



# HERNHILL NEWS

## AUGUST 2018

### PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact the clerk for Parish Council business on 07740 706189 or [hernhillclerk@gmail.com](mailto:hernhillclerk@gmail.com) or [hernhillparishcouncil.org](http://hernhillparishcouncil.org)

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

The Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 25th July and attended by six Parish Councillors and several members of the public.

Three planning applications were discussed at the meeting, 18/503116/FULL - Sandown, Church Hill; 18/503366/FULL - 2, Monkshill Cottages, Monkshill Road; 18/503385/FULL - Little Miss Acres Farm, Butlers Hill.

Several residents attended the meeting and a presentation was made of the results of the recent questionnaire regarding proposed housing at a site on Staplestreet. The Parish Council expects to make

a final decision on the matter of housing at Staplestreet at the August Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council has arranged for a free First Aid Course to take place at the Village Hall on Saturday 29th September between 1.00pm - 3.00pm. The course will cover basic life saving skills and the use of the defibrillator. Members of the public are invited to attend and booking is essential as places are limited. Please contact the Parish Clerk for more information and to book a place.

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 29th August at 8.00pm. 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 20th August so that relevant items can be placed on the agenda for discussion.

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Clerk: Sarah Muteham phone 07740 706189  
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Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 752840  
and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388  
KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

## **YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

An especially dry month which suited our local Village Fetes if not our farming community. We attended both Throwley and Selling Fetes during June. The volunteers who put on these Fetes put in an incredible amount of time and effort. It is good when the weather helps them to achieve the results that their efforts deserve.

There has been the usual assortment of interesting meetings this past month. At the rural policing meeting we had an update of police activity in Swale's rural areas, livestock worrying, hare coursing and theft of vehicles from rural farms and houses being amongst the issues covered. It was good to hear that the rural team in the division is to be doubled.

Kent Council Leaders majored on housing demand and the necessary infrastructure required if we are to go anywhere towards meeting that demand. I also spoke on behalf of South East England Council's (SEEC), of which I am an executive member, at a London Seminar on the next steps for the Thames Estuary. This allowed me to stress the major infrastructure needs within Swale especially when the Lower Thames Crossing is constructed. These needs include the planned improvements to the M2 Junction 5 at Stockbury, the widening of the M2 from Medway Services to Brenley Corner and the total redesign of Brenley Corner itself. Not forgetting that if housing numbers continue to grow we need not only better transport links but enhanced health and education provision as well as improved

public utilities, water, waste water, electricity etc.

The following week I represented Swale Borough Council at the SEEC AGM. The new Chairman is Roy Perry the Leader of Hampshire County Council. I was re-elected to the Executive.

Highlights of the Month included a residents' meeting at Teynham organised by Borough Councillor Lloyd Bowen where local Borough and Parish Councillors, the PCSO and representatives of Kent Fire and Rescue Authority as well as myself took questions from residents, mainly from Teynham but including some from Lynsted and also from Norton.

I attended the start of works on the widening of the Lower Road on Sheppey, something the local residents and Swale Borough and Parish Councils have long campaigned for. There was also the "Swale Stars" staff awards evening where the Chief Executive and I present awards to members of staff, department teams and individuals from partner organisations whose work was judged to be particularly outstanding this year. A good chance to say a very well deserved Thank you.

Parish Council's attended in June were Selling, Oare, Dunkirk, Lynsted and Teynham. I also chaired the first meeting of Swale's Joint Transport Board, since I resumed the Chairmanship, which rotates between Borough and County members.

Andrew Bowles

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## **FROM HELEN WHATELY MP**

(Extract)

**Operation Stack** It's unacceptable for

Kent's roads to be paralysed by Operation Stack, so it's vital that we get this fixed. I am also determined that we

end dangerous, illegal lorry parking. With £250 million for an alternative to closing the M20 when there is disruption at the Channel Crossings - there could be an opportunity to both. Highways England have come up with a temporary plan to keep traffic on the London-bound part of the motorway while stacking lorries coast-bound. At the same time they are asking for people's views on what this should be: whether we need a new lorry park, where a lorry park or parks should be, whether they should be run by Highways England or commercial operators, and whether they should be available for overnight parking to help tackle illegal 'fly-parking'. I am pleased that Highways England are moving ahead with a permanent solution to Operation Stack and I want to make sure your voice is heard. So I encourage you to let me know your views to help me form my own response to the consultation

**Brexit** Whether you voted leave or remain, and whatever sort of deal you would like to come out of the negotiations, I hope you will agree that it's important to prevent chaos on the day we leave. The EU Withdrawal Act does this by translating all the EU legislation that we are signed up to into UK law, and I voted in favour of it a few weeks ago. You can read more of my thoughts about it here. As for our future relationship, the Prime Minister set out her plan at Chequers. It's true to the referendum result and addresses problems like disruption to manufacturing supply chains. I've been warned by businesses that customs checks at the border would be difficult to cope with, and if there are delays, we'll bear the brunt of the queues in

Kent. The Prime Minister's proposal ends free movement, ends the jurisdiction of the ECJ over the UK, ends huge payments to the EU every year, and gives us the freedom to make trade deals. This does mean agreeing to common regulations on goods (including food) – the 'Common Rule Book'. But we'd have our own agriculture and fisheries policies, and set our own rules for services – our most important export market worth over £140 billion. I know this won't please everyone, but so far I haven't heard a credible alternative. Some people argue that we should fall back on World Trade Organisation ("WTO") rules. This means trading with the EU on the same terms as non-EU countries – and paying the same tariffs. We do need to be prepared in case of 'no deal' – but I think we can do better.

So this plan is the best chance we have of bringing our divided country together – it respects the referendum result by getting us out of the EU, but it also protects the aspirations and incomes of people whose jobs depend on trade with the EU.

**Solar Farm** Plans for a solar farm the size of Faversham on the Graveney Marshes are troubling. It's the sheer, monstrous scale of this proposal on a beautiful, open-skied, tranquil part of our Kent coast that worries so many local people. Solar energy is important for a sustainable, green future, but this is just huge. I recently visited an exhibition the developer held. They've made an effort with screening and buffer zones, but there's only so much you can do to hide shiny black 4-metre high solar panels. The views for walkers looking inland as they walk the Saxon Shore

Way will no longer be across waving fields, but across rows of industrial solar panels. There are still questions to answer about the impact on wildlife especially birds. The area is a habitat for skylarks – how will they be affected? Finally, what about flood risk? The Environment Agency is looking

into restoring some of the salt marshes in the area. If this doesn't happen, it begs the question of where the water will go instead? I'm meeting the Secretary of State to discuss my concerns this week. I'll need answers to these questions, otherwise I'll be objecting in the strongest terms.

### **CRAFT FAIR**

The Craft Fair at St Michael's Church will be held on Saturday 10th November from 10:30am to 4.00pm. If you would like a table at the fair to sell your goods then please contact Shirley on 01227 751782 and leave a message. 20% of takings go towards the cost of St Michael's Church.

Shane Croll

### **FROM THE VICAR**

I am spending six weeks in August and September in Tanzania, not on holiday but working, teaching English to students in St Philip's Theological College in Kongwa. Kongwa is about ninety kilometres from Dodoma, the administrative capital of Tanzania and lies under the slopes of the Kibolyani Mountains. An attitude of nearly four thousand feet gives it a more pleasant climate than on the coast which is very hot and humid. I visited St Philip's briefly when I was on sabbatical last year and Archbishop Jacob invited me back this year. Swahili is the official national language in Tanzania although a Tanzanian's first language is their tribal language. English is their third language and in secondary school all teaching is done in English. Being able to speak English is important to the students as most of them are training to be church leaders and part of their job is to teach Religious Education in schools. Also English helps with foreign visitors and building up overseas links. For various reasons many students' English is not good enough or they are not confident speakers, even Tanzanians who are good speakers like to practice and im-

prove their English with a native speaker.

I will arrive for the beginning of the academic year and I'll be working with Janet who is British and the college administrator. She went out ten years ago for three months and is still there, she likes it so much. The other person I'll be working with is Judy, an Australian priest who has been at the college about a year. As well as teaching English I'll be doing some work with children and Godly Play. Godly Play is a way of sharing Bible stories using symbols and objects as well as words, wondering questions and an open ended response time. There will also be opportunities for me to share in college life, leading services, preaching, and just being around. Tanzanians love visitors, it encourages them so much to know they are not forgotten and for someone to come from the Canterbury diocese, the home of the Anglican Communion is that little bit more special.

Paulette and Keith will be looking after things while I'm away and the vicarage will still be in use for meetings etc.

If you are interested in hearing about

my trip or learning more about Tanzania you are very welcome to come along to St Barnabas on Friday 28th

September at 7.30pm, Tanzanian snacks will be included.

Revd Jean Burrows

### **SOMETHING IN THE AIR**

I think it's very kind of the farmers who are ploughing in the fields of Nashcourt Farm. They are ploughing in waste paper pulp which comes from the paper mills. I guess they get paid for doing it, why else would they stink out the area. I bet they don't live in the prevailing wind area; I bet the smell is not in their



houses; I bet they can sit in their gardens; I bet they can open their windows on these hot summer days.

It's lovely living in Hernhill, I just can't get outside to see it.

Am I the only one being affected or are there others?

Richard Swan

### **GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE**

Hernhill churchyard is a place held dear by many in our community because the remains of their loved ones are buried there. The churchyard should be a beautiful and dignified resting place reflecting the calm and tranquillity of the surrounding countryside.

The garden of remembrance in the churchyard has been looking very untidy for some time now, mainly because of the increase in pots and containers of flowers, plants and other items, making it very difficult to cut the grass. There should be only one small container with flowers or a plant per memorial tablet which should either be incorporated into the tablet or on the top of it. For health and safety reasons the container should not be glass. Where this was not the case the items have been removed and placed by the

wall of the church. Please do not return them to the garden so it can be easily maintained in the future. You may not be aware that there are strict regulations drawn up by the Diocese relating to churchyards which the Church is required to administer. These include designs for new headstones and memorials in the churchyard and the items which may be placed on ashes plots and graves. This document is available on request or there is a full copy in the church porch.

Grateful thanks to Doreen Jelfs, Paul and Gill Couzens who have been busy clearing, tidying and strimming the area. I would also like to thank John Sim who for many years, until recently, has done a wonderful job tending and maintaining the garden of remembrance.

Peter Willcock

Churchwarden on behalf of the PCC

### **SCHOOL NEWS**

Sitting here in the school on the last day of term and everyone has gone home; I can hear the distant laughter and music from the Year 6 leavers' party taking place in the Village Hall next door. There is a lot to reflect on and to be thankful for.

Hernhill School has had a wonderful

year. The children have worked so hard, behaved so well, brought joy to the school on a daily basis and have demonstrated our school values at every opportunity. They really do make our school. All of the staff have excelled themselves, going that extra mile with their efforts to teach and support the children in their learning. They

have organised and lead the numerous events, activities and trips that make our school such a rich experience for our children. The PTAFAs and all the volunteers have organised, supported and managed so many fabulous events this year. All have brought fun and laughter and raised lots of money! The library renovations, the music room development and the new artificial grass under the wooden trim trail – all paid for from PTAFAs funds.

At our Open Afternoon on Friday last week we were able to celebrate our year with all of the parents, carers and families. It was lovely to see a jam packed hall listening to the children reminiscing about school trips, exciting topics, sports, music and charity events and much much more.

I am sure that next year will be equally exciting and as I sit here pondering on September, please may I take this opportunity to invite you to our September school fete. This will be held on Saturday 15th September at the school from 12:30 to 3:30pm. Everyone is most welcome to come along. There will be lots of performances from the children during the fete and many great stalls to see.

And if you'd like one last example of the sort of fun we've had this year – check out our special leavers' video on our school youtube webpage!

[hernhill.kent.sch.uk/News/Our-special-video-treat-for-the-2018-leavers/](http://hernhill.kent.sch.uk/News/Our-special-video-treat-for-the-2018-leavers/)

Happy summer everyone!

Sarah Alexander  
Headteacher

### OPEN GARDENS

Thank you to all the visitors who came to the Hernhill Open Gardens on Sunday 1st July. It was really lovely seeing you all and thanks a lot for making the day so enjoyable for all the Gardeners. £855 was raised which will be shared equally between the Dawes Commu-

nity Association and the Hernhill Horticultural Society. Thanks also to the Three Horseshoes and Red Lion pubs in Hernhill who sold programmes for us on the day.

Violet Croll  
Hernhill Open Gardens organiser

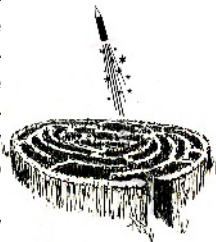
### PRAYER LABYRINTH

This will be in Hernhill churchyard during August.

A labyrinth is a path which leads, via a circuitous route, to the centre of an intricate design and back out again. There is only one route to the centre of a labyrinth unlike a maze which is designed to confuse and get you lost. A prayer labyrinth is a labyrinth used to help us pray, as we walk we might think about loved ones, distractions or burdens we carry. We walk at our own pace and in our own time. There is something in the twists and turns of the labyrinth path that touches the twists and turns in our lives. Its winding

path seems to help us unwind, slow down and be mindful of our thoughts and the promptings of our hearts.

During August we will have a temporary labyrinth painted onto the grass in Hernhill churchyard. Anyone who would like to is invited to walk the labyrinth whenever they like. There will be some simple instructions by the labyrinth to help you and you can do it as many times as you wish.



Revd Jean Burrows

### **SALUTATION GARDENS**

Don't forget the outing to Salutation Gardens in Sandwich (CT13 9EW) on the evening of Thursday 16th August. We will meet there at 6.00pm. We will have a guided tour of the garden and refreshments. The price is £12.00.

Friends, neighbours and non-members are welcome and if you would like to car-share please phone me on 01227 750974 or Rebecca on 01227 751729.

Hope to see you there.

Jill Geliot

### **BITS AND PIECES**

Fortunately, at the beginning of July the drought had not yet set in and gardens in the Village looked very good for 'Open Gardens Day'. (In passing, why is it that when the grass turns brown and withers in the heat, weeds grow through lush and green.) In the event, the open day was a great success. In fact there were more visitors than ever before. On the same day we had the blessing of animals on the Village Green. Last year there were only dogs there, but this year we also had a pony and a hen. I'm pleased to say that all were very well behaved.

The Teddy parachute jump from the top of the church tower brought a wide variety of entrants. By no means were they all Teddy Bears. There were dolls and dogs and sheep as well. All jumped and most landed. Unfortunately some landed in the trees and two on the church roof. Recovery Services will attend in due course. It was a fun day. Barbara has asked me to thank everyone for their good wishes and for their visits and for their cards. I am glad to say that she is making progress although much more slowly than she would wish.

I was privileged to be able to attend the School Leavers Service. It was a very moving occasion. There were songs and stories and laughter and a few tears.

As one gets older and the visits to the GP get more frequent, you come to realize that your genial doctor is in fact a fully paid-up member of Sadists In-

ternational. Early signs come when you are asked for a blood sample. "This is only going to be a little sting". Next stage comes when you are issued with a mind crazing regimen of 'pill taking'. e.g. one per day after meals, plus five per day before meals, plus one every three days at least one hour before a meal, one a month but not at a full moon, etc. If a dose is forgotten or taken at the wrong time, start again. The next stage is when you are required to have little electrodes stuck all over you so that wires can be attached for a heart reading. It is only when the electrodes are removed that you find they are especially designed to pull out every hair. I have now progressed to the next stage, the blood pressure monitor. A heavy box of electronic wizardry is attached on your right side to a belt round your waist. On your left upper arm they fit a large tourniquet. The two are linked by a rubber hose which is specially designed to stick to you in hot weather. The operating cycle begins when the box rings a bell. The pump starts and inflates the tourniquet so that blood is shut off from your left forearm. Whilst this is happening they instruct you that you must sit down and support your forearm. Presumably in case it falls off. This process goes on for 24 hours. During the day the torture happens every 30 minutes. During the night they kindly reduce it to an hourly frequency. Next time you go to the doctor, beware!

ADT

<b>Fri 3 Aug</b>	-----	Mount Ephraim	Pop Concert
Sat 4	-----	Mount Ephraim	Pop Concert
Sun 5	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
	-----	Mount Ephraim	Pop Concert
Tues 7	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sun 12	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 14	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Thurs 16	6.00pm	Sandwich	Salutation Gardens
Sun 19	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 21	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sun 26	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 28	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Wed 29	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
<b>Sat 1 Sep</b>	-----	-----	Horticultural Soc Autumn Show
Sun 2	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion Ringers & Singers
Tues 4	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 8	-----	-----	Ride & Stride
Sun 9	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
	2.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Childrens' Society Fair
Tues 11	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sat 15	3.30pm	St. Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 16	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 22	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Church documents display
Sun 23	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 25	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Wed 26	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Sun 30	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
	4.30pm	St. Barnabas	Time to remember

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**  
**27th**  
**Aug**

