



HERNHILL NEWS

August 2022

PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact the Clerk for Parish Council business on 07876221580 or hernhillclerk@gmail.com. Full copies of the approved minutes for meetings are available on the Parish Council Website.

The July meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 27th July in the village hall. It was attended by six Parish Councillors, the clerk, and nine members of the public.

Planning: Application: 22/503431 Lawful development certificate for the use of single storey flat roof extension replacement of rear outbuilding 12 Swale View, Hernhill. Councillors had no adverse comments.

A number of parishioners have expressed their concerns about the proposed drive through McDonalds development adjacent to the Thanet Way. Objections can be made through the Swale Borough Council planning portal or in writing to Swale.

Affordable Housing: English Rural continue to finalise the allocation of the affordable properties to those on the Swale housing register who have connections to Hernhill Parish or adjoining parishes. The landscapers have confirmed that the exit to the new hole in the hedge will indeed be placed in line with the hedgerow and to be of materials and design sympathetic to the sensitive site.

Village Speed Limits: Councillor Page summarised the three year history of

the Council's attempts to set up speed limits on traffic through the village which all agree are long overdue. Traffic surveys have been done but progress has stalled as a new project manager for KCC is awaited. Meanwhile Cllr Page has arranged a further meeting with KCC on 4th August.

Councillor Vacancy: The council is sad to report that Steve Castle has resigned. We thank him for many years of service to the council both on this present stint and previously. His wisdom and common sense will be greatly missed.

Following the submission of the statutory notice to Swale Borough Council and advertisement on the parish website and noticeboards, we were very pleased to receive two applications to fill the vacancy from parishioners. Since at present there is only one vacancy, a ballot was held at the meeting, as a result of which Sandra McGuigan was invited to join the Parish Council.

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday August 31st at the Village Hall.

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.

Chairman: Cllr Barbara Heller
Clerk: Rebecca Parr 07876 221580
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SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Roads Closures. The number in the ward sometimes makes it seem that the utility companies are trying to make it impossible to get home. It is understandable that they must close roads, to put in broadband connections, renew a gas main or fix a burst water main. But it seems to be becoming common for the "Road Closed" signs to stay up when no work is being carried out and there is no reason why the traffic can't use the road. On many occasions the road is not actually closed at all. This casual disregard for the residents has knock-on effects, like the bin lorries not being able to complete their rounds. This issue has been raised with KCC and our County Councillor Rich Lehmann is also pushing for better coordination.

Member's Grants. Each member of Swale Borough Council is allocated £2400 each year which they can grant to community projects in the borough. In the past we have made grants to projects which support families with autism, the outdoor gym at Boughton, community Christmas meals, Faversham Pools, wildflower planting in Sell-

ing etc. The scheme for this year has just been announced so if you know of a good local cause that would appreciate a helping hand, do apply. Further information can be found at

swale.gov.uk/news-and-your-council/grants-and-funding/members-grants

The Local Plan. This plays an important role in determining where development of housing and infrastructure takes place. The government is imposing a requirement on Swale to add 10,000 new homes to the current local plan. The formal plan is opened up for public consultation (known as Regulation 19 Consultation), before the final plan is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. The final stage involves examination in public by the Planning Inspectorate. The Council has now published a timetable for the Regulation 19 Consultation to take place in October or November.

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Alastair Gould

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KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

There are two updates this month. Firstly, a piece on an excellent local campaign which has the potential to open up a safe cycling route between Faversham and Whitstable, and then an update on the situation with KCC's bus subsidy cuts.

The Solar Cycleway is the brainchild of a keen cyclist and local campaigner from Graveney. He came up with a great idea to try and get something positive out of the hugely unpopular solar farm scheme in Graveney by campaigning for the developers to include a cycle path across the site, leading from the creekside path in Faversham across to The Sportsman at Seasalter.

This would make cycling from Faversham to Whitstable significantly safer, as cyclists would no longer have to navigate the fast, winding sections of Seasalter Road from Graveney up to the coast.

I have been working with the Solar Cycleway team over the past year to see what is possible in terms of the laws relating to public rights of way, and our hard work is beginning to pay off. Sus-trans, the national cycling charity are now on board with the scheme and keen to assist us, and the scheme has the support of KCC, Swale Borough Council, Faversham Town Council, and the two MPs whose constituencies the path would be in (Helen Whately and

Rosie Duffield).

Despite the strong support from every local authority, the developers have so far not budged and not met with us to discuss the idea of allowing a cycle path, but we now have a chance to employ people power to get the Solar Cycleway on the agenda. Although the decision on building the site was taken by the government, the developers now have to get some final details agreed with Swale Borough Council before they can proceed with construction. One of these details is a traffic management plan, which makes no mention of the danger their construction traffic will present to pedestrians and cyclists on the Seasalter Road.

Their proposals are currently on the Swale Planning Portal and we are hoping that enough responses about the need for walkers and cyclists to be considered in the plans will put the topic firmly on the agenda. If you would like to respond in support of this project, for more information please visit Solarcycleway.com

Bus subsidy cuts. Despite councillors from all parties presenting strong argu-

ments against the council's proposal to cut £2.2m from its bus subsidy budget, the administration at KCC have moved forward with this decision. This will have a huge impact on our area, leaving many villages without access to regular public transport.

I am in talks with officers at KCC and other opposition members to see if it's possible to have the decision looked at by the Scrutiny Committee. If we are able to do so, a Scrutiny meeting will take place in early August. I will report the outcome of the meeting in my next piece, and also provide updates via my Facebook page-

[Facebook.com/RichLehmannSwaleEast](https://www.facebook.com/RichLehmannSwaleEast)
Assuming the cuts go ahead (which now seems likely), the only public transport option remaining for some villages will be the Kent Karrier service. This costs £3.50 per return journey (regardless of whether you have a bus pass or not) and requires booking in advance. I will write more about the Kent Karrier in the next piece, or if you would like to find out more, search online for 'Kent Karrier Swale'.

Rich Lehmann
rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk

WAKEHURST PLACE

On a pleasant July's day, a shiny red coach collected a group of eager members of the Horticultural Society and their friends from the car park at Mount Ephraim to visit Wakehurst Place in Sussex. The start of the journey was somewhat stuttering as the nearside wing mirror of the coach was loose enough to be moved by the hedges of the narrow Hernhill lanes and the door of the coach had a mind of its own as to whether it would open or not. However, after a brief period at the entrance to Mount Ephraim, the driver had won the battle and off we went. After an uneventful journey, we arrived and each embarked on their chosen plan of how

to spend the day. For some of us this meant an immediate visit to the coffee shop, others strode forth into the spacious grounds. One member challenged the speed of walkers with the electric scooter he had booked. At the end of the day we had all enjoyed ourselves and contrary to most coach outings the return journey was almost as noisy with chatter as the outward one (no dosing off for this lot). Thanks to Tricia Chapman for making the arrangements.

This was our first outing since 2019 and it brought back memories of previous outings and members. In particular, I thought of Helen and Peter Bentley. Peter was always larger than life, crowding

the coach with plants that he had bought at the plant stall, getting into scrapes such as going on a rusty seesaw and staining his trousers in an embarrassing place. Helen always looked on calmly with raised eyebrows. Alas

Helen has fallen victim to Alzheimer's and Peter cares for her devotedly. We may not see them now but they are in our thoughts.

Jill Geliot

HERONS

On 9th July, the entire Herons' Community gathered for Presentation Day to celebrate the season's successes. We would like to acknowledge all of our prizewinners and thank all of our volunteers and sponsors. See you in September!

Coaches Player of the Season

U7's Millie Smith
 U7's Louie Lopez-Lightowler
 U8's George Perrott
 U8's Layla Cassell
 U9's Harry Hadlow
 U10's Ollie Hodges
 U10's Len Kelly
 U11's Josh Piercy
 U12's Alex Soffe
 U13's George Clark

Players Player of the Season

U7's Harry Feaver (split)
 U7's Max Dowling (split)
 U7's Jack Appleton
 U8's Joseph Sparkes
 U9's Joe Sidders

U10's Lewis Donaldson
 U10's Charlie Foxall
 U11's Alfred Bowman
 U12's Ethan Horton
 U13's Will Davies

Most Improved Player of the Season

U7's Blake Godden
 U7's Benjamin Wang
 U8's William Wates
 U8's Ethan Barnes
 U9's Harvey Harding
 U10's Liam Terry
 U10's Max Packer
 U11's Poppy Perrott
 U12's Owen Chaplin
 U13's Asa Roberts

Sportsperson of the Season

U7's Seb Goodall
 U7's Calder Francis
 U8's Olivia Adlem
 U9's Ollie Bruce
 U10's Dylan Hawkins
 U10's Thomas Willmott
 U11's Jack Wilmshurst
 U12's Zeki Altun

JOHN SIMS' 100TH BIRTHDAY

On the 30th June the sun shone & there was a wonderful party on the village green to celebrate his 100th birthday. His family would like to thank everybody for helping in whatever way for the amazing afternoon, whether it was providing food or just being there to help him celebrate this special landmark event. Also to the village for the amazing presents. Some people do need to

be especially thanked. Joy Pritchard for organising the party in such a special way as only she can. Peter Wilcox for arranging & participating in the bell ringing & the speech he gave. Doreen Jeffs for the flower arrangements. Vicky & Mike Hodgekiss for the loan & erection of the marquee.

Thank you all once again.

Diana, Jon, Ann, Graham & of course
 - the man himself!

HERNHILL SCHOOL

The end of term at Hernhill School has certainly been a busy one. Sports day at the end of June was a wonderful

event with lots of different sporting activities in the morning, such as javelin, tyre roll, tug of war and egg & spoon, followed by races in the afternoon.

What made the day even more fantastic was the presence of parents and carers who were able to spectate and join us for a picnic lunch. Congratulations to Hawking Team for winning the overall day.

The following week was extremely exciting with the delivery of the sand for our playground sand pit - all 20 tonnes of it! We were delighted to have been able to purchase such a huge amount of high quality play sand which was all thanks to the generous sponsorship from our 24 sponsored cycle. And our children did an incredible job of transporting the sand into the sand pit, in thousands of trips using small buckets! The sand pit has been a real hit in our playground in the last few weeks of term and enjoyed by children in all year groups.

Our new sand pit has been part of our playground development plan and for those who walk around the village hall field and look through our gates, you will see additional exciting changes to a part of our school field. Each class was given an area to develop and this has seen a pirate boat zone, a WWI trench, a couple of slides and a Loch Ness monster

made from tyres, among other things, appearing! We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Summer Lees Farm for their generous donations of logs and cable reels! We are very, very grateful.

In the last full week of term, we had our OPAL play project audit and are delighted to announce that we achieved the Platinum award. This means that Hernhill is providing some of the best play opportunities for our children compared with schools across the country.

And last, but by no means least, onto our fabulous Year 6 children. They ended the term with an incredible production, performed on the two hottest days of the century! And they delighted us with their memories and singing at our leavers' service. They did us and themselves proud and we wish them every success on their move to their secondary schools.

Have a lovely summer everyone and we hope to see you at our PTAFA fete on Saturday 17th September, Noon 3.00pm

Sarah Alexander
Headteacher

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 7th August

10.00am Holy Communion, Hernhill
Rev'd Ros Parrett

Sunday 14th August

10.00am Holy Communion, Boughton
Rev'd Sharran Ireland

Sunday 21st August

10.00am Morning Worship, Hernhill

Sunday 28th August

10.00am Benefice Holy Communion,
Graveney

Rev'd Peter Ould

Wednesday 10th July

10.30am Wednesday Worship, St Barnabas, Boughton.

A short service, followed by refreshments

All are welcome to our services.

It is now over a year since Reverend Jean Burrows retired and the process of recruiting a new priest continues. We look forward to being able to confirm an appointment has been made but, unfortunately, have no idea when that will be.

It is with regret that the Flower Festival in Hernhill Church advertised for the August Bank Holiday Weekend has had to be cancelled. It is hoped to be able to re-schedule it for 2023.

Joy Pritchard

CHURCH OAST CHARITY TABLE

Our horror at the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and the suffering faced by the country's people is in danger of being diluted by other news brought to our attention by the media. The courage and fortitude of the Ukrainians continues. I

have been able to donate £400 to the appeal with income from the charity table and it would be wonderful if we could raise at least £500. If you have a glut of produce or spare plants they will be most welcome as of course are buyers.

Jill Geliot

A word of thanks to local farmer, David Figgis, for ensuring that the hedges and banks surrounding all of his land in the village are so well maintained. Not only does this make the village look tidy, but

it also serves to make it far safer to drive through as roads are wider. Thank you very much.

Roger Ralph

THE COOLEST PLACE IN HERNHILL

During the recent heat wave, do you know where the coolest place in Hernhill was? It was St Michael's Church, those thick 15th Century walls kept the overpowering and stifling heat out. Walking into the church on the first day of the red alert warning felt as good as entering any air conditioned building, and it's more environmentally friendly. Having the church open every day is wonderful. It is open to everyone for private prayer or to just sit and relax in the peaceful and cool surroundings. If you have never been inside the church or have recently moved to the area, why not come and have a look.

As a building, the church is an important part of the heritage of the parish. It is one of the few churches in Kent which is still wholly in the perpendicular style and is well worth a visit. There is a lot to see, including unique and interesting stained glass dating from the 15th to the early 20th century. The oldest glass was originally installed during the Wars of the Roses by the Martyn Family, who were responsible for the rebuilding of the church in the 1400's. It is said the glass has survived because it was hidden at a local farm during the merciless attacks on churches by Oliver Cromwell and his supporters. It contains the sun in splendour, the heraldic symbol of King Edward IV and the white roses of York. Such royal symbols would definitely have

been destroyed by Cromwell. In the south aisle windows are late Georgian painted glass cameos of Old and New Testament stories which were probably copied from earlier Mannerist paintings by amateur artists. The lower panels were painted in 1836 by Cassandra Handley, the wife of the vicar, and show the Old Testament story of Joseph. The story is being told pictorially two years before the battle of Bossenden Wood when, according to Reverend Handley, most of the people involved in that tragic event were illiterate. These panels with the other biblical scenes are examples of the "poor man's bible" i.e. works of art in churches to illustrate bible stories for those who cannot read.

The chancel window is the work of Michael O'Connor, a student of Thomas Willement, known as the "father of Victorian stained glass" who lived in Davington Priory. The window is a fine example of the gothic revival, inspired by John Ruskin and Augustus Pugin.

The east window in the Dawes Memorial Chapel in memory of Mary Henrietta Dawes is the work of Henry Holiday, a famous Pre-Raphaelite artist who, at just 15, was admitted to the Royal Academy. His work can be found in Southwark Cathedral and Romsey Abbey. In Westminster Abbey, the Isambard Kingdom Brunel memorial window is by Holiday. Our window shows three separate scenes from the Acts of the Apostles – The young Timothy with his mother Eu-

nice and grandmother Lois; Priscilla and Aquila, described by St Paul as "fellow workers in Christ Jesus"; and Dorcas who lived in Joppa and was good at sewing and making clothes for the poor. All the women portrayed in the three scenes were involved in some way with the early church. Having so many women featured in a church window was very unusual in the 19th century. However, Henry Holiday was a supporter of women's suffrage and a friend of Emmeline Pankhurst. When the window was installed

in 1877 it cost £130 and Henry Holiday was paid £36.

We are very fortunate to have such a wide and varied range of stained glass in Hernhill and it is there for everyone to enjoy and admire. A booklet is on sale in the church at £1.00 which provides a detailed guide of all the stained glass, including things to look for which could be easily missed without prior knowledge, and relevant biblical references for each scene.

Peter Willcock

GARDENER'S CORNER

While walking round my garden during the recent heatwave I was struck by the state of some of the wilting flowers which seemed to be saying to me, "We can't tolerate this heat even if you give us water". When the heat subsided they perked up (like me!). This led me to thinking about what would our gardens look like in 50 years' time – would we have gardens then?

I found the media coverage of the heatwave excessive and annoying, almost creating a competition as to how high the temperature would go and where. I also find demonstrations that cause inconvenience to others and potentially create dangerous situations counterproductive in bringing to my attention the likely devastating effects of climate change. However, seeing my garden in such distress made me think about the future.

In the 18th century designers of great gardens and parks such as Capability Brown had a confidence and belief in the future. They could visualise how the growth of trees over the next 100 years and the spread of plants would create certain vistas. Could we do that now?

We have gardens to provide visual pleasure, to grow food and maybe at the back of our minds is the thought that we have created something that can be enjoyed by others in coming years. Ariel photos of parched meadows and gardens lead me to think that in 50 years' time lawns will be a thing of the past. The types of plants we cultivate will have to have been modified to withstand heat and drought. Will gardens be replaced by woodland at best or scrubland at worst?

In my opinion, part of the present situation is due to lack of past investment in technology such as using "brown water" for agricultural purposes, desalination of sea water and pumping water from those areas which have lots of rain (in the west) to the dryer areas in the east all of which you can see operating in other countries. I am conscious that the few things I can personally do is a drop in the ocean compared to what we are told needs to be done and theories (often confusing or conflicting) as to how this can be achieved. We certainly need to cherish what we have now.

Jill Geliot

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

What a busy month it has been. John's 100th birthday party on the green was brilliant. What a lovely day was had by all.

My husband continues to have problems

with his back, but finally listened to me and changed his osteopath. I don't think the previous one was doing much good and the climb up two flights of stairs to get to her wasn't helping.

We attended a family day & baptism at

Lincoln's Inn. So funny to see such high-powered lawyers getting excited over an egg & spoon race, although being highly competitive is obviously a requirement of the job.

Whilst waiting for my husband who was attending a hospital appointment, I had the chance to do a good deed for someone. After, when I returned home, I realised I had dropped my Kindle out of the car. I returned to the car park not having much hope of finding it. When I arrived, the gentleman in the parking office immediately asked if I was looking for a Kindle.

My Mum was right, if you do good things, you get good things back.

I took Peter to the NoMad Hotel in London for his birthday lunch. "Wow", is all I can say. It is situated in Bow Street on the site of the old Bow Street police station & magistrates court. My gorgeous husband can now say he is a Bow Street Runner, or perhaps Shuffler!

The two hottest days of the year so far this month. Crikey, my iceberg lettuce melted and the cats asked for a mice--cream cone. Stay safe & God bless.

Sandi

ROYAL DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

To mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty there will be a talk and display of royal commemorative china in Hernhill Church on Friday, 9th September at 7.00pm.

The items on display will be from the Re-

gency period to the 21st Century, commemorating royal births, coronations, jubilees, weddings, royal tours, deaths and other important events. Some are rare pieces from a private collection.

Refreshments.

Retiring collection for church funds.

BITS AND PIECES

After the happy events of last month, this month has not been the greatest. It has been a bit like, "After the Lord Mayor's show.....".

News about the Ukraine has not been good. A welcome agreement with Russia for them to permit grain shipments, a day later was ruined by their bombardment of Odessa. For those interested in party politics, we now have the struggle for a new Tory party leader and Prime Minister. Prices are still going up and more groups are threatening to strike. To add to the frustration, you can't even leave it all behind and get away for a holiday abroad. There is chaos at the airports and at the

ferry terminals.

Meanwhile we sweat in the heat and humidity. Whilst it is bad enough for us, we have not suffered as much as some. The conditions in central England have been particularly harsh and there have been many instances of serious grass fires. One, in Essex, led to nine houses being totally destroyed with the residents having to run for their lives.

Under the existing conditions we must all be especially careful and aware of the danger. If, in the end, our only problem proves to be wilted plants, we should be very grateful.

ADT

REFUSE COLLECTION

Aug	2	Tuesday	Green Bin
	9	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	16	Tuesday	Green Bin
	23	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	30	Tuesday	Green Bin
Sep	6	Tuesday	Blue Bin

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