



HERNHILL NEWS

MARCH 2018

Don't get caught out. British Summer time begins on the morning of Sunday 25th March. The clocks 'spring forward' by one hour.



MICHAEL WOODS

A man at the heart of the community, a true gentleman, and one who will be sorely missed. Tributes have been paid to Michael Woods, who lost his brave fight against illness on Friday, February 9th, in the Pilgrims Hospice.

He was twice chairman of the Parish Council, as well as a long standing member; secretary and vice president of the Horticultural Society, chairman of the Village Hall committee, parish tree warden, vice chairman of the Dawes Community Association and a governor at the Abbey School.

Michael was born at Holly House, Staplestreet, in 1946, just a few feet from Holly Tree Cottages where he lived throughout his married life with wife Bev. After attending the village school he went to Ethelbert Road Boys' School,

leaving at 15 to start work at Vye's - the Kentish Grocer - in Faversham, and ending up at Lefevre's in Canterbury (now Debenhams) where he met Bev. They married in 1975 and their daughter Lisa was born in 1983.

Michael's love of horticulture started early, lovingly tending the three-quarter acre plot behind Holly Tree Cottages, and in 1975, he went to the University of Kent where he started as a gardener. His talents were apparent, and he ended up in the top job, Grounds Supervisor, in charge of the entire estate. He took well-deserved retirement after 36 years but it was hardly a rest, as he carried on with all his voluntary posts in the Village.

Tributes were paid at the Horticultural Society AGM and a minute's

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and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

silence observed for Mr Woods, who had served on the committee for more than 30 years. Chairman Jill Geliot described him as one of life's genuine gentlemen, who was always there to offer help and advice, and said he would be deeply missed. Mr Woods, in his second spell, was chairman of the Parish Council until September 2016, when on his retirement members paid tribute to his many years of selfless and devoted service.

The funeral will be on Tuesday 6th March at Barham Crematorium at 9.20am followed by a celebration of Michael's life at the Three Horseshoes.

Family flowers only please but Bev would appreciate donations to the Pilgrims Hospice, where she says the kindness and care offered to them both in the final days was absolutely outstanding.

Crispin Whiting

I was sad to hear that Michael Woods had passed away. He was such an active member of the village and will be missed by

all who knew him. Remembered especially for his long service as chairman of the Parish council.

Anne Butler

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 scheduled for Wednesday 28th February was postponed until Wednesday 7th March, due to adverse weather conditions.

It has been confirmed that the new fibre broadband cabinet will be located opposite the Village Green at the entrance to Church Farm House. It is hoped that the works will be completed by the early summer.

A reminder that there is a public

information drop-in event on Thursday 15th March in the Village Hall, to discuss the housing needs survey/project which was instigated by the Parish Council.

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.

The March meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 28th March 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 please would they contact the Clerk prior to Wednesday 21st March so that relevant items can be placed on the agenda for discussion.

YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

As I sit down to pen this in the first week of February, it is nice to be back driving and attending meetings following my knee surgery. Thank you for your many kind messages.

I would also like to thank you for your many responses to the items in my last report, this, despite the fact that some Parish Newsletters have only been published this week. With regard to the Cleve Hill Solar Park almost all responses have been in opposition wherever the respondent may live. I have sought clarification and can confirm that, although any final decision will be made in Westminster, Swale Borough Council will be invited to comment as a consultee via its Planning Committee. I shall ensure your voices are heard. I would like to stress that no application has yet been submitted.

Slightly fewer responses to date on the suggestion of an A2/M2 link road funded by the construction of more housing. Of the correspondence I have received I calculate a slight majority in favour, at least in principle. However, this is another proposal that has no planning application submitted as yet.

The third major item in my Inbox over the past month is on the subject of Bus Services. I hope you will remember that I reported these proposals in my November Newsletter to you all and stressed my annoyance at the abysmal way this was handled by Kent County Council. Residents on some routes where

only one service per day or one service per week was to be subject to consultation on possible closure were unnecessarily worried that their whole service would disappear. Thankfully, the savings that had been identified have now been almost totally removed from the current draft budget. The consultation has been abandoned and instead we will be having a "conversation" with communities and Parishes. I asked the Leader of KCC Paul Carter this week what this actually means and when these "conversations" will take place but apparently these decisions are yet to be made! I have written to the newly appointed Cabinet Member Mike Whiting seeking further details as a matter of urgency. I know several of you have copied Mr Whiting in your letters of concern.

It was the 19th of January before I got the OK from my surgeon to drive short distances and attend a few meetings, preferably short ones. This was just in time for one of the annual high spots of my diary the Public Participation meeting where YOU, my residents, decide where my Kent County Council members grant will be spent this year. There was a good turnout of residents at Teynham Village Hall on Saturday 20th January, a wide spread of applications from both small local groups and larger groups which operate across the Swale East Division. Amongst local groups which were successful were the Friends of Milton School, Boughton Community Projects

Group, Newnham Parish Council, Faversham Cricket Club, Tunstall Parish Council and Eastling Parish Council. All who attended will know that once again Swale Voluntary Services provided an excellent hot and cold buffet.

Another interesting meeting attended was the Rural Crime Training Seminar put on by Swale Borough Council in Faversham, with speakers from the Kent Police Rural Team and the National Farmers Union, plus presentations on modern slavery particularly in rural areas and the country eye crime reporting app. It was good to see a number of my Swale East Parish Councils represented, Dunkirk, Graveney, Selling, Newnham, Oare, Bredgar and Rodmersham, sorry if I missed anyone.

I attended and spoke at a Planning Appeal by the resident of the site known as The Retreat which although within Ospringe Parish is actually abutting Faversham Road through Syndale Valley. The appeal hearing was held at the Swale Borough Council Offices in Sittingbourne. I attended in order to support the concerns of adjacent Parish Councils and local residents. It was good to also have representatives of Newnham and Dunkirk Parish Councils at the appeal hearing. We now await the inspectors

judgement on this together with another appeal heard the day before by the same Inspector on another close by site. Two more appeals for similar gypsy and traveller sites in Syndale Valleys still wait to be heard.

As I write this, the country is celebrating 100 years of women gaining the right to vote. It is difficult for one of my generation to believe this could ever have not been the case. Although women make up approximately 50% of those registered to vote they do not provide anywhere near 50% of local Councillors. I mention this at this time partly due to the centenary, but also because now is the time that political parties will be choosing their candidates for the May 2019 Swale Borough elections. As an Association Chairman I do not care as to the gender, race, religion or even sexual orientation of candidates. I just want the best possible people to represent our local communities and tax payers. So please, consider putting your name forward NOW. If you require further details (particularly if you broadly support Conservative principles) you should know where to contact me, but I have repeated my contact details at the end of this report.

Andrew Bowles

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AGE UK
Faversham and
Sittingbourne

At Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne we have friendly profession-

al staff members together with a team of enthusiastic volunteers who give their time on a regular basis. It sounds a bit of a cliché but we really couldn't manage without our wonderful volunteers, their help en-

ables the charity to offer the older people of Faversham, and surrounding areas, so much more.

Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne is an independent charity that is brand partners with Age UK. We are responsible for funding and delivering all our services in the local area. These include services provided at our centres and in the local community too. So in challenging times volunteers become increasingly more important. Volunteers join us for a variety of reasons, including: meeting new people and making friends, learning new skills, giving something back to the local community, or a combination of all three. However whatever the reason all volunteers agree that they have fun.

Currently we are looking for new volunteers to:

- Help in our day centres (Faversham, Sittingbourne, Teynham)
- Mini bus attendant or driver

(Faversham, Sittingbourne, Teynham)

- Deliver hot meals at lunchtime (Faversham, Sittingbourne, Teynham)
- Assist with art and craft and other activities (Faversham, Sittingbourne, Teynham)
- Fill out Attendance Allowance forms (Faversham)
- Fill out Blue Badge forms (Sittingbourne)
- Help in our kitchen or coffee shop with food preparation and service (Faversham)
- Lunchtime food service helper (Sittingbourne)
- Assist at Cogs club (Cogs club is a structured day for people with mild dementia on Fridays in Sittingbourne)
- Trustee to assist with the strategic direction of the charity.

To find out more about any of the above please contact Gill on

07735556811 or
agecorecruiter@btinternet.com

PALM OIL

A controversial ingredient!

Palm oil is the most widely used vegetable oil on Earth being found in around 50% of supermarket products, from food to cleaners to cosmetics. It is widely used for its properties and because it is cheap. Its low price is partly due to its high yield, but also because, as with other mass-produced crops, the environmental and social costs are neglected.

The major drawback of oil palm plantations is that they are devel-

oped in low lying, wet, tropical areas – exactly where rainforests grow and endangered species such as orangutan and tigers once thrived. Deforestation in these areas is pushing the orangutan closer to the brink of extinction due to 80% of their habitat being destroyed in the last 20 years. The list of other mammals affected includes elephants, rhinos and tigers as well as thousands of other less-well known animal and plant species.

According to Ethical Consumer, between 1990 and 2010, 8.7 million

acres of rainforest in Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea were cleared for palm plantations, an area nearly twice the size of Wales. Indonesia, the world's largest producer of palm oil, has seen a 600% growth in the area covered by plantations over roughly the same period, associated with the loss of 40% of its lowland rainforests. The industry is now expanding into the rainforests of Central Africa, with more than a million acres under imminent threat.

Destruction of forests results in biodiversity and habitat loss, species extinction and drives climate change.

N.B. Despite palm oil proliferation being a major cause of deforestation and habitat destruction, animal agriculture is an even bigger problem, with the latter being responsible for up to 91% of Amazon destruction and the leading cause of habitat destruction and species extinction globally. As at 2014, 27 million acres of rainforest had been cleared for palm oil production whereas 136 million acres had been cleared for animal agriculture (mainly for beef farming and animal feed crops).

Social impacts of palm oil are also wide-ranging, and profits are far from evenly distributed. More than 20 million people, comprising hundreds of distinct language groups, depend on Indonesia's forests. Many traditional communities have lost their lands to plantations. The Indonesian National Lands Agency registered over 3,000 conflicts be-

tween palm oil companies and communities in 2013, and the drafting in of migrant labour for plantations causes further problems. In 2014 the US Department of Labour listed palm oil as one of 55 goods produced globally by forced (i.e. slave) labour. It is estimated that there are between 72,000 and 200,000 children working on palm plantations in Malaysia.

What is being done?

In 2004, initiated by the WWF, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) was established to develop and implement environmental and social standards for the industry. Its 2000+ members are mostly processors, traders and consumer goods manufacturers, but also include growers and others. However, the organisation has received widespread criticism for weak standards and failure to enforce. This has led campaigning organisations to pressure companies into going further than RSPO requirements, including commitments to deforestation and peat-free palm oil and conflict-free palm oil.

In December 2014, a long campaigned for European law was introduced, which requires palm oil to be specifically labelled on food packaging rather than just called 'vegetable oil'. But still only half of all Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) is bought as such, with the rest selling for the lower price of uncertified oil. Not exactly an incentive for growers to switch to sustainable production.

What can we do?

As consumers we can avoid the worst offending companies, but we can also help by lobbying the industry to be more responsible.

Environmentalists do not recommend boycotting of palm oil completely because it is an incredibly high-yielding vegetable oil, which means that anything replacing it will have to use more land, which does not solve the issue of deforestation

and associated land use change. What organisations like Ethical Consumer and Greenpeace do recommend is that we only buy products containing organic and RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil. 'Ethical Consumer' has put together a useful list of companies and products which are either palm oil free or which only use certified sustainable or organic palm oil.

Jo Kidd

BREATHING SPACE

Friday 24th March

7.30 to 8.30pm



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.

Revd. Paulette Stubbins

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

AGM

About 25 people (50% of membership) attended the AGM on February 10th. The meeting began on a sad note remembering Michael Woods who died on February 9th. Michael was our Vice President and had been on the committee for at least 30 years. He assisted Mark James on show days and was always a fount of knowledge. Our thoughts are with Beverley and family.

The main decisions made during the meeting were:

The accounts showed a small deficit for the year but did not have the benefit of the income from the Open Gardens as this event is now bian-

nual so subscriptions will remain the same.

The coach outing will be on June 7th and we will visit Waddesdon Manor near Aylesbury. This is the former home of the Rothchilds and as well as one of the finest Victorian gardens in Britain there is also the chateau like house to visit with its fantastic collection of works of art and china. This is a National Trust property so the cost will be for the coach and then individuals can buy entry tickets or use their NT cards. More details soon.

The evening visit will be to Salutation Garden Sandwich on 16th August. We hope to arrange a guided tour and refreshments – minimum numbers need to be 12.

Make a note of these dates and please try to support these outings and bring along friends and family.

Dates of Shows: 24th March, 9th June, 1st September. Also we will be running a stall at the Village Fete on May 5th and contributions of plants would be appreciated.

After the meeting Mark gave us a very interesting and informative talk with slides about Cacti cultivation.

As Chairman I would like to thank all members of the committee for their contribution. As we have lost three members we have a depleted committee and would welcome some more members. No one came forward at the AGM but if you like to join us do phone me on 01227 750974. Each committee member has an area of responsibility but duties are not too onerous.

Jill Geliot



WATCH OUT

I mentioned last month that there has been a spate of thefts from cars. The thieves have now gone one better. They have progressed from stealing from cars to stealing the car itself. A silver Audi A2, registration number MJ54FKL, was stolen from Waterham Road, Hernhill, after it had broken down.

ADT

FROM THE VICAR

I am not a morning person, if I have to finish a piece of work I would rather work late into the night than get up early to finish it. I sometimes have to get up in the early hours of the morning to catch a flight abroad but apart from that I prefer to stay in bed and sleep. Apart, that is, from Easter Day. This year I will set my alarm for about 5.15 am and while I can't promise I'll jump out of bed I will be looking forward to our dawn Easter service, this year held in Graveney Church at 6.15am. The birth of Jesus takes place at night but the resurrection starts as a dawn story, 'Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been

removed from the tomb.' (John 20:1).

The dawn service is one of the most special of the year. We gather before sunrise and sit in a dark church recalling the absolute grief and desperation of Jesus' friends following his death. Then we go into the churchyard to learn of Jesus' resurrection and light the Easter fire, we may even see the sun rise. The Easter candle is lit from the fire and we return to church lighting candles and spreading light. We then celebrate Holy Communion together and stay for a simple breakfast.

They are the logistics of the dawn service but that's only part of it, those words and actions need to come alive, inspired by God, when that happens we are worshipping.

Worship is an experience, not a performance, one that touches our senses and our spirit.

We have several other services in the week leading up to Easter Day that are visual and enable us to follow the events around Jesus' death and resurrection. Stripping the altar and surrounding area of all decoration on Maundy Thursday as Psalm 22 is read and the lights slowly extinguished is another very moving experience. On Good Friday we listen to readings and music and reflect quietly on Jesus' death, unless we do that we cannot truly celebrate his resurrection.

These services that we celebrate each Holy Week, as Christians throughout the world will celebrate and have done so since the earliest days of our faith, are not three separate events (although they can

easily be seen that way), but rather they are three acts of the same dramatic play and they can only make sense when they are each seen as a part of the whole drama.

As we each continue our Lenten journey this March, and approach the events of Holy Week I invite you to become a part of that dramatic storytelling as we gather to commemorate the suffering, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. If you've never been to any of these services before, why not consider joining us if you are able to? To take part in the dramatic retelling of those events is for many a moving and spiritual experience. So much so that it can even get *me* up at some unearthly hour on Easter Sunday morning and be joyful about it!

Revd Jean Burrows

HERNHILL SCHOOL

February has been a busy month for all at Hernhill.

We are very proud of our Junior Choir who performed at the O2 at the start of the month as part of the Young Voices choir. For those who are unaware of "Young Voices", this organisation provides children with the opportunity of performing in a world class venue with thousands of other children. Our Junior Choir of 67 children worked hard all year to learn the music for the concert and they were very ably taught by our wonderful Mrs Carroll. They then performed as part of a 7800 strong choir in front of families and friends at the O2. An incredible experience - they did themselves and

Hernhill proud!

Just before half term we held our Creative Curriculum Exhibition. This was an opportunity for all classes to display work from our first three topics this year - Brilliant Britain, Marvellous Me and Re-rewind! The teachers worked incredibly hard to display the children's work and the end result was beautiful. It was wonderful to have some parents, carers and families come to visit the exhibition over the two days. We will soon be putting up a video of the exhibition on our website so that everyone can view the children's work.

We started Term 4 with a bang - literally! Our topic, entitled "Bish

Bash Bosh" began with a visit from Wonderstruck Science. An incredible show demonstrating forces wowed the children on the first morning back. Exploding rice krispies, a gas powered car drive by a Year 6 pupil and flying teddy bears were all part of the fun! This was

followed by the children in Years 2 to 6 working in teams of three to make battery-powered cars and rockets which we fired across the school field. What a day!

Sarah Alexander
Headteacher

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 28th March

This will be held at St Barnabas between 10.00am and noon.

Over the past few months, and particularly since the last episode of 'The Blue Planet,' we've all become more aware about plastic and the impact it is having in our oceans. The problem is plastics are designed to last forever and don't biodegrade.

In Swale we have blue bins for our plastic waste so it can be recycled.

My problem is, despite guidelines, I am often not exactly sure about what can be recycled. To help us, Vikki Sedgwick from the Borough Council is coming to our coffee morning in St B's. If you have items you're not sure about recycling please bring them with you and ask Vikki. It really does help to use the blue bin and prevent more waste going into landfill so come along to the coffee morning with all your questions.

Revd Jean Burrows

'JANUARY' NEWS

With reference to the January Hernhill News, I find that the item "Veganuary" is over-long and protracted. Surely to become a vegan is a voluntary decision to be taken by adults? We do not need to be preached at about our way of life.

Anne Butler

BITS AND PIECES

I would like to add my condolences to the Woods family on the death of Michael. He was one of the precious few who not only lived in our Village but played an active part within it.

I took the trouble to venture out on the cold night of last Friday and go to the church. It turned out to be well worth the effort. The church looked wonderful with the path up to it and the interior lit only with dozens of

candles. All was silent. No idle chatter. Just peace and quiet and then, at intervals, a mixed-voice choir sang to us. They were the University of Kent Chamber Choir and the effect was magical. It is hoped that they will give a full concert in the church later this year and I shall be first in the queue for tickets.

What goes into the News should not be assumed to represent my personal view unless it is included in these 'Bits and Pieces' over my ini-

tials. If someone feels an urge to raise awareness about the evils of gin (Hogarth did) it will be published, but I will not be emptying my bottle down the drain. Fundamental to the 'News' is freedom of speech and I am obliged to respect everyone's right to express their views. Villagers are positively encouraged to write about their interests and observations. Villagers are also free to challenge the views of others and, providing it is not abusive, what they write will be printed.

The above statement has been prompted by the number of disgruntled mutterings that I have been subjected to about 'veganism'. The articles that Jo has been sending in every month express her enthusiasm for veganism and her hope that others will be persuaded to join in. Of course not everyone will agree with her and, for example, I have now published a critical comment that Anne Butler has taken the trouble to write concerning Jo's January article. The manner in which other critics told me their views, I fear that their written comments would not have been publishable.

Members of the Crafts Centre should note that the AGM will now be held on Sunday 18th March at 2.00pm in the Village Hall. Our MP, Helen Whately stated her concern for the proposal to build an enormous solar farm at Cleve Hill. It would cover the equivalent area of four hundred football pitches. That proposal does not make for a



simple choice. It puts a clean source of electricity against the habitat of local wildlife. I'm glad I don't have to resolve the problem. She has also said that she is giving up plastic bottles for Lent. That will not be easy these days but I admire the challenge she has undertaken. For our part, Barbara has talked to the dairy that delivers our milk. As a result, from the end of this month, our milkman will be delivering the milk for us in glass bottles. A small contribution but something others might care to try for themselves.

Despite the fact that for weeks I was unable to go in my garden without wellie-boots, we are told that the aquifers are down to 40% of their normal level for this time of year. I can already hear the wail of the hosepipe ban in the distance. And now it has snowed and snowed and snowed and buried the snowdrops, daffodils, crocuses and primulas

that were coming into bloom. I have headed this issue as being 'March' despite the fact that I called the last one 'January'. That issue, of course, should have been 'February'. Having had those health problems in the closing months of 2017, I put my error down to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. There seems to be a lot of it about these days. Thankfully it provides the benefit of letting me off the hook of responsibility for my error. It also has the merit of being a very long phrase which helps to fill up an otherwise empty space.

ADT

Sun 4 Mch	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 6	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sun 11	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Boughton Ch	Special Mothering Sunday Service
Tues 13	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sat 17	3.30pm	St. Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 18	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
	2.00pm	Village Hall	Crafts Centre AGM
Tues 20	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Fri 23	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Breathing Space
Sat 24	-----	Village Hall	Hort Soc Spring Show
Sun 25	-----	-----	British Summer Time begins
	10.30am	Graveney Ch	Palm Sunday
Tues 27	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Wed 28	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Thurs 29	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
Fri 30	2.00pm	Graveney Ch	Last Hour of the cross
	7.30pm	Boughton Ch	Good Friday music
Sun 1 Apr	6.15am	Graveney Ch	Dawn Service
	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 3	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sun 8	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 10	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sun 15	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 17	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 21	3.30pm	St. Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 22	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 24	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Wed 25	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Sun 29	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion

To book the Village Hall go to www.hernhill-bookings.net

A copy of the Hernhill News and other local information can be found on the Village website. www.hernhill.net

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Articles by
Monday
26th
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