



HERNHILL NEWS

AUGUST 2023

PARISH COUNCIL

The June meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 28th in the village hall. It was attended by the clerk and six parish councillors, councillor Alistair Gould (SBC) and two members of the public.

Kent Police: PC Gary Morris introduced himself as our new local copper. He holds regular surgeries for local Swale borough residents. The next one will be in Boughton library on August 15th from 10.00-11.00am. Villagers are welcome to pop in to share any concerns. He can also be contacted directly by email:

gary.morris@kent.police.uk

He also explained about, 'My Community Voice', a messaging service that helps Kent and Medway residents, businesses, and community groups to keep in touch with their local policing teams. The service sends updates by e-mail or text message about your local area directly from the police officers themselves. You can sign up to join the service at

www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/

Gary reported local crime statistics for June and July, during which time there were no burglaries, thefts or incidents of violence against persons in our parish. Councillors and members of the public brought up issues of dangerous driving in Waterham and parking on the slip road at Dargate and Gary agreed to

investigate.

The Neighbourhood Plan: The next meeting of the informal working group will be held on 16th August at 7.15pm upstairs in the Red Lion. All welcome. The agenda will be circulated in advance to those who have agreed to share their e-mail addresses and will be on the web site and notice boards. There is now a new tab on the parish council website for all matters about the neighbourhood plan, whilst the group works to develop its own website. The next meeting will work on plans for publicising a larger public gathering and information sharing in October.

Planning: The Parish council is allowed to comment on plans submitted to Swale and publicly available to view on Swale planning portal

<https://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online>

Application 23/501777: Erection of annex ancillary to main dwelling, Crockham Farmhouse. The council have previously objected to this development in terms of over-development of the site, the size of the building and uncertainty about its purpose. The council agreed by majority to continue to object to the application on similar grounds. Concerns were raised by parishioners about work being undertaken on the ruins of Crockham Oast site. In addition to extensive site clearance and utility works, a very large chalet home has now been installed. The council have

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not been informed of any planning applications for development of the site so agreed to request information from the borough planning team.

Allotments: The council conducted the annual inspection on 14th July. In general the allotments are looking in good fettle. We were unhappy about the new gate and have since had Quinneys re-set it and applied chicken wire to discourage rabbits from entering underneath. We were delighted to report that the council has been successful in our grant application to Kent Community Foundation. We have been awarded £2000 from the Amity Allotment Fund to replace the fencing.

Oakwell drainage redux: Problems with the pumping station next to Oakwell cottages have been an issue for over 20 years. Despite numerous complaints of overflowing waste-water and sewage nothing has been done by the utility Southern Water, or any enforcement action from the environment agency. Problems have recurred recently. The council will contact the CEO of Southern Water to detail this long unresolved matter and seek action.

Closure of Faversham tip: Rich Lehmann sent us an update. There will be a public meeting at Faversham Assembly Rooms at 7.00pm on 8th August to discuss responses to the KCC consultation. A protest at Kent council meeting on 21st September is being organised

with a bus to take people from Faversham to Maidstone. The petition is still running on

<https://www.change.org/p/save-faversham-tip-from-closure>

M2 J4-J7 resurfacing: Overnight closures of east or west carriageways are planned over the next few months for the latest information go to

nationalhighways.co.uk

and click on daily closures which is refreshed twice daily.

KCC Local Transport plan Consultation: Have your say on KCC's latest plan for future driving, public transport, walking and cycling whilst reducing pollution, improving our health and achieving carbon Net Zero. Fill in the short online questionnaire at:

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/local-transport-plan-5>.

Gardener wanted: Part-time gardener wanted for approximately five hours per week in Dargate village. Call Sandy on 07970 102647.

Next Parish Council meeting: 30th August 7.30pm 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

SWALE AND KCC

There are a number of consultations taking place right now and over the coming weeks, so I will take the opportunity to share the details of a few of them in this month's column. Starting with the much-publicised proposal to close the Faversham Household Waste Recycling Centre (or tip, if you prefer the much shorter name for it!)

I was hoping to be able to share details

of KCC's Tip consultation in this month, but sadly KCC have taken a late decision to push back the start date to late July, so we are still in the dark about what exactly the consultation will look like. A new proposal went to the Environment and Transport Committee at KCC earlier in the month which now has four options on the table rather than three. Sadly Faversham is STILL lined up for closure in all four options. Over the past few weeks I have been working

with a cross party group of KCC and Faversham Town councillors, to oppose the closure. We organised a small protest outside County Hall ahead of the last full council meeting on 11th July and managed to get coverage in 'Kent Online' and were also featured on 'BBC South East News'. We are planning another protest at the full council meeting on 21st September. I will share more details of this next month.

There will also be a public meeting to discuss the consultation. This will be at the Assembly Rooms in Faversham at 7.00pm on Tuesday 8th August.

When it finally goes live, the consultation will be available to respond to at <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/>

In the meantime, you may be interested in responding to some other consultations on the same page.

The Community Wardens consultation has just opened. This is a service which provides 70 wardens across the county to be visible in local communities and help combat loneliness and isolation.

KCC are currently proposing to cut £1m from this service, which would cut the total number of wardens across the county from 70 down to 38. There are currently four wardens across Swale, so this would very likely reduce to two or three if the cuts went ahead.

In addition, the 'Emerging' Local Transport Plan is also being consulted on. This is a critical point for roads and transport as KCC tries to balance an increasing number of vehicles on the road with a need to work towards net zero and a crumbling road network (especially in rural areas). The more people that can feed back to this consultation, the better.

And finally (and possibly most importantly), KCC have just opened their 2024-25 Budget Consultation, which seeks views on the areas residents consider most important on which KCC should focus their limited resources.

Rich Lehmann

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richlehmann@swale.gov.uk

<http://kentgreencouncillors.news>

THE STRAWBERRY TEA

The windy weather on the 15th July put paid to having this event in a marquee in my garden, but due to the kindness of St Michael's PCC we were able to go ahead and host it in the church.

Thank you to all who came to support us, especially as it was the Women's Finals at Wimbledon at the same time. Thanks also to those who donated

cakes, raffle prizes and plants.

Those who attended from outside the area remarked that our church and village were beautiful and how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful peaceful place.

Canterbury Flower Club will share the proceeds (over £700) with Alzheimer's UK.

Vicki Hodgkiss.

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Avalon garden will be open on 19th - 20th August from 11.00am until 4.00pm. to raise funds for the various charities that the scheme supports (see NGS.org.uk)

This is a half acre woodland garden, with mature trees, vegetable garden, fruits trees, roses, shrubs perennials,

bananas trees, cannas and dahlias.

All are welcome

Adult £6.00

Children free

Sorry but there are no refreshments.

Avalon

57 Stoney Road

Dunkirk

ME13 9TN

AUGUST CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday, 6th August

10.00am Hernhill, Sung Communion, Rev'd Ros Parrett.

Wednesday, 9th August

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

Sunday, 13th August,

10.00am Boughton, Sung Communion with Baptism, Rev'd Lorraine Apps

Huggins

Sunday, 20th August

10.00am Boughton, Morning Worship
10.30am Graveney, Holy Communion, Rev'd Thomas Pote

Sunday, 27th August

10.30am Graveney, Benefice Holy Communion, Rev'd Thomas Pote, Assistant Chaplain, King's School, Canterbury

All are welcome to our services.

THE REV CATHRINE NGANGIRA

will be licensed by the Bishop of Dover and installed by the Archdeacon of Maidstone as our new priest at a special service in Boughton Parish Church at 4.00pm on Sunday 8th Oc-

tober.

We look forward to welcoming Cathrine, and pray for her as she prepares to take on her responsibilities after her licensing service.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

St Michaels Church

The long awaited Flower Festival is coming to our beautiful church on the 8th, 9th and 10th of September. The theme is "Our Village" and we hope to capture in flowers what makes our village so special, past and present. Jill Gelliot has kindly offered to arrange light lunches and teas from Church Oast.

This is of course a fund raising event for the church.

As you may know, the price of flowers has gone up considerably recently. We have had flower demonstrations to raise some funds for the flowers but we are asking if anyone would like to make a donation or sponsor an arrangement so that we can put on a wonderful show. Please contact me,

Vicki

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01227 751511

vickihodgkiss@hotmail.com

NO TO NO MOW MAY

I'm writing regarding Anne Butler's comments about 'no mow May'.

I totally agree with her. Like her I was born and bred in this village, I've lived here for 71 years, since a baby.

It's totally out of order for the churchyard and the rest of the village to have all this overgrown grass. Apart from looking unsightly, it's a danger in these narrow country lanes. All the growth

makes it difficult to see round bends.

We do have a lovely village and it's being spoilt by this 'no mow may'. The insects etc don't think at the end of May, "We had better go now. The mowers will be out".

I back Anne in her comments, and say, "Think again about 'no mow May' next year.

Malcolm Foster.

PRIVILEGED PEERS

Every so often twenty-two high profile lords are appointed to perform a sacred ritual. The ritual is complex but follows

the following basic procedures.

The group of peers is split into two, one out in the sacred area and one in. Each lord in the group that is in goes out to

have his innings. When he is out he comes in. When all the lords that were in are out, they all come in. Sometimes you will find that some of the lords in the group that has come in, were not out. However, out or in, they then all go out and try to get out those lords who are coming in.

When both groups have been in and out, including those who were not out, the ritual can either end or start again depending on the time available.

This sacred ritual of the lords takes place at a henge in north London. The grass henge is delineated by white markers in the centre of which are two sets of three sacred sticks. Half of the selected lords, dressed in white, adopt ritual postures within the henge. In addition to them there is a priest, in clerical straw hat, standing near each set of

sticks. When all are settled, two of the 'in-group' come out carrying flat, wooden cudgels. One 'in-comer' stands guard by each set of sticks to protect them.

At this juncture one of the priests takes out a bright red globe and hands it to one of the 'out-group'. This specialist thrower then ceremonially spits on the globe and polishes it by rubbing it on the back of his trousers. When he is satisfied that the globe is suitably anointed, he throws it as hard as he can at the set of sticks opposite to where he is standing. If he hits the sticks, one of the priest points up to the clouds and immediately there is thunder and lightning and the rain pours down. All participants, outers, inners and priests immediately exercise a cover drive.

Unnamed original

ELTHAM PALACE

A good number of Gardening Club members and friends boarded the coach for Eltham Palace and the journey went smoothly until we reached the destination. Unfortunately nobody had added "not suitable for coaches" to the first sign we came to. This resulted in a lengthy conversation between the driver and an English Heritage steward as to how to rectify the situation of an ever narrowing road ahead. Eventually the driver took a short (and very narrow) cut to the correct entrance and everyone disembarked.

Whether or not Art Deco appeals to you, the wonderful workmanship of the wood panelling and the opulence of the home

created by Stephan and Virginia Courtauld is very impressive especially the bedroom and bathroom of Virginia, the various reception rooms and the billiard table in the basement bomb shelter. The addition of a minstrel's gallery and a great hammer beam roof to the hall originally built by Edward IV created an elegant ball room.

Plenty of tables and chairs in the grounds provided excellent picnic places before a stroll through the gardens brought us back to the plant stall (of course), tea room and gift shop.

Everyone agreed that we'd had a great day out. Thanks to Tricia Chapman for organising it all.

Jill Geliot

OUR VILLAGE

Not living in Hernhill, perhaps I shouldn't be writing this article, but with my churchwarden duties I do spend a lot of time in the village.

Hernhill's village green, dominated by the magnificent oak tree, with a pictur-

esque 14th century pub at one end and a beautiful 15th century church at the other provides a quintessential English image. The village is surrounded by beautiful countryside, with the coast not too far away, making it a truly lovely place to live.

In celebration of our village and the surrounding parish the theme for the church flower festival on September 8th to 10th is "Our Village" and the many floral displays will mark important events of the past and village life now. As it is a church event, the rebuilding of the church by the Martyn family, following the battle of Agincourt in 1415, will be commemorated with a display reflecting the 15th century glass from the Martyn Memorial window, which survived Oliver Cromwell's mindless destruction in 1641 because it was hidden in a local farm.

There will be a display around our Grade 1 listed organ, made by Bevington and Sons of Soho, installed in the church in 1882, having come to Faversham by train and transported to Henthill by Mr William Dawes of Mount Ephraim. Farming has played an important part in the life of the village and will be one of the displays at the festival.

The war years and the tragic loss of young men from the local community during those dark days in our history will be remembered, as will the Battle of Bossenden in 1838. Happier events such as the Village Fete and traditional Maypole dancing will provide interesting and colourful exhibits in the beautiful setting of the church, along with other displays.

At previous flower festivals in the church Vicki Hodgkiss and her colleagues have always exceeded expectations with a wonderful and stunning show, I am sure this year's will be the same and shouldn't be missed. Come and celebrate our village and its community spirit.

"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity." – Psalm 133:1

Peter Willcock
Churchwarden

CHURCH OAST PRODUCE STALL

Just to let you know that so far £1000 has been raised for the Ukrainian appeal. £700 was raised last year and £300 to date this year. I have paid in £100 as it has been raised to various charities including the Red Cross,

UNICEF and DEC.

Thank you to those who have donated to the table, to Will Dawes for allowing me to glean cherry orchards and to those who have purchased.

Jill Jeliot

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

I spoke too soon, what is going on with our weather? The only good thing is that God is doing a great job of keeping my garden watered, saving me carrying heavy watering cans around.

We came 2nd again in the Red Lion quiz, this time to my friend Alison. Isn't it time for you to go on holiday again please?

We were at music on the green recently with our friends Clare, Eric & Mel when it got really chilly so we decided to move indoors. Sadly, someone mentioned 'Baby Guinness' is a great drink. For those unsure, it is Tia Maria in a shot

glass with Bailey's floated on top. Very yummy, but trust me, stick to just one! We attended the graduation of our adopted daughter at the cathedral. What a great day, first class the same as her degree, (I'm allowed to brag). After the ceremony we went to Socialite with quite a large group for lunch. You should have seen Peter's face when a round of drinks came to £108! A great day had by all though.

I had my hair appointment this week £103 for a T-bar cut and blow dry. Think I'll need a mortgage for a full head. I was wondering, if vampires have no reflection, how do they do their hair?

We attended a musical evening at Mount Ephraim arranged by Ed which was absolutely brilliant and reminded me how much I love classical music.

What a thrilling men's final of Wimbledon this year between Garfia & Djoko-

vik. I really didn't mind who won, it was just great tennis. Did you know that any girl standing in the middle of a tennis court is always called Annette!

Stay safe & God bless,
Sandi.

BITS AND PIECES

Joyce and I took a short break at the beginning of July to see friends who live in Norfolk. We also took the opportunity to visit two National Trust properties in the area.

The first was the Blickling Estate at Aylsham. This has a wonderful Jacobean mansion from the 17th century. These days I can't walk very far and have to use an electric 'buggy' to get around. It was therefore wonderful that there was a lift in the house for wheelchair users. I could actually view the upper floor. What a treat. The prize room upstairs is the long gallery. It is essentially a long, well-stocked library with an unusual plaster ceiling. Down its centre the ceiling has cameos of women with well developed, naked breasts. Perhaps providing entertainment for those who don't read.

An even bigger treat than Blickling was our visit to Felbrigg Hall. Here it was the gardens, not the house, that was the attraction. The walled garden was immaculate. A great variety of flowers,

vegetables and fruit trees and not a weed in sight. We were told that there are over sixty volunteer gardeners. I'm not surprised. But, the real gem was the new desert garden, still under development. Dozens of bright flowers in small clumps set within pebbles. The effect was stunning. I couldn't stop taking photos.

And then we came back home and back to earth. Our garden didn't somehow have the same effect on us as that National Trust one. The rabbits had massacred the plants that Joyce had put in before we went away, the weeds had taken the opportunity to 'go out and multiply' and the fish pond had grown a thick blanket of blanket-weed.

At times like this one wonders if being away is really worth the packing, the journey and the un-packing. Perhaps next time, instead of going away, we will hire a gardener and watch him work whilst we enjoy a glass of fine wine. It would probably be cheaper and certainly less stressful.

ADT

BIN COLLECTIONS	August	1	Tuesday	Green Bin
		2	Wednesday	Brown bin
		8	Tuesday	Blue Bin
		15	Tuesday	Green Bin
		16	Wednesday	Brown bin
		22	Tuesday	Blue Bin
		29	Tuesday	Green Bin
		30	Wednesday	Brown bin
	September	5	Tuesday	Blue Bin
		12	Tuesday	Green Bin
		13	Wednesday	Brown bin
		19	Tuesday	Blue Bin
		26	Tuesday	Green Bin
		27	Wednesday	Brown bin



Alan D. Taylor
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