



# HERNHILL NEWS

## SEPTEMBER 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.

A full meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 29th August and attended by six Parish Councillors and 35 members of the public.

Three planning applications were discussed at the August Parish Council meeting,

18/503667/FULL - Unit 7-8 Waterham Business Park;

18/504121/FULL & 18/504122/LBC - Fairbrook House, Staplestreet;

18/502242/FULL - Kemsdale Stud Farm, Kemsdale Road.

The Parish Council voted in favour of progressing the project for an affordable housing development at Staplestreet. The process will include further surveys/consultation prior to any formal planning application being made. The majority of members of the public attending the meeting continued to express their objections to the proposed development at Staplestreet.

A consultation paper relating to proposed double yellow lines at the junction of Staplestreet/Church Hill will be undertaken by Swale Borough Council. This consultation will be directed to houses in the immediate area.

The Parish Council are considering the purchase of an ornate Village sign to be placed in a central location within the Village. If any party is able to suggest fund-raising ideas or offer financial support for such a scheme would they please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

The Parish Council are working to obtain sufficient grant funding to purchase at least one additional defibrillator for the community.

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)

A free first aid course will be held on Saturday 29th September, 1.00pm to 3.00pm in Hernhill Village Hall. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk to book your place as spaces are limited.

Chairman: Tony Chapman 01227 750874

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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

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th September 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 would they please contact the Clerk prior to Wednesday 19th September so that relevant items can be placed on the agenda for discussion.

### **YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

As usual the first week of July started with three days at the Local Government Association Annual Conference held again this year in Birmingham. I would describe this year's Conference as somewhat low key with a little fewer National Politicians present. There was little surprise that three issues dominated the agenda of both the Conference plenary sessions and the fringe meetings. Local Government finance is at crisis point with one County Council already having become officially bankrupt. Closely allied to this is the ever-increasing cost of Social Services. It is already consuming 54% of Council finance and it is rising steeply. The third issue dominating the Conference was housing. Young people find it increasingly impossible to afford a place of their own, whether to buy or rent and consequently homelessness increases. Government pressure to build ever more houses, often on high grade agricultural land, is never popular.

The weather always provides a major item of conversation in Britain. Never more so than in July's heatwave. It was the most prolonged period of hot weather since 1976. Although I did attend the County Show at Detling, I only attended on two of the three days this year. The first day in a semi-official capacity and the Sunday with my wife, daughter and three grandchildren. Due largely to the heat, I certainly saw far less of the Show this year being happy, much of the time, to sit in the shade with a cool drink and watch the events and parades in the main show ring.

I attended plenty of local meetings this month including Parish Councils at Graveney, Newnham and Dunkirk. Together with Faversham & Mid Kent MP

Helen Whatley, I was also at a well-attended meeting of Doddington Parish Council and residents to discuss flooding during the one incidence of heavy rain on the 29th May. I am dealing with similar events affecting residents in Lynsted, Bredgar and elsewhere which occurred on the same day. Many meetings and exchanges of e-mails and telephone calls have already taken place with Kent Highways Flooding Team and with Highways Cabinet Member Mike Whiting. I met the newly appointed Director of Kent Highways together with Councillor Whiting the morning after the Doddington meeting. They have agreed that the County Council will be suitably represented at a future daytime meeting. If there are any residents of other Parishes who suffered on the 29th of May and are not sure that either they or their Parish Council have furnished me with the details, please send me an email or a letter. I have had meetings with residents from both Boughton and from Hernhill to discuss local planning matters. The Executive meeting of the Kent Association of Local Councils which represents almost all Parish and Town Council's in the County also occupied one Saturday morning. I attend as an honorary Vice President, Swale Area Committee was represented by its Vice Chairman, Sheldwich, Badlesmere and Leaveland Parish Councillor David Austin.

There were Full Council Meetings at both Swale and County to attend during July as well as meetings of all Kent County Leaders and of the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership.

In July, with the allocation of Secondary School Placements, I have chaired three full days of Home to School Transport Appeals. There are at least four more

scheduled during August. The month closed with three major publications. Firstly, the Thames Estuary Commission Report into the future of the Thames Estuary in terms of both Economic Development and Planning. There was then the report on the future of Local Strategic Partnerships with suggestions about placing greater powers over strategic planning and economic growth with these private sector dominated bodies. There would be corresponding less influ-

ence for democratically elected Councils and Councillors. Potentially worst of all are the proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework making it even harder for Councils (and residents) to stop unwanted development and development in the wrong places. Plenty of fights ahead for the autumn!

Andrew Bowles  
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**HILARY LISTER**



There are not many small villages such as ours that have a real international celebrity living in their midst. Hilary Lister, who died on 18th August, is to be buried at St. Michael's Church, Hernhill this September. Whenever she could, we were delighted to have her attend Services in our church and proud that it was her wish to have her burial service here. Hilary was a truly remarkable woman. She packed her 46 years with amazing feats of single handed sailing despite being paralysed from the neck down. She sailed across the Channel and round the Isle of Wight. At a second attempt, she sailed round the UK. She succeeded in this 3,000 mile journey despite collapsing and being taken into hospital six times during the four months that it took. She also sailed across the Indian Ocean and around the Bahrain coastline in aid of charity. In an article

for the Sunday Telegraph she explained how it started. "I had been a very active person as a child. I did sport. I played the clarinet. I went to Oxford University and studied biochemistry, and yet at that point I not only couldn't do anything, but I was also in terrible pain. It's so dull sitting here. I just couldn't see the point in continuing, really". Then a friend persuaded her to come sailing, and she found a reason to live. "I was out in the middle of the lake and I had the sensation of movement," she said, "It was as if I was free."

There are many entries on the net under her name. There are pictures of her and on some of the entries you can hear her speaking about her sailing adventures. Her extraordinary determination to conquer pain and her courage to challenge the sea have been an inspiration to all and especially to those with like disabilities. It has been an honour to have met her.

ADT

**COMFORT ZONE**

September already, and transition and change is underway everywhere we look. Neighbours are back from their holidays, children, students and workers in education shoulder the task again, there's a funny kind of feeling in the air as the season turns to Autumn. Not all change feels positive, I know. I'm aware many are heading into September feel-

ing uncertain about what the future holds – for all kinds of reasons. I'm feeling reflective – can you tell? – Just over three years ago, I came to work for the churches in Boughton, Hernhill and Graveney as Curate. Now it is time for me to move on. When I arrived I was completely out of my comfort zone. I had to learn everything from scratch – where things were, how rural

parish life works; the seasonal rhythms of the churches, villages and the farming work, and where all those little country lanes lead! I was a stranger and it felt like an enormous challenge. But the warmth of the welcome I received in the villages and their church communities, and the willingness of everyone to show me the ropes meant that soon this became a place where I felt comfortable. But it was of course (and isn't it always), in the challenges and through working beyond my comfort zone that I grew and learned the most. On the one hand, we seem to need momentum, transition and change in order to flourish. However, we also need to feel anchored in some way to the things that give us the confidence and security to cope with that change – I wonder what does that job for you? Perhaps your loved ones, or maybe your faith, or your sense of home?

Now, I'm moving on from the familiar once again, to new challenges. Over

and over again in the Bible, God calls people to him then sends them off to new places, to grow, to love, to share the good news and the ups and downs of life with others. God is always doing something new. And, crucially, over and over again God promises to be there the whole time - as steady as a rock for all those who will trust him with the direction of their lives as they go. I know from experience that it is this that will keep me steady and anchor me through the times of change ahead. I'm counting on it!

To those who have been a part of my learning and growing during my time here; to all I have met and worked with in the churches, schools and villages and who have allowed me to come alongside through the joys and sorrows of life - in baptisms, marriages and funerals: thank you – it has been an immense privilege and I have loved every little bit of it.

Rev'd. Paulette Stubbings

### SCHOOL FETE

An important date for your diary. Saturday 15th September is the date of the Village School Fete. The school always produces a really good fete and I have no doubt



that this will be well up to standard. It will have all the traditional stalls, games and demonstrations by the pupils. A fun afternoon from 12.30 to 3.30pm.

Don't miss it.



### CRAFTS CENTRE

After 40 very successful years, the Hernhill Crafts Centre has finally closed.

It all stemmed from a concern that John Dawes had. He felt that we were forgetting how to make things and that country crafts in particular were being lost. After a great deal of preparatory work and registration as a charity the Crafts Centre opened on 1st September 1978. Bill Dawes generously made the Stable Block at Mount Ephraim available at a peppercorn rent. Betty McKeever became the President, John Dawes was Chairman and I was delighted to be Vice-chairman. Over the years the Cen-

tre has provided instruction in many crafts; spinning, weaving, knitting, rug making, basket work, iron work, wood turning, potting and more. Recently members have been contributing a wide variety of craft goods for sale in the shop. The building is again needed by Mount Ephraim. We have been very fortunate to have had it for so long. Without this free accommodation, like many shops, the Crafts Centre is not economically viable. However, much has been achieved. There are many who continue to do craft work who would not even have started without the encouragement of the Crafts Centre.

ADT

### **OLD VILLAGE & CHURCH DOCUMENTS.**

The key to an old metal chest in the vestry, which has been missing for years, has recently been found and we have discovered the contents of the chest. There are maps and documents relating to the old tithes that were paid to the church, many familiar local family names and well known parts of the parish are mentioned but areas known as "Little and Great Madam's Green", "Scabby Brains" and "Yankee Doodle" are not so recognisable. There is also a lot of correspondence and information on the old school from the 1920's up to and including world war two. The church documents are from the 19th

century and include a 1937 letter from the rural dean saying it would be better if the three painted windows, depicting the story of Joseph, in the south aisle were removed! It all makes fascinating reading and gives an insight into the social history of the parish. As many of the documents will have to go to the cathedral archives the Parochial church Council want to share them with the local community before this happens. They will be on display in St Michael's Church on Saturday 22nd September from 10.00am until 4.00pm. Admission is free. Refreshments will be available during the day. We hope to see you at this one-off event.

Peter Willcock.

### **HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

We had a lovely outing to the Salutation gardens on Thursday 16th August. It poured with rain in the afternoon but cleared in the evening much to our relief. We had an informative tour of the garden and even those who had been before were amazed by the clever planting and lush growth and the grass was GREEN. The gardener assured us that they had not watered it. The evening ended with tea and home made scones in the dining room overlooking the garden. This is a garden that you could revisit at different seasons.

Our next event is a quiz on Saturday 13th October in the Village Hall at 2.00pm to start promptly at 2.30pm. Entry is £3.00 towards the cost of the hall hire and tea/coffee and home made cakes will be served. Friends, neighbours etc are all welcome and there will be a prize for the winning table. six people to a table but come up and we will organise you on a table if you haven't got six. This will be a general knowledge quiz so you don't need to be Monty Don to know all the answers.

Jill Geliot

### **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, as soon as possible, contact Shirley on 01227 751782 and leave a message. 20% of takings go towards the costs of St Michael's Church.

Shane Croll

### **A TIME TO REMEMBER**

A Service of prayer and thanksgiving to remember those who have died will be held on Sunday 30th September at 4.30 pm in St Barnabas

All are welcome to attend this service but personal invitations will be sent to

those who we know have been bereaved over the last two years. During the Service, the names of our loved ones who have died will be read out. If you would like a name included please contact Rev. Jean Burrows on 01227 751410. All are invited to stay for tea and cake after the service.

## BITS AND PIECES

August has not been a good time. I have three deaths to record in the month. Hilary Lister's death is reported on page four. I also have to report the death of Elspeth Holdstock. She has not been resident in the Village for some time, but when she lived here she was very active in the Village. She helped in many Village events and for a period she was church warden at St. Michael's. The other death was that of John Gransden. He died on Saturday 25th after a long and distressing illness. He had many friends in the Village who will very much miss him.

I have been asked about the source of the reports on the Council Meeting that are printed in the 'News'. These articles are produced by the Clerk to the Parish Council. The full minutes are available on the Council website and the Council notice board which is on the Village Green.

On a personal note, Barbara is home at last. Very much limited in what she can do until her leg heals fully but pleased to be out of hospital. I know the feeling.

It seems that our refuse collectors have found a new way of disposing of our rubbish. They load it into one of their refuse collection lorries, drive it to Kemsdale and then set fire to the lorry. I can't tell you where the remains of the lorry go. They towed it away before I could ask.

Driving round our narrow lanes is always hazardous, but the recent spate of road closures has not helped. Trying to go from Dargate to the church turned out to need a round trip via Boughton.

As if that were not trouble enough, I was truly caught on another day. I was coming home from Whitstable. Just after the very sharp bend in Plumpudding Lane, I was stopped by a bus. It was prevented from progressing towards Hernhill by some sort of obstruction. With difficulty I was able to turn round, drive to the Thanet Way and return home the long way round via the Fostall. That was OK except that at Woodlands, I had to pull over for that same bus which had got clear of the obstruction and was now coming towards me.

Judging by the audience numbers, the 'New Day Festival' at Mount Ephraim was a great success. The music covered sounds from the sixties and seventies but also included folk music and music for violin and piano. The food was cheap and good; the weather was brilliant throughout. What could have been better?

After a long period of refurbishment, the Dove has opened its doors again with a new landlord/ chef. William She-now-Brady is the chef and Sophie Webb is the manager. Why not give it a test drive?



This September there was to have been an event in aid of the Childrens' Society. That has had to be cancelled. In its place, there will be a special stall to raise funds at the Crafts Fair which takes place in November. The Childrens' Society collection boxes will be gathered in then.

Last but not least, there will be a once only exhibition of documents in the church on Saturday 22nd September. There is more information earlier in this issue.

ADT

<b>Sat 1 Sep</b>	-----	-----	Horticultural Soc Autumn Show
Sun 2	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Morning Service Ringers & Singers
Tues 4	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 8	-----	-----	Ride & Stride
Sun 9	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 11	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sat 15	12.30pm	Herhill School	School Fete
	3.30pm	St. Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 16	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Morning Service
Tues 18	-----	-----	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	Morning Service
	4.30pm	St. Barnabas	Time to remember
<b>Tues 2 Oct</b>	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sun 7	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Patronal Festival
Tues 9	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sat 13	2 00pm	Village Hall	Hort Soc Quiz
Sun 14	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 16	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 20	3.30pm	St. Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 21	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Harvest Festival
Tues 23	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sun 28	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 30	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Wed 31	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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