



# HERNHILL NEWS

## FEBRUARY 2017

### PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact the Clerk with regard to Parish Council business on

- 07740706189 or by e-mail to
- hillclerk@gmail.com

The Parish Council has a new website [www.hernhillparishcouncil.org](http://www.hernhillparishcouncil.org)

Full copies of the approved minutes will be available on the Parish Council notice board on the Village Green.

The Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th January was attended by five Parish Councillors and eight members of the public.

Mr S. Norman has been co-opted to join the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has set a precept of £9,000 for 2017/18, which represents an increase of £1,000 or 12.50% on the previous year. For example, this is an increase of 12.29% (£3.47) for a Band D property. Further financial information is available on the Parish Council website.

### Planning matters

Items discussed at the recent Parish Council meeting included:

- Hernhill Housing Model- A presenta-

tion from Karen Banks was given to those present, where it was noted that the model is currently on hold.

- Black Barn Farm, Crockham Lane - Mr G. Wallis gave a detailed update on the new/revised planning application for the site.

The Parish Council is continuing its work with Swale Borough Council and Action with Communities in Rural Kent with an intention to provide affordable housing in the Parish. This is in response to the Housing Needs Survey which was conducted on behalf of Swale Borough Council and at the request of the Parish Council.

There is still an allotment plot available to rent on the Parish Council allotment site at Kays Lane. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested.

The Parish Council has secured a new litter bin to be located near the clamber stack on the Playing Fields. Swale Borough Council are kindly providing the bin which should be installed late in the spring.

Members of the public are reminded that they can report highway matters such as potholes and vegetation obstructing the highway or footway either

Chairman: Tony Chapman 01227 750874

e-mail [tt.chapman@vfast.co.uk](mailto:tt.chapman@vfast.co.uk)

Clerk: Sarah Muteham phone 07740 706189

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

to the Parish Clerk or directly to Kent County Council at [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday 22nd February 2017 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 would they contact the Clerk prior to 15th February so that relevant items can be placed on the agenda for discussion.

### **YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

This will be the first report that you will receive from me in 2017. Although much that has happened politically in 2016 was to my satisfaction, the Brexit vote in particular and the change of Prime Minister for example, on a personal level I shall not be sad to see its passing. Far too many close friends have departed, as well as many famous names and faces we grew up with.

I will start with a reminder. I still hope to see more local organisations coming forward with requests for assistance from my Kent County Council member grant fund. The 'You Decide' event to award this year's money is due to be held at Teynham Village Hall on Saturday 4th February. I cannot believe all voluntary groups are awash with funds, so please contact either me or Bill Ronan at KCC for an application form.

During this period I have attended Graveney Parish Council twice, the November and December meetings; Selling Parish Council and Dunkirk Parish Council in November and Teynham Parish Council in December. I've also chaired a Swale Borough Council cabi-

net meeting and attended two Full Council meetings at Swale.

Other meetings of particular interest include a meeting of all Kent Council Leaders, the Sittingbourne Town Centre Regeneration Board, Kent Flood Risk Committee, the Annual General Meeting of the Kent Association of Local (Parish) Councils, a meeting to discuss Kent County Council's plans for commissioning extra school capacity in Swale and the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership of which I remain Vice Chairman. I went to London for the RSPCA Annual Awards where Swale Borough Council's Dog Warden Service received a Gold Award for the second year running. I also took part in a meeting with the Minister of Transport, Chris Grayling together with local business leaders to discuss highway and rail infrastructure problems in Swale and in wider Kent together with possible solutions. This meeting was setup by the Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP, Gordon Henderson.

Andrew Bowles

### **HERNHILL SCHOOL**

After a couple of years fundraising for Demelza House, the children of HERNHILL CE Primary school had a different focus for their 2017 Charity day. The school council decided that they wanted to support an international charity that was working world wide to combat poverty. The charity the children chose was Toilet Twinning. This char-

ity funds the work of international relief and development agency Tearfund. The money they raise is used to provide clean water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education. This vital combination works together to prevent the spread of disease.

Lack of access to clean water and proper sanitation traps people in poverty. Their health suffers and the pros-

pect of developing economically remains far out of reach. Here are some of the hard facts:

- 2.4 billion people across the world don't have access to a safe, private and hygienic toilet (WHO / Unicef)

- Every day, about 900 children under the age of five die of illnesses linked to unclean water and poor sanitation (Unicef)

- More than half of primary schools in developing countries don't have access to water and sanitation.

- 

The school is aiming to raise enough money (£300) to twin five sets of toilets – that way Reception, Y1/2, Y3/4, Y5/6 and the visitors' toilet can all be twinned. Each toilet twinned is awarded a 'Toilet Twinning' certificate, with a photo of its twin latrine and exact GPS coordinates.

On the actual Charity Day in January, the children came into school in non-uniform, paying £1.00 for the privilege.

If possible they were asked to wear blue ("blue for the loo!"). In lessons during the day the children learnt about the work of the Toilet Twinning charity and about how many homes and schools in other parts of the world do not have access to clean safe toilets. They took part in a special assembly learning all about the impact their fundraising would have for children less fortunate than themselves. In addition, each child brought in the cardboard insert of a toilet roll which they decorated and took back home at the end of the day. The children will be filling these with as many coins as possible over the coming three weeks and then bringing the tubes back to school to go towards our grand total. We thank all the staff, children and parents for their support with our Charity Day. We will let you know how much we raise!

Sarah Alexander  
Headteacher

### **MOUNT EPHRAIM GARDENS**

The gardens and the Craft Centre will be opening again on Saturday 1st April. The gardens made the finals in the 'Large Gardens' category of the Kent Life Garden Awards for 2016. They were eventually awarded second place. As their website says, "The success is all due to the hard work of Head Gardener Mark James and the rest of the team and they deserve every success".

### **WHEN THINGS GO VERY PEAR-SHAPED**

I love going to the cinema, and I particularly enjoy sci-fi movies. Recently I saw 'Passengers' (written by Jon Spaihts and directed by Morten Tyldum). The film tells the story of two characters, played by Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt, who wake up from their suspended-animation on a spaceship 90 years too early in a 130 year long journey. The ship is taking them and 4998 other passengers and crew, to a planet where they can begin a new life. They cannot return to hiber-

nation or return to Earth and so find themselves marooned together on a spaceship travelling to a destination they will never live to see. Both characters initially have to adjust to the fact that the plans they had made for their future have been completely blown apart and there is no getting them back. It struck me that this kind of realisation is such a common human experience. We adjust and re-adjust our plans all the time – our hopes, dreams and expectations for the future – whether these are short-term or smaller goals, or bigger things like a partner, a family

or maybe a particular career. We might be successful in reaching our goals. But quite often, the unpredictable things in life get in the way. Sometimes we are knocked off course temporarily – maybe an illness we recover from, a redundancy, a failed exam. But sometimes life seems to deal such a cruel body blow that we can't just bounce back and pick up where we left off. We are left disorientated, bewildered – even devastated - and now we need a whole new plan.

Challenges in life happen to all of us. Bad things happen to good people, good things happen to bad people and vice versa. Some seem to get far more than an equal share of pain, suffering and loss. I don't think our lives are some kind of bizarre human experiment that God set up and now tinkers with from time to time, throwing in obstacles and challenges just to see what we make of it. I believe God sent us evidence, in the

person of Jesus Christ, that we have a loving creator who cares very deeply indeed about what happens to us and will walk with us and guide us through the heartaches and the joys of life if we will only allow. And while things may not always go the way we want, I've noticed in my own life that God typically brings some unexpectedly good things even out of the worst situations. In my experience God is relentlessly sowing hope, and shining light into dark places – even when we have long given up.

I'll leave you with some words from the Bible the prophet Jeremiah heard God say for a group of people having a very tough time; 'I know the plans I have for you says the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future'. Well, Amen to that - especially if you are someone who is finding life very hard right now.

Rev. Paulette Stubbings



There will be a series of "Open Towers" and bell ringing practices at St Michael's Hernhill and Boughton Parish Church during February and March. This is an opportunity to view the bells and how they are controlled by the ringers.

The dates are Tuesday 7th February and Tuesday 7th March at Hernhill and Tuesday 14th February and Tuesday 14th March at Boughton.

All will be from 7:30 to 8:30pm. Everyone is welcome. For more details phone Peter Willcock 01227 750453 or John Sim 01227 750247.

### FEBRUARY 1973

Grubbing amongst some old papers I came across a parish letter for this month, February, 44 years ago. It was about bringing together the churches of Boughton, Dunkirk and Hernhill. At the time, this original merger was objected to with some vigour as the following extract shows.

"There is an official document drawn up in the year 1263 which contains the first intimation that there was 'the chapel of Hernhille within the Parish of Bocton.'

709 years later - to be precise, on 18th November 1972 - in another document.....Hernhill is again mentioned in the context that Hernhill will cease to exist as a separate benefice and will become part of a new parish to be known as 'Boughton-under-Blean with Dunkirk and Hernhill.....Once more, the proposal is that Hernhill should in effect be a chapel within the parish of Boughton.....Hernhill is already fighting the proposals. But for the fight to have fullest effect, everyone

in the parish must be aware of these proposals, their effect and the weapons Hernhill has at its disposal."  
There was more of the same fighting talk in the letter. You can hear the sa-

bres rattling. As we now know, it was all to no effect. Now Graveney has also been added to the group.

ADT

### **HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AGM MEETING**

This is to be held on Saturday 11th February at 2.00pm in Hernhill Village Hall. Afterwards there will be a Beetle Drive and refreshments

plus members will receive their cups and 2017 show schedules. Please remember to bring your subs.

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Violet Croll



### **BREATHING SPACE**

The next opportunity will be on Friday 10th February in St. Michael's Church. Peace and quiet; silence and music; darkness and candlelight; still and safe in

a beautiful old church. Come as you are, leave when you're ready. Come any time between 7.30pm and 8.30pm to enjoy some rare, refreshing peace.

Do bring a torch.

### **"OFF TO TANZANIA IN THE MORNING"**

One of my favourite hymns is 'Will you come and follow me' written by John Bell of the Iona Community. Every phrase in it is so meaningful from the question in the first verse 'Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?' to the response in the final verse 'Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.' Over the next few months I have the opportunity, through a three month sabbatical, to go to Tanzania, to be out of my comfort zone, experience a very different way of life, and learn from and grow from a very different culture. After the first two weeks which I'm spending in language and orientation school, I don't know exactly what I'll be doing. That's where faith comes in, faith in God who has led me thus far and trust in the people I am going out to. Africans are very hospitable, generous but poor people and I'm sure I'll be well looked after. Based on previous visits I hope to visit churches, preach, visit church

groups such as Mothers' Union, children's and youth groups and choirs. I may visit or teach in the diocesan secondary girls school.

This will be my third visit to this beautiful country but my longest stay so far. I'm sure at times it will be challenging and uncomfortable, but that is how we grow as people and as Christians. While I am away our Curate Paulette and Reader Keith will be taking on a bit more than usual but Paulette will still be part-time, and others in the parishes are helping to cover my absence as well. Meetings will continue to be held in the vicarage so don't be surprised if you see people coming and going and cars on the driveway, but you may still want to check they're not emptying the house! Please pray for me in my travels and for those taking on more responsibility in my absence. I shall be back at the end of April and plan to have an evening in St Bs in May or June, to which you are all invited, when I can share my photos and experiences.

'Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?'

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,

Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?' John Bell

Revd Jean Burrows

### BITS AND PIECES

I hope that you had an enjoyable time over the festive season. This time, Barbara and I had three events rather than just Christmas and the New Year. We celebrated our diamond Wedding. 60 years, phew! That's a long time. I'll run faster next time.

We now have to keep going for another five years and then we will get another greetings card from the Queen. But for the moment, the weight loss regime is the priority activity as I try to regain the pre-season situation in order to avoid moving up a size in trousers.

I am aware that, in the December issue, I made a mess of the bin collection dates. Sorry. I have given myself a severe slap on the wrist.

It seems we must look forward to the new American President trumping everyone's aces. An unavoidable pun but probably not far off the mark. With Trump and Brexit it is likely to be a very different political environment for the

next few years. We live in exciting times but I am going to keep my head down and concentrate on house and garden.

I am amazed at the amount that people tell me they spend on going to the gym just to cycle and lift weights up and down. They could achieve much the same by cycling to our church and ringing the bells. Not only is that free, they could even earn money for ringing the bells on special occasions.

It is great to have a report on activities in our local school. I'm most grateful to head teacher Sarah Alexander for giving some of her precious time to do it. I very much hope that she can manage to keep us in touch again in the future.

I have put together another annual diary using such information as is currently available. As before, I must emphasise that the dates are only provisional and some are just guesses based on past events. Month by month they will be up-dated for the two months ahead, but I am entirely dependent on organisers keeping me informed of their arrangements.

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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Articles by

**Mon  
20th  
Feb**



## DRAFT VILLAGE CALENDAR

<b>Feb 11</b>	Hort Soc AGM	25-28	Mt Ephraim Rock Festival
28	Shrove Tuesday	28	Bank holiday
<b>Mar 1</b>	Ash Wednesday	<b>Sep 2</b>	Hort Soc Autumn Show
14	Valentines Day	9	Ride & Stride Day
25	Hort Soc Spring Show	9	Children's Soc Tea Party
26	Mothering Sunday	16	School Fete
28	BST begins	<b>Oct 1</b>	St. Michael's Festival
<b>Apr 9</b>	Palm Sunday	2	Village Hall AGM
16	Easter Day	15	Harvest Festival
20	Craft Centre AGM	29	BST ends
<b>May 1</b>	Bank holiday	31	Churchyard Spooky Stories
13	Village Fete	<b>Nov 7</b>	Crafts Fair
29	Bank holiday	11	Remembrance Sunday
<b>Jun 18</b>	Teddy parachute jump	<b>Dec 10</b>	Christingle
18	Father's Day	17	Nine Lessons & Carols
24	Hort Soc Summer Show	23	Carols on the Green
<b>Jly 7-9</b>	Art exhibition	24	Crib Service
15	Wheelie Bin Race	24	Midnight Service
16	Church Service for Pets	25	Christmas Day
<b>Aug 7</b>	Bank holiday		

The Parish Council meets in the Village Hall on the last Wednesday of each month with the exception of December

<b>Sun Feb 5</b>	10.00am	Hernhill School	Education Sunday
Tues 7	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Fri 10	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Breathing Space
Sat 10	2 00pm	Village Hall	Hort Soc AGM
Sun 12	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 14	-----	-----	St. Valentines Day Blue Bin Collection
Sat 18	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 19	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 21	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Wed 22	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Sun 26	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 28	-----	-----	Shrove Tuesday Blue Bin Collection
<b>Wed Mch 1</b>	-----	-----	Ash Wednesday
Sun 5	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 7	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Fri 10	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Breathing Space
Sun 12	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 14	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sat 18	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 19	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 21	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 25	-----	Village Hall	Hort Soc Spring Show
Sun 26	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	BST STARTS Holy Communion
Tues 28	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Wed 29	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting