



# HERNHILL NEWS

## APRIL 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 & noticeboard.

Full Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 7th March (postponed from February due to snow) and also on Wednesday 28th March.

Four planning applications were discussed at the March Parish Council meetings, 18/500331/FULL - 4, Waterham Business Park, 18/500779/FULL - 1, The Bungalows, Highstreet Road and 18/500630/FULL - Forstal House, Church Hill, 17/506496/FULL - 9, Woodlands, Dargate

The Parish Council has been informed by KCC that the proposals for events at Monkshill Showground are still under review and no licences/permits have yet been issued. It is unlikely that any events will take place in 2018.

A public consultation event was held at the Village Hall on 15th March to discuss proposals for a small housing development (to include affordable housing) on Staplestreet. The results of the comments made at the consulta-

tion will be discussed by the Parish Council when they are available from English Rural, hopefully at the April meeting. Many members of the public attended the Parish Council meeting on 28th March to express their concerns over the proposed location of the housing development on Staplestreet. The Parish Council reported that no formal planning applications have yet been made for the site and that the project is currently in early consultation stages. The public will be able to make formal comments to Swale Borough Council if/when a formal planning application is made.

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.

Following the installation of the defibrillator outside the Village Hall, the Parish Council are potentially looking to run a short (approx half day) basic first aid course to include defibrillator training. If you would like to attend, please notify the Clerk of your interest and if there is sufficient demand then a course will be arranged.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Annual Parish meeting.** 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

25th April at 7:00pm in the Village Hall. This is not a Parish Council meeting, but a meeting for electors of the Parish who are invited to hear reports from the Chairman, Church and local community groups on recent activities.

**Parish Council meeting.** Wednesday 25th April 2018 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 19th April so that relevant items can be placed on the agenda for discussion.

### **YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

It feels as though February was dominated by the weather although, of course, the snow did not arrive until Monday the 26th.

February is the Budget month for Local Authorities. Kent County Council met all day on Tuesday the 20th to determine its Budget. Swale Borough Council then met on the evening of Wednesday the 21st to confirm its own Budget requirements and set the level of Council Tax. This also includes the amounts precepted by the Police and Crime Commissioner and by the Fire and Rescue Authority. In most parts of Swale and indeed all of the Swale East Division (except for Luddenham) there will be an extra amount levied by Parish Councils. The County Council Budget comprises of £958.488 million of revenue expenditure and capital investments of £794.707 million. At Swale Borough Council Revenue Expenditure of £16,531,514 was agreed about half of which will be raised from the Council Tax, the rest from a mixture of income from fees and charges plus revenue from business rates. The Borough's budget also includes £500,000 capital investment in equipment for play areas and £250,000 to boost tourism. There is also £2 million set aside for likely essential repairs and improvements to Sittingbourne and Sheppey leisure centres.

The effect of all of the above is a

2.99% increase in the County share in addition to the 2% allowed as an additional social care levy. The Swale Borough Council increase is much lower in both real and percentage terms and gives a Borough Council Tax of £169.83 per average household (Band D). This is an increase for the Borough element of just under £5 per year.

February was not just about budgets and snow! We welcomed Sir John Armitth who has succeeded Michael Heseltine as Chairman of the Government's Thames Estuary Growth Commission to the February meeting of the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Board. I am afraid Sir John had to endure quite a roasting from me, and others, on the Government's ever increasing housing targets and the lack of necessary infrastructure and on the ever-decreasing local democracy in the planning process.

We also had an update from the proposers of the Solar Farm on Cleve Marshes given to invited County (I was the only one in attendance) Borough and Parish Councillors held at Graveney Village Hall. Faversham and Mid Kent Member of Parliament Helen Whatley was also in attendance. The last week in February started for me with a photo shoot at Remembrance Avenue, Sittingbourne, in the snow, to promote the work we are doing here in Swale to commemorate the First World War. I then returned to

Swale House for our quarterly meeting with the Police and Swale Branch of the National Farmers Union to discuss rural crime and policing. Good news, yet to be officially confirmed, of extra Officers to be assigned to the rural team in North Division which includes Swale. The sad part is that we said goodbye to PC Preston Frost who is retiring. PC Frost has been a stalwart of rural policing, his work has led to his being given too many awards to list but including Community Officer of the year, Police Officer of the Year and Swale Borough Council's own award to a member of staff of a partner organisation. Well done and thank you 'Frostie', hope we are able to find another way to use your skills and experience to benefit our rural communi-

ty. After that the roof, or at least the snow, fell in. The rest of the final week of the month became a list of cancelled or postponed meetings plus some that were converted into conference calls. Two brief updates on last months' report, somehow the Friends of Milstead School was wrongly typed as Friends of Milton School in the list of those organisations who were successful in obtaining grants from my local county members fund. Apologies. Secondly, I am still awaiting a flood of enquiries from women or anyone else who wishes to stand for election to the Borough Council.

Andrew Bowles  
email: abjs@btinternet.com  
mobile: 07778629879



### **CHURCH URBAN FUND**

This provides a great opportunity to help people in need in inner city areas. Many of you already have collect-

ing boxes to put money in throughout the year. It is now time to gather this in. Please let Alan or Peter Willcock have your contribution at church or let me have it at my house. Many thanks.  
Barbara Taylor

### **OUR THANKS**

Beverley and Lisa would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the people who attended the funeral for Michael Woods. It was lovely to have so many friends, family and colleagues of his around us on such a difficult day. It was lovely to share in the memories

and stories that so many people had of him. We have been overwhelmed by the donations that have been given to us for the Pilgrims Hospice and have £780 to donate to this very worthy cause. Thank you very much.  
Lisa Pooke

### **WE TOO**

We would like to echo Anne Butler's feedback about Jo Kidd's piece on veganism. Not only did we find it too long, but we also take objection to being lectured on lifestyle choice by someone about whom we know nothing, including her qualifications for taking a lofty moral stance. We are much concerned about ethical con-

sumption ourselves, but do not see fit to impose our views on those with whom we have no relationship. If Jo would like to assure her readers of her qualifications for taking the high ground, and for publishing her views in our Village newsletter, I think that would help to garner her greater respect.

Cathy & Peter Lintott

## HERNHILL SCHOOL

March started off on a very wintry note with the school closed for four days due to the extreme snowfall. Our children and families took advantage of some extra time together and this was evident in the photographs submitted to our 'Snowy Photograph Competition'! Do have a look at all the lovely entries in our photograph gallery on our website. Our World Book Day, postponed from the 1st March, was held a few weeks later. It was fabulous to see all of our children dressed up as their favourite book character. We enjoyed a celebration assembly for the children to show off their costumes, lots of storytime sessions and we finished the morning off with 'The Big Read' in the hall. A fabulous day.

The children have also enjoyed two film nights this term, organised by the PTAFA. Our Parents' Association do an incredible job of running events for our children and families, and raising much needed extra fund-

ing. Without their hard work, we wouldn't have a new magical forest library and artificial grass under our playground equipment!

One of the new projects happening over the coming months is the development of a music room at the school. This will house all our musical instruments and be a space for groups or classes of children to take part in music lessons. As part of our music room development, we are looking for a few items that will help with the decoration. If you have any of the following that you no longer want or need, please do let us know. All donations will be very gladly received.

- Old wooden chairs (e.g. dining, kitchen chairs that can be decorated)
- Saucepans / saucepan lids
- Wooden or metal kitchen utensils
- Sheets of music or books of music
- Old CDs or vinyl records

Sarah Alexander  
Headteacher

## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Because of the recent inclement weather we all thought that the Spring Show on Saturday 24th March would be rather sparse. How wrong we were. It was the best show we had had in a long time. Rows of daffodils, forests of pot plants, mouth watering displays of cakes and tarts, beautiful floral arrangements and a gallery of photographs. Well done and thank you to everyone who entered an exhibit and it was particularly pleasing to see some new entrants (and winners). Keep up the good work for

the Summer Show. There were 23 entrants, and 192 entries.

### **The cup winners were:**

Bentley Shield - Max points for Daffodils, Violet Croll  
Grenville Cup - Best home economics, Suzanne Owen  
Dargate House Cup - Best floral art, Carol Stone  
Woods Cup - Best fruit/vegetable, Tony Bentley  
Wade Cup - for Best Bloom, Violet Croll  
Ben Bones Memorial Cup - Best photograph, Rebecca Parr  
WI Cup - Best Pot Plant, Heather

and Henry Bryant

### **Outings**

Waddesdon Manor. This is on Thursday 7th June. The cost for the coach will be £16.00 Those who are members of the National Trust will be able to visit the house and gardens for free. Others will need to pay an entrance fee which is not yet known. The coach will leave Mount Ephraim car park at 8.30am and we should be back around 7pm. You may have seen the programme about Waddesdon Manor on the TV programme "Secrets of the National Trust". It looks a very interesting place to visit. Members and their friends can book a place by contacting Rebecca Parr on 751729 or me

on 750974. The full cost of the coach £16 must be paid at the time of booking. After the end of April any spare seats will be offered to Painter's Fostall Gardening Club.

Salutation Gardens. This will be during the week beginning 13th August and we are currently negotiating with the owner as to which day. The cost will be £12.00 which includes a tour with the head gardener and cake and a drink at the end. The minimum number we need is twelve but I hope that a lot more will be interested. We will make our own way there – obviously car sharing will be a good thing. Please contact Rebecca if you are interested.

Jill Geliot and Violet Croll

### **RAF ONE HUNDRED YEARS**

Yesterday, Sunday 25th March, a band of bell ringers from the Kent County Association of Change Ringers rang the full peal at St Michael's Church. It was a rare and lovely sound from all eight bells in three hours of complex rounds.



The bells were being rung to commemorate the centenary of the RAF and also in memory of Wing Commander Peter Saddleton who was a member of our Village church.

Peter Willcock  
Church Warden

### **HEALTHCARE IN EAST KENT**

On Friday 27th April I'll be holding an information evening, along with CHEK [Concern for Health in East Kent], at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Faversham to discuss the future of healthcare in East Kent with NHS representatives and other decision makers.

What patients really need is a new acute hospital providing world class care and a medical school to attract the brightest and best doc-

tors and nurses, making east Kent a centre of excellence in healthcare. As a university city and a major transport hub, Canterbury is the most obvious place to have centralised emergency care, but patients who don't live nearby must not lose access to acute services.

I want to hear your views, so please come along to the public evening and let me know what you want for the future of healthcare in East Kent.

Helen Whately MP

## **PAPERING OVER THE CRACKS**

Our home is upside down and inside out at the moment. We have contractors in, fixing cracks in nearly every room which have been caused by subsidence. All our furniture has been piled into the centre of each room, and all our belongings have been piled up wherever else there's space, so that they can get at the walls and pin, plaster and redecorate where needed.

I found this particularly tricky, as we were heading towards Easter – one of the busiest (and best) times in the year for the Church. I really needed to be organised, I had things I needed to plan and sort out. I wanted to be in the right frame of mind for what lay ahead. Instead I found I was basically reeling from the domestic chaos and finding it hard to keep a grip on anything, let alone find the mental time to prepare properly.

Thinking about this experience made me reflect that we often feel the need to wait until things are sorted and right – for the correct conditions before we feel able to 'do business' with God. I know from my visits to families about baptisms, weddings and funerals that many people are spiritual rather than religious – they have a sense that there is God, or a higher power out there – and quite often people will have prayed in times of need – even if they sometimes wonder if those

prayers are even heard.

For those prepared to engage with the idea of God, this is so often what we think about it all – that we have to brush up, clean up our act, paper over the cracks and cover the chaos before we can be somehow acceptable. I once was caught out by the Archdeacon - a senior Church Leader - coming to visit me at home – he came about half an hour early (*I know!*) while I was in a frenzy of vacuuming the hall. I invited him in saying 'Hello, welcome, you've caught me trying to give the impression my house is cleaner than it usually is!'

What I want to say, if you have ever reached out in hope that God might be there – and then paused, thinking if he was, why would he ever be bothered with someone who has cracks and flaws and chaos and problems – then the good news is this:

God put his love on the line for us through Jesus' death and resurrection exactly when we were at our worst, our least spiritual, our most chaotic, our lowest point. It's in the very cracks and scars of life that he meets us in love. There is no need to pretend with God than we are anything other than we are because he already knows, and because he could not love us more than he already does.

Rev. Paulette Stubbings

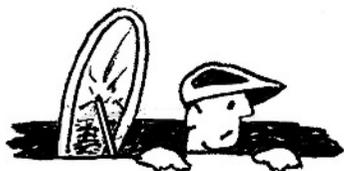
## **BITS AND PIECES**

The awful news this March has been the use of nerve gas in Salisbury on a Russian exile and his

daughter, the involvement of the policeman who went to their aid and perhaps others in the area. Whether we ordinary mortals will ever know

the truth about the attack is uncertain. I find this type of attack on individuals more upsetting than the other terrorist attacks that we have experienced. I suppose that it is the stealth element that disturbs the most and also, of course, the escalation in West v Russia confrontation that it has engendered.

If you have been driving recently, you will not have failed to notice the appalling state of the roads. Some of the potholes are really deep. I find them sufficiently worrying in the car, but to a cyclist they must be frightening. True, there have been efforts to get the main roads repaired, but the lanes round us have some deep and dangerous holes and dear old Plumpudding Lane has lost a good deal of its edging altogether.



Thank goodness we can turn to more pleasant things. Spring is now beginning to show-off in the garden. The daffodils have unbent from the burden of snow that they carried and the other spring flowers are putting on a welcome display of colour. I even managed to get my grass cut. But be warned. I am planning a brief holiday in April so it is sure to rain for a week. That is if it doesn't snow.

And now Easter is upon us. By the time you get this issue, you will probably have been able to climb out from under the mound of choc-

olate eggs, fluffy chicks and furry rabbits. All courtesy of the massive commercial advertising heaped on the back of a solemn church festival. Mercifully I don't think that we have a similar advertising burden on our pockets for a little while now, but I bet they will think of something. After all the cheering that we are to have a 'blue' passport once again, I was amused to find that it is not to be printed in the UK. So it is to be 'Br' but not quite 'exit'.

"Papering over the cracks" reminded me that I really ought to be thinking about having my house interior decorated. I can't think how long it has been since it was last done. And then I remember that there is a splendid fashion called 'shabby chic'. We have that here in full measure without doing anything.

So that is what I shall be doing about the decorating; nothing.

And now for something to cheer us all up, the Village Fete. This year it will return to the first Saturday in May which is the 5th. I have not seen any details but I have every confidence that it will be a first class event. If you are one of the few who have missed attending in the past, be sure to make it this time. It is always worth the effort, rain or shine. Something not to be missed. And something else not to be missed is a concert in the church. It is to be given on Friday 8th May by the choir of the University of Kent who performed so beautifully at the 'Breathing Space' event in February. I look forward to seeing you at both.

ADT

<b>Sun 1 Apr</b>	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
<b>Tues 1 May</b>	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 5	2.00pm	Village Hall	<b>VILLAGE FETE</b>
Sun 6	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 8	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sun 13	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 15	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Fri 18	7 30pm	St. Michael's Ch	University of Kent Choir concert
Sat 19	3.30pm	St. Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 20	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 22	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sun 27	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 29	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Wed 30	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting

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**  
**23rd**  
**Apr**

