



# HERNHILL NEWS

## MAY 2018



**VILLAGE FETE**  
Saturday 5th May  
Village Hall  
Starting at 2.00pm



### PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact the clerk for 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 Annual Parish Meeting (not a Parish Council meeting) was held on Wednesday 25th April and local groups including the School, Church, Horticultural Society, Kent County Council and Swale Borough attended to give reports on events of the past year.

A full Parish Council meeting was held on the same day and attended by four Councillors, one County Councillor and 17 members of the public.

One planning application was discussed, 18/501918/AGRREQ - George Bell Farm, Plumpudding Lane. The Parish Council will be registering objection comments to the application.

'Monkshill Showground' have applied for a licence for the site and this will be considered by Swale Borough Council after the consultation closes on Tuesday 1st May. The Parish Council will be register-

ing objection comments to the application.

Work on the BT fibre broadband has started and the connection of the cables should then be completed by the end of May. On completion the new faster broadband should be available for those who choose to use it.

Following the installation of the defibrillator outside the Village Hall, the Parish Council are considering a free (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.

The Parish Council is aware that there are many areas in the parish where there is litter near the edge of the road and would ask if residents can try to keep the area outside their properties free of litter to help create a cleaner and tidier community. If there is significant litter outside a property, please contact either the Parish Clerk or Swale Borough Council who may be able to help deal with the matter. Also, if you have any suggestions for suitable locations for a new litter bin, please send your

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

ideas to the Parish Clerk.

The "Local Plan" was adopted in July 2017 and sets out the development strategy for Swale to 2031. Councils are required by government to revisit their "Local Plan" every five years and Swale is now embarking on this project. If you would like to comment on proposals, please go to

[swale-consult.objective.co.uk/portal](http://swale-consult.objective.co.uk/portal)

Following concerns over sightlines and traffic safety at the junction of Staplestreet and Church Hill, the Parish Council are planning to work with Swale Borough Council to undertake an informal survey of the area regarding the possibility of installing double yellow lines.

The housing needs project to provide a total of eight dwellings, comprising six dwellings as affordable housing and two dwellings for sale on the open market on Staplestreet is being progressed to the next stage by the Parish Council. Councillors considered feedback from the initial consultation and also correspondence from local residents, and decided to ask English Rural

to move ahead with the project and undertake the relevant surveys for possible site development. The surveys will include matters relating to KCC Highways and Utilities. Once surveys have been completed and reported back to English Rural, any actions based on these surveys will be considered and another public consultation will take place prior to any formal planning application being made to Swale Borough 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 at [kent.gov.uk](http://kent.gov.uk).

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 30th May 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 Wednesday 23rd May so that relevant items can be placed on the agenda for discussion.

### **YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Just to show you cannot always count on old weather folklore, March both came in and left like a lion not a lamb with little improvement between times.

March this year has been unusually busy both for committee and other meetings. These have included a full Council meeting at Kent County Council and both Full Council and Cabinet meetings at Swale Borough Council. I attended the Swale Youth Forum and an Urban Crime Training Seminar, unfortunately having to leave both before they finished due to other appointments.

There have been a large number of 'high level' out-of-Borough meetings. The District Councils Network Executive Committee, South East England Councils Executive both held in London, also a meeting of all Kent Council Leaders

and one of the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership. The latter contains not just all Kent Council Leaders but an equal number (plus one) of representatives from the Business and Further Education sectors.

A meeting which ought to be of major interest to all was the meeting of the newly renamed Local Plan Panel. Whilst we await final confirmation from Government as to whether they will apply the new housing need figures (for Swale a whopping 36% increase) from the date this review should be published in July 2022 we have to plan ahead. It takes about four years to produce a plan allowing for the various statutory consultation periods. Assuming Government intends to impose the higher figures produced by the new methodology Swale Borough Council appears to me to have

three options:

a) Refuse to comply. The danger of this option is having local planning powers removed as is currently happening to Thanet. Numbers and distribution of new housing etc. determined by those who are not answerable to Swale residents.

b) Status quo. Divide the higher number across all Communities and Electoral Wards within Swale potentially upsetting everybody and pleasing nobody.

c) Go with one or two major sites, the so called "Garden Village or Garden Town" option. Two locations have already been publicly mentioned, South East of Sittingbourne providing a new link between the A2 and M2 and potentially a new Senior School and three new Primary Schools. A second option already in the public domain is the proposal on the outskirts of Faversham which would provide the funding to upgrade Brenley Corner on the M2. The former is promoted by the owners of Kent Science Park and other local landowners with Quinn Estates as the lead developer. The latter is promoted by the Duchy of Cornwall who own all the land currently included.

Other sites may come forward as a result of the forthcoming call for sites. The Consultation will open in late April and will last for twelve weeks. All options have a mixture of both dangers and advantages for Swale, its residents and its economy. Please fully engage and help to guide your future Councillors in coming to what is bound to be a difficult and contentious decision.

Local meetings attended during March included the Swale Branch of the Kent Association of Parish Councils and meetings of Selling, Newnham, Bap-

child and Dunkirk Parish Council's.

This Month I have said goodbye to two special friends, Michael Woods and Richard Barnicott.

I knew Michael best as a long serving member and an excellent chairman of Hernhill Parish Council. He was also a stalwart of the Hernhill Horticultural Society and a long serving Committee Member, a former Vice-Chairman of the Dawes Community Association and a Governor of Abbey School. Michael being a lifelong resident of Staple Street I shall personally miss both his company and excellent guidance.

Ricky Barnicott was a close and valued friend. Ricky was unique in serving fifty years as a Borough Councillor, firstly on the old Faversham Borough Council and then following Local Government reorganisation as a member of Swale Borough Council. For most of that time he represented Watling Ward in Faversham and then in latter years the more rural Teynham and Lynsted Ward. During his career Ricky was Mayor of Faversham, Chairman of Swale Borough Council and then following the granting of a Royal Warrant, the first Mayor of Swale. On leaving the Borough Council Ricky was made an Alderman of the Borough and was very recently honoured by being made the first Freeman of the Town of Faversham. As the long term Chairman of Swale Borough Council's Planning Committee he was one who could truly be said to have left a lasting mark on the Borough. His funeral was held on Friday 13th April at Barham Crematorium.

Andrew Bowles

Email: abjs@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07778629879

### **COME & JOIN IN**

Come and join the FUN DOG SHOW at the Village Fete, Saturday 5th May.

The First Class starts at 2.15pm with

FANCY DRESS, and other classes include DOG MOST LIKE ITS OWNER and MOST ADORABLE VETERAN.

It's just for fun, so please bring along your family pets for everyone to admire.

Miriam Layton

### CHURCH URBAN FUND

This is a great opportunity to help people in need in inner city areas and many of you have collecting 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

### ENVIRONMENTAL ARTICLES A RESPONSE

This month I thought it would be useful to write a response to criticisms about some of my articles in the community magazines.

I sit on the Diocesan Environmental Working Group. My academic background is in social anthropology, political science and inclusive education. I have been involved in environmental and human rights/disability projects and organisations all my life. My husband and I founded the Abbot's Mill Project in Canterbury and are in the process of setting up a stock-free organic farm in Boughton. If people would like more details on my background and with what else I am involved, they can see my

profile here at [www.linkedin.com/in/jo-kidd-92598828](http://www.linkedin.com/in/jo-kidd-92598828)

Last year Boughton and Hernhill PCCs asked me to write articles about the environment as part of their efforts towards becoming an Eco-Church. To date, I have written about a wide range of topics including Eco Church, micro-plastics, our ecological footprint, ethical consumption, palm oil, pollinators and, in February, I covered veganism (in response to the National Veganuary Campaign that runs every January).

With these articles, my aim is to raise awareness, challenge the status quo and invite discussion. If you have any suggestions of topics that you would like me to cover, please do get in touch.

Jo Kidd

### FREE SPEECH

Whilst I generally disagree with the one-sidedness of Veganism, I do look forward to reading the articles from Jo Kidd. I regret not responding sooner to the Veganuary article. Don't get me wrong, I guffawed when I read about living in a

meat free way, but I respect the author as it's her chosen way to live. I choose to eat meat, etc etc.

I enjoy reading all articles in the Hernhill News, even the ones I disagree with. All articles should be encouraged.

Steve Castle

### NO SHORTCUT

I would like to point out that the Mount Ephraim drive is a private road and not a short cut. I and the other households who live within the Mount Ephraim grounds are sick and tired of locals using our drive as a short cut and at high speeds. We have young children and it would be nice

to feel that they were safe in their own garden but unfortunately this is not the case at the moment. Despite signs stating the obvious the amount of people using the drive as a personal short cut is ridiculous. We would be very grateful if this could stop.

Will Dawes

### HERNHILL SCHOOL

Last term seemed incredibly short due to the snow disruption. However we still managed to squeeze a lot in! One of the exciting events that took place was our Inaugural Whole School Music Concert. This involved every child in the school performing to a hall packed with over 150 parents and families during a mu-

sic-filled 40 minutes. Each class performed either a song or a piece of music – we had ocarinas, recorders, percussion and bucket drumming to name but a few! The children and teachers worked incredibly hard over the term to practise their pieces of music, and it paid off!

This term has started off on an equally

exciting note. Over the Easter holiday, our computing suite was redecorated. Gone are the plain magnolia walls and in come walls in the four colours of the Google logo with inspiring words inked onto the ceiling!

We have also started off our term 5 topic of "Oh what a wonderful world!" with the arrival of an incubator and some eggs! There was great excitement and wonder as the eggs hatched last week in school. This week every child will be given the opportunity to hold a chick. Check out our twitter feed for photographs at

[twitter.com/HernhillSchool](https://twitter.com/HernhillSchool)  
–tweet tweet!

Thank you for the kind donations of CDs, sheets of music and even a piano

for our new music room at the school. We are still 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
- Thank you.

A date for your diaries – our September school fete is on Saturday 15th September

Sarah Alexander  
Headteacher

### FROM THE VICAR

Going on a pilgrimage is back in fashion, BBC television recently showed a three-part series tracing the experience of seven celebrities following the pilgrims' route to the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain and the shrine of St James. They were a mixed bunch including TV and radio presenter vicar Kate Bottley, actor Neil Morrissey and entertainer Debbie McGee. As they walked they shared their stories and their beliefs, whether Christian, atheist or humanist, you don't have to have a faith to go on a pilgrimage.

A pilgrimage is a journey, usually on foot or horseback, undertaken alone or in a group, to a special place. and pilgrims set out for all kinds of reasons. On a pilgrimage you know where you are going but have no idea what will happen on the way, it isn't a strategy but an encounter and pilgrims try to be open to what and who they find along the way. So it is more than taking a walk or visiting somewhere special.

Some pilgrimage routes are very old; others are more modern such as the Augustine Camino. 'Camino' is shorthand for 'long distance walking pilgrimage' in-

spired by the Camino de Santiago. The Augustine Camino crosses the Pilgrim's Way a couple of times but is otherwise distinct from it. It is a week-long pilgrimage from Rochester to the Shrine of St Augustine in Ramsgate via Canterbury but we are interested in it because it passes through Boughton churchyard.

On Saturday 12th May we are planning to walk a short stretch of our Camino from Brenley to Harbledown. A small group of us walked it last autumn as a trial run and it is a beautiful walk through woodland, orchards and fields. Anyone who enjoys walking is invited to join us, it is a 'moderate' walk and you need to be reasonably fit. We need to know how many walkers there will be so we can arrange transport as it is not a circular route. We will meet at Brenley Lane at 10.00am and return about 4.00pm. You will need a packed lunch and drinks, please contact Jean (01227 751410, [jeanburrows@jeanius.me.uk](mailto:jeanburrows@jeanius.me.uk)) by Sunday 6th May if you would like to take part, all are welcome.

### CATCHING LIVES

Catching Lives is an independent charity aimed at supporting the rough sleepers, homeless and vulnerably housed in Can-

terbury and East Kent; those who have, for many reasons, fallen through the gaps in society and feel they have nowhere else to turn. Catching Lives does this through the Canterbury Open Centre near Canterbury East Station where they offer basic services such as nutritious meals, showers, laundry and clothing as well as a listening ear and pastoral care. They also work with their clients to help them get access to suitable accommodation and find the motivation to take steps

towards personal recovery and independent living.

Many of us support Catching Lives in practical ways but if you are interested in finding out more about their work we have a mental health worker from the charity coming to speak in our 10.00am Service in Hernhill Church on Sunday 6th May. You are very welcome to come along to learn more.

Revd Jean Burrows

### A GOOD QUESTION

Why become a Canterbury Samaritan volunteer? Can you think of anything more worthwhile than being thanked for "...helping me realise all was not lost" or "...your support has kept me alive"?

With our training you can be there to listen and support people when they need someone to talk to, whatever their problems, without judgement and in confidence. We welcome and value every volunteer, from all walks of life and we need your help.

For more details and information please contact Jessie at

[the.samaritans@btconnect.com](mailto:the.samaritans@btconnect.com)  
or view our website at  
[Samaritans.org/canterbury](http://Samaritans.org/canterbury)

**If you need our help** - Phone: 116 123 (free to call), email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) or visit: 32, Northgate, Canterbury CT1 1BL See our website (as above) for opening times.

Geoff Hall

### DONT MISS IT

The University of Kent Chamber Choir and Sinfonia will be giving a concert in Hernhill church at 7.30pm on Friday 18th May. They are a very talented group of young singers. Under their conductors Daniel Harding and Matthew Cole they will be singing music from across the centuries.

Refreshments will be provided in the interval. You do not need a ticket but there will be a retiring collection. This concert is highly recommended and an opportunity not to be missed.

### HERNHILL OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 1st July 2018  
11.00am till 6.00pm

After missing a year, a few of the gardens in Hernhill, Staplestreet & Dunkirk will be opening to the public again. They will include at least one new one. There will be a selection of about nine small and large private gardens plus one allotment site to visit. Some are within easy walking distance of each other and a few are further apart. They exhibit different styles of planting and garden design at various stages of development. Some will have

children's activities and/or will be selling teas, coffees, cakes and plants. All proceeds will go to the Dawes Community Association and Hernhill Horticultural Society. The cost is £5.00 per adult and £1.00 per accompanied child aged 4 to 16. Programmes will be available from the beginning of June at the Red Lion, Hernhill and the Three Horsehoes, Staplestreet and also on the day from the gardens. All are welcome to come and we look forward to seeing you but please be aware some of the gardens are less accessible than others.

Violet Croll

### **MORE HOUSES?**

So we need more houses! Ah but in the right place is important.

Staplestreet is not the right place for many reasons, and it is not because I live opposite. The proposed development starts at the narrowest part of the road and is also next to a four way crossroad. We already have a rat-run going through the village and the road has restricted visibility in the east direction of Staplestreet.

To use part of an orchard to put two detached bungalows and six houses is taking even more farmland from the 'garden of England'. Someone from 'Rural England' told me that nobody is entitled to a view. I disagree. A view calms the soul and lets us appreciate the world around us. So, please sign our petition against this proposal so that it will go somewhere less dangerous, somewhere more appropriate and with more facilities available.

Chrissie Nesham

### **SCHOOL GOVERNOR REPORT**

The Church of England's vision for education continues to be hugely important at Hernhill School. The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) has an updated frame work and a briefing session for the school governors was held in March to discuss this. The new aim is to be more rigorous, more consistent and more suitable for the new educational landscape, and it is important that we show our understanding of this for the proposed school inspection in March 2019.

Governors are responsible for monitoring the Christian distinctiveness and values of the school. Evidence is gathered through talking to the children, staff and parents, observing collective worship,

discussing religious education, charitable giving, environmental concerns, mental health, anti-bullying and many other aspects.

Collective Worship is very effective at Hernhill. It is distinctly Anglican with children working as part of the Ethos Team to involve the whole school in worship. The demonstration of the school's Christian values (Compassion, Forgiveness, Resilience, Respect, Truthfulness) are rewarded with certificates, charitable giving is supported, worship songs are enthusiastically sung, and bible stories performed. The Ethos Team encourage the younger pupils to write and read out their own prayers and time is given for silence and reflection.

Liz Bisbrown

### **BITS AND PIECES**

At last I was able to cut my grass. For some weeks walking in my garden was like walking on a rice pudding. At least we had the pleasure of seeing the daffodils in greater profusion than last year and the other spring flowers took up their challenge. And then I went away for six days and when I came back the flowers had gone over and I had to cut the grass again. However, the weather on holiday was kind to me. A first in a long time.

I see that there is yet another attempt to 'develop' Plumpudding Lane. This time the application is for George Bell Farm. Despite this being a farm without any obvious agricultural activity, the claim is that building a road through it is essential

to allow tractors to be used.

You will see that on Friday 18th May, the University of Kent Chamber Choir is giving a concert in our church. Having listened to them I can recommend it.

The day after the concert, you can be glued to your TV set to watch the FA cup final or the Royal Wedding. As an alternative you could go to 'Messy Church' at 3.30pm where the theme, inevitably, is weddings. Come in your wedding-guest kit.

Many of you will remember Peter Sadleton who died last year. It has been decided to plant a tree in the churchyard in memory of him. There is to be a blessing of the tree on Sunday 20th May.

ADT

<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 (Catching Lives)
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	UK Choir concert
Sat 19	3.30pm	St. Barnabas	Messy Church
	-----	Windsor Castle	Royal Wedding / FA cup
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
<b>Sun 3 June</b>	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 5	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Fri 8	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Organ Concert
Sat 9	-----	Village Hall	Horticultural Summer Show
	-----	St. Michael's Ch	Kent Assoc Bellringers
Sun 10	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 12	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 16	3.30pm	St. Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 17	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 19	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sun 24	10.00am	Boughton church	Joint Sung Communion
Tues 26	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Wed 27	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**  
**28th**  
**May**

