



HERNHILL NEWS

APRIL 2022



HERNHILL FETE



SATURDAY 7th MAY

starting 2.00pm at the village hall

Live music with Andy Bennett's Jazz Quintet

Kent Scouts' climbing tower

Bar and Barbeque

Delicious teas

Maypole dancing by Hernhill School

Welly Wanging

Plus an exciting surprise to be revealed on the day

PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact the Clerk for Parish Council business on 07876 221580 or hernhillclerk@gmail.com. Full copies of the approved minutes for meetings are available on the Parish Council Website.

There was a full meeting of the Parish Council attended by six parish councillors, the clerk and two members of the public on Wednesday 30th March.

Planning applications: 22/500449/ Installation of 8 EV charging bays and 4 new jet wash bays at the BP petrol station, Thanet way. Councillors had no adverse comments.

22/501006/ Erection of single storey

glass canopy. Stable Barn Annexe, Crockham Lane. Councillors had no adverse comments.

22/501068 Demolition of Thatched Cottage, Staplestreet Road, Boughton and replacement with two detached houses with parking and access. This site is on the edge of Hernhill parish boundary and a prominent landmark in the area. Councillors were unanimous in their objection to the destruction of this historic dwelling and to its replacement by inappropriate development. This is an attractive cottage. The thatch was due for replacement, but has recently been removed, with the building open to the sky, stripped

Chairman: Cllr Heller

Clerk: Rebecca Parr 07876 221580

e-mail hernhillclerk@gmail.com

and left open to the elements to deteriorate. The Parish Council consider this building to be a non-designated heritage asset. The building is originally seen on the 1840 tithes map where it is the first building located on the western side of that stretch of road. Thatch cottages are rare in this area given the predominance in that period of the use of Kentish Peg tiles. Many of the earlier buildings along the western stretch of road are single storey, modest buildings of the local vernacular utilising weatherboarding all of which add character to the street scene. The Parish Council feel very strongly that the building should not be demolished but restored. If the Borough Council agree to its demolition, then the Parish Council consider that the proposed development of two detached houses on the plot is an over-development of the site. Any new build on the Site, should be the same height and footprint as the current building, using materials in keeping with the local vernacular.

22/500858 Change of use from agricultural land to residential garden. Claremont, Church Hill. Councillors had no adverse comments.

Faversham Showground Application for limited premises licence. Councillors supported the application unanimously.

The following planning decisions were recorded: Creation of wildlife pond to attract great crested newts at Acorns Dargate. Permitted.

Change of use of stable outbuildings to holiday let Myrtle Farm, Kemsdale Road. Permitted.

Erection of dwelling of exceptional quality of design. Walled garden Mount Ephraim, Staplestreet. Permitted.

The following matters arising from pre-

vious meetings were discussed: Affordable Housing: English Rural reported a further delay in expected completion of the building, now to be July, due to gas supply problems.

Broadband: Cllr Page once again updated the members on the progress of the various groups applying for improved broadband in the village. The Dargate group have established a community interest company and are now waiting for vouchers to be validated. It is very unlikely that the rest of the village group will now be able to take advantage of the present rather complicated scheme as it ends on 6th April and to date no further progress has been possible. Hopefully a simpler area based government supported programme will replace it however it is uncertain when Hernhill would benefit.

Litter Pick: About 15 parishioners took part in the litter pick on 26th February. Thanks to all.

Queen's Jubilee: A request for a temporary road closure between the Red Lion and the village green for the duration of the picnic and music on the afternoon of June 4th has been made to KCC.

The Parish Annual meeting will be held before the next full meeting of the Parish Council at the village hall on Wednesday April 27th at 7.15pm in the village hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend. At the annual meeting we hear about all the year's exciting activities of the many village organisations and interest groups, it is always well attended and fun. If you are not able to attend the meeting in person but still wish to make representation to the Parish Council, please e-mail or telephone the Clerk as soon as possible, but ideally a minimum of three working days before the date of the meeting, and the Clerk will ensure

that your views are fully considered under the public participation section of the meeting.

George Wilson development have requested to attend the next parish council meeting to update us about their plans for the drive in on Plum Pudding Lane, which is at the pre-application stage. Interested parishioners may wish to come and find out

more.

The Faversham Family bike ride will take place on Sunday 8th May at 10.00am. Details on the website.

The New Day Festival will return to Mount Ephraim 19th-21st August with setting up and dismantling in the few days before and after. The usual, much appreciated, concessions will be offered to parishioners.

SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL Update on the Local Plan

The Local Plan Panel meeting on the 24th March will receive two reports on progress of the local plan. The council made the decision not to proceed with the version of the local plan published in early 2021 under regulation 19. Instead, a further "Issues and Preferred Options" consultation was undertaken under regulation 18 in November last year. This allowed further consultation on changes that may be necessary due to revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework and representations made during the previous consultation.

The first report is on the main issues raised during the regulation 18 consultation. A number of representations from residents supported not providing the number of new homes required under the method imposed by Government to calculate the local housing need. The constraints of the natural environment, flood risk, and infrastructure limitations were cited as evidence to support this view. Unsurprisingly, developers argued that such constraints are not unique to Swale and that this approach would slow economic growth, make affordability worse and hinder delivery of infrastructure improvements. If the Council were to argue that the full local housing need cannot be met, the local plan-

ning inspector would be forensic in their examination of the evidence put forward to justify this position.

There was no clear agreement on the preferred distribution of development across the borough. Issues raised included the capacity of highways, wastewater treatment, health, and education, and the effect on air quality, landscape character and the loss of agricultural land. Kent County Council, the highways authority, highlighted significant detrimental impact on traffic, air quality, and the ability to achieve an increased use of walking, cycling and public transport for local journeys. The second report sets out the next steps in the local plan review. The inspector's report on the (current) adopted local plan identified capacity deficiencies in the local and strategic road network that would need to be mitigated. As a result, the council undertook high-level traffic modelling in collaboration with Kent County Council and National Highways prior to the regulation 19 and 18 consultations. At the time it was concluded that there were no "show-stoppers". The results of more recent finer grained modelling produced surprising results, which showed significant impacts at some key junctions. There are no obvious development strategies that could deliver the local housing need number without adversely affecting these

transport corridors. This challenge will require further traffic modelling as the council must leave no stone unturned in its attempt to deliver the local housing need.

It is anticipated that a further Regulation 19 consultation can take place in

the early autumn. This will be confirmed in the late spring.

Tim Valentine
TimValentine@swale.gov.uk
07752 191807
Alastair Gould
AlastairGould@swale.gov.uk

KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

At the KCC annual budget meeting in February, the administration put forward their proposed budget for the 2022/23 financial year. For a variety of reasons, they are in the unenviable position of having to balance the budget to provide more services each year for a growing population with increasingly complex needs; and do so with less money, because although council tax increases each year, the amount received from central government usually falls.

One of the administration's proposals was to cut the current level of subsidy provided for bus services across the county by £2 million. Opposition groups put forward various amendments to try and prevent this cut from going ahead, but sadly were unable to get it removed from the budget. Unfortunately for Swale East, a fair amount of the services proposed to be cut are rural services, and a number of them serve the villages and parishes across our area.

A consultation on the future of these services opened on 20th February and will remain open until 20th April. It can be found online at

letstalk.kent.gov.uk/bus-funding-reductions

or

tinyurl.com/kentbus

on most web browsers.

If you use these services, please respond to the consultation so that your voice is heard.

The services in Swale East in line for cuts are;

Kent Karrier (formerly known as Dial a Ride), this service provides a vital lifeline for elderly and vulnerable residents in communities such as Throwley, which are already without a bus service. If the other services listed below are cut, then demand (and the need) for the Kent Karrier service would increase hugely.

Chalkwell.

No. 8 - serving Sittingbourne, Bapchild, Teynham and Conyer

332 - serving Deans Bottom in Bredgar parish

343, 344 & 345 - serving Newnham, Doddington, Lynsted, Conyer, Teynham, Bapchild, Sittingbourne and Bredgar

And the following school services

662 - serving Teynham, Lynsted, Doddington, Newnham, Ospringe and Faversham

664 - serving Conyer, Teynham and Lynsted

666 - from Faversham to Sheldwich (The 666 Stagecoach bus from Faversham to Ashford will remain in service)

I will be working hard to raise awareness of these proposed cuts over the coming weeks as I believe that the social and environmental costs of losing these services greatly outweigh the financial savings they represent.

I will also be working with officers at the council as I believe the currently stated financial savings have been overestimated. One argument put for-

ward for cutting services has been that bus usage is only at 70% of pre-pandemic levels, but figures I've seen suggest that these routes are seeing 89% of their pre-pandemic passenger numbers, which underlines their importance to our communities.

I will be holding drop-in sessions at the locations and times below for anyone that would like assistance responding to the consultation.

Saturday 2nd April
Rodmersham Village Hall - 9.30am to 11.00am

The Ship, Conyer - Midday to 2.00pm
Saturday 9th April

Newnham Village Hall - 9.30am to 11.30am

Doddington Village Hall - Midday to 2pm

Rich Lehmann
rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Yes we are still here and are looking forward to getting back to some sort of normality. Here are some dates for your diary.

Saturday 23rd April - AGM 2.30pm in the village hall. The business meeting will be followed by some sort of entertainment and refreshments will be served. If you would like to join the committee please let me know. We can always do with fresh ideas. I am hoping that the officers are willing to stand again but if you would like to nominate somebody new, again please let me know prior to the meeting. Hernhill used to have quite a few societies and we are one of the few survivors so please support us. New members are always very welcome - just turn up at the AGM.

Saturday 11th June - Summer Show. Staging in the morning, judging over

lunch and open viewing in the afternoon. If you still have your 2020 schedule that is what we will be using. New copies will be available at the AGM.

Thursday 14th July - Coach Outing. The coach has been booked to take us to Wakehurst Place. Friends and neighbours are very welcome – the more we have the cheaper it will be. This is a National Trust property. More details later but put the date in your diary.

Saturday 3rd September - Autumn Show.

We are conscious that we may have to alter these dates because of the dreaded Covid but let's be positive. Anyone new to the village, if you like gardening, give us a try. We are a very friendly informal society.

Jill Geliot

SPRINGTIME AND EASTER

Spring has arrived in our gardens and the surrounding countryside. The miraculous season of rebirth, with flowers and trees emerging from winter's slumber, the bees, butterflies and dragonflies take to the breeze once again and creatures both big and small nurture a new generation of babies. The days grow longer, the nights warmer, and the skies bluer and the

biggest celebration in the Christian calendar is coming.

In the northern hemisphere, Easter and Spring are inseparable which is, probably, why Martin Luther is purported to have said "Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

The flowers of spring will be used to decorate our churches for Easter,

bringing a welcome splash of colour after having none during Lent. Yellow will be one of the predominate colours with daffodils, primroses and forsythia. Besides being the colour of spring, the gold shades represent Christ's glory and his victory and triumph over death. Our 10.00am benefice Easter Day service will be in Hernhill Church this year, the first time there has been an Easter Service in the church for two years because of the pandemic. Making it more special, the Bishop of Dover, Right Reverend Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin is presiding and preaching. We are delighted and honoured she has asked to take the service because we are still without a vicar. (*The process of recruiting a new priest is still in progress*). The service will be joyful and celebratory as it is the happy ending of the story which started a week before on Palm Sunday with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The crowd welcomed him by waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna!" but within a week these shouts changed to "Crucify!" following his betrayal and arrest.

Our Palm Sunday Communion service, with the blessing of palms, will be at Boughton Parish Church on Sunday 10th April at 10.00am.

On the Thursday, Jesus celebrated the Feast of the Passover with his disciples and Judas Iscariot betrayed him, Peter denied him three times and he was mocked and beaten by the soldiers who arrested him. The following day, Pilate condemned him to a terrible painful death by crucifixion.

The Last Hour of the Cross, a quiet, reflective service between 2.00pm and 3.00pm will be held in Graveney Church on Good Friday.

At the time, some may have thought that was the end of the story but we know it wasn't.

In John's Gospel, Jesus' last words on the cross are "It is finished". He doesn't say I am finished, that phase of his earthly life may have finished but there were greater, world changing things to come in a couple of days time.

During Holy Week, there will be a wooden cross on the village green. This will be the third year it has been there and as with "Carols on the Green", at Christmas, we want to make it a regular feature for the village. The cross will be bare through the week but at the Easter Day service it will be decorated with flowers in celebration of Christ's glorious resurrection. The congregation are invited to bring a flower or flowers to the service to decorate the cross. Anyone is welcome to place flowers on or around the cross after the 10am service. As well as celebrating the resurrection, flowers can be in memory of a loved one who has died. Messages and prayers can also be left. Please help to transform a symbol of death, darkness, pain and hopelessness into a symbol of resurrection, new life and hope.

May the miracle of Christ's resurrection fill your hearts with love, hope and joy this Easter.

Peter Willcock
Churchwarden
St. Michael's Hernhill

ENJOY SINGING?

Ever thought of joining a traditional church choir.

The churches of Hernhill, Boughton and Graveney are looking for new

members to join their choir. You do NOT have to be a trained singer and can sing as often or as little as you like at the regular Sunday church services, church weddings etc.



Choir practice takes place every 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings each month (7.00pm for 45 mins) at St Barnabas Church Hall, Boughton High Street.

Feel free to come along to see what we do. All are welcome.

We are also looking for a choirmaster. If you know anybody who may be interested please make contact.

If you require any further information, please email:

stuneame@gmail.com

Chrissie Daniels

GARDENERS WORLD

Spring has started, thank goodness, and the weather forecast is predicting sunshine for the next week. I'm sure that many of you feel as I do and are grateful that winter is now behind us. All that wind and rain. But now that spring is here, mind you, I don't think that the Mulberry or Indian bean trees are convinced yet. There is a little spring in our foot steps and the sunshine brings a little smile to our face.

As I walk around the garden there is much to like and give thanks for. First there was the camellia, shame about the frost back in February that makes the white flowers go brown. But on the up side even now there are still loads of buds waiting in the wings to come out. Funny that the frost does not effect the pink ones they are still looking beautiful two months on. One lot of daffodils were out in January, bless their little cotton socks, but on the whole most of them are yet to flower. It brings a smile to my face at this time of year watching when the daffodils, large & small, show their smiley faces. They look lovely indoors too. Some tulips have flowered and gone, the primrose are a joy to behold, not forgetting the snowdrops and for us a drift of snowflakes originally from Alan's garden. Also it's

wonderful to see the early cherry blossom.

I've planted some broad bean plants out plus some seeds, if there is any more frost, like the recent one, I may have to put fleece over them. They were a little droopy in the morning but by 10.00am, with the sun on them, they were all standing straight. I gave them a little feed and water to help them a long the way. Last year's were not that great so I will be giving these more TLC this year. Been planting lily bulbs since earlier in the month, just done the last of them now. I have planted many young plants that were sown from seed last year, they are tiny now but come summer they will be looking lovely. Instead of buying some of my sweet pea plants like previous years I've sown all of them myself this time around. Not sure if there will be any space for them as the broad beans have taken their space over. I have also decided to give a bed over to growing lavender. The bees are going to have a great time.

The garden is starting to look lovely now, most days there is something new starting to pop their little heads out. I have noticed that some of the foxgloves planted outside in the autumn are not looking as good as those raised under cover and then

being planted outside now. The weather may have been too much for them, poor things.

The garden beds are having their mulch done now, all home made garden compost. I remember one year when the mulching was all done it rained for days after and it was all washed away. But that's nature, you just have to work with it. You have to smile!

I realise that many folk might be out and about now but we're still not mixing, still waiting for when it's safe to do so without having to worry about anything. During this pandemic, like

many others, we are spending more time in the garden, be it be a tiny garden or an allotment do enjoy them as there is nothing like growing your own things.

Oh well that's all from Avalon now until next time. Whatever you do enjoy your garden or open spaces.

We'll be opening for the NGS (National Open Garden Scheme) again this year in May, June, July and August, but no teas and cakes, booking via their website, ngs.org.uk please.

Best wishes
Violet Croll

APRIL CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 3rd April

10.00am Shortened Holy Communion, Hernhill followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 11.00am. Rev'd Ros Parrett.

Sunday 10th April - Palm Sunday

10.00am Holy Communion, with blessing of palms, Boughton. Rev'd Sharren Ireland.

Good Friday, 15th April

2.00-3.00pm Last hour of the cross-a quiet reflective service, Graveney.

Sunday 17th April - Easter Day

10.00am Easter Celebration Communion, Hernhill. The Bishop of Dover, Rt. Rev'd Rose Hudson-Wilkin.

Sunday 24th April

10.00am Morning Worship, Hernhill.

10.30am Holy Communion, Graveney. Rev'd Peter Ould.

Wednesday 13th April

10.30am Wednesday Worship, St Barnabas. A short service followed by refreshments.

The flag of Ukraine is now flying from the church tower.

A member of our church family donated the flag and suggested it should be flown to show our support. It will be flying every day, but will be replaced with either the Union or Diocesan flag on Christian festivals, royal birthdays/anniversaries and special days in the life of our nation.

THREE HORSESHOES CRICKET CLUB

Christmas Draw

This took place as usual just before Christmas and the main prize, a hamper full of seasonal goodies, was won but has not been claimed. It currently resides in the club's President's kitchen and may well get eaten/drunk if the winner does not come forward.

We think the winning ticket may have been purchased on 7th or 8th of December. The name "Burton" was entered against the winning number and despite enquiries nobody seems to know who Burton is. If you do, please contact me on 07484235126 preferably by text as the reception where I live is rubbish.

We would like the rightful winner to

benefit but some of the contents are dated so need consuming within the next month or so. If not claimed the

hamper may be raffled again or auctioned off for charity.

Clifford George

DARGATE FIBRE APPLICATION **URGENT**

Voucher Validation Deadline 6th April!

Thanks to the amazing efforts of Michelle Harris and the support of the community to pledge the government Gigabit Vouchers, we are now progressing to the next stage of our application for installation of fibre to properties between Hernhill School and into Dargate.

The next stage is for us to validate the vouchers that we have pledged. What does this mean? Quite simply, if you pledged a gigabit voucher as a business or residential property, you'll receive an e-mail from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) asking you to confirm that the value of your voucher can be used by OpenReach, and that you agree to sign up to an ultra-fast fibre broadband service once the fibre is available. This e-mail will go to the address you provided when pledging the vouchers, and is just confirming to DCMS that you are pledged.

We are being assured by OpenReach that e-mails will be sent from

DCMS

(gigabit.vouchers@notifications.service.gov.uk) sometime in the week commencing 28th March. Please look out for it in your 'inbox', including in your 'junk/spam' folders, and action as soon as you see it. Crucially there is a looming **deadline of 6th April** that the voucher validation must be completed by, otherwise we run the risk of the project not happening! Clearly we don't want to miss out on this opportunity to bring fibre broadband to Dargate within the next 12months.

We are nearly there to get this project off the ground, we just need this one last effort from everyone to get past this really important milestone.

We will drop more information through doors, and provide regular updates on the both the Hernhill Forum Facebook Group and the website where you can sign up for regular updates

hernhillforum.wordpress.com

If anyone has any questions then please contact me at

paul@marshy.org

Paul Marsh

HERNHILL CE SCHOOL NEWS

March has been a very special month for Hernhill CE School. We celebrated being 150 years old!

On the 1st March, the Bishop of Dover, the Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, joined children, staff, parents and members of the local community for our special 150th anniversary collective worship. Unfortunately our plan for an outdoor worship held in the

playground were scuppered by the rain and mist. However, this didn't stop us! With Years 5 and 6, parents and visitors in the hall, all the other classes joined us via zoom and we were able to see each other on the big screen. During the worship, Bishop Rose spoke to the children about 'life in all its fullness' and commented on their deep and thoughtful responses. We were also delighted to display the

original school bell which had been carefully looked after by the Jakeman family since the school moved from the old building. Huge thanks to them. Bishop Rose blessed the bell which we hope to have renovated so that we can put it back into use at school.

We had a special 150th anniversary exhibition at school during the first week of March. Thank you to the many people who e-mailed and sent in photographs and memories of being at the school. We were delighted to be able to display some materials from the Maidstone archives and Canterbury Cathedral documenting the history of our school. More photos can be seen at our twitter account.

twitter.com/HernhillSchool.

I hope everyone who visited enjoyed looking at all the displays.

On Friday 4th March (our actual birthday - Hernhill CE School opened on 4th March 1872 with 73 pupils), we

continued the celebrations. Children and staff came to school dressed in clothes from any era from 1872 to 2022, and we had a brilliant selection of outfits. There was a special birthday lunch, a fun filled lunchtime where the children played lots of Victorian games including Kick the can, Tug of war and Pass the slipper. There were seven birthday cakes (one for each class thanks to Jayne in the kitchen!) and a commemorative 150th anniversary teddy bear for each child and staff member to keep. The day was topped off with three bouncy castles in the hall paid for by the PTAFA which were enjoyed by everyone!

Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate. Here's to the next 150 years.

Sarah Alexander
Headteacher

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

My dear friend, who got married last year, was at my house recently & I said, "Don't forget to take your husband's birthday card home with you". She looked horrified and said, "That's not yet surely". With only two days to go, thankfully, catastrophe was averted. She has started a new job as a cook in a care home. So far, she has managed to fill the sugar pots with salt, serve fishcake burgers instead of chicken burgers & didn't realise that custard should be hot. One of the dishes they serve is cowboy pie. To date, I haven't found anyone who has ever heard of it, apart from Tesco who apparently sell it.

For my birthday my husband wanted to buy me a new phone. Being an android fan, we finally agreed on the

model. I can't tell you how amazing the lady at Tesco, Faversham was. In only 45 minutes she had transferred all my data and apps onto the new phone. That would have taken me weeks, so thank you to her.

We went with our dear friend to London for my birthday trip up the river. Champagne, drinks in a rooftop bar and an amazing lunch at London's oldest restaurant "Rules". Just imagine, that restaurant was selling oysters in Napoleonic days!

As the weather has turned, I was delighted to get out and Hoover my lawn. So much easier than mowing. With this change in season, I am glad to say that my winter fat will now turn into spring rolls.

Stay safe & God bless,
Sandi.

BITS AND PIECES

To say nothing about Ukraine would be to ignore the plight of a remarkable people.

I have some small experience of what it is like for them. Throughout the Second World War I lived on the outskirts of London. I can remember being pulled out of bed in the middle of the night to be rushed to our Anderson shelter in the garden. I can remember the noise of the guns and the bombs and the shrapnel screaming down. At one point our house was seriously damaged by a bomb that killed 11 neighbours in the houses opposite. I remember being upset but I was probably too young to really understand or to be truly afraid. My major upset came when an incendiary bomb destroyed the sweet shop on the corner. All of this is but part of what is happening to people in Ukraine. They have all of horrors that I can remember plus they have shortages of food, water, medical supplies and very cold

weather without heating. Their determination to reject defeat is incredible and worthy of our best help and support.



I must not let notice of the village fete pass without comment. Shut down for two years due to Covid restrictions, the committee is determined that this new start will be especially good, a treat not to be missed.

It will be a wonderful opportunity for the village to come together and at the same time financially support the village hall and our village church. See you there.

ADT

REFUSE COLLECTION

April	5	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	12	Tuesday	Green Bin
	19	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	26	Tuesday	Green Bin
May	3	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	10	Tuesday	Green Bin
	17	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	24	Tuesday	Green Bin
	31	Tuesday	Blue Bin

Alan D. Taylor
 Yew Tree House, Dargate
 near Faversham, Kent ME13 9HG
 01227 751293
 e-mail newsadt@gmail.com



**PUBLISHED BY
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HERNHILL PARISH
COUNCIL**