



HERNHILL NEWS

April 2023

THE VILLAGE FETE will be held on Saturday 13th May

PARISH COUNCIL

If you have a suggestion: you can contact the Parish Council Clerk on 07876221580 or hernhillclerk@gmail.com.

Full copies of the approved minutes for meetings and updated news are available on the Parish Council Website

Hernhillparishcouncil.org

The March meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 29th in the village hall. It was attended by the clerk and seven parish councillors, councillor Alistair Gould (SBC) and seven members of the public.

Elections: Local elections will be held on Thursday 4th May. This includes elections for Kent County Council, Swale Borough Council and the parish and town councils. We urge anyone interested in joining the Parish Council to fill out the nomination papers, available at www.swale.gov.uk or ask our clerk for assistance. Deadline for submission in Tuesday 4th April. Everyone please note again that this is

the first election in the UK that photo ID will be needed in order to exercise your democratic right to vote! Passport, driving licence or bus pass is acceptable. If you don't have any of those a 'voter authority certificate' can be obtained online from www.gov.uk or a postal application form from Swale council. Don't lose your vote!

The Neighbourhood Plan: A successful meeting was held on Wednesday 1st March attended by 23 parishioners. All agreed that we wished to move forward with the process by establishing a steering group to agree terms of reference and to keep a note of those who wish to contribute. The group will produce a questionnaire to canvas concerns and ideas from all local residents, the results of which will shape the content of the plan. A further meeting will be held on April 19th, once again in the Red Lion, with thanks to Simon.

Planning: The Parish Council is allowed to comment on plans submitted to Swale and publicly available

Chairman: Cllr Barbara Heller
Clerk: Rebecca Parr 07876 221580
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to view on Swale planning portal
pa.midkent.gov.uk/online

Application 23/500935: The Old Forge, Plumpudding Lane, Dargate Conversion of agricultural building to one bedroom residential dwelling. Councillors voted by majority, to object to the application on planning grounds,

Application 22/504625: Cairo Lodge, Butlers Hill, Dargate. Previously considered application with revised details. Councillors agreed that the previous objection should remain.

Planning decision: The application for a Glamping pod at Mount Ephraim has been approved.

Roads and speeding: Councillor Page has continued discussions with KCC highways about our attempts to get speed limits placed on traffic through Hernhill. The plan to extend the speed limits to cover the school and Fostal junction, has been conceded to some extent, at least to just past the school. The council agreed to ask KCC to continue the process and that we confirm that the necessary funding will be found. It was also noted that any problems with roads such as potholes, overhanging vegetation etc can be reported by members of the public online via the KCC "report a problem" portal.

Queen's Green Canopy The Oak tree in the school grounds and flowering cherry in the churchyard have been planted accompanied by commemorative plaques. The sites have been added to the national website: Map-The Queen's Green Canopy (queensgreencanopy.org)

Electric Vehicle charging points: There will be funding in the coming year for the planned charging points in the village hall. The village hall committee are reviewing the licensing agreement and plans with KCC.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held before the next Parish Council meeting starting at 7.15pm April 25th at the Village Hall. At this meeting representatives from all the groups and organisations in the village come together to share their news and activities from the past year. All are welcome to attend. The Parish Council meeting will follow. If you are not able to attend the meeting in person but still wish to make representation to the Parish Council, please email 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.

**SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Travel and 'sustainable'
development**

The problems with Dunkirk Hill being closed has again highlighted the

problems of getting an adequate bus service and will have pushed some people to travel by car instead. However, when it comes to planning for new homes, we are of-

ten told that developments need to be "sustainable", which is the idea that one's daily needs could be met without the use of a car. This raises the question, what does a realistic alternative to using the car mean?

We feel it ought to be that public transport, and the cycling and walking network, are so good that using them would be the obvious thing to do. This might mean that buses came every 15 minutes or less, and cost less than it would to use the car. They would run from early morning to late evening so shift workers could use them, they would be clean and comfortable. Cycling routes would be safe from traffic so all ages could use them with confidence and not be intimidated by fast and close-passing traffic.

Very often we are told that restrictions on development on highways grounds can only come if safety is involved, but this always seems to mean that there has to have been some injury or fatality before action can be taken. Apart from the fact that this is an approach to safety that would be unacceptable in any other sphere, it also is a very narrow definition of safety, and does

not take into account the damage done by increased emissions, both of CO₂ and other pollutants, and the damage to health done by time sat in cars rather than being active: even if it just walking to the bus stop. A recent study showed that just 11 minutes walking a day could cut the risk of early death by 10%. It is a huge challenge to provide high quality public transport and walking & cycling routes in our rural ward. Swale Borough Council has been working on plans to improve walking and cycling routes in the 'Parishes to Town' project started through the Eastern Area Committee. It is critical that a better model to fund rural public transport must be found. This is a challenge for all levels of government, but it must be met if local plan policies for sustainable development and a transition away from the car for local journeys are to be anything other than empty promises.

A better way of getting about is possible!

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Alastair Gould
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KCC COUNCILLOR

I've decided to write something a little more philosophical this month as I've been reflecting recently on the role of councillors in local government with regard to what they should do when their personal or political opinions differ from those of the residents they represent.

At council level there is rarely an issue. If a resident reports a pothole or needs help with an issue relating to schools, highways or any of the other things KCC is responsible for, I will do my best to get that issue resolved as quickly as possible. Similarly, with the seemingly never ending line of planning applications

that come through for massive housing estates and 'garden villages', my views align with residents.

There is little conflict for me in most cases relating to housing. The Greens are the only major party to have avoided setting nationwide annual building targets, instead stating that "Housing provision targets should be based upon housing needs surveys produced or commissioned by local authorities". In 2020 a housing needs survey in Faversham concluded that the town almost exclusively needed one and two bedroomed houses, but more than half of the houses included in the latest version of the Duchy Estate proposals would have three, four and five bedrooms.

One slightly more 'grey' issue that has come up for me recently is something that I was initially firmly on one side of. In Teynham, a popular foot crossing over the railway is currently subject to an emergency closure, with Network Rail hoping to close the crossing permanently and divert the public

right of way. To me, this seemed like an unnecessary move as the number of recorded 'near misses' over the past few years was shown to be relatively few for such a well used crossing. I have now been shown some images which show that some local youths have been behaving very carelessly around the crossing, which has drawn me more to the middle of the debate.

My personal belief is that the enjoyment and convenience of the majority should not be spoiled by a tiny minority; and I still believe that Network Rail could, and should, do more to improve the safety of the crossing rather than simply close it. However I can also see that their desire to close it is not simply a box ticking exercise and that there is a genuine risk to safety if it remains open without any new safety precautions. In this case I will be encouraging local residents to respond to the public consultation, which will be opening soon, and will support the majority view.

Rich Lehmann
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STORY TELLING

As I sit at my desk looking out of the window of my new study I suddenly realised that I didn't need the expensive blind that I had brought for the sun was shining right through it and that, at last, spring was coming. We all know how much better we feel when the sun shines and things start to warm up, whether we are sitting in the garden or somewhere where it is hotter, it

gives us the opportunity to get out and meet other people for a chat and a get together.

In the Acts of the Apostles we read about Peter talking to others, Christians and Gentiles telling stories and spreading the word of God and the new life that Jesus promised. When my children were young we used to play story tapes in the car on long journeys. From what I can remember they sat very still right

through entire books like 'The Railway Children'. Something about the stories drew them into a whole new world. As long as they were living in that world it had them in its power. Even the simplest of stories can do this. My wife loved a good autobiography and she played them while she was ironing, again it took her into another world.

Jesus himself of course told stories a good deal. The parables were designed to woo people into a different world. A different way of looking at things. When the story finished the listeners were left somewhere quite different from where they had begun. They had changed because their way of looking at the world had changed. No matter how it was told they could make it shorter or longer but always with the same decisive ending of course. Whichever way it was told, it carried the power of a

new kind. It had all the power of a good story, the novel, the parable, the story tape in the car.

Of course the world is constantly changing and we have to learn to live in that world despite all the problems that we are faced with. The horrors of the war in Ukraine or the devastation of the earthquake in Turkey. The Apostles themselves had their own problems; they were persecuted and ridiculed but the one thing that gave them hope was the promise of new life that Jesus had given them. The new life and hope that Easter brings. The Apostles themselves went on re-telling the stories which Jesus had told, but they quickly found that they had another story to tell which was even better; the story of Jesus himself.

Keith Clark
Reader

HERNHILL SCHOOL

Freya (Y5) and Imogen (Y6) worked together to produce this report for the Hernhill News

In term 3, Years 5 and 6 learned about the First World War. During this topic, we found out about soldiers and what their lives were like in the trenches. We researched war artists, including Paul Nash, and also learned about a man called Walter Tull, who was born in Folkestone and recognised as the first black officer in the British army.

Towards the end of the topic, we walked up to Hernhill church to find

out more about people from the local area who had fought and died during the First World War. Inside the church, we saw the plaque of a man called Frederick Horn, who died in the Battle of Ypres, and also found out about some of the other soldiers named on the war memorial. We took our sketchbooks and sketched the war memorial too!

A huge thank you to Joy, who saw us at the church and loaned us a wonderful folder with so much information about the people who lived locally during WWI - we found out so much! Thank you again, Joy!

Mrs S Alexander
Headteacher



THE CROSS ON THE GREEN

A cross has been placed on the village green during Holy Week. It will remain bare through the week to remind us of Christ's suffering and death on Good Friday.

On Easter Day it will be decorated with flowers in celebration of the resurrection. Anyone is welcome to place flowers on or around the cross on Easter Day to celebrate the resurrection or in memory of a loved one. Prayers and messages can also be left. Please help to transform this symbol of death, darkness and pain into a symbol of resurrection, new life and hope.

HERNHILL CHURCHYARD

Clean-up day

St Michael's Churchyard at the centre of the village is a place of history and beauty with the church and views across the Kentish countryside. For many in the community it is a place held dear because the remains of their loved ones are resting there. For others it is an area of beauty and tranquillity for walking through. To keep it maintained in good order for both visitors and locals, a small group of

volunteers from the church organise clean up days to weed, prune, sweep and generally tidy up.

The first one for this year is on

Saturday, 22nd April

from 10.00am to 12 noon.

Many hands make light work, so more volunteers from the community will be very welcome.

Tasty refreshments available for the workers. If possible, please bring your own tools.

Peter Willcock
Churchwarden

APRIL CHURCH SERVICES

Palm Sunday 2nd April

10.00am Hernhill Sung Communion with blessing of palms and narrative reading of The Passion. Venerable John Barton

Good Friday 7th April

2.00pm-3.00pm Hernhill Last hour of the cross. A quiet reflective service.

Easter Day 9th April

10.00am Boughton Easter Celebration Communion.

Wednesday, 12th April

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

Sunday, 16th April

10.00am Boughton Morning Worship

10.30am Graveney Holy Communion Canon Norman Woods

Sunday, 23rd April

10.00am Hernhill Benefice Sung Communion. Rev'd Jon Marlow (A shortened Service followed by the annual church meeting at 11.00am)

All are welcome to our services.

THE SHOW GOES ON

Admittedly, it wasn't as big a deal as raising the lights and curtains once again in the West End. However, the return of our show hopefully takes us one more step towards a return to normal life. It will allow our members and friends a chance to socialize, gossip and have a cuppa. They will also have a chance to spend silly money on bunches of wilting flowers and curse, mutter and swear about the judges decisions and the exhibitor's choices and methods.

In all seriousness, our annual shows are a major part of the whole raison d'etre of our Horticultural Society. Without them the Society would, in

all probability, fold. Some may well say that that outcome is long overdue. However, there are still enough (and I thank them all) who masochistically enjoy exhibiting and competing to keep the Society alive for the time being.

A rough calculation brings the combined life experience of our committee to over 600 years! Don't knock it. It works and so do we. Having said that, we do really need the addition of new blood, new ideas, new experience and new interests. We could do with a few more years-worth to help us along.

Mark

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Spring Show 2023

In spite of the very late spring there was a good show of daffodils and flowering shrubs. The pot plants were impressive and the cakes and flower arrangements were well supported.

The cup winners were:

•Best bloom - Tony Bentley

•Best home economics - Barbara Stone

•Best fruit and vegetable - Doris Thomas

•Best floral art - Jean Wilson

•Best photograph - Kim Wakes

•Best pot plant - Mary Gransden

•Most points for daffodils - Tony Bentley

•Childrens prize - Sophie Monje

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

We took part in the first quiz night at the Red Lion and came joint 4th. In truth we were in 1st place in the PC quiz, but to be fair so was everyone else!

My book club chose a book called Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell last month. It had won numerous awards and was Richard & Judy's book of the year. Well, if Amazon had let me give it zero stars it would have been too much. It was obviously above my pay grade.

We took my Aunt out for lunch to

celebrate her 80th birthday. She had just got back from the Maldives where she was snorkelling with whale sharks, nursing sharks and dolphins. I only hope I am half as game as her at that age. According to Google there are 196 countries in the world and she has visited 117 of them. Amazing lady.

I celebrated my birthday this month and we had lunch at The Oxo Tower in London. Fabulous place with great views and brilliant food. Highly recommended. Did you know that to open an Oxo cube properly, you

open out both flaps and squeeze the cube to break it up and it comes out easily? I didn't, I have been picking bits of foil off it for years. Also, if you

combine nitrous oxide and Oxo it makes you a laughing stock!

Stay safe & Happy Easter,
Sandi.

BITS AND PIECES

The weather doesn't seem able to make up its mind. Cold, rain, sunshine then more of the same. However it is now less cold and I can put the hot-water bottle back in the cupboard.

In the garden the Spring flowers are beginning to bloom. Between the days of showers, I was able to grab a day in which to cut the grass. This was much to the satisfaction of Lizzie, our daschshund. With very short legs and a low-slung undercarriage, she objects strongly to walking on long wet grass.

Strikes are still with us and on the continent, but thankfully not with violence as they are in France. Nominally theirs are all about increasing the retirement age by two years. Our retirement age has been in-

creased much more than that without a murmur. Never-the-less, our strikes have still been very disruptive for many. I have suffered a little by having an appointment with my surgeon delayed by a month because of strikes in the NHS. Others have had far worse problems. The sooner things settle the better for all our sakes.

And that applies to the current problems with banks. As I write, following the problems in the USA and with Credit Suisse there is now concern about the liquidity of German banks. We certainly could do with a little peace and quiet in the money markets. I console myself with the knowledge that we have been there before and come through. I believe that we will do so again.

ADT.

BIN COLLECTIONS

April	4	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	11	Tuesday	Green Bin
	12	Wednesday	Brown bin
	18	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	25	Tuesday	Green Bin
	26	Wednesday	Brown bin
May	2	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	9	Tuesday	Green Bin
	10	Wednesday	Brown bin
	16	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	23	Tuesday	Green Bin
	24	Wednesday	Brown bin
	30	Tuesday	Blue Bin

Alan D. Taylor

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