



HERNHILL NEWS

FEBRUARY 2022

PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact the Clerk for Parish Council business on 07876 221580 or hernhillclerk@gmail.com. Full copies of the approved minutes for meetings are available on the Parish Council Website.

A meeting was held on Wednesday 26th January attended by five Parish Councillors, and four members of the public.

Planning Discussion: Josh Wilson of George Wilson Developments Ltd gave a small presentation with regards to their indicative proposals for commercial units and a drive-through on land at Plum Pudding Lane, Dargate. Potential tenants have already been lined up confirming that there is demand. The Parish Council encouraged them to consider green energy as much as possible and ensure drainage would not be an issue. The proposals are looking to obtain a 20% biodiversity net gain. A litter management plan would be put forward for agreement with the Parish Council. The proposals show a high car parking allowance. Swale Borough Council will be approached shortly for a pre-application review.

Allotments: The land rental for the allotment is being increased. A review of the allotments show that since its inception, there has been circa £100 overall loss even with maintenance fees subsidising the land rental. A discussion en-

sued in which it was decided that 12 months notice would be given to increase the plot fee from £40 for a full plot and £20 for a half plot to £50 and £25 respectively. This is to ensure plot fees cover the land rental. Maintenance fees would remain unchanged.

Speed Limits: The survey results for the village speed limit project at Staplestreet had been received and early analysis suggests that there is evidence for a 30mph speed limit. However, the representative at KCC has moved and a replacement is waited pending a reorganisation before the project can proceed further.

Broadband: The project has become further complicated by a number of changes. The KCC voucher scheme has only just been released, combined with notification of the government upgrade scheme which will be changing at 6th April. After this time no new projects under the existing scheme can be started. This means that deadlines are extremely tight to achieve but was considered worthwhile to still pursue. There will be a discussion at the forthcoming extraordinary planning meeting to decide the way forward.

Litter Pick: The Parish Council is planning to hold a litter pick at 2.00pm on Saturday 26th February, meeting at the village hall car park. Equipment will be provided.

Chairman: Cllr Heller
Clerk: Rebecca Parr 07876 221580
e-mail hernhillclerk@gmail.com

KALC Community Awards: six nominations in total were received of which half were for Jill Geliot for her long time contributions as Councillor and chair, as well as being chair of the Horticultural Society and for looking after the church keys. It is anticipated there will be a presentation at the annual Parish Council meeting in April.

Queen's Jubilee: A reminder that the Parish Council is planning to celebrate this with arrangements for the lighting of the beacon on the evening of Thursday 2nd June with a Picnic on the Green on the Sunday 5th June. It is planned for Crockham Lane to be closed and there will be live music. All are invited. More details to be provided nearer the time.

Road Closure: Monkshill Road in the vicinity of the railway line will be closed overnight from 15th February at 10.00pm until 16th February estimated

at 6.00am to allow for maintenance.

Swale Eastern Area Committee: Thursday 3rd February at 7.00pm both at Swale House and remotely. Please email

areacommittee@swale.gov.uk

by Wednesday 2nd February to request to speak. Agenda on SBC website.

The next full meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the village hall on Wednesday February 23rd at 8.00pm at the village hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend. 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 COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Code Red for Humanity

The UN climate conference (COP26) which took place in Glasgow in November put a clear focus on the climate and ecological emergency we are living through. It stimulated many local events around our essential journey to reach net zero carbon emissions and restore nature.

Swale Borough Council organised an event for local businesses to launch the '*Clean Growth Grant*' scheme. The grants aim to help local small and medium businesses reduce the environmental impact of their business. The packed event, at the magnificent new Light Cinema in Sittingbourne, heard inspirational talks from local pioneers. Elvis and Kresse, whose operation is based at Painter's Forstal, described how they turn old fireman's hoses into desirable bags, wallets and belts. Cook's Classic Kitchen, based in Sittingbourne, spoke

about their journey to net zero, including the installation of a 150Kw solar roof. The solar panels are owned by Orchard Community Energy and Cook buy the power. The 'profits' go to fund local community projects. The event was also attended by Nicholls Transport whose HGV fleet now includes 35 trucks powered by liquid natural gas (LNG). Three-quarters of the LNG comes from Blazes Farm where food waste collected by councils across Kent is processed in an anaerobic digester to produce fertiliser and biomethane, A nice example of the circular economy.

In recognition of the Council's work on the climate emergency, Swale Borough Council was invited to join UK100 – a network of highly ambitious local councils, which seeks to devise and implement plans for the transition to clean energy that are ambitious, cost effective and take the public and business with them. I represented Swale Borough

Council at meetings organised by UK100 during COP26 in Glasgow. These meetings enabled local councils to share their experience and knowledge. Topics included the opportunities in retrofitting buildings, decarbonising transport, restoration of sea grass and salt marsh and the specific challenges of the climate crisis for rural areas.

The agreement that came out of COP26 conference was disappointing as world leaders did not respond with the urgency required by the UN's warning of

"code red for humanity". However, the accord was historic in that it marked the first global agreement to foresee an end to burning coal, and to require withdrawal of subsidy for oil and gas. It also requires all countries to submit revised plans to the COP next year. Under the Paris agreement the next review was not planned until 2025. So, while the can has been kicked down the road, there will another review in 12 months' time.

Tim Valentine
(TimValentine@swale.gov.uk)

KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

After a much needed break over the Christmas and New Year period, things are back in full flow already and my inbox is as busy as ever. One topic that I and my colleagues continue to be asked questions on is our position on housing, and specifically the amount of it that is looking like it might be built on some of our local high grade farmland. Finding enough locations in Swale to put all of the houses is particularly tricky as so much of the land is 'constrained'. Large amounts of land north of the A2 are susceptible to flooding and much of the area south of the M2 is part of the highly protected Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This leaves a narrow belt, primarily close to the A2, as the target for most potential housing development.

Our government's housing targets seem to be driven more by economic factors rather than based on genuine local need. Coupled with the changes they have made to national planning policy in the past decade, which have taken a lot of power away from local councils, the story all across Kent is one of huge housing estates being built at a truly dizzying rate. In the past the majority of these large estates have been expansions of towns, but now they are increasingly being in rural areas, some-

times dwarfing the villages they are being built alongside.

The Prime Minister raised people's hopes at the Conservative Party conference last October when he gave a speech stating that new homes should not be built on 'green fields', but sadly three months later there is still no indication that any change to policy is forthcoming. Current planning policy states that if the borough council fail to get a revised local plan agreed before the previous plan expires, then the door is effectively opened for speculative developers to build where they please.

A local environmental campaigner started an excellent and well researched petition to Michael Gove in December. It has already gained over 50,000 signatures. If you would like to add your name, please go to

[Tinyurl.com/govepetition](https://www.tinyurl.com/govepetition)

Hopefully there is still time for the government to see sense on this issue and review both planning policy and their house building targets. It would be great if we could be building a few hundred low cost houses based on local need rather than thousands of houses that are unaffordable to the majority of those people who have grown up in Swale and work in the area.

Rich Lehmann
rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk

HERNHILL CE PRIMARY

We hope everyone in the village has had a good start to 2022. It's been a tricky start for many local schools with numerous covid cases and Hernhill has been no exception. Hopefully as we move towards spring, things will start to get back to normal. We have been "thinking positive" and planned ahead in the hope that we can have our usual events this year such as PTAFAs film nights, an Easter service, school trips and residential visits, and a summer sports day.

2022 promises to be an exciting year

for our school. In March, Hernhill CE Primary will be 150 years old having opened in 1872. We are planning a few birthday events and hope that covid does not scupper our plans.

If any village residents have memories or photos of the school, we would love to hear/see them please. We hope to share them with the children at school. Please do phone us (01227 751322) or email

(office@hernhill.kent.sch.uk).

Thank you.

Sarah Alexander,
headteacher

CHRISTMAS IS NOT JUST IN DECEMBER

Writing this in mid January, for many of us Christmas is well and truly over for another year, the tree and decorations are down and the last mince pie has been consumed. However, in the church we are still celebrating Christmas. The secular Christmas seems to start earlier every year in some homes and often finishes soon after the Christmas Day festivities. In the church, Christmas doesn't officially start until Christmas Eve and continues for 40 days. People not familiar with the church calendar may wonder why we make it last so long after 25th December, well, we have a lot to celebrate with the birth of our Saviour!

On 6th January there is the feast of the Epiphany, celebrating the arrival of the Magi, or the wise men, to pay homage to the Christ child. The crib remains in church throughout the 40 days and at Epiphany, the shepherds are removed and stored safely for another year to make room for the Magi. Although, by the time they arrived, after their long journey from the east, Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus would not still be in the stable. In Matthew's Gospel it says the

wise men "on entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother" Epiphany is sometimes known as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, the Magi were not Jewish, this was God's revelation as foretold by the prophet Isaiah - "And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it." Words which are well known to anyone familiar with Handel's Messiah.

On 2nd February there is the last festival of the Christmas cycle, Candlemas, or the Presentation of Christ in the temple. As well as taking Jesus to be presented to God, it was also the ritual purification of Mary, 40 days after the birth, in accordance with Jewish law.

One of my favourite passages in the Bible is St. Luke's description of this event, when Simeon and Anna realize this ordinary looking little Jewish boy is something very special. This was despite the fact that his parents were poor, as their mandatory offering to the temple was one only given by the poor, (a pair of turtle doves). Like the Magi, Simeon and Anna had been waiting for a sign and waiting to see the Messiah. In Simeon's wonderful words we call

the *Nunc Dimittis* there is the line " to be a light to lighten the Gentiles". This child will become the light of the world for everyone, regardless of race. By the time you read this, Christmas will be over for another year in the church, but these two post Christmas Day fes-

tivals remind us that Jesus Christ came into the world for everyone and is the light of the world, a light that can never be extinguished.

Peter Willcock
Churchwarden

NEW FRIENDS WEBSITE

A new website has been launched to promote interest in 'The Friends of Hernhill Church'. Please have a look. It is a very attractive and interesting development. The address is

www.friendsofhernhillchurch.org.

Some months ago, a small group, supported by the Hernhill PCC, met to consider ways in which the organisation known as 'The Friends of Hernhill

Church' could reach out and appeal to a wider audience in the hope of attracting help and support to maintain the upkeep of St.Michael's church and its surrounds. The new website has six individual sites including a site for articles that may be of interest. Please look at the new website.

Brian Jelfs
brian.jelfs3@gmail.com

HERNHILL HERONS

We're excited to announce a new, innovative partnership with Total Sports Coaching (TSC) Swale - a leading light in childrens' football development. They will help our community club by further developing the player pathway - including the introduction of our football "tots" programme and by supporting the development of our volunteer coaches. At Hernhill Herons we pride ourselves on developing the person as well as the player. Something that TSC

reflect in their values - respect, excellence, responsibility and attitude. We're therefore delighted to welcome them to our extended family and look forward to the benefits that the partnership will bring to the community.

To book the "Heron's Tots" sessions for children from 18 months to three years, search "TSC Swale" or email us at hernhillherons@gmail.com

Mark Woodcock

GARDENER'S CORNER

Spring is around the corner. My patch of snowdrops are in bud, there are a couple of hyacinths beginning to show colour and the days are getting longer. The seeds I ordered have come (rather a lot I thought) and now need sorting through. I have a box for seeds in which I have put cardboard dividers with the months of the year and whether they should be sown in the greenhouse or straight outdoors. This avoids me having to wade through the whole pile when I get in the seed sowing mood and warns me when there is a month

when I need to allow more time. The garden is fairly tidy and reasonably weed free. The latest job has been leaf clearing. There is a school of thought that you should leave the leaves to rot and enhance the soil but I am conscious that slugs and snails are attracted by this lovely moist layer so I prefer to put them in the compost. The next job will be pruning the roses.

Spring is a lovely time of year when we can fully appreciate the wonders of nature, when dead looking trees and bushes produce buds, bulbs provide a carpet of colour and perennials show

shoots of regrowth. Let's hope that the coming year will similarly give us optimism and exhibit the regeneration of a

more social and stress free life. But keep gardening!

Jill Geliot

AN ILLUSTRATED TALK

**HERNHILL
THROUGH
TIME**

(Village, Church & School)

Hernhill Church

Friday 18th March 7.30pm

Pay at the door £5.00

Refreshments provided

Barbara's books for sale are back in the church. You will find all you need for your quiet read. Hardbacks £1, paperbacks 50p

FEBRUARY CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 6th February

10.00am Sung Communion, Hernhill.

We are delighted the Bishop of Dover, the Rt. Rev'd Rose Hudson-Wilkin has agreed to lead our worship. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Wednesday 9th February

10:30am Wednesday Worship, St Barnabas, Boughton. A short 30 minute service.

Sunday 13th February

10.00am Sung Communion, Boughton. Rev'd Sharren Ireland.

Sunday 20th February

10.00am Morning Worship, Hernhill.

10:30am Holy Communion, Graveney. Venerable John Barton

Sunday 27th February

10:30am Benefice Holy Communion, Graveney. Venerable Andrew Sewell, Arch-deacon of Maidstone

Please note: there will be a change in the pattern of Services in March. On the first Sunday, March 6th, sung communion will be at Boughton and on 13th it will be at Hernhill.

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

This Christmas we decided the cats were old enough to trust with our normal tree. It is deliciously tacky and snows tiny polystyrene balls out of the top which are collected in an upturned umbrella affair at the bottom. Huge mistake! It hadn't been up for 24 hours when Jo, doing her supercat impression, flew into the umbrella. It promptly collapsed spreading the snow far and wide. Thankfully our cleaner has a Hetty vacuum cleaner (it's the female Henry). We took the bag out and sucked most of the snow back up and were able to return it to the umbrella. Needless to say, we are still finding little white balls

in the most unlikely areas.

A friend of ours had a young 14-year-old Japanese student from Kent College staying with her for Christmas and wanted to bring him to Hernhill to see a typical old English village. Whilst on their tour she called in for coffee. I'm not sure if we were part of the quaint old England she was showing him, but what was absolutely amazing was his flawless command of our language. Shamefully, I had to admit to him that the only Japanese I knew was Konnichiwa. I knew reading Tai Pan all those years ago would come in useful.

One very useful piece of advice I was given this Christmas was to put an Indi-

an meal in the freezer to have between Christmas & New Year. How lovely to have something totally different from turkey or gammon, I will certainly do

that again.

Stay safe & God bless
Sandi.

BITS AND PIECES

I bet that like me, you were holding your breath in early December, fearful that we might again be denied Christmas with family and friends. What a treat it was to be allowed to have a proper Christmas. I realised how much I had missed seeing everyone last year. I hope that you too were able to enjoy the festive celebrations.

It is sad that some countries did feel it necessary to restrict social gatherings. At the time of writing, some countries are even increasing their restrictions and, sadly, many of their nationals are protesting. There have been distressing scenes of violence on the streets.

Street violence is not the only bad news around at the moment. A number of World governments are indulging in sabre-rattling. In particular the Soviet Union and China. Taiwan is being

threatened and so is the Ukraine. There are problems in the Middle East, Africa and the far east to name but a few. People need to stop squabbling about getting a jab and wearing a mask and pay attention to the big issues. We need threats to be stopped and tensions eased. Otherwise we will not be worrying about masks but worrying about where to get a tin-hat and a bullet-proof vest.

Mary Gransden sent me a little poem which I would like to share with you.

"I'm accustomed to my deafness,
To my dentures I'm resigned,
I can cope with my bi-focals
But-oh-dear, I miss my mind."

I hope Mary is not trying to tell me something.

ADT

REFUSE COLLECTION

February	1	Tuesday	Green Bin
	8	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	15	Tuesday	Green Bin
	22	Tuesday	Blue Bin
March	1	Tuesday	Green Bin
	8	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	15	Tuesday	Green Bin
	22	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	29	Tuesday	Green Bin

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