



HERNHILL NEWS

August 2024

PARISH COUNCIL

The latest news from your Parish Council: Our response to Winterbourne Fields housing plans, Fly tipping, Litter pick, Speedwatch, A New Day.

If you have a suggestion: You can contact the Parish Council Clerk on 07876221580 or clerk@hernhill-pc.gov.uk

Full copies of the approved minutes for meetings and updated news on planning and road closures are available on the Parish Council Website. www.hernhill-pc.gov.uk information is also shared on Facebook through the Parish Council page and Hernhill Village forum.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 31st July 2024

The meeting on 31st July was attended by 6 councillors and the clerk, councillor Alistair Gould (SBC) plus 3 members of the public.

Planning:

Application 24/502123: Land north and south of A2 Dunkirk "Winterbourne fields" to build 1,800 homes in phased delivery concluding in major changes to the Gate services A2 junction. The Parish council has voted unanimously to oppose this speculative development on a variety of planning grounds including at least 15 policy documents contravened by the proposals. In addition the potential for serious disruption to many protected species within the adjoining Blean woods ancient woodland and the loss of land for food production security was stressed, plus the inadequacy of local infrastructure for water supply, sewage and services already overstretched by the multiple recent housing estate developments.

Application 24/502904: Forge Farm Submission of details of windows and tiles to be used for the renovation, to discharge conditions placed on approval. This was unanimously supported by the council.

Application 24/502719: Waterham Business Park Highstreet Road to erect 4 industrial units and 2 storage units. The council voted to oppose this development on grounds of highway safety, parking, risks to water supply, surface water drainage and sewage as well as inadequate evidence of demand given the many available units in the vicinity.

Planning decisions from Swale:

Application 24/501209: Church Farm House. Double garage and gym with new access. Application withdrawn.

Cleve Hill Solar Farm Development: Councillors have been invited to an open day on the site 13th August. Further dates for members of the public to visit will be forthcoming in the autumn. Anyone interested please contact Councillor Donna Waters.

Neighbourhood watch and community policing: Peter Wilson brought up the fly tipping which occurred early hours on Sunday 21st July. A lorry load of asbestos was dumped on the Wey Street slip road. Councillor Figgis and the Clerk alerted Swale Borough Council first thing on Monday morning. An acknowledgement was received but no further action as yet. The Clerk and Councillor Gould agreed to pursue this. PC Gary Morris agreed to look into the provision of cameras in the area given it is a dumping hot spot. Other recent local crime reported was a bicycle theft.

Chairman: Cllr Barbara Heller
Clerk: Rebecca Parr 07876 221580

Speedwatch: Suitable sites for speedwatch volunteers to monitor have been identified by the Kent team. PC Gary Morris will attend to support the volunteers who now need to get started. Roadside and online training will be organised once the volunteers are registered. Please contact the clerk.

Noise and parking in village green area: Recent inconsiderate parking on the village green was highlighted by a parishioner. The council agreed that replacing the wooden posts around the green is well overdue; the clerk is getting quotes for the work. We will also be investigating installing double yellow lines around the dodgy road junctions. After the last council meeting a councillor has spoken informally to the landlord of the Red Lion and reported that on busy days staff are using the village hall car park amenity offered by VH committee and more music is happening in the pub garden.

Neighbourhood plan: The group met with planning consultant Alison Eardley who was very supportive of progress and plans. A number of tasks have been allocated including an application for technical support and the next public meeting will be held in October.

Allotments: New fencing now installed. Some wire may need further patching.

Litterpick: Next litterpick will be 10th August 1-3pm to get our village looking spick and span before the many visitors for...

A New Day Festival: The festival will return to Mount Ephraim Gardens on 16-18th August. The usual ticket benefits for parishioners are available on proof of residency. Further information from Frank on frank@anewdayfestival.com or 07712897919.

Refuse Bins: The ongoing saga with new contractors Suez was discussed. Actions from SBC are detailed by Rich in his article. The old and broken Staplestreet bin has been waiting for a replacement for 2 years at least as has the missing bin at the Village hall. Councillor Gould offered to assist the Clerk in pursuing this once again.

Safety of Lithium batteries, e-bikes and scooters: The Council agreed to support a bill from Electrical Safety First promoted by Lord Foster campaigning for greater safety in use and disposal of lithium batteries.

Next Parish Council meeting 28th August 2024 7.30pm Village Hall

HERNHILL GARDENING CLUB

Ham House

The traffic gods were not on our side on July 18th. Accidents on motorways and roadworks conspired to add an hour to our journey both ways and test the patience of driver and passengers. Once there we were able to visit the 17th century house – owned by the Tollemache family from the Civil War until 1948. A productive walled kitchen garden supplies the café and there was a stunning lavender parterre. By the afternoon the temperature was climbing up the 20 degrees and we were glad to sink into our seats on the air-conditioned coach. Many thanks to Tricia Chapman for arranging the outing.

Update on Mark

Mark is now home but will need to visit Kings College Hospital for chemotherapy. He is

making good progress but faces a lengthy road to recovery. Our very best wishes to him.

Autumn Show September 7th

We are looking for a sturdy individual to help to bring the tables and other equipment down from the village hall loft on the day. If you can volunteer or know someone who can help please contact Jill (750974 or jill@geliot.plus.com) Please try to make at least one entry in the show and bring your friends along for the viewing in the afternoon.

Garden Party at Church Oast October 5th

To round off the season we are planning this social event. More details later.

Jill Geliot

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

This month's piece is a little more functional than usual, and is primarily an update with the latest on the bin situation.

Waste Update

At the Environment and Climate Change Committee meeting on 16th July, the committee agreed to undertake a Scrutiny Review of the Suez contract, which will examine the performance and implementation of the new waste and street cleansing contract, focusing on key areas such as resources, staffing, data management, contract and project management, and communications.

To facilitate the review, a Scrutiny Panel has been established, consisting of five members of the Environment Committee, with one representative from each political party.

The review will involve a thorough collection and analysis of data. Members of the panel will engage with officers from all of the departments involved in the contract mobilisation and representatives from Suez.

Resident and stakeholder engagement will be a crucial component of the review. The Panel will be seeking input from residents through area committees, online questionnaires, and a Parish Councils Liaison Forum scheduled for September. Public discussions will be facilitated during Area Committee meetings in September, and an online resident survey may be conducted to gather structured feedback.

The review will focus on several critical areas. It will assess resources and staffing,

examining recruitment, training, culture change, staff welfare, fleet and vehicles, and the delivery of new and replacement bins. Data and rounds will also be scrutinised, including an evaluation of pre-contract data, the IT systems, round routing processes and road access issues.

Contract and project management will be another key focus. The review will investigate the project setup, ongoing monitoring, contract documents, default and rectification processes, and the Recovery Plan created by Swale officers after the first few weeks of the new contract. Additionally, the effectiveness of communications, both internal and external, will be evaluated. This will include pre-service resident communications, reporting forms, social media, and the overall communications plan.

The outcomes of the review aim to provide assurances on project delivery, gather and address resident feedback, identify lessons learnt and highlight areas for improvement.

Local Transport Plan Consultation

A consultation has recently opened to invite views on Kent County Council's new draft of their Local Transport Plan.

The consultation is open from now until the 8th October 2024 and more details can be found online at www.kent.gov.uk/ltp5.

Rich Lehmann

rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk

<http://kentgreencouncillors.news/>

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Keeping our church open during the day is greatly appreciated by locals and visitors to the village, the evidence is in the wonderful comments written in our visitors' book. Unfortunately, sometime on 22nd July, the three money boxes in the church for general donations and the purchase of books and greeting cards were forced open to steal any money in them. The chances are it would

have been a very small amount, if any, as they are emptied daily. There is a sign on each box stating this is the case.

This, hopefully, isolated incident will not deter us from keeping our beautiful and historic church open for all to visit and enjoy.

Peter Willcock

HISTORIC HERNHILL



All eyes were on the sky in November 1913, when an aircraft banked above the village school playground, engine sputtering ominously, heading for Boughton Hill. At least four of the boys in the picture are from Hernhill* and had been given permission to grab their cycles and head to the scene. It was a Sopwith Three-Seat Trainer from the Royal Naval Flying school at Eastchurch which had been established the previous year. The trainee pilot and passenger were uninjured and the aircraft, powered by an 80hp Gnome engine, was collected and taken back by road to Sheppey for repairs.

Not all pilots were as lucky. The following week, a Maurice Farman Longhorn from Eastchurch crashed, killing the pilot, 26-year-old Lieutenant Gilbert Vernon Wildman-Lushington. And there is an interesting connection. The previous Saturday, Wildman-Lushington had taken the then First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, for a series of three flying lessons in a Short Brothers S.38 biplane, during the third of which Churchill took the controls for a time, making him the first serving Cabinet minister to have flown an aeroplane. Three Sopwith biplanes went with the Eastchurch wing of the RNAS when it deployed to Belgium in August 1914. The Three Seater could carry a 450lb payload at 70mph and reach an altitude of 12,000ft. These were used for reconnaissance and bombing missions, attempting to destroy the Zeppelin sheds at Düsseldorf and railway lines on September 23rd and 24th, but they were already outdated and were withdrawn from service shortly afterwards.

*When we showed this picture at a Hernhill Historical Society slide show in the 1980s, someone recalled the event and mentioned the bicycles - it may have been Percy Saddleton!

Crispin Whiting

WHEELIEBIN RACE

The Three Horseshoes Wheeliebin race was back with a bang on 27 July. Cunningly converted and decorated bins racing from the pub to Mount Ephraim Gardens' gates and back, with compulsory pitstops for beer. Profits will go to the Pilgrim's Hospice. Brilliant fun for an excellent cause.



THEO R.I.P.



There were flowers and a few tears for Theo, the much loved wandering cat, when a plaque in his memory was unveiled this afternoon. Owner Ashley Sahota, from the Queens Head, Boughton, and her grandad, Derek Hammond, from The Charltons, were there to place flowers. The blue plaque was commissioned by John Barnes who lives opposite Forge Farm yard at Staplestreet where the characterful cat spent many hours mousing. He wandered much further afield was known and loved across Boughton and Hernhill. Theo died after being hit by a car in Boughton Street in late June.

Crispin Whiting

Raising a glass to our new village vineyards



Nobody walking around the parish recently would have failed to notice a new crop emerging either end of the Mount Ephraim entrance. Hernhill has joined the wine industry. The project is the brainchild of Sean Figgis who has many years experience of growing horticultural crops in the area. It is dedicated to his son, Chris, who tragically died in 2022. Chris wanted to be a farmer but family circumstances prevented him fulfilling his dream.

The two fields comprise chardonnay, pinot meunier and pinot noir, the classic grapes of champagne. Sean plans to produce several wines including sparkling whites, rosé, red and white. There are 18,000 canes in total and they are growing rapidly in this wet and now warm summer. There will be a cheaper range of Figgy fizz and Figgy pink from the vineyard south of Staplestreet and The Vicarage will be the top range - sparkling white, red, white and rosé.

Fine Hernhill wines? We'll drink to that.

Andrew Heller and Sean Figgis

HERNHILL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are delighted that July has seen recognition for two aspects of school life at Hernhill which are so important to us – sport and play.

We achieved the Platinum School Games Mark for the fourth time! The School Games Mark is a government-led awards scheme focusing on a school's commitment to the development of sport competition across their school and high quality PE provision. Huge thanks to Hilary Ganderton for driving PE and sport across Hernhill with such commitment and passion for the benefit of all our children. July also marked two years since we were audited against the Opal quality mark (OPAL – outdoor play and learning), achieving the Platinum standard. At the start of July, we achieved Platinum again - with an audit score of 100%! This would not have happened without our wonderful children who every day amaze us with their risk assessment skills, resilience, creativity and kindness.

The children were delighted to share their experiences, knowledge and creativity with Cath, our OPAL mentor, when she visited and following completion of the audit, she kindly recorded a special video for the children. This can be seen on our website - <https://www.hernhill.kent.sch.uk/OPAL-Outdoor-Play-Learning/>

Everyone at Hernhill is passionate about both sport and play - there can be no doubt that it has a remarkably positive impact on children's social, emotional and academic development.

Onwards and upwards!

Sarah Alexander
Headteacher

ps. We'd love to see you at our school PTAFAs fete on Saturday 14th September!

OUR LOCAL PUBS

Whoah! Hang on. Hold up. What was the landlady of the Queen's Head doing pulling pints at the Three Horseshoes wheeliebin race yesterday? Surely they're rivals?

Apparently not. The Queens, Shoes, White Horse and the Railway in Faversham have formed an informal support group, helping each other out in times of need.

Queens Head landlady Claire Hammond-Miller said today "As licensees, we share unique challenges and it's invaluable to have a network to turn to during those unexpected moments—whether it's running low on supplies and needing a quick favour or reaching out for an extra set of hands on a busy night. The only way for our pubs to thrive is by collaborating rather than competing. I had a wonderful time volunteering at the Shoes wheelie bin race which brought back memories of working the first one in 2000 for Mike and Vera, making it

an emotional experience for me. It was a real pleasure to lend a hand to a fellow pub, all in the spirit of charity."

Shoes landlord Mossy said: I think it's crucial that pubs support each other, particularly in the present climate where we're all struggling with energy prices and decreased revenue as a result of declining customer numbers. We try to help each other out as much as possible, whether it be loaning a barrel of beer or turning up to help on busy occasions, much like Claire from the Queens Head did at the race yesterday. We don't see the point in competition. All the pubs in the group offer something different and we also believe there's plenty to go around."

Excellent! Let's all raise a glass and drink to that - we are so fortunate to have such brilliant local pubs.

Crispin Whiting

HERNHILL VILLAGE HALL

The Hernhill Village Hall & Playing Field AGM is being held on Wednesday 7th August, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Sandi Rawlins

THE THREE HORSESHOES CRICKET CLUB

After a strong first two months to the season, The Three Horseshoes Cricket Club made their way into July with the hopes of warm, sunny days worthy of a beautiful afternoons of cricket. Unfortunately as you will all be aware, the rain is yet to leave us alone for more than a couple of days at a time!

The first game in July was an important, traditional fixture as the Heyland family team brought wives, girlfriends and children alike down to Hernhill for their huge family get-together, featuring a long-running game against the Shoes. After a few lean years we were hungry for a victory but heavy showers throughout the day threatened to upset the chances of a result.

Playing a shorter 25 overs game to try to avoid the rain, the Shoes lost the toss and were put in on a traditionally awkward Hernhill pitch. A strong opening partnership of 48 between the Morris brothers set us on our way, knowing that anything over 120 would be tough to chase. A fine cameo from N.George (19) added 39 with an unbeaten L.Morris in the final six overs, meaning the Shoes finished their 25 overs with 135 for 4 (L.Morris 54 not out, S.Morris 29).

After a huge shower the Shoes looked to make the most bowling on the wet surface and our bowling proved too strong on the day, N.George in particular proving lethal, ripping through the middle order taking six wickets, as we skittled the Heyland XI for 74 (N.George 6/9, L.Morris 1/2) and claimed the victory!

The 14th of July is remembered mostly for the Euros final, which affected our return game against the Nomads. A 30 over game was decided to enable to team from Broadstairs to get home in time for the final. Winning the toss at Hernhill, the Shoes put Nomads into bat, but were immediately on the back foot as the Nomads' opener plundered 63 in no time at all. Switching to spin and medium pacers, we managed to get a foothold, as Nomads finished on 152 for 8 off their 30 (T.Berry 3/38, R.Evans 2/20).

In response, the Morris brothers focussed on the 5 an over run-rate, scoring sensibly and taking us to 109 off 20 overs, needing 44 to win off the last ten overs. Unfortunately a classic Shoes collapse kicked in with eight wickets falling for just 33 runs, leaving us on 142 for 8 (L.Morris 60, S.Morris 42), a frustrating 10 run defeat! Another disappointing defeat to Nomads.

Our final July game was an away game at Macknade against the Faversham Sunday XI – a team with a mix of friendly and league players. With holidays, work and sickness leaving the Shoes bare-bones, fortunately our friends from Eastling CC were able to provide enough players leading to the first ever “Three Horselings” team.

A popular toss win in the raging heat meant the Horselings batted first and compiled a big total, our highest this season, of 236 for 5 in 40 overs with a small and quick outfield (L.Morris 67, B.Hesketh 40 not out) with five players scoring over 25 for the first time this season.

In response, the quality of Faversham's captain showed, his unbeaten 105 spearheading Faversham's run chase as the Horseling bowlers toiled. P.O'Connor's tight five overs at the start proving to be a rare highlight, with L.Morris' two wickets the only taken on the day as Faversham chased down the runs to win with 238 for the loss of only 2 wickets (L.Morris 2/35, O'Connor 0/17).

So we finish July with a 6/4 winning record and move into August starting with our Tour weekend in Beaminster before home games on the 11th vs Shepherdsweil, 18th vs Eastling and 25th vs Davington. All games start at 2pm with spectators more than welcome to the Hernhill ground. If the weather's good bring a picnic and make an afternoon of it!

Anyone interested in playing (we take any standard) contact Luke on 07712 712519 or TheThreeHorseshoes Pub.

Luke Morris

CHURCH SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2024

Sunday 4th 10am Hernhill

Sung Communion.

Sunday 11th 10am Boughton

Sung Communion

Wednesday 14th 10:30am St Barnabas' Boughton

Wednesday Worship with Communion

A short service followed by refreshments

Sunday 18th 10am Hernhill

Morning Worship

10:30am Holy Communion at Graveney

Sunday 25th 10:3am Graveney

Benefice Holy Communion

The pattern of services within our benefice is changing.

From September there will be a mixture of traditional and more modern, informal forms of worship in our churches, as shown below:

Sunday mornings

Week 1 - 10am Holy Communion - Hernhill

Week 2 - 10am Holy Communion - Boughton

Parish Church

Week 3 - 10:30am Holy Communion - Graveney

Week 4 - 10:30am Informal Worship - St Barnabas' Boughton

Week 5 - Benefice Holy Communion, alternates around the churches. In September it will be at Hernhill for our patronal service - St. Michael and all angels.

Sunday afternoon/evenings

Week 1 - 4:30pm Informal Worship - St Barnabas'

Week 4 - 6:00pm Said Holy Communion or Evening Prayer - Hernhill

Week 5 - 4:30pm Iona/Taize service - St. Barnabas'

Wednesdays

Week 2 - 10:30am Wednesday Worship - St. Barnabas'

Week 3 - 5:30pm Evening Worship - Hernhill

All are welcome to our services

**Peter Willcock
Churchwarden**

OBITUARIES

Doreen Bowyer

To those who may remember my Mum, Doreen Bowyer, who had Dargate post office in the 1970's. She passed away peacefully on Friday July 12th at home in Dargate. Funeral service will be at Charing Crematorium August 12th 12.30, with friends invited to The Dove afterwards. **Jane Bowyer**

Terry Collins

Terry Collins, who with his wife Pauline lived in Kays Lane for many years, has died in France, aged 84. He was a regular at the Red Lion. He leaves his widow and a daughter, Sally.

BIN COLLECTIONS

August	1	Thursday	Blue bin
	7	Wednesday	Brown bin
	8	Thursday	Green bin
	15	Thursday	Blue bin
	21	Wednesday	Brown bin
	22	Thursday	Green bin
	29	Thursday	Blue bin