



# HERNHILL NEWS

## DECEMBER 2023



### PARISH COUNCIL

The November meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 29th in the Village Hall. It was attended by the Clerk, seven Parish Councillors, Councillor Alistair Gould and four members of the public.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr Heller apologised profusely for putting the wrong date for the last meeting in the Village News! Cllrs Waters and Wakes gave a report in progress. The village survey questionnaires are beginning to trickle in. The closing date has been pushed back to the end of the year so please fill in your questionnaire to take part in the prize hamper draw. The survey is online at

[forms.gle/HvjpYxjZewcKsnho8](https://forms.gle/HvjpYxjZewcKsnho8).

Paper copies were inserted in last month's Village News or can be obtained from Kim Wakes on 07554 821078. Surveys can be put into drop boxes in local pubs or posted to the Clerk. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd January at 7.15pm, upstairs in the Red Lion. All welcome.

**Hedgehogs:** Councillors wish to raise awareness of the plight of hedgehogs, rapidly becoming an endangered species. It was agreed to invite a representative from Kent Wildlife Trust to the next meeting to share information and advice.

**Staplestreet Flooding:** We have received lots of correspondence about the

recent flood on lower Staplestreet next to the new Crematorium entrance. We have been told that a culvert next to the road was blocked and has now been cleared and the flood water pumped away by KCC Highways. The Crematorium will submit a further drainage plan for the development in order to satisfy one of the planning permission conditions.

**Oakwell Drainage:** Southern Water has commissioned engineering consultants to survey 89 households from Oakwell, up Church Hill and through the village to Fostal in order to map the drains and plan improvement work. Local residents will likely get a call from one of the technicians very soon.

**Speed Limits:** The council have paid KCC £5,100 to implement 30mph speed limits through parts of Hernhill. Thanks to Cllr Alistair Gould for a grant of £200 from SBC. Hopefully the work will go ahead in the new year. KCC provide a toolkit to assist in implementing this including bin stickers, posters, etc. We will also have the opportunity to set up a Kent Police Community Speedwatch Group, trained volunteers will use speed indication devices to monitor traffic at times and in areas of concern. This work is overseen by the PSCO team and we will ask PC Gary Morris to talk about it when he next comes to a PC meeting.

**Finances:** The council approved next

Chairman: Cllr Barbara Heller  
Clerk: Rebecca Parr 07876 221580



year's budget to include an increase in precept. This takes into account maintaining our statutory reserve, as well as putting money aside for the next Highway Improvement Plan and for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk's hours of work have been increased to align with national norms for our sized council and thus obviate the need for unpredictable overtime payments.

**KALC Awards:** The council agreed to adopt the KALC awards once again. The closing date to nominate a villager who has been outstanding in supporting or contributing to our community is 22nd January. You will find a nomination form with this edition of the *Hernhill News*.

**Road closures:** Staplestreet will be closed at the Dunkirk end for a few days from 5th December. Fostall on 14th December for one day.

A large number of surveys and consultations are currently on line as follows:

**Swale Borough Council's Draft Street Trading Policy:** Consultation is open from 1st November to 29th December 2023.

**Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Consultation:** open until 10th January, 2024.

**Kent Fire and Rescue Survey:** Resi-

dents have until 1st February, 2024 to their your say and influence on what KFRS should focus on over the next four years, to help to keep everyone safe.

**Swale Borough Council draft parking policy:** Consultation until 2nd January, 2024.

**Kent Police - Kent Priority Survey Kent Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024 - 2034:** Consultation 22nd November, 2023 and runs until the 30th January, 2024. The consultation can be found at

[gov.uk/localfloodrisk](http://gov.uk/localfloodrisk)

where you can let us know your views by completing the online questionnaire.

**Hernhill News:** The Council gave final thanks to Alan Taylor plus all our helpers in 2023, Steve and Sue Osbourne, Martin Wood and Andrew Heller.

Next Parish Council meeting 31st January, 2024, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

If you are not able to attend the meeting in person but still wish to make representations 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 of the meeting.

## KCC COUNCILLOR

### Household Waste Recycling Centres

After much jubilation last week at the news that KCC's proposals to close Household Waste Recycling Centres (including the site at Faversham) appeared to have been binned, it seems the celebrations were premature. As opposed to the speculation in the papers at the beginning of the month, news came directly from KCC on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November that the plans were merely on hold rather than scrapped. Given the amount of media coverage the story received across Kent, it seemed highly unlikely to me that the leadership would push ahead

with the plans against the wishes of the majority of councillors, but given the financial strain the council is under perhaps they see it as unavoidable.

From the outset, the plans never appeared to be fully thought through. I opposed them at length during my group leader's speech at the KCC full council meeting in May and also through my role as chair of the Environment Committee at Swale (a role I'd only been in a few days when the plans were first announced!). If they do resurface, I hope they are accompanied by suitable levels of data and evidence to try and justify how such a backward looking proposal could be considered during a

climate and biodiversity crisis. Arguments about the size of the Faversham tip which were put forward when the plans were first revealed lead me to believe that KCC will still be looking to close the Faversham site. With this in mind, I will continue working in my dual roles at both Swale Borough Council and Kent County Council to see if a better site can be acquired for a Recycling Centre fit for the future, which will be even more necessary if plans for an additional 2500 houses on the South East corner of Faversham come to fruition.

### **Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan Consultation**

Still on the subject of consultations, KCC currently have a consultation open on their walking and cycling plans for the county. The plans include 30 key routes across the county which are proposed

for improvements. There are three key areas in Swale earmarked. Most relevant to our area is a proposal to improve the cycling route along the Lower Road between Faversham and Sittingbourne. It's a route which can feel fairly dangerous in places for cyclists (and sadly saw the death of a cyclist near Tonge last year). Also featured are plans to improve walking provision around the northern side of Sittingbourne and cycling provision across the northern coast of the Isle of Sheppey. The consultation is available online at the following address

[tinyurl.com/kccwalking](http://tinyurl.com/kccwalking)

Alternatively, a paper version can be requested by calling KCC Highways on 03000 418181.

Rich Lehmann  
[rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk](mailto:rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk)  
[kentgreencouncillors.news](http://kentgreencouncillors.news)

### **SWALE COUNCILLOR**

#### **Parking Consultation**

I know parking is often a contentious issue, and some of the recent changes to car parking charging have caused concern. Swale are currently consulting on a draft parking policy, so this is an opportunity to have your say, by e-mailing comments to

[policyteam@swale.gov.uk](mailto:policyteam@swale.gov.uk)

There are always competing considerations around car use so I would encourage people to take a wider view: car parking and road space are always going to be limited, and the appearance of free use of empty roads conjured up in every car advertisement needs to be recognised as an illusion.

Car parking charges form an important part of the Council's income, so we will also need to balance this against the fact that for some people car use and car parking is unavoidable, especially given the state of public transport. However, more use of public transport is a

vital part of reducing congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, and if car parking charges are set too low, then this further tips the cost-balance against choosing to leave the car behind if you have that option.

There are also possibilities of using car parks to encourage travel options beyond conventional cars: how much space should be given to electric charging points or cycle or motorcycle parking?

I hope this gives some food for thought.

The draft policy can be found on the Swale Council website:

Home page> Other Services> News and your Council > Consultations >More services in consultations> Draft Parking policy

or follow this link

[Draft-parking-policy.pdf \(swale.gov.uk\)](#)  
Alastair Gould  
[alastairGould@swale.gov.uk](mailto:alastairGould@swale.gov.uk)

## CHURCH LETTER

In 2020, Mariah Carey's *All I want for Christmas is you* topped the UK charts 26 years after its release. I can't think why it took so long for it to make it to number one? Because the song had a new meaning in 2020 after people's experiences of the lockdown in the Covid-19 pandemic. Following months of isolation people realised that actually being with loved ones was more valuable than any gifts. Mariah's song expressed the feelings and wishes of many.

Christmas is a special time. When I was growing up Christmas was a time to visit our family members in the rural areas. Our time there included lots of eating, usually a cow or goat was slaughtered to feed everyone. Evenings were spent around a fire listening to folk tales, singing, and eating roasted maize, peanuts and more.

Other than attending a church service, Christmas day was an opportunity to show off new clothing. In many households, 'Christmas clothes' were the only present for the children. It was a sad day for those who did not have new clothes! Some would stay indoors to save themselves from the humiliation.

When we were older and could understand things better, my mother always asked what we wanted for Christmas. The stark choice was between paying the school fees or new clothes. We normally chose the former, because looking ahead to the academic year, it was painful to be sent back home for not paying the fees. However, to make it up, my mum would buy us new clothes or

presents at other times.

Christmas, however, is not totally about gifts, they are just part of it. It is a time to remember the birth of Jesus, also known as Immanuel, God with us. The shepherds who visited Jesus on the night of his birth, did not bring gifts. People in ancient Israel expected someone mighty like King David to lead them into conquering the Roman rulers who governed them. The birth of Jesus was different from what they expected. He was born in a manger, instead of a palace. His birth was announced by angels. A choir of angels sung in celebration. The shepherds' visit was a special time that spoke of who Jesus was. The three wise men who later visited Jesus brought with them gifts. Remember the carol, 'We three kings of orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar.' Each gift was meaningful as it pointed towards the purpose of Jesus' life. Gold symbolising Christ as King. Frankincense symbolising Christ as the High Priest. Myrrh a perfume, symbolising Jesus' death to save people.

Gifts remind us of God's gift to us, Jesus. Receiving this gift has made a difference in my life. Gifts are all very well but the best is actually to be with those we love – presence not presents – that then allies to what God did for us in Jesus, *God with us*, Immanuel.

By the way, did I mention, *All I want for Christmas is you* was playing in the background while I wrote this?

Cathrine Ngangira  
Priest in charge



## CAROLS ON THE GREEN

5pm Saturday 16th December

Mulled wine and mince pies after

### HERNHILL CE SCHOOL

November has been a busy month at Hernhill CE Primary. The unusually sunny and warm October has given way to a very wet November. And the children and staff have been embracing the rain! While it takes a huge amount of organisation and planning from staff to enable children to play out in the rain, with the fabulous support of parents and the children taking responsibility for getting their wet weather clothing on and off sensibly, we have managed to get out every day. We know the positive impact that playing has on mental health, creativity and social skills, and so we persevere!

Unfortunately the rain did mean that we were unable to hold our annual remembrance service around the poppy memorial. However the junior children still led a moving tribute with singing, poems and prayers in our school hall. We also remembered by name all those servicemen and women listed on our poppy memorial. It was a privilege to share this service with Revd Cathrine and members of the local community.

Year 2 and 6 classes have both experienced a day at Canterbury cathedral this month. Year 6 took part in the Cathedral Schools' Day with other Y6 classes from around the Diocese. Year 2 spent their visit on a tour of the cathedral, learning about the important parts of the building. They also created stained glass pictures and practised writing with an old fashioned quill!

Our Eco Refill team have received some fabulous news. They have been awarded a Green Schools Award for their work on the refill shop. Three Y6 children along with Mrs Thomas were invited to the award ceremony at Ashford International Hotel last week. And their excitement was topped off by also receiving the Overall Award for Environment and Sustainability! What super work!

Our Year 3 and 4 classes will be performing Christmas songs in church on Monday 11th Dec at 2:00pm. Everyone in the community is welcome to come along. We hope to see you there.

Sarah Alexander  
Headteacher

### BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Crime detection, love, mystery, whatever,...cooking, crafts, embroidery, travel etc.

The Kent County Library Bus visits our village on alternate Tuesdays at 9.30 am. The bus waits patiently in the Village Hall Car Park for half an hour for your free access to this amazing resource.

Any book you may fancy, or read about, can be obtained for you. So Book Club, TV or Radio followers just note the title and author and Mark the Librarian will order it for you.

Come along...see for yourself on December 12<sup>th</sup> or ring me for other dates in the New Year on 01227 752988.

Doreen Jelfs

### BIN COLLECTIONS

December	5	Tuesday	Green Bin
	6	Wednesday	Brown bin
	12	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	19	Tuesday	Green Bin
	20	Wednesday	Brown bin
	26	NO COLLECTIONS	

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS  
from St Michael's Church**

You are all warmly invited to these services and events being held locally to celebrate Christmas.

**Sun. 3rd Dec**

10.00am Sung Communion for First Sunday in Advent, Hernhill Church  
3.00pm Advent Carol Service, Graveney Church

**Wed. 6th Dec**

10.30am Wednesday Worship, St Barnabas' Boughton  
A short service for Advent followed by refreshments

**Sat. 9th Dec**

3.30pm A special "Seek and Wonder" at St Barnabas', Boughton  
Christmas craft activities for the family.

**Sun. 10th Dec.**

10.00am Sung Communion, Boughton Parish Church

**Mon. 11th Dec**

2.00pm Carol singing by years 3 and 4 pupils from Hernhill School in Hernhill Church.

**Wed. 13th Dec**

6.30pm Carol Singing at St. Barnabas, Boughton with the Salvation Army and Boughton & Dunkirk School. Followed

by refreshments.

**Sat. 16th Dec.**

5.00pm Carols on The Green, Hernhill Community carol singing with mulled wine and mince pies.

**Sun. 17th Dec.**

10.00am Morning Worship for Advent 3, Hernhill Church.  
10.30am Holy communion, Graveney Church.

**Fri. 22nd Dec**

6.30pm Carol Singing at Dunkirk Village Hall followed by refreshments.

**Sun. 24th Dec.** (Christmas Eve)

10.30am Holy Communion, Graveney Church  
4.00pm Crib Service, Hernhill Church  
A popular service for all the family. Children come dressed as an angel or a shepherd.

6.30pm. Lessons and Carols, Boughton Parish Church

**Mon. 25th Dec.**

10.00am Christmas Day Family Communion service, Hernhill Church

**Sun. 31st Dec.**

10.30am Holy Communion, Graveney Church.

*"For behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people"(Luke 2:10)*

**ARTISAN & FARMERS MARKET CANCELLED**

Due to a lack of stallholders wanting to take up the event the organisers have had to cancel the Markets that were to start on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Sorry if this causes any disappointment.

David Mann

**CHURCH SERVICES  
FOR JANUARY**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Hernhill - Epiphany Sung Communion.

4.00pm St Barnabas, Boughton - Epiphany Christingle Service

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Boughton - Sung Communion

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>**

10.00am Boughton - Morning Worship

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Hernhill - Special Benefice  
Sung communion for Plough Sunday

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

10.00am Hernhill - Candlemas, Sung  
Communion

**All are welcome at our services**

**OVER THE GARDEN WALL**

I went shopping in Canterbury for a new winter coat and a pair of shoes. The coat was easy but where have all the shoe shops gone? Not meaning to rant but why do you have to have a whole size suddenly, no half sizes anymore? My feet didn't agree to that.

We travelled to South Shields this month for a funeral. Why is it signed all the way as "The North" but on the way back "The South" is only signed half way and changes to "London"?

We stayed in a hotel with the tallest bed I have ever seen. You had to jump on to it and slide off to get out, not for the faint hearted I can tell you!

My friend Nicola hosted a cocktail evening for the girls. To the best of my knowledge, we only had three margaritas but, crikey, it took until lunchtime the next day to recover. What part of, 'I'll only have two then return to wine', did I forget? Hard alcohol just isn't in

my *vodkabulary*, I know because I checked on *whiskypedia*.

I went to my first 'baby shower' for a young lady who I have known since she was born. Not sure about afternoon tea at 11.00 in the morning, but it was a very enjoyable experience. I am pretty sure that babies have just three moods: crying, finished crying and about to cry. Good luck Gemma & Craig. We had lunch at The Three Horse-shoes, so nice to see the pub back to its old self. Laura, another young lady I have known since she was born, (seems a theme here, must be getting old), is incredibly welcoming and the Irish Stew is amazing.

I would just like to add my thanks to Alan for his many years of editing Hernhill News. Your bits and pieces will be sadly missed (Oh dear, that doesn't sound right!).

Stay safe, have a Merry Christmas & God bless, Sandi.

**BITS AND PIECES**

To the many contributors, printers, deliverers and readers of the Hernhill News; my thanks. Thanks also to Joyce, and Barbara before her, for correcting my typing errors. God bless all.



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

