



# HERNHILL NEWS

## MARCH 2013

### BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS SUNDAY 31ST MARCH

#### PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 27th February. Mrs H. Figgis (Chairman), Mrs J. Geliot, Mr A. Chapman, Mr M. Woods, Mr G. Morsman, Mr A. Bowles (Borough Councillor), Mrs S.A. Muteham (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Mr A. Elliott, Mrs B. Taylor'

The minutes of the Council held on Wednesday 30th January were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters arising:** It was noted that there are several issues concerning poor drainage and potholes around the parish. The clerk is to report the matter to KCC.

Councillors expressed concerns over the increasing level of litter in the Village and would appreciate residents' help to keep the Village tidy.

**Reports:** The Parish Council would like to thank Beryl Chipperton for

her hard work over the years as she gives up the delivery service of the 'News' in March, and welcome to Jean and Jeanette who will be taking over .

The road between the Village Hall and Godfrey's Grave is damaged and would benefit from resurfacing work. The Clerk is to investigate the matter with KCC.

Hernhill School has recently had a visit from Ofsted, the report is yet to be published.

It was agreed that the Village should enter the "Kent Men of The Trees".

A donation to the Parish Council of £10.00 was received on behalf of the Horticultural Society.

**Planning:** application SW/13/0104 – Dunster House – there were no adverse comments.

Application SW/12/0653 -Wey Street Farm – the application was circulated for comments.

**Allotments:** draft contracts for the new allotments have been drawn

Chairman: Helen Figgis 01227 751149

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

Clerk: Sarah Muteham 01227 751053 or 07740 706189

e-mail [clerk@hernhillpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hernhillpc.kentparishes.gov.uk)

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 752840

and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

up and are expected to be signed in March 2013. Councillors discussed the organisation/ and management of the allotments and it was agreed that there would be two inspections of the plots each year and at least one meeting each year between the allotment holders and the Parish Council. Councillor Morsman was nominated as the Parish Council's allotment repre-

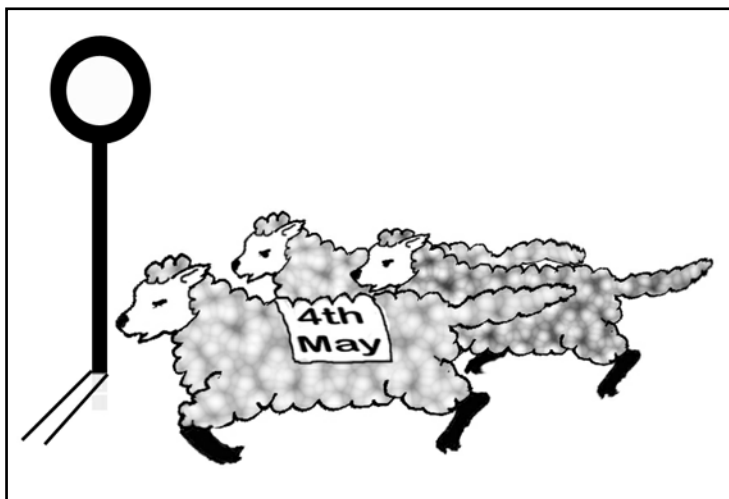
sentative. The Parish Council wanted to record its thanks to Sandys Dawes for providing the allotment site.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be on Wednesday 27th March at 8:00pm. There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

### COUNCIL WEBSITE

If you would like to see the official minutes of the Parish Council meetings, instead of my short commentary, will now be available on the Parish Council website

Go to [www.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.kentparishes.gov.uk) and select 'Hernhill'.



### SHOES NEWS

Our kitchen is making great progress and we will be doing food very shortly so watch this space. Upcoming events live music; 'Sneaking Sally' on Friday 8th March at 8.00pm, 'Moroccan Night' on Saturday 23rd March with a belly-dancer. We have a fun Easter

egg hunt for all the family on Easter Sunday at 3.30pm. Live music with 'Mel Harris 60's Show' is on Saturday 20th April at 7.30pm. One not to miss is the St George's Day party on Saturday 20th April. And not forgetting the well known wheelie bin race on Saturday 29th June.

Charlotte and Ben

### **FROM THE VICAR**

He (Jesus) speaks her name -'Mary'- and her eyes are opened, her ears unblocked. Like Adam giving names to all the creatures, she is named. And with the gift of a name the gift of a place, the gift of belonging. As she hears her name, she receives the gift, and at last she turns away from the emptiness of the tomb and all its hopelessness, and towards the one who is her hope. In the wilderness of her grief, flowers blossom and bloom.' (from 'The Things He Said' by Stephen Cottrell).

The service for Ash Wednesday commands us to turn away from sin and Christians spend Lent, with the help of the Holy Spirit, endeavouring to do just that and deepening their relationship with God. On Easter Day, at the end of this month, like Mary Magdalene in the passage above, we turn again, but this time from the despair of the empty tomb to Jesus who is our light and hope.

Jesus did not need the stone rolled away so he could exit the tomb; the stone was rolled away for us, so we could know that tomb is empty, not empty because of grave robbers, but empty because Jesus had risen from the dead. The Christian faith is founded on Jesus' resurrection,

Christians are Easter people and 'alleluia' is our song. Every Sunday is a celebration of Jesus' resurrection when we allow Jesus to speak our name and the joy of the resurrection floods our lives.

That does not mean that life is always easy, it isn't, but Jesus is our hope and he is always with us. He cared enough for each one of us to die a horrific death on a cross but death was not the end for him, he conquered death and lives still.

Let us live lives of hope, knowing that we are people of the resurrection. May our lives show that even in the wilderness 'flowers blossom and bloom'. I wish you all a very happy Easter.

Bishop Justin will be enthroned as Archbishop on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, entry is by ticket only. However, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 11.00am there is a diocesan service of welcome for our new Archbishop, Justin Welby, in Canterbury Cathedral. All are welcome, the service is not ticketed to give as many as possible the opportunity to gather and show their support and offer their greetings to the new Archbishop and his family as he begins his new ministry. The service will be followed by refreshments.

Revd Jean Burrows

### **A PHONE SAGA**

I read Simon Carroll's article in last month's Hernhill News, and found it most timely and interesting.

Towards the end of the Christmas break we noticed the internet was getting slower and slower. Watching an on-line BBC drama it died and then when I tried to listen to the Radio it kept dropping out every 10 seconds. As we are with the Post Office I asked

for an engineer to come. I was advised if it was our equipment we would be charged £139 for the visit. By the weekend the line was working correctly. It was still OK on Monday, so rather than risk losing £139, we scrapped the visit. Then on Friday it crashed again! Back to the Post Office, and the engineer was called out for following Wednesday between 13:00 and 18:00.

Actually, a BT Engineer came at 12:15! He was not interested in seeing the data we had collected to show him the problem. Anyway, after testing the internal box, the external box to pole 1, looking at pole 2, and visits to Boughton exchange, he concluded that the fault was on pole 1. He needed a cherry-picker and would have to wait until the morning. He returned at 8.50am next day and so by 10.00am the job was done. My wife asked what the problem had been and to check that it was BT's equipment at fault. He said it was the trees fault, the cover had worn of our line and the wires were corroded.

And now all is OK again but we have had a long and protracted history of problems with BT. It started in 2009 when we were with BT and our external bell failed. BT claimed it was our equipment and charged us £127 to fix it. But their definition off 'our equipment' has always been anything on the customers side of the internal box. This bell was wired to the outside box, and could only be installed by a BT

engineer. Only when we went to Otelo (the ombudsman) and complained was the charge withdrawn.

In 2010 we had more issues with BT. They changed the internalbox because there was water in the box, there wasn't. BT issued a charge with my telephone bill. I refused to pay because it was a BT item which was changed. They got the hump, threatened me with all sorts of things, including the bailiffs. I reported this to Otelo. However, BT withdrew our services secretly bit by bit. In June 2011, Otelo provided judgement resulting in a full refund to me from BT, a letter of apology from BT and £50 compensation for the stress and inconvenience they caused us.

So, if anyone is having issues with BT, change and use the Post Office, they are more customer friendly and you can talk to a very nice lady or gentleman in the UK and not someone off-shore whose syntax is difficult to follow.

Ken Revealey

### CHURCH URBAN FUND

My fingers are itching to count the cash from those who responded with speed to my request. Please may I have the rest of your boxes, either direct to me or to one of the Church Wardens.

Barbara Taylor  
01227 751293



### BONFIRES

I feel the need to vent! I am continually shocked by the mentality of some residents in our beautiful Parish. No sooner is a letter from someone printed in the Parish News, requesting some thoughtfulness as regards the lighting of bonfires during daylight hours on good drying days, than on the second Saturday of dry weather there is yet another huge fire billowing smoke right across the fields and houses.

Barbara Glykeriou

### **HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

The Spring Show is on Saturday 23rd March in the Village Hall. Staging for the show is between 9.45am and 11.15am. All exhibits must be staged by 11.15am. Any entries arriving after the times stated will not be accepted. The show opens at 2.00pm, presentations will be at 3.00pm followed by an

auction. Entry is free.

A message to all members, the Society needs your support. If you have not entered before please try to come along. Even if you just enter one item it will help to make the show a success. Thank you.

Peter Bentley

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

We, as a family, would like everyone in the Village to send "Many Congratulations" to a truly wonderful Hernhill couple who are celebrating 65 years together, as well as their Diamond Wedding (60th) Anniversary this year. They have been amazing parents and grand-parents as well as hard workers. Always there to lend a hand with any family members and friends who have been lucky enough to know them throughout the years.

Norma Margaret (née Whittingstall) and Stephen Edward Miles (known locally as Norma and Steve) were married in St. Michael's Church, Hernhill on March 28th 1953. They started out married life, as many young couples did back in the 1950's, by living with Steve's Mother in "Oakwell Cottages", Church Hill (when it was two separate dwellings), and in 1963 moved to their current address

in "High Street Road".

Old Hernhill-ites will remember Steve from being born and raised in Hernhill, whilst Norma was an original Whitstable girl. They met at Herne Bay skating rink in 1948, and the rest, as they say, is history. The Miles family name has been well known both in Hernhill and throughout the surrounding areas for many years.

And so from all of your friends and from us, your family, with many new names added through marriage, we send you both much love and blessings for many more happy years together. From, Glynis, Steve, Danielle-Laura, Nathan and all of the Miles Family members, as well as the Crump Family, the Revell Family, the Wanstall Family, the Tong Family, the Brown Family, the Mercer Family, the Bennett Family, the Clark Family and all of the Whittingstall Family.

Glynis Ward (nee Miles)

### **A WELL EARNED RETIREMENT!**

After so many years I cannot be sure how long it is that Barbara Taylor and Joy Congdon have served on the Village Hall Committee representing Village organisations and individual interests but they have finally decided to stand down at the end of March 2013.

Having worked with them both for many years myself as a member, Treasurer and Chairman of the Com-

mittee I know how valuable their support has been over the years. I can honestly say the Village Hall would not be the success it is today were it not for their efforts and guidance. The Parish as a whole owes them a great debt of gratitude.

This is not to say they are putting their feet up as they are both still going to be involved in other Village activities and groups. I am sure, that's not in their character!

It's a well-worn saying "that you only get out what you are prepared to put in" but I feel the whole Parish got an awful lot out for the work Barbara and Joy have put in. I hope that, like me and the rest of the Committee, Villagers will give them both a big thank

you when they next meet them at a Village Event.

Thank you to you both, and our very best wishes for a long and happy retirement!

David Mann  
On behalf of the Committee

### **VILLAGE HALL MATTERS**

I would like to echo David's comments on Barbara and Joy's retirement. Although I did not have the privilege of working with them, I know that their efforts on behalf of the village has helped to make the Village Hall the excellent facility that it is.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank David Mann, who stood down as Chairman at the last AGM, for the tireless effort he has made on behalf of the users of the hall and the Village in general. David left the village some 25 years ago but has continued to serve on the committee initially as member, then Treasurer and finally as both Treasurer and Chairman. I am pleased that he agreed to stay on as Treasurer as I find his support and experience a

great help in my role as Chairman. The committee is looking into what can be done to improve the hall, in particular replacement of the metal framed windows and improvements to or replacement of the roof. Linked to this we will be looking at what could be done to the outside of the building, and we will be trying to make the building more environmentally friendly. We are also working closely with the DCA to see if we can jointly improve the facilities of building as a whole. To achieve this I recently attended I seminar at Longfield near Dartford on 'sources of funding' and have a number of leads to follow up on.

Peter Rawlins  
Chairman

### **STAPLEGATE**

February was the first of our "not W.I." meetings and 17 ladies came out on a very cold evening, so a good start. The hall was nicely warm and we were introduced to our speakers from a Christian Charity called TWAM (Tools with a mission); they take our unwanted, discarded items, give them a makeover (in workshops run by volunteers) and ship them to countries where the purchase price of these items is prohibitive. Making these tools accessible to crafts people gives them the means to work and provide for their own families. For example, a sewing machine can be used to make

school uniforms etc and hammers, planes, saws etc. mean a carpenter can fulfill his tasks. A bicycle gives a means of transport where there is none and so on. Most of us at Staplegate knew we had items lurking in the garage, shed or loft which we now intend to pass on. Shipping of the tools costs TWAM a great deal and it was decided to make this the charity to support for this year.

Following the talk, we enjoyed tasty refreshments and a productive chat with decisions made for future meetings. All in all, a good evening which bodes well for the future.

Leslie Holmes

### **BITS AND PIECES**

I can't believe that the birthday that has just passed was my 80th. But then I drop something. I peer over my manly chest which unaccountably has slipped down to my waistband. There in the misty distance on the carpet at my feet is the object in question, but I can't quite recognise what it is. Now I must find my middle-distance glasses to replace the reading glasses that are clinging to the end of my nose. After a brief search I find them in the empty mug of coffee where I dropped them whilst trying to stop the dog from eating my lunch. Equipped with the correct focal length, I can now see that the object that I dropped is just a piece of orange peel. Picking it up takes time and proves to be a feat of considerable athleticism. That effort finally convinces me that I must really be 80, if not more.

Sad to say, Jan Leaning had to cancel the Wine and Wisdom on behalf of the Players Social club. There were too few takers to make the evening a viable option.

Well done the Dawes CA. They are planning to upgrade the tennis court. The surface is to be refurbished and resurfaced with artificial grass. This should make it usable throughout the year.

If you are thinking of building a wheelie bin for this year's race, there is a little less time available for you to complete your masterpiece. The race day has been brought forward to Sat-

urday 29th June.

You will, have read in the previous article that Staplegate had a speaker from TWAM. Here is a little more about that organisation. Tools With A Mission was started over twenty five years ago. Last year over 434 separate organisations benefited from 220 tonnes of aid (worth over £1 million) shipped from TWAM's warehouse in Ipswich. Container loads were sent to Zambia, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Sierra Leone. This required over twenty containers at a cost of £3,500 each. All recipients are asked to pay for the transport of their goods but many just cannot afford the cost. In these cases the costs had to be met by TWAM. Although TWAM is a Christian charity, it will try to answer requests for help from any known agency regardless of faith or ethnic background. The local representative is Len Budd 01227 731224 who will be able to tell you about ways in which you can help.

I know that spellings change over time but I surprised how quickly this can happen with place names. I have been looking at a map that was lodged in with the Tithe Commission in June 1841. The map is entitled, "The Parish of Hernehill" (with an 'e') and contains the names "Weigh Street Farm" and "Staples Street". The name Forstall, the spelling of which is frequently contested is not given.

ADT

To book the Village Hall ring the Red Lion 01227 751207

Alan D. Taylor  
Yew Tree House, Dargate  
near Faversham, Kent ME13 9HG  
01227 751293  
e-mail [taylornews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:taylornews@hotmail.co.uk)

COPY DATE

**Mon  
25th  
Mch**



<b>Sun 3 Mar</b>	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 5	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 10	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion Mothering Sunday
Tues 12	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 13	7.45pm	Village Hall	Staplegate
Sat 16	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy church
Sun 17	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 19	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sat 23	-----	Village Hall	Horticultural Soc Spring Show
Sun 24	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion Palm Sunday
Tues 26	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 27	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 31	-----	-----	British Summer Time starts
	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Easter Day Communion
<b>Mon 1 Apr</b>	7.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 2	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 7	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion & Annual Meeting
Tues 9	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 10	7.45pm	Village Hall	Staplegate
Sun 14	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 16	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sat 20	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy church
Sun 21	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service
Tues 23	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 24	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 28	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 30	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection