



HERNHILL NEWS

FEBRUARY 2011

PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on 26th January 2011. Five Councillors were present, as was Cllr G Bobbin. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Figgis, Mrs Martin and Mr Bowles.

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2010 were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Mr Elliott reported that the Parish Council now had sufficient paper in hand to enable the Hernhill News to be published for the coming year. All agreed that the new sourcing of the necessary paper was a very satisfactory way of dealing with the matter. A letter is to be sent to the school, thanking them for their assistance in the matter.

Mrs Geliot said that, at a recent Horticultural Society meeting the placing of flower planters, to be situated at each of the two Hernhill village signs, would enhance the approaches to the parish. All Councillors supported the scheme. In

connection with this, Mrs Taylor suggested to the meeting that a similar idea including a village sign could also be used on the Village Green. This was also felt to be a worthwhile idea. The matter is to be further discussed at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

Mr Morsman spoke of his concern about the amount of litter which is accruing at the Wey Street slip road.

Mr Chapman said that the chance of imposing a speed limit in Staple Street was nil. The PCSO who used to patrol the area had offered to attend with her 'speed gun', but that was some months ago. She has now resigned from the Police and it is doubtful if she will be replaced.

Mrs Taylor expressed concern at the proposed relaxation of the existing planning legislation. She urged Councillors to keep a watchful eye at any hint of illicit development in all parts of the Parish. There are large areas of fallow and unused land in the area which could attract development which, once started, would be impossible

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

to stop. Adverse comments on a meeting called by Swale Borough were made by both Mr Bobbin and Mr Chapman. Obviously many alterations will be introduced by new planning regulations, but as yet, no one seems to be aware how far-reaching any of them will be.

The Clerk gave the usual financial report. He also said that a new insurance company had appeared, and that he had written to it, asking for quotations.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting to be closed at about 8.30 p.m.

FROM THE VICAR

A lot of people call themselves Christian (just over 70% in the 2001 census) but what does it mean to be a Christian? Our bishop, Bishop Trevor, has designated this year 'the year of discipleship' when we particularly think about how we live out our Christian faith more fully, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, wherever we are, whoever we are with.

Our Lent course this year is one specially written for the whole diocese to take part in and the five session course is designed to get the Church thinking and talking about what it means to be a 'disciple' or follower of Jesus Christ today. Learning from the Bible and from each other, we'll have the opportunity to think more deeply

about what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ, moving beyond being just 'believers' or 'churchgoers.' We will also be affirmed, challenged and equipped to live out our faith 24/7 and hopefully we will become more excited about what a life lived with Jesus can be like.

The five sessions of the course are based around the journey which Jesus' first disciples travelled and each session will provide an opportunity for group discussion, worship and reflection together on Scripture and our own experience.

Our Lent groups start the week beginning 14th March. More details will be available in church during February or contact me. There will be a choice of venues, days and times to suit everyone.

Revd Jean Burrows 01227

JANET KATHARINE MINEYKO

We regret to announce the death of Janet Katharine Mineyko, peacefully at home after a long illness, at Kinloch Rannoch, Scotland, on 31st December. Janet was the daughter of John and Jill Dawes of Sonstoll, Hernhill and was baptised and married at St Michael's Church. She is survived

by her husband Andrew, her daughters Katherine and Isobel, her mother Jill, and siblings Anne and James.

The funeral took place at Kinloch Rannoch yesterday, 11th January. It was very cold but very beautiful with the sun on the snowy mountains.

Mary Ann Jardine

DOVE DOINGS

We have started the year as we mean to go on at The Dove with our first successful event. The recent Cheese and Wine Tasting hosted by Roshna Ahmad, Shepherd Neame's resident wine expert and Dargate's own 'Cheesemaker' Jane Bowyer, was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Our guests matched our wines with the cheeses provided by the 'Cheesemakers of Canterbury' to find their perfect combination. Jane demonstrated the fascinating cheese-making process that takes place up at Lamberhurst Farm and guests were able to purchase their favourite cheeses from the evening to take away. Phil suggested it may be a good 'staff-training' for me to take part in the tasting - A sore head ensued the following morning - nothing new!

Despite being a traditionally quiet



time of year in the pub trade, we are hoping to be as busy as possible and that the Waterman's Dargate-reared Hog will do us proud as we stage our 'Rustic Italian Hog Feast' next week (now you can't get more local produce than that!). Further events will follow during the year with a charity 'Family Dog Show' promised amongst many others. If you would like to be added to our mailing list please leave your email address at the bar.

Bring on the Bat & Trap League - Phil and I are very keen to build on the pub as the heart of the village community and with thanks to John Kay & Glyn Eldridge preparations are in place for a Bat & Trap pitch at The Dove. We look forward to seeing some local teams forming for a regular meet when the weather improves.

Sarah

CHURCH URBAN FUND

It's collecting time again. As soon as possible will you please bring your boxes to me at home, or let me have them in church . I have plenty of new boxes so please ask if you need one. With grateful thanks.

Barbara Taylor
01227 751293

GROMMITS STALL

I have received this letter from the National Society for Epilepsy.

"On behalf of the Epilepsy Socie-

ty, I would like to thank you for your donation of £450.00 raised through your sales of fruit and vegetables. Please accept this letter as a receipt of the funds.

Thank you very much for thinking of us to be beneficiaries from the proceeds this time. We really do appreciate it. I am pleased to hear that you have plenty of support from the people in your village and I hope the stall has the same success next year."

Epilepsy Society relies on donations such as yours to continue its essential work to help people with epilepsy:



promoting accurate health care information; providing expert clinical care; and pioneering research into the causes and treatment of epilepsy. The money you raised will help us to continue to follow our aims.

Thank you to everyone who bought produce or contributed to the produce table last year.

Jill Geliot

SOCCER FOR TOM

A charity football match took place on Saturday 20th November at Hernhill in memory of our 16 year old son, Tom Brenchley. Tom was tragically killed in July whilst riding home on his moped on the Thanet Way.

The match was between the Red Lion Pub team managed by Tom's brother Chris, and a collection of players from Hernhill Herons, Whitstable Colts and the Archbishops School: all teams that Tom played for. The Red Lion won but it was a close game which was very entertaining for all to watch. A cup which was kindly donated by Mr Rob Pointer and presented to Chris and his team. Though cold, the weather was kind to the 100 plus supporters who donated a massive £950 towards the Child Brain Injury Trust. This charity would have provided support for us had Tom survived his injuries. We wish to pass on

their heartfelt thanks to all who supported and assisted with the day, which is now to become an annual event. Without these people this football match wouldn't have taken place - thank you.

A close family friend Oliver King will be completing a sponsor cycle ride from London to Paris over 5 days in June 2011, anyone who wishes to offer sponsorship please contact Dave and Jackie on 01227 752864. With regard to raising sponsorship for this event a Quiz night will be held at the Red Lion, Hernhill in late January or early February, again please contact us for details.

From the day we lost Tom until today, the people of Hernhill and the surrounding area have shown nothing but support and kindness and without this support I don't know where we would be, so again, THANK YOU HERNHILL.

Jackie & Dave Brenchley
Victoria Cottage Staplestreet.



RESTORATION FUND

St. Michael's, Hernhill, Kent

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 249972

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010

VICARS REPORT

At last the scaffolding is up round the tower and the long awaited restoration work has started. By the time you read this the work might even be finished! It's not only repairing the tower but other stone work, especially the windows, where it will be easier to see the restoration and remedial work that has taken place. To know the work has been done and paid for will be a wonderful achievement for a small village community.

Thank you to Alan Taylor and all the Restoration Committee for all their hard work in arranging attractive and imaginative fund raising events which raise substantial sums of money. Thank you to Malcolm and Jan Rhodes for all the form filling for the diocese and grant applications, for liaising with the architect and the contractors, and keeping the whole project going. It really has been a mammoth task and we appreciate so much

the many hours they have unstintingly given over several years.

Plans are also well under way for a toilet and small kitchen area in the church vestry; fortunately we already have some of the money for this project. Hopefully by the summer all these projects will be finished and we can rest on our laurels for a while. We will have a sound building that will be much more user-friendly and we will be able to focus our energies on serving the parish. However, we must now also ensure that we properly care for the building in the future.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our fund raising and given us their support and encouragement. We are very grateful to every one of you, and each time you look at the church you will know that you helped to restore an ancient, yet very important, landmark in the centre of Hernhill.

Revd Jean Burrows

THE FABRIC COMMITTEE

As usual we shall divide the restoration work into two categories.

External Quinquennial Repairs

Having received Faculty approval last year for the commencement of work to the external envelope of the church, a contractor was ap-

pointed to start in June 2010. Unfortunately the contractor had to withdraw and S and T Fullers of Faversham were then appointed. The erection of the scaffolding enabled the architect to have a much closer inspection of the stonework. This revealed that the turret and coping stones were in a far worse state than expected. A revision to the Faculty had to be obtained causing some delays. There was also a cost implication, increasing the overall cost of the project by £5,471 to £95,618. However, the stonemasons have been working in their workshop preparing new stone and re-cut-

ting stone removed from the tower. They are presently replacing these stones. Additional work is in progress repairing the turret roof. Materials for the repair or replacement to the rainwater goods have been received.

Refurbishment

The Diocesan Architects Committee has approved the re-ordering of the vestry and tower to accommodate a disabled toilet and baby changing facility, refreshment facilities and the relocation of the organ to create a new vestry. The process of obtaining Faculty approval is in progress.

Malcolm Rhodes

TREASURERS REPORT

2010 was another successful time for our fund raising as we finished the year with over £6,630 from events etc.

Our art exhibition held in the church, showed paintings and art works by local artists, and was very popular. Several visitors expressed the wish for another exhibition to take place in the future. Thanks to all the organisers and contributors, we raised over £700. We managed to secure a pitch at Faversham market in July, for the sale of cakes and home-made produce. This was a resounding success thanks to the cooks and bakers, the buyers and the people who manned the stall. This event raised the magnificent sum of £635. Again, we were asked by a number of customers to repeat the

event.

The Hernhill Players held two Wine and Wisdoms through the year. At the first, the raffle raised £157 for Restoration and the rest for other charities. The second quiz was all for the Restoration Fund, and that total was £480. Many thanks to the Players and their helpers for their hard work and for putting on such fun evenings.

There are other fund raising activities that take place every year. Books were sold at the fete and raised £145 – a magnificent sum. Thanks to Alister and Katarina Taylor for their hard work setting up and manning the stall on the day.

Doreen Jelfs continues to 'take cuttings and pot up' her plants, and has raised £170 in the year. It

is worth passing her door every so often throughout the spring and summer to see what new and different plants are on sale; those on offer do change week by week.

For the past three years we have been offered a giant Easter Egg which we have raffled after the Easter Service in church. This year £78.10 was added to the fund. As the tickets were £1.00 I'm not quite sure where the extra 10p came from!

Donations make up a huge part of our income. Some are put in the church Restoration box, some are given to me. They come from visitors to the church, from friends in the church, and from people in the village. We have also been supported by organisations in the village. The total amount this year is over £4,000.00. Thanks to all.

The sharp eyed reader will realise that I have not included Gift Aid. This of course is also an important source of income. However, last year we did not receive any money as the claim was not processed by the HM Revenue and Customs until this year. It has now been dealt with, so there will be a double amount in the accounts for the current year.

We have finally begun to have some large sums of money arriving from our grant providers. Some payments are not made until we have paid for the work to be done. We have now spent from our Restoration Fund about £34,000 on repairs, and we have received £23,000 in grants. I'm pleased to say there is still more funding to come, but there are also more bills.

Joyce Robb

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

All round the country there are depressing stories about beautiful buildings falling into disrepair. Churches in particular characterise our English countryside and our church is a superb example in a great setting. It is wonderful that we are able to ensure that this one at least will continue to be enjoyed for years to come.

When I was arm-wrestled into taking on this job four years ago, the task looked daunting. Now, with your efforts we have already raised over £40,000 and grants will largely make up the difference. There is now real light at the end

of the tunnel. Therefore, I would like to thank our villagers, our friends and our village organisations. It is they who have been putting their hands in their pockets to make the restoration work possible. Without these contributions we would not have been allowed to be considered for many of the grants that we have already received and those that are promised. There is still a way to go, so we need your support for a bit longer, but thank you for all that you have done so far. The Committee greatly appreciates what you have achieved.

Alan Taylor



JAM JARS

Are there any jars lurking around the Village, unloved? One pound jars, not coffee or pickles etc, are needed for the new jamming season. Please give me a ring to arrange collection. Many thanks.

Barbara Taylor
01227 751293

Exchange Café

The organising group will be selling hot drinks and snacks from 3.00pm to 4.45pm every Friday during term time. We invite everyone to sell, swap or donate children's clothes, toys, books and games. People can set up their own table-top stall to sell household items and use the cafe notice board to sell larger items. A display card will be provid-

ed to display details of the item, and your contact details and a photo would be helpful.

Locally produced eggs, apple juice and homemade cakes will be on sale and people are also welcome to promote local groups and businesses.

This is not a fundraising event and the intention of the organisers is only to cover costs. If they do make any money, this will be donated to a local charity. At the moment, this will be the Restoration Fund.

Miriam Layton
01227 752189

GIFTS FOR GHANA

In February half term I will be visiting schools in Ghana with a group of teachers organised by Kent County Council for a teaching and learning project funded by the Ghanaian government. I will be collecting resources to donate to the schools and would welcome any donations of stationary equipment such as pencils, crayons and

pens. I am also collecting old football kits, maybe you play for a team that has an old kit they don't need or if your children have grown out a strip they would be much appreciated! I am also collecting new footballs (un-inflated). Please leave any donations at 12, Swale View. Please hurry, many thanks!

Alice Edgington

STAPLEGATE WI

We met for our Christmas party this month and were entertained by Paul Harris who gave a very funny talk on Theatrical landladies. He spent many years travelling

around Britain while he was an actor in the company of other famous names such as Clive Dunn and Lesley Crowther. During this time he came across the good and the bad landlady and had many unusual

encounters and kept us thoroughly enthralled with his stories. He is at present to be heard on Radio Kent on Sunday mornings at 11.00am. We then abandoned all normal protocol and tucked into party food and Christmas cake and spent a good evening gossiping and exchanging cards and presents.

Liz Walton

At the January meeting we enjoyed a delightful trip down the years as we viewed slides showing Hernhill and Faversham some 100 years ago presented by Peter Kennett. Not always easy to know the exact locality until Peter gave us a clue or two where buildings had

changed or indeed disappeared altogether or trees were considerably smaller than now. It was almost like looking at an episode of "Larkrise" with the ladies wearing very similar outfits; there were also a surprising number of bicycles to be seen. Members and visitors all had an enjoyable evening and intend to invite Peter back for another "episode". Our next meeting on the 9th February will be Richard Brown talking to us about digital photography. If you would like to find out what a Staplegate evening is all about, come along and find out!

Lesley Holmes

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The AGM will be held at Hernhill Village Hall on Thursday 17th February 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Even if you are not a member of the society, you are very welcome to come along to the meeting to see what we have to offer. Members cover a wide range of ages including children. We have three shows

each year Spring, Summer, and Autumn and we have various gardening outings during the year. At the end of the year we have our Social Evening with prize-giving and a wine and wisdom quiz which has proved to be very popular. Our Membership secretaries are Sylvia & Brian Philpott (01227 750259).

Peter Bentley

LOAVES AND FISHES?

Malcolm Fricker, proprietor of Hernhill's own Crippledick Smokery, was at the bar of the Three Horseshoes when he expressed his surprise at the enthusiasm of Angela Rumble, from across the road, regarding the wonderful sermon she had just enjoyed. Just as surprised at this was her husband, Crispin Whiting, who apparently expressed some doubt. Mr Fricker had seen Angela emerging from the gloom in a smart black

coat with a black book under her arm, full of praise for the quality of the sermon.

She was actually returning from work, diary under her arm. Turns out that what she had expressed was appreciation for the "superb SALMON" which had been ordered from the smokery and thoroughly enjoyed over Christmas.

More a case of salmon and blinis than loaves and fishes.

Lionel Doveshoes

THE DCA FIREWORKS

The Display at Mount Ephraim is one of the most successful such events in Kent. The last few years have been very successful and have raised much needed funds for the DCA and other local charities. The event is non profit, run entirely by volunteers. To continue our suc-

cess and to continue to offer such an excellent event we are looking for more volunteers and in particular event organisers. This is a very rewarding role so if you or someone you know feels up to the task please get in touch. Many thanks.

Simon Carroll
DCA Chairman

WHEN WILL IT GET FIXED?

Those of us who use Hernhill Village Hall would like to know when the heating system will be made satisfactory for use. Sadly our hall is not a good advert for Hernhill. Answers please from the Committee to us all.

Anne Butler

DEAR VILLAGE HALL USERS,

There have been a couple of instances recently where the heating has failed to reach its temperature in the hall when hirers have turned it on using the switch outside the Jubilee Room.

In mid January we found that the radiators needed "bleeding" and having done this the water level in the system did not top up automatically so the boiler switched itself off for safety reasons. This has now been adjusted and the system is working fine. Also, the heating system is scheduled for its annual service in February so will be checked out fully again to ensure ongoing good reliable service.

However, the main reason for the system not working properly is that some hirers have turned down the thermostat in the Village Hall (despite it being in a cage and with a lid over dial) and upon leaving have not turned it back up so the boiler thinks it only needs to come

up to say 10/12 degrees before shutting itself off. This means the next hirer gets a cold room. If nobody changes the thermostat the heating system will work fine. The current system is the most reliable and cost effective for all concerned. Past experience has shown that pre-programming the hiring's is not reliable and will certainly not work if the thermostat is altered by users. The one hour setting, when switched on, will heat the rooms to the required temperature even on very cold days, and it can be turned on again if required later in the evening. Hirers can collect the keys up to one hour before hire to turn the heating on earlier (without being charged) if required.

I apologise for any inconvenience caused to any hirer but be assured, if advised that there is a problem it will be dealt with promptly.

Regards

David Mann
Chairman & Treasurer

BITS AND PIECES

How many of you said, "I'm glad to see the back of them"? That is, Christmas and New Year. It is always a busy time and for some it can be quite stressful. This year things didn't start too well. The Saturday before, Alister and I were delivering the new pew cushions to the church. And by the way, they really look good and are very comfortable. Anyway, we had just started when it began to snow. It came down faster and thicker than I can remember. Within 20 minutes driving was hazardous. The road was extremely slippery and it was difficult to see where we were going. It took us 25 minutes to get from the church to Dargate and Alister took another two and a half hours to get to Canterbury. Despite the awful weather, the 'Carols on the Green' was well attended, presumably by those who did not have to drive and the Vicar trudged through the snow to lead the proceedings. However, others throughout the country were having much worse problems; delays at airports, train cancellations and blocked motorways. Even so, we were very lucky by comparison. If you looked further afield the situa-



tion has been horrendous. Airports in Europe closed because of snow and floods in Brazil and Queensland, and the Australians lost the Ashes and the series too. Back at home, Barbara was really ill right up to Christmas Eve. But then she started to recover. She was even well enough to

eat the Christmas dinner, turkey and all the trimmings, that I cooked; but not without some interference. "Why haven't you put the parsnips on?" "The pressure cooker isn't steaming properly." "Are you sure the turkey is properly cooked?" It was a lovely family occasion but it may be sandwiches and Tesco mince pies next Christmas.

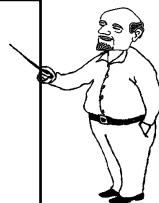
And then it was time to put away the decorations and face up to 'thank you letters' and pruning the fruit trees etc. Happy New Year!

Looking ahead there are already some dates for your diary. There is to be a Beetle Drive in aid of the Restoration Fund on April Fool's Day at 7.00pm, and there is to be a coffee morning in aid of Pilgrims Hospice on April 9th. Anne Butler (01227 750864) would like offers of help and/or items to sell for that event.

ADT

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**COPY
DATE
Mon
21st
FEB**



Feb 1 Tues	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 2	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 6	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Mon 7	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 8	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 9	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Richard Brown, Digital photography
Sun 13	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 15	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Thurs 17	7.00pm	Village Hall	Horticultural Soc - AGM
Sun 20	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service
Mon 21	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 22	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 23	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 27	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Mar 1 Tues	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 2	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 6	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Mon 7	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 8	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
	8.00pm	-----	Craft Centre Committee
Wed 9	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Bob Cooper, Wood turning
Sun 13	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 15	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 20	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service
Mon 21	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 22	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 27	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 29	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 30	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council