



HERNHILL NEWS

FEBRUARY 2024

PARISH COUNCIL

All the latest from your Parish Council: Litter, Planning, Waste, Drains, Potholes, Hedgehogs and Neighbourhood Plan.

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

MEETING 31 JANUARY 2024

The January meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 30th in the village hall. It was attended by the clerk, 7 parish councillors and 13 members of the public.

Public Participation:

Several parishioners from the Monkshill part of the parish attended to raise concerns about the destructive felling of trees and hedgerow on Waterham Farm, done by the new landowner in order to clear ditches and prevent flooding. Further enquiries are underway and advice sought from relevant authorities. This will be revisited as an agenda item at the next council meeting.

The Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr Wakes reported the successful completion of the parish survey; full details in the separate article below. A public presentation of the results and next steps will be made in the village hall on 14th March 6-6.45pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st February 7.15pm upstairs in the Red Lion. All welcome.

Hedgehogs:

Posters detailing Wildlife Trusts' Help a Hedgehog advice and links have been attached to village noticeboards.

Planning:

Application 23/505382 Drainage scheme plan required to discharge planning condition for crematorium on Staplestreet. The Council continue to object to the application. The Council do not believe that that sufficient information has been provided in this instance and do not have any confidence in the proposed scheme that flooding will not reoccur. Their concerns remains around uncertainty around onward connectivity in drainage northwards from the Site as well as the unknown condition of the pipe. The Council consider the scheme not being fit for purpose in relation to the high discharge rate expected from the crematorium site of circa 5000l per day of treated effluent and the associated potential flood risk downstream.

Decision 23/50441: Crematorium application for variation on materials and extension refused.

Decision 22/504165: Forge Farm Staplestreet conversion approved.

Litter Pick:

The next village litter pick will take place on 17th February 1-3pm in conjunction with the village hall and DCA. All welcome to take part. Gloves and bags supplied and refreshments will be served in the village hall.

Potholes:

Faversham Town Council is campaigning for a National Pothole Day. Please everyone report potholes to KCC on [Report a problem](#) on a road or pavement.

Highways Improvement Plan:

The council is embarking on a new HIP. Councillors are taking note of any areas of traffic concern in the parish and we are planning to work in concert with Boughton and Dunkirk PCs to share costs and

Chairman: Cllr Barbara Heller

Clerk: Rebecca Parr 07876 221580

objectives. Let us know of any hot spots in your locale.

New Waste Contract:

You may have seen in the Swale BC magazine that a new waste and recycling service with SUEZ begins on 24th March. Any changes to collection days will be noted in the March village news as well as on www.swale.gov.uk/bin-days.

KALC Awards:

The council reviewed nominations for this community award and agreed that it should be given to Peter Wilcock. Peter has been the Churchwarden for the Parish and in the absence of a vicar over the past two years has kept the Church functioning and active in that period. The certificate is usually presented at the annual parish meeting.

Road Closures:

Staplestreet 16th February 1 day from Chalky Road in the west to the Orchards by Dawes Road.
Cleve Hill construction site notice of

abnormal loads coming via Monkhill Road and Seasalter Road. 6 transformers will be delivered over the next few weeks requiring extensive work on this route as the loads are too wide and heavy for Graveney Bridge. The exact dates yet to be confirmed but will begin early February.

Bensteads Charity: Grants are awarded for (1) relief for the old, sick and infirm persons, (2) the provision of education or recreational facilities, and (3) educational bursaries, support and equipment. Further details and application forms may be obtained from: <https://www.bensteadscharity.org.uk> or from The Clerk to the Trustees Tel: 01795 859704

Email: office@bensteadscharity.org.uk
Applications for grants to be received before Monday, 12th February 2024.

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

HERNHILL NEWS

Following Alan Taylor's retirement from the editorship of the newsletter after decades of sterling service we would like to introduce ourselves as the new co-editors.

We plan to continue the publication in much the same format as it has been for many years, but we are hoping to expand involvement of both local individuals and businesses and organisations. To this end we invite parishioners to make use of HERNHILL News in a variety of ways. We would encourage letters addressing local issues of concern or interest, although those referring to Parish Council discussions and decisions

should be taken up with the council. We will make space for "small ads" such as items wanted or for sale and services required or offered. Individuals or groups wishing to advertise events are welcome to use the publication to do so. Feedback will always be welcome and published if the author wishes it. Deadline for publication is the last Wednesday of the month.

Email address for correspondence:
hernhillnews@gmail.com

Andrew Heller and Martin Wood

KCC REPORT

In late November I had the chance to visit a place I'd been wanting to see for years. Nothing as exciting as the 'Tai Mahal' or the Sydney Opera House though, this was a visit to the Material Recycling Facility in Crayford where all of our dry recycling is sorted to be sent on for recycling and re-use.

Way back in 2017 when I was involved with the Plastic Free Faversham campaign group, I visited the incinerator at Allington where our rubbish is burned to generate electricity, and on another occasion we visited the site where our food and garden waste is turned into compost. I never managed to make it to the place which arguably held the answer to the

place which arguably held the answer to the most frequently asked questions around our household waste. Questions like 'how clean does food packaging need to be before it's put in the recycling?' (quite clean, but it doesn't need to be spotless), 'can black plastic actually be recycled now?' (sometimes), and 'can I put tetrapak cartons in the recycling?' (sadly, not at the current time, but soon!).

The visit was prompted in part by the fact that Swale Borough Council is about to start a new contract for household waste collection. From late March, our bins will all be collected by Suez instead of Biffa, and our collection days may change – a letter will be going out to all households in the coming weeks to confirm whether your collection day will be the same or not, and I will aim to provide this information in the piece I write next month if I can.

The new contract gives us a chance to try and redouble our efforts to improve the rates of dry recycling we collect across Swale which, over the last few years, have remained fairly flat and well below where they could potentially be.

There are two issues which cause our recycling rates to be lower than they could. The first is the more obvious one, that people are putting perfectly recyclable items in their household waste. The second, less obvious but more harmful one, is that residents are putting non-recyclable items into their blue recycling bins. This is far more problematic as

it can cause entire lorry loads full of recyclable waste to be rejected when they reach the transfer station in Sittingbourne, which means (literally) tons of paper, plastic and glass is sent for incineration rather than recycling.

On the same day as the visit to Crayford, we visited the transfer station at Sittingbourne and saw two lorry loads of recycling unloaded. Unfortunately both loads were rejected as the levels of contamination within them were too high. Most of the items responsible for the loads being rejected were clearly not appropriate to go into the recycling. There were used disposable nappies, an old pillow, and a large amount of the material was shiny and stuck together with something that may have been used cooking oil.

A large part of our work in the coming years will be trying to get the message out about the harm putting non-recyclable items in your blue bin, and our comms team have already put together a video with footage filmed at the transfer station - <http://tinyurl.com/sbc1223>

Officers within the council often use the term 'dry recycling' when referring to the materials that are suitable to go into blue bins, and I think if we could use this term publicly more often it may help to shift perceptions a little and start to reduce this problem.

Rich Lehmann
rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk

HERNHILL GARDENING CLUB

The AGM will be held on Saturday February 24th at 2.30pm. After the business meeting we will have a talk on Orchids and climate change by David Roberts (our speaker last year). Refreshments will be provided. The 2024 schedules will be available on payment of subscription (£6 for individual membership and £8 for family membership). Anyone interested in joining the club would be very

welcome. The Spring Show will be on March 23rd and we are planning a coach outing to Ham House (NT) in the summer.

Jill Gelliot

HERNHILL PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - SURVEY RESULTS

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the Neighbourhood Plan Visions & Objectives Survey, this will really help to move the Neighbourhood Plan forward. Swale Borough Council will only accept the Neighbourhood Plan if we have included the community in its development, so it is essential that everyone has their say!

It is clear from the survey results that many of us share a common vision of the parish - the things we love, the things we don't like, we also share common concerns about the future:

The survey results show that all of us value Herhill as a rural parish. Many of you describe it as **peaceful, quiet, friendly & safe** and you appreciate the **beautiful rural countryside** with **farms and unspoilt picturesque landscape**. You say you love the friendly community, the **church, pubs, school, DCA & Herons**, the fete and other community activities.

Many of you describe it as convenient, because there is easy access to the **countryside, local towns and wider transport connections**. You also like that there are many places to walk, cycle and enjoy the rural landscape.

However, you do not like the **poor public transport services and poor maintenance of roads**. You are also concerned about **inconsiderate drivers and large vehicles**, lack of well-maintained **pavements** and increased **fly-tipping and litter**. Some areas have **poor internet services** and suffer from **noise pollution** from the larger roads. Some of you feel cut-off by the A299.

Looking to the future, most of you say you are worried about **large-scale development**, threats to **landscape & biodiversity**, increase in traffic and the threat to remaining a rural parish. You also worry about **lack of employment** and that our local pubs and other businesses will close. **The loss of farmland** and threats to fruit farming also concern you.

The survey results show that you are particularly worried about possible future **inappropriate housing development**, its impact on already **overstretched infrastructure** and resulting loss of both agricultural land and biodiversity. However, you are also concerned about the **lack of appropriate affordable housing** within our community. There is also support for the redevelopment of **derelict buildings** in our hamlets.

Nearly all of you believe that better **public transport, appropriate traffic restrictions** and a **village shop** would improve life in the parish. You also want more community activities, protection of the landscape and support for businesses. Some of you would like to see more off-road parking to make roads safer.

Thank you again to everyone who completed the survey, we will note all your responses, (including those not mentioned here), and use these to create an appropriate Neighbourhood Plan. We hope that the plan can then protect the things we love about our parish and support a vision for the future that meets the needs of our whole community.

If you want to find out more, please come along to the **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN OPEN MEETING** on Thursday 14 March, 6:00pm – 6:45pm at Herhill Village Hall. This will include a short presentation about the survey results and progress of the plan.

You can follow the progress of the plan and get email updates via the website here: <https://herhillnp.wordpress.com/>, alternatively, you can join our working group or just come along to one of our regular working group meetings at The Red Lion any time.

Please contact Kim Wakas at climwakes@herhill-pc.gov.uk if you would like emailed reminders of meeting dates.

Kim Wakas

HERNHILL CHURCH

As I write, the Church is in the middle of the Epiphany season – the weeks after Christmas when we focus on the revelation of the glory of Christ and his messiahship. It begins with the visit of the magi – those kings from the East who saw an unknown star in the night sky and followed it to a baby in Bethlehem. They brought with them gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, symbolising kingship, deity and suffering – for their knowledge of the stars told them that this was no ordinary birth.

The season of Epiphany continues with other revelations of glory, in particular the baptism of Christ by John the Baptist at the beginning of his ministry. The heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus, and the voice of God was heard saying: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' It's a rare biblical picture of Father, Son and Holy Spirit together. Another reading during Epiphany is the story of Jesus' first miracle as told in John's Gospel. Jesus was a guest at a wedding when the wine ran out. To save the embarrassment of the hosts, Jesus changed six large jars of water into wine of amazing quality. John writes: 'Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.' Epiphany is about glory revealed and the belief of those who witness that revelation.

The season of Epiphany comes to an end at the feast of the Presentation of Christ at the Temple (also known as Candlemas) which occurs at the beginning of February. We will be celebrating it at a service at Herhill Church on Sunday 4 February. At this service we remember how Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem for the rite of purification, as decreed by Jewish law. While they were there, Jesus was recognised as the Messiah by Simeon, a devout man whose prayerful life gave him deep insight. He blessed the child and praised God in the words of the prayer that we now know as the 'Nunc dimittis'. It's a prayer that recognised Jesus as a Saviour and a guiding light – not only for the people of Israel but also for non-Jews. But Simeon also

spoke of suffering, saying to Mary: 'the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Those dual themes of glory and suffering at Candlemas act as a hinge as we take a last look back at Christmas and the birth of Christ, and then turn to face Lent, Holy Week and Easter and the death and resurrection of Christ. The Epiphany stories of revelation sustain us as we turn from the Crib to the Cross and begin the weeks of Lent. During Lent we are preparing for the events of Holy Week – Jesus' arrest and crucifixion – and then for the mystery and wonder and glory of Easter – Jesus' resurrection. It's a time when we focus on the nature of our own personal faith and seek to deepen our relationship with God.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is 14 February – St Valentine's Day. There will be an Ash Wednesday Holy Communion service at St Barnabas Parish Centre at 10.30 am that day, taken by Cathrine. This service will include the Imposition of Ashes. Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; and since the middle ages it has been the custom to begin Lent by being marked with the sign of the cross on the forehead in ash. The juxtaposition of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day is a reminder that being penitent is also about being loved. It's in the knowledge of love – both human and divine – that we find the courage and grace to say sorry to those we have hurt and to give and receive forgiveness.

During the weeks of Lent, in addition to our usual Sunday services, there will be a weekly Lent study group at St Barnabas at 2.30 pm, beginning on Tuesday 20 February, and then continuing on Monday afternoons. This is an opportunity to explore our faith and its place in our daily lives and you are most welcome to join us.

Pat Saunders
Licensed Lay Minister

CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday 4th 10am Herrnhill
Candlemass Sung Communion.

Sunday 18th 10am Herrnhill
First Sunday in Lent Morning Worship.
10:30am Graveney Holy Communion

Sunday 11th 10am Boughton
Sung Communion

Sunday 25th 10:30am Graveney
Benefice Holy Communion

Wednesday 14th, Ash Wednesday
10:30am St. Barnabas' Boughton
Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion
and imposition of ashes

Sunday 3rd March 10am Herrnhill
Sung Communion

HERNHILL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Hernhill school has had a busy few months. December was very exciting with nativity plays, Christmas shows, Christmas dinner, our PTAFA Christmas shop and raffle, and even a visit from Father Christmas himself. Our term was finished off perfectly with our Christmas in the church led by Revd. Cathrine. It was wonderful to have the church fit to bursting with so many parents and family members joining us. The moment when the lights went out and the children sang 'Away in a Manger' holding their lit Christingles was very special and the perfect end to term.

seen it through the gate on the village hall field! Just email the office with the date you would like to pop along (office@hernhill.kent.sch.uk).

We have started 2024 off in the way we ended 2023, with lots of creative adventurous play and learning. The children have embraced the rain and the mud during our playtimes - and we thank our parents and carers for their support with this. We know our children are healthier and happier through having exciting play opportunities every day whatever the weather. As always, members of the local community are very welcome to come and visit a playtime to see what the children get up to, or even if you just want to have a proper look at our grounds having

As well as playing, the children have got up to lots of interesting learning this term. Year 5 and 6 have been on a guided "Treasure Trail" discovering hidden gems in the local area linked to WW2. Year R took part in a dinosaur and fossils workshop provided by Maidstone Museum. There has also been forest school, swimming lessons and numerous sports competitions. Year 2 took part in an afternoon of rock climbing and laser tag at Herne Bay High. Year 5 did the same experiencing rock climbing and trampolining. Years 3 and 4 had a fabulous Egyptian workshop and were taught how to make Canopic jars from clay courtesy of Maidstone Museum. All of this as part of our "Way Back When" topic. We look forward to sharing more with you next month.

Sarah Alexander
Headteacher

The Fete's Fate...

Shadowy characters have been meeting in quiet corners of local Public Houses over the last 3 months, brought together by an intoxicating blend of community spirit and foolishness. They're gradually forging a leaderless commune of ruthless efficiency,

dedicated to the survival - and even prosperity - of the annual Village Fete. Yes, on 11th May 2024, the Hernhill Village Fete will return. For too long, too much responsibility has been shouldered by too few volunteers, and the gathering of "fresh

blood" bodes well for the tradition's future. Expect the return of local favourites - such as Egg-Throwing, Tug of War and The Dog Show - along with some new "cutting-edge" stalls and acts. Scribe the date now into your calendar for the new Fete that will support all of the Village's community groups. 11th May 2024.
-Anon

What's the "M.U.G.A."?

M.U.G.A. is an acronym for "Multi Use Games Area". It's the "astro-turf" at the top of the playing-fields behind the Village Hall, operated by the "D.C.A." (another acronym!). That stands for the "Dawes Community Association" which dates back to 1904 and

supports our excellent child-care facility, the Hernhill Herons Football Club and a number of other local groups such as Keep-Fit and Snooker. Recently, the M.U.G.A facility has received a significant and very timely upgrade, with high-grade rebound fencing and low-energy lighting replacing the original installations of 30 years ago. With help from the Football Foundation Charity, local electrician Brendan Salt, Architect Miriam Layton and the wider "D.C.A." committee, we're proud to have invested in facilities that can be enjoyed by the wider community. The "M.U.G.A." can be hired from a couple of pounds an hour, just visit dawesca.co.uk.

Mark Woodcock, "D.C.A." & Herrnhill

COMMUNITY POLICING

Police surgery

Your local officer will be holding a police surgery on:

Sunday 11th February 2024
13:00-14:00hrs at
Hernhill Village Hall,
Hernhill, ME13 9JG



Speak to PC Morris about your concerns on crime and anti-social behaviour

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LATE NEWS

The operator of the illegal waste site at Thirwell Farm, off the Wey Street slip road, has been jailed for 18 months, four years after absconding while on bail. James Mete, 61, was found guilty of allowing 40,000 tonnes of waste to be dumped without a permit between 2014 and 2016.

After being prosecuted in 2019 alongside his daughters, Lucy and Billie, Mete failed to answer his bail before sentencing. He was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on January 19th, receiving 14 months for the waste offences and four months for breaching bail.

Lucy Mete received a 26-week prison sentence for the illegal operation in 2020, plus four weeks for failing to appear for sentencing. Billie Mete was handed a six-week jail term for the waste crimes and 28 days for failing to attend her sentencing.

The family was prosecuted after the Environment Agency, which had been contacted by the parish council, raided the site in 2015, finding huge piles of soil and rubble, some of which is still there.

Crispin Whiting

BIN COLLECTIONS

February	6	Tuesday	Blue bin
	13	Tuesday	Green bin
	14	Wednesday	Brown bin
	20	Tuesday	Blue bin
	27	Tuesday	Green bin
	28	Wednesday	Brown bin
March	5	Tuesday	Blue bin

