



# HERNHILL NEWS

## JANUARY 2018

### PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact the Clerk about Parish Council business on

07740 706189 or

hernhillclerk@gmail.com or  
hernhillparishcouncil.org

Full copies of the approved minutes are available on the Parish Council website.

The full Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 31st January was attended by five Parish Councillors, one Borough Councillor and four members of the public. The Parish Council also held an extraordinary meeting on Monday 8th January which was attended by four Parish Councillors.

•Three planning applications have been discussed at the January Parish Council meetings as follows:

17/506303/FULL - Lambourne House, Dargate Road,  
17/506496/FULL - Waterham Business Park, Highstreet Road,  
17/506588/FULL - Wey Street Farm

•The new defibrillator for the com-

munity has been installed at the Village Hall.

•Some residents in the Monkshill area of the Parish have been contacted by a company called 'Video Illusions' who are intending to use a site known as Monkshill Showground to host events from May 2018. If you have any queries on this matter, please contact info@videoillusions.net. The Parish Council with other local authorities will be investigating the matter further.

•The housing needs project which was instigated by the Parish Council, is moving forward and there is to be a public information event on Thursday 15th March in the Village Hall.

•Members of the public are reminded that they can report highway matters such as potholes and vegetation obstructing the highway or footway either to the Parish Clerk or directly to Kent County Council at kent.gov.uk.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday

Chairman: Tony Chapman 01227 750874  
e-mail tt.chapman@vfast.co.uk

Clerk: Sarah Muteham phone 07740 706189  
e-mail hernhillclerk@gmail.com

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 752840  
and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

28th February 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 that meeting

then would they please contact the Clerk prior to Wednesday 21st February so that relevant items can be placed on the agenda for discussion.

### **YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Many of you will know the Christmas break started a week early for me this year as I went into hospital on the 14th December for knee replacement surgery. Despite increasing difficulty in walking the first half of December was as busy as usual. My diary included both Cabinet and Full Council meetings at Swale, Parish Council meetings at both Tunstall and Teynham and a meeting with Kent County Council Officers and Bredgar Parish Councillors to discuss reducing speed limits within the village of Bredgar. I also attended a presentation on the proposed Solar Park at Nagden and Cleve Marshes held in Graveney Village Hall. Following that presentation Helen Whately MP and I hosted a drop-in session with residents at the Free Wheel Public House to listen to their concerns on the Solar Park proposals and indeed on any other matters. This proved very popular and we had a chance to discuss these issues face to face with many residents. I also chaired meetings concerning the Faversham Hop Festival and Sittingbourne Town Centre Regeneration. The day before going into hospital I travelled to London for a meeting of the District Councils Network National Executive and then had to get back to Sittingbourne just in time for Full

Council.

Since coming out of hospital, whilst not driving or attending meetings I have dealt with numerous local issues for both Parish Councils and individual residents by means of email and phone calls to Officers. It has also given me time to reflect back on 2017 and forward to 2018. The last year has seen the vote in favour of "Brexit", a resounding Conservative victory in the Kent County Council Elections and the unexpected General Election with its far from clear result leaving a Conservative Government without a clear majority. 2018 should be election free, fingers crossed, unless of course you are a resident of Maidstone Borough Council reading this which still elects its Borough Council by thirds.

Work will hopefully progress on seeing acceptable terms agreed to exit the European Union. If not achieved I believe we should just leave, no deal being better than accepting a poor deal. Locally the regeneration of Sittingbourne Town Centre will continue to move forward. I personally cannot wait to start attending the new Multi Screen Cinema which should soon start to rise before our very eyes.

Just to prove a local politician's life is not an easy one I shall be grappling with two major local issues. I always describe myself as one who

was an Environmentalist before I ever became a Party Politician. Green Energy to me should always be preferential to relying on Carbon Fuels or Nuclear. However, the scale of the development proposed at Cleve and Nagden Marshes, referred to above, in the village in which I grew up is stunning. Not surprisingly those who will live adjacent to the proposed Solar Park are prominent amongst those urging me to oppose but they are joined by many others who value the unique landscape. This decision will be made at Government level but I will seek to ensure all opinions are fully heard.

Since 1990 I have campaigned to secure another link between the A2 and M2 East of Sittingbourne and West of Faversham, initially to relieve congestion in Ospringe, Teynham, Lynsted, Bapchild etc. This has become ever more critical as we more fully understand the life-threatening effects of air pollution often associated with motor vehicles. As readers will know a developer has put forward a proposal which will provide such a link roughly between Bapchild on the A2 and adjacent to Kent Science Park on the M2. The downside of these proposals is the figure of 11,000 houses to be constructed to fund the infrastructure, not just the road but

also new Secondary and Primary Schools, etc. However, I believe we are already being asked to build too many houses. With the Government insisting on a review of our recently approved Local Plan by 2022, including the suggestion that the revised method of assessing housing need would result in a 36% increase in the number of houses to be built annually, all your local representatives will have to wrestle with the equation of either just saying no to Central Government and accepting the fact that they have the ability to take over our planning function and take these decisions centrally or to accept the extra housing and seek to ensure it is built in the place that will give local residents most advantage. Although we do not yet have a planning application we do have an Environmental Impact search. This means that the debate has already restarted. Not surprisingly I am being lobbied by residents of Rodmersham, Bredgar etc. opposed to the scheme in its entirety. I am also being contacted by residents of those villages along the A2 East of Sittingbourne and by residents of Sittingbourne itself who are broadly in favour of the scheme. As I say, a local Politicians life is never easy.

Andrew Bowles

### **FROM THE VICAR**

Learning and Changing

A Safer Church

Safeguarding is the term given to the action taken by the Church to promote a safer culture for the wel-

fare of children, young people and adults: doing all that can be done to prevent abuse from occurring and to respond well to those who have been abused. The church also has a duty to support those who may

themselves be a risk to others, while protecting others from that risk.

It is unlikely you have managed to read the above statement without feeling a sense of anger at the very real failure of the Church in the past to put that into practice properly. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have recognised this failure and are mindful that the Church should answer for it, not only to people and to human justice, but also to God.

In 2013 they wrote "We cannot over-estimate the importance of responding appropriately today. Sadly for many this comes far too late. History cannot be rewritten, but those who still suffer now as a result of abuse in the past deserve this at least, that we hear their voices and take action to ensure that today's safeguarding policies and systems are as robust as they can be". In the meantime, there is much pain still being felt, and justice-seeking still being done.

In our group of churches (Boughton and Dunkirk, Goodnestone with Graveney and Hernhill) we have been working to ensure that our policies and procedures are clear, comprehensive and that they are

properly implemented and reviewed. This means that we take great care when we recruit and train volunteers and that we make sure we know how to respond if anyone raises a concern or suspicion.

From time to time there will always be people drawn to churches (as they are to other social organisations) who aim to conceal their dangerous intentions, but we are committed to continually working to ensure that it will be as difficult as possible for such individuals to find their way into positions of responsibility and influence over others.

The Diocese of Canterbury takes 'Safeguarding' very seriously and is rolling out mandatory training for all those who hold positions of responsibility in our churches. Anyone (whether part of the church or not) can register for the course 'C0) Basic Awareness' online at

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

and if you are interested in finding out more about the Church's approach to safeguarding it contains useful information. Should you have any questions, please contact me on 01227 751410.

Revd Jean Burrows

## **VEGANUARY**

a movement to encourage more people to go vegan.

Veganism is a philosophy and way of living which seeks to exclude - as far as is possible and practicable - all forms of exploitation of, and cruelty to, animals for food, clothing or any other purpose; and by exten-

sion, promotes the development and use of animal-free alternatives for the benefit of humans, animals and the environment. Veganism embraces all aspects of life and promotes peace and non-violence towards all living beings (including humans) and care for the earth. It is about re-connecting with nature,

with ourselves and with other animals.

Launched in January 2014, Veganuary (pronounced vee-gan-uary) is a charity inspiring people to try vegan for January and throughout the rest of the year. Over 150,000 people registered for Veganuary 2018; a number which has doubled year on year. Many of us will know someone who took part this year, or we may have even signed up ourselves. Veganuary says that there are so many reasons people try vegan. For most, a love of animals is the catalyst. Some people want to feel better about themselves and the impact they make on the world. Others would like to set themselves a challenge, and many combine Veganuary with their 'New Year's Resolutions' and see trying vegan as the healthiest start to the year. Research shows that health is the second biggest reason people go vegan. Cut out cholesterol, lower your blood pressure and reduce the risk of diabetes, cancer and heart disease. The World Health Organisation has recently classified processed meat as carcinogenic and red meat as probably carcinogenic. Going vegan is the easiest and most effective way to help our planet. Make a more positive impact than giving up your car, and halve your greenhouse gas emissions. Animal agriculture is also the leading cause of deforestation, habitat destruction, species extinction, ocean dead zones and most of the worst environmental ills facing our world. The United Nations has said that we need small-scale, low im-

pact, organic farming rather than large scale mass production or genetically modified crops to tackle global food insecurity. Over one billion people go hungry each day, yet we feed over 50% of all grain to farmed animals.

There has been a dramatic surge in veganism over the past decade. Most of us will be able to name a famous vegan; examples include Al Gore, Johnny Marr, Joaquin Phoenix, Lewis Hamilton and Venus Williams. A recent study by the Vegan Society and Vegan Life Magazine showed that veganism in Britain had increased by 360% over the 10 years from 2006 to 2016. There are now over half a million vegans in Britain and that number is increasing each year.

As a family, we believe that we should live as compassionately, sustainably and mindfully as possible and cause the least amount of suffering in the world. This philosophy is encapsulated in veganism, which provides the template for how we want to live. For us, it's not a question of what we are giving up or missing but rather what we are gaining by having the peace of mind that we are causing the least amount of harm and suffering as possible. We are involved in various projects concerned with sustainable and compassionate living and social justice including coordinating the annual Kent Vegan Festival. On Saturday, 12th May, at Canterbury College, we will hold our fourth festival. The aim of the Kent Vegan Festival is to raise awareness about veganism as a

compassionate, holistic, healthy and intrinsically non-violent way of life. Everyone is welcome. Our approach is to be supportive, educational, encouraging and positive.

If you missed Veganuary this year, not to worry, there are many other campaigns and pledges throughout the year including Animal Aid's 'Great Vegan Challenge' in November: and the Vegan Society's '30

Day Pledge', which runs throughout the year: all of which offer lots of information (including nutrition and recipes), advice and on-going support. And, of course, we would love to see you at the festival in May! So, January is not your only opportunity - maybe try it for Lent.

[www.vegansociety.com](http://www.vegansociety.com)

Jo Kidd

### **LOCAL NEEDS HOUSING**

English Rural Housing Association in partnership with Hernhill Parish Council are holding a 'drop-in' information event in the Village Hall on Thursday 15th March between 3.00 and 7.00pm. This will be an opportunity to discuss the project with

members of the 'Parish Council', 'Action with Communities in Rural Kent' and 'English Rural Housing Association' and to comment on the preliminary plans. It will also be an opportunity to register an interest in one of the proposed homes.

Parish Clerk

### **MANY THANKS**

My family and I would like to thank our friends and neighbours for all the lovely cards and letters showing sympathy and offering help at the passing of my dear wife Jean.

We also thank William Dawes for the use of the tearooms at Mount Ephraim after the service.

It is a great comfort to know that so many people care.

Geoff Morsman

### **HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

The AGM will be held on Saturday February 10th at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. After the business meeting there will be the presentation of the annual cups. Following this will be a short illustrated talk by an eminent member of the Cacti Society entitled "Who says cacti are boring?" Tea, coffee and refreshments will be served.

We are looking for new members to the committee and anyone who is interested and would like to know more are very welcome to phone me on 750974 for more details. This

is not too onerous a job involving about six or seven meetings a year. If the society is to survive we must have new blood on the committee.

Everyone is welcome to come to this event particularly those who have recently moved to the Village and have an interest in plants and gardening or indeed cooking, photography and flower arranging. You don't need to be an expert. You will find we are a friendly bunch with a good sense of humour. Come along and try us.

Jill Geliot

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SLAVERY**

There is to be an information and discussion morning on Saturday 10th February 9.30am for refreshments and then 10.00am until noon in the Vicarage, The Street.

Human trafficking and modern-day slavery are thought to be amongst the most widespread crimes in the world, affecting millions of men, women and children each day. It is

happening in our country, in our county. We can learn how to spot the signs of modern day slavery and also how to respond. Many modern-day slaves are in plain sight but feel powerless, they are totally under the control of their 'owners'.

Anyone interested in learning more about this topic is very welcome to come along.

Revd Jean Burrows

## **THE 638 ROUTE**

Our country bus, the 638, is under threat along with 70 other routes including school buses. This is to save £4 million for KCC.

For people who are non-drivers or elderly or school children this news is devastating. For two schools this would involve many children. For the elderly this would deprive them

of an opportunity to get out and do a bit of shopping.

You can lodge your protest on line at '[kentlive.news](http://kentlive.news)' and scan down to the petition. Please help to save our country bus.

Chrissie Nesham



## **BREATHING SPACE UN- PLUGGED!**

Friday 23rd February

7.30 to 8.30pm

St Michael's Church

This will be a special treat featuring LIVE music by the University of Kent Chamber Choir conducted by Daniel Harding and Matthew Cooke. This chamber choir is excellent. They often sing in the Cathedral and recently sang on Radio 4. This will be 'Breathing Space' with a difference as we usually play music from recordings. But it is not a concert. The church will be in dark-

ness with candlelight. There will be choral music and silence alternately during the hour. There will be no spoken words, no instructions, no expectations and no need to say or do anything

There are no tickets, all are welcome. Just turn up, find a seat and enjoy the atmosphere and peace. At the end of the hour, someone will say a short prayer to end the time, and we leave quietly in the same way we came in. Bring a torch, it will be dark outside.

You will be most warmly welcome whether you are a regular church-

goer, or whether you have never set foot in a church in your life, whether you have a faith, no faith or are just curious. This time is for you to enjoy

the peace of God and some beautiful music.

Revd. Paulette Stubbins

### WASTE BINS

Blue bins can take plastic drinks bottles including milk bottles, Tetrapak fruit juice cartons, milk cartons, plastic food trays, meat trays etc., including black plastic trays, plastic cleaning bottles, fabric conditioner bottles, kitchen and bathroom cleaner bottles, bleach bottles, shampoo and hair-conditioner bottles, shower gel bottles, plastic margarine tubs and yoghurt pots, plastic fruit punnets. Other items include: mixed paper and cardboard, wine and beer bottles and aerosol spray cans.

**Plastics that cannot be recycled are:** the film over micro-waveable plastic trays and the film over fruit

punnets, carrier bags, hard plastics i.e. toys, flower pots etc. Panes of glass, drinking glasses and Pyrex glass or heat treated glass cannot be accepted.

Alongside the blue bin you can put clothes, shoes, towels and other textiles in separate bags.



Green bins basically take the rest but not electrical items, builders waste, paint tins, hazardous waste and clinical waste.

Small electrical items can be put in a separate bag (one only) alongside the green bin.

If in doubt, contact Swale Borough Council.

### HERNHILL SCHOOL

We have had a very exciting few months as I am sure you have heard. Thank you for all the congratulations and kind words on our wonderful Ofsted report. You may have even seen our photos in the Faversham News! I am incredibly proud of the staff and children, and everything that they continue to achieve.

Of course, it is not just the staff and children. We also have a wonderful supportive parent body. And this Christmas season has been the perfect example of how much can be achieved when everyone works

together. December was packed full of events that would not have happened without the organisation of the Hernhill PTAFAs (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association) and the volunteering help from many families. Let me tell you about a few....

Many parents volunteered their help with our whole school trip to the Marlowe pantomime. What a fun day that was! I think every family in the school helped with learning words and making costumes for our Christmas Infant Nativity and Junior Christmas Show – and the children

did themselves proud. We are delighted that we managed to raise over £260 for Demelza House from the collections after these performances.

Our children's Christmas Shopping Day, run entirely by the PTAFAs and volunteers, was incredible. The range of gifts on sale, all at 'pocket money' prices, ensured every single child in the school was able to shop for Christmas gifts for their family members. Have a look at the photo gallery on our website to see the fun that was had by all!

[hernhill.greenschoolsonline.co.uk/News/Galleries](http://hernhill.greenschoolsonline.co.uk/News/Galleries)

The PTAFAs Christmas raffle was also a huge success with many wonderful prizes on offer. Thank you to all the businesses who donated prizes and for everyone who bought tickets.

The 'icing on the cake' at the end of all these fabulous events was that the PTAFAs could purchase the thousands of pounds worth of artificial grass that has now been laid underneath our wooden trim trail in the playground.

Magical things do indeed happen when we work together! Here's to a great 2018!

Sarah Alexander  
Headteacher

### **BITS AND PIECES**

The New Year is, of course, well underway. I, for one, was very glad to see the back of 2017. I'm pleased to say that 2018 has started well for me. I was discharged from hospital with the news that my neck has healed. The broken vertebrae have unfortunately fused but what's a stiff neck? Some are stiff-necked all their lives. I know that it is popular to knock the NHS and I came across an amusing quote to that effect. "The NHS don't think of it as having lost a patient, more as having gained a bed". With the flu epidemic running at full throttle, that is probably a fairly apt comment. However my experience was not like that at all. For various reasons I had a two week stay in one hospital and attended three others for various treatments. The doctors and

nurses and treatment in all of them could not be faulted. However, I do have one complaint. They warned me about the limitations of having a permanently stiff neck but they never mentioned socks. I soon came to realise how far my feet are from my head and how difficult it is to see them. Suddenly the putting on of socks had become a waking nightmare. Socks are now instruments of psychological torture. Whilst you pirouette precariously on one leg, the socks gleefully refuse to cooperate as you try to find the opening and insert your toes without the aid of radar. What used to be a thoughtless action of seconds has become a lengthy gladiatorial contest.

Unfortunately, 2018 sees many who are facing a very difficult future

with the news of the collapse of the giant 'Carillion' firm. There are thousands who, as a result, have lost their jobs, have not been paid wages or pensions or are owed money. Regrettably this happens all the time to individuals but the scale of this problem is mind-blowing.

Every Friday from 23rd February to the 23rd March at 12.30pm there will be lunches in Graveney Church. These are in aid of Kori, a village in Sierra Leone. All are welcome and to share a simple meal together.

Chrissie's article is something that needs the support of all of us. To lose our only bus route, the 638, would be a disaster for many. The very latest information is that the KCC may be having second thoughts but it would help if everyone gave them a nudge in the right direction. Signing up to the petition might help them to make the right decision.

It is not often that you can get to hear an excellent choir and not have to pay for the privilege. On the 23rd February at St. Michael's Church, you can do just that. Paulette gives the details earlier in this issue. She tells us to, "just turn up".

The winter months and the dark nights that come with them give encouragement to thieves. Recently a local farmer has had tools and equipment stolen and Boughton Church was broken into with the loss of expensive gardening equip-

ment. On 2/3 January, there was a burglary at Summer Lees Farm, Forstal. Three chainsaws were stolen from one garage and diesel from another smaller garage. A battery charger, a heavy duty bolt cutter and two sets of spanners were also taken. Between 17th and 18th of January, batteries were stolen from articulated lorries at Kent International Freight Terminal, Highstreet Road, Hernhill. Faversham too has been having problems. They have suffered a number of thefts from cars. Potentially another easy target. It is important for everyone to be vigilant and take care to protect their possessions to the highest degree possible. If thieves find things difficult, they will seek an easier target elsewhere.

The Vicar collects old mobile phones and sends them to be refurbished for charity. If you have any please take them to the vicarage in Boughton. You can leave them on the doorstep if Jean is not in. Or you can leave them in the church with a note to say that they are for charity.



And so this New Year goes on as do all years with the good, the bad and the ordinary. To help plan the year, I have compiled a Village Calendar using such information as I have been given and, for the remainder, the nearest day to the date last year. The monthly diary will correct those dates as they come.

ADT

<b>Sun 4 Feb</b>	10.00am	Hernhill School	Education Sunday
Tues 6	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 10	9.30am	The Vicarage	Human Trafficing
	2.30pm	Village Hall	Hort Soc AGM
Sun 11	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 13	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Wed 14	-----	-----	Ash Wednesday
Sat 17	3.30pm	St. Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 18	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 20	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Fri 23	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Breathing Space
Sun 25	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 27	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Wed 28	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
<b>Sun 4 Mch</b>	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 6	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sun 11	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion Mothering Sunday
Tues 13	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sat 17	3.30pm	St. Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 18	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 20	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Fri 23	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Breathing Space
Sun 25	10.30am	Graveney Ch	Palm Sunday
Tues 27	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Wed 28	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Thurs 29	-----	-----	Maundy Thursday

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  
**Monday**  
**26th**  
**Feb**



## DRAFT VILLAGE CALENDAR

<b>Feb 10</b>	Horticultural Soc AGM	14	Wheellie Bin Race
13	Pancake Day	<b>Aug 3-5</b>	Mount Ephraim Concert
14	Ash Wednesday	27	Bank Holiday
14	Valentine's Day	<b>Sep 18</b>	Hort Soc Autumn Show
<b>Mch 4</b>	Craft Centre AGM	8	Ride & Stride
11	Mothering Sunday	8	Childrens' Soc Party
24	Hort Soc Spring Show	15	School Fete
25	BST begins	<b>Oct 1</b>	Village Hall AGM
<b>Apr 1</b>	Easter Day	5	Craft Centre General Meeting
2	Bank Holiday	7	St. Michael's Festival
<b>May 5</b>	Village Fete	21	Harvest Festival
7	Bank holiday	28	BST ends
28	Bank holiday	31	Churchyard spooky stories
<b>Jun 8</b>	Organ Concert	<b>Nov 10</b>	Craft Fair
17	Father's Day	11	Remembrance Sunday
17	Teddy Jump	<b>Dec 22</b>	Carols on the Green
23	Hort Soc Summer Show	24	Midnight Service
<b>Jly 1</b>	Open Gardens	25	Christmas Day
1	Pet Service	26	Boxing Day

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