behalf of the Parish Council thanked Mr Chapman for his work in cleaning the war memorial prior to the Remembrance Day Service.

**Planning:** 14/504902 4, Staplestreet – TPO to reduce to ground level one birch tree and crown reduce by maximum of 30% one birch tree. The Parish Council recorded no objection to the applica-

tion. The Clerk informed those present that appeal on planning application SW/13/1447 (Evaluna, Plumpudding Lane) will be held on 9th December.

**Administration:** Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated the draft budget for 2015/16. This was discussed at the meeting and it was agreed that the precept requested for 2015/16 would remain unchanged at £8,000. Proposed by Mrs Figgis and seconded by Mr Chapman. The Clerk received two quotes for annual mowing of the playing fields and it was agreed to continue to use Landscape Services for the annual mowing in 2015/16.

**Correspondence:** Advertising material from Mid-Kent Astronomical Society to be published on notice boards. Email from Jean Burrows asking for members of the Parish Council to attend and read at the Christmas Service on 21st December at 4:30pm in Boughton Parish Church. An email from Swale Borough Council clarifying details of neighbour/boundary notification on planning applications. Quotes received from Landscape Services and Countrywide Grounds Maintenance for annual mowing of the playing fields.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be on Wednesday 28th January 2015 at 8:00pm. There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm



### CAROLS ON THE GREEN

This annual event has been growing in popularity and is loved by the children . This year it will be at 5.00pm on Saturday 20th December. Bring your lantern and your voices. Afterwards enjoy a hot drink and a mince pie

## **YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

In early November I again held my participatory budget event, this year at Teynham Village Hall. For those of you who are not sure what this event entails it is to allow you, the electors of the Swale East Division of Kent County Council, to determine how the monies allocated to me for local projects are distributed. This year from amongst the voluntary sector organisations bidding, the highest number of votes was achieved by Companionship at Christmas. St Mary's PCC in Teynham also featured highly and two local Clubs providing opportunities for young people to experience and learn fishing were also among those successful.

The following day was Remembrance Sunday when I took part in the Service at Selling and laid a wreath on behalf of the Mayor and Borough of Swale. That afternoon I joined with the family of the late Donald Dean VC, County and Civic Dignitaries and many local residents for a service in Sittingbourne to dedicate a centenary stone to commemorate his life and the award to him of the Victoria Cross for gallantry in the First World War.

On the Monday my wife and I travelled to Leper (Ypres) in Belgium for Armistice Day. The following morning we met up with the Swale Coach Party, which included representatives from all the senior schools in Swale, to join the march from the Cathedral in the town centre to the Menin Gate where the Mayor of Swale laid a wreath on behalf of the residents of our Borough. We followed the Swale coach on their very moving visit to Tyne Cot Cemetery. By travelling out on the 10th and back on the 12th my wife and I were able to attend the last post ceremonies at the Menin Gate on both Monday and Tuesday evenings as well as the Armistice Service at 11.00am on Tuesday the 11th.

On the 17th I attended Throwley Parish Council. This is one of the few amongst my 17 Parish Councils which does not invite me to all of their meetings. They particularly asked me to attend this month to discuss two issues. Firstly, broadband connectivity in the parish and secondly, the objections of Swale Borough Council to the preferred site for local needs housing to serve both the Parish of Throwley and the parishes of Sheldwich, Badlesmere and Leaveland. This meant sending my apologies to the parishes of Dunkirk and of Oare which were both meeting the same evening. Having previously played a leading role at both national and county level in the campaign to secure better broadband for rural communities this issue seems once again to be looming large in my diary. As well as the meeting at Throwley I have, within the last month, facilitated three meetings at Swale Council Offices to discuss securing acceptable provision to the problem areas within Swale. The project manager for the roll out of broadband provision in Kent also attended the Swale Rural Forum held at Selling. Much of my division will receive high speed broadband in phase one of the current scheme which is being rolled out between October 2014 and October 2015. My major concerns are those communities within my division, mainly along the edge of the North Downs, who will miss out on superfast broadband. At the very least I want to ensure they all receive a minimum of 2mbps in line with the Government's commitment. Other meetings recently attended include the Kent Flood Risk Committee, both Swale and Kent Health and Wellbeing Boards and the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority. Yesterday (Saturday the 22nd) I attended the Kent Association of Local Councils AGM held at Ditton where I was pleased to be joined by representatives of Newnham,

Selling and Teynham Parish Councils from within my Division. As this report will appear in the December edition of most Parish Magazines

or Newsletters can I wish all residents a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Andrew Bowles

### LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday 21 December at 4.30pm  
in Boughton Parish Church

If you enjoy singing there is still time to be part of the choir that sings at this Service. Just come along to rehearsals on Wednesday evenings, (3rd, 10th and 17th December) in St Barnabas at 7.00pm.



All are welcome.

Revd Jean Burrows

### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Thoughts on 2014

As this is the last newsletter of 2014. I would like to thank all the committee for their hard work and all members who have participated in our various activities. The three shows this year have all been good, with more exhibitors and entries. We do very well for a small village to hold three shows and to have such a high standard of exhibits which is usually commented on by the judges. The outings have been better attended and generally we have been luckier with the weather. It has been very pleasing to have had entries in the shows from pupils of Hernhill School

and it would be good if this were to continue as we must encourage and welcome the next generation to participate in village activities. Financially the society has made a loss this year, mostly due to the fact that we had no income from the Open Gardens. We only aim to cover expenses and break even and over the years we have built up a sufficient financial buffer to stand one year's loss. Overall I feel the Society is holding it's own and participation by members has improved. And what a wonderful summer we have had – certainly one to remember

Jill Geliot

Chairman 01227 750974

### FROM THE VICAR

Who will win the battle for the best Christmas advert 2014? The winner the past few years has been John Lewis, last year with the story 'The Bear and the Hare'. This year will it be John Lewis' Monty the Penguin' with the message 'Give someone a Christmas they've been dreaming of' or Sainsbury's World War 1 Christmas truce with 'Christmas is a time for sharing'? Early viewing figures on YouTube has the John Lewis advert in the lead but the Sainsbury's advert has provoked a strong response with at least 240 com-

plaints to the Advertising Standards Authority, which is considering an investigation after viewers objected to using sensitive national history to promote a company. Sainsbury's has based its ad on the well-known events of Christmas Day 1914. Many letters home from the Front describe how British and German soldiers stopped killing each other and came together in no man's land, exchanged gifts and personal mementos, sang carols and played an impromptu game of football.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin

Welby, wrote, 'On Christmas Day 1914 the guns fell silent on the Western Front as German and British soldiers laid down their weapons, to exchange greetings, play football and sing carols. But they then returned to their hostilities.

This Christmas, 2014, we are invited to leave our defended positions and meet those we might consider to be our enemies, exchange greetings, make peace and sing carols. We do this not because of the actions of those soldiers 100 years ago. But because of the actions of God over 2,000 years ago; as he came to us, at great cost, to bring reconciliation and peace, joy and hope,

life and light. And he came to us not just to bring change for one day, but for the whole of our lives.'

The Christmas Day truce in 1914 lasted one day, Jesus isn't just for one day a year, or even one day a week, what God offers us through Jesus is for every moment of every day, enriching our lives and enabling us to be the people he created us to be. Jesus said that he came to give us life, life in all its fullness. Why not take the opportunity this Christmas to discover for yourself more about life in all its fullness? I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Revd Jean Burrows

#### **STEVE KNIGHTLEY**

Something different is coming to the Village! Locals Liz and Gabi of 'The Band Company' are hosting a live acoustic music gig, with Steve Knightley, in Hernhill Village Hall on Friday 27th February 2015.

This is a rare chance to get up close and personal with Steve Knightley, who is the 'Show of Hands' frontman and BBC award winning singer /songwriter. 'Show of Hands', widely

acclaimed as the finest acoustic roots duo in England, have filled the Royal Albert Hall on four occasions but for now Steve is looking forward to bringing his songs and stories to smaller and more intimate venues.

For tickets or more information about this event please go to the website at [www.thebandcompany.co.uk](http://www.thebandcompany.co.uk) or call 01227 392560 and ask Liz or Gabi in person!

#### **DOVE DOINGS**

Over the holiday period our opening hours will be as normal for Christmas Eve i.e. 12.00 noon until 3.00pm and 5.00pm until 11.00pm. Christmas Day they will be 12.00 noon until 2.00pm for drinkers. Boxing Day will be 12.00 noon until 3.00pm for drinkers.

Our Christmas Party menu (Two courses £20, three courses £25, including glass of Prosecco) is available from the 1st to the 23rd December (see our website for the menu). We are taking bookings now but I'm afraid that Christmas Day lunch is now fully booked.

On Saturday 20th December from 4.00pm until 5.00pm; come along and join us to sing some Christmas carols

(Gareth Malone will NOT be present), enjoy a mince pie or two and lubricate your vocal chords!

There will be no coffee morning in December. They will restart on the second Thursday in January but there will be a 'Tapas evening' at £20.00 on New Year's Eve. Booking will be essential.

Gift vouchers are available for food and drink at The Dove - a particularly useful gift for those who have just about everything else.

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter (@thedoveinn) or Facebook (The Dove at Dargate) to find out what other interesting things are going on.

Chris and Dee

### **DATES FOR 2015**

The Horticultural Society AGM will incorporate the annual prize giving and will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 21st February. The programme will probably be as follows. 2.00pm AGM meeting followed by Cup Awards. 3.00pm a talk by Laurie Manser. Those who came to last years AGM will remember the very interesting and entertaining talk we had from Mr Manser so

we are pleased that he is able to return. 4.00pm buffet tea. Please put this date in your diaries and make sure we have a good attendance.

The Spring Show will be on Saturday 21st March.

The Summer Show will be on Saturday 13th June.

The Autumn Show will be on Saturday 12th September.

Peter Bentley

### **DCA & VILLAGE HALL MEETING**

A big thank you to all who turned up on Wednesday evening to give your views & suggestions for the way forward for these two organisations. A total of 36 attended.

The meeting was split into two parts. Firstly, I outlined the things that were currently under consideration.

- New multi-purpose surface for the tennis court.
- Creation of a community room, baby unit and additional storage.

Secondly, I threw open the meeting for suggestions for future projects. We now have a very good list which your committees will start to work through. Amongst these was a trim trail, youth club, skate park/BMX & sheltered out-

side play area for child care, to mention but a few. Also more public information on upcoming events to be made available online & publicised widely.

I explained that the key to all these things is funding. To this end, with the help of Simon Edgington who is doing our plans based on the original work by Miriam Layton, an application will be made to KCC for match funding, but we are up against a very tight deadline. I have also written to Viridor to seek funding and I have a number of other sources that I will be following up.

Finally, with regard to the Youth Club, I would welcome a volunteer to become leader of this along with two further people to assist. The first task would be to identify what equipment is needed.

Peter Rawlins  
pgrawlins@aol.com  
Chairman

### **BITS AND PIECES**

By mid November the Christmas trees and decorations were already in the shops. A nationwide study agrees with my suspicions that this is happening earlier each year. Already, television is swamped with adverts for Christmas food and toys and as a result of one advert, I gather that penguins are the in-thing this year. No child should be without one.

In theory I shall be taking a break over the Christmas period. Like the rest of us, in practice I will be as busy as ever;

if not more so. I tend to think that it was not always so hectic. In my childhood things were much more relaxed, or is it that I was on the receiving end rather than the giving end? My childhood was wartime and post-war.(The second World War!). There was much less to be had by way of toys, sweets and indeed, food. However, my Christmas stocking always had a polished penny in the bottom and most years it had a precious orange. Admittedly the orange might be shrivelled because it had been saved for a long time. The rest consist-

ed of little packages in second-hand wrapping paper, because that too was in short supply. But although we had less, my memories are still of food, fun and firelight. I hope that the future memories of the coming Christmas season will be as happy for our children and our children's' children; and for you too.

**You may have noticed that the enclosed Christmas card has decided to move Christmas Eve from Wednesday to Tuesday. I have checked and found that it is a prank to confuse Father Christmas into delivering presents a day early. Please ignore.**

Tom O'Bedlam has asked me to say that he is now promoting local events and activities on his account at 'twitter.com/hernhillforum'. The Red Lion, The Dove, and several regional businesses are currently represented. With 'Hernhill News', 'hernhill.net', 'hernhillforum' and this new twitter site, there can be no excuse for not knowing what is going on in and around the Village.

My neighbouring field seemed one day to have developed magical properties. Overnight it produced a fully grown horse. It seems that the horse devel-

oped a wanderlust, broke down the fence of his field and strolled down the road. Someone, not knowing where he belonged, put him the field next door to keep him safe from the traffic.

It would seem that KCC which is so reluctant to spend on road repairs has lost the skills needed when they do decide to splash out. First the M20 coastbound had to be re-closed to repair a repair, and now the same thing has happened in Boughton. We must just hope that the next time they decide to repair a road they will have re-learned the knack.

I have always thought that our churchyard is almost like a park, restful and beautifully kept. My thoughts are clearly not unique for the Kent Wildlife Trust has just awarded it a 'Highly Commended Certificate'. Well done all involved. Regular contributors and readers will remember that there is no issue of the News for January. I hope that you will join me in thanking those who will print and fold the News and those who will deliver it each month throughout the coming year. And from me, every good wish to you for Christmas and the New Year.

ADT



To book the Village Hall go to [www.hernhill-bookings.net](http://www.hernhill-bookings.net)

A copy of the Hernhill News and other local information can be found on the Village website. [www.hernhill.net](http://www.hernhill.net)

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COPY DATE

**Mon  
26th  
Jan**



<b>Tues 2 Dec</b>	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 7	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Amnesty Sunday. Sung Communion
Tues 9	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sat 13	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 14	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	Boughton Ch	Christingle for Children's Soc
Tues 16	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sat 20	5.00pm	Village Green	Carols on the Green
Sun 21	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	4.30pm	Boughton Ch	Lessons & carols
Tues 23	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 24	4.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Crib Service
	11.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Midnight communion
Thurs 25	9.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	10.00am	St Barnabas	Christmas Cracker Service
Sun 28	10.00am	Boughton Ch	Sung Communion. United Service
Tues 30	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
<b>Wed</b>	<b>1 January</b>	<b>2015</b>	
Sun 4	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 6	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 11	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 13	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sat 17	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 18	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion - Plough Sunday
Tues 20	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 25	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 27	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 28	8.00pm	Village Hall	Partish Council