



# HERNHILL NEWS

## MAY 2022

### PARISH COUNCIL

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

The Parish Annual Meeting was held at the village hall on Wednesday April 27th at 7.15pm. Six parish councillors, the clerk and ten members of the public attended.

The chairman gave an annual report on the work of the Council, then the clerk presented the accounts and detailed the items of major expenditure this year, including resurfacing of the road round the village green.

**The KALC community award** was presented to Jill Geliot for her many years of service to various village organisations including horticultural society, parish council and church.

We listened with awe to reports from various village organisations describing how they had coped brilliantly with all the difficulties and challenges brought about by the pandemic.

**Sarah Alexander** (Head Teacher) talked about the village school celebrating 150 years and the successful introduction of new creative playtime activities.

**Peter Rawlins** described the heartening bounce back of village hall use and

exciting plans for structural improvements.

**Mark Woodcock** outlined the continuing success of DCA childcare and burgeoning Herons club, including support from UEFA affiliated coaching and introduction of Heron's tots.

**Peter Wilcock** gave us a report on the activities of the Church and the Parochial Church Council. This included describing the innovative ways of worship devised through the pandemic restrictions, and the ongoing search for a new priest to rise to the challenge of ministry to our four rural parishes. He was thanked by the attendees for all the additional duties he has performed admirably since our vicar retired.

**Jill Geliot** looked forward on behalf of the horticultural society to the resumption of a regular programme of shows and garden visits for this coming year.

**Twinning:** We received a report about the encouraging progress of twinning activities between families in the village and our counterparts in Vis en Artois.

**The April meeting of the Parish Council** followed immediately and was attended by six parish councillors, the clerk and seven members of the public.

**George Wilson Developments:** Josh Wilson attended at his request to give parishioners an informal briefing and answer questions on the proposed de-

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velopment of land at Plum Pudding Lane, adjacent to the BP garage. Several commercial units are mooted including a drive-through McDonalds. Full plans will be submitted to Swale in due course and the Parish Council will offer comments at that stage.

**Affordable Housing:** Applications for the properties to let can be made through the Kent Choice website or by direct application to English Rural. The deadline for requests is 6<sup>th</sup> May. Posters giving details of the homes available and the rental costs will be affixed to our Parish noticeboards.

**Highways:** Cllr Page attended a meeting about the proposals to rebuild the Brenley Corner M2/A2/A299 interchange. Three schemes will be submitted to public consultation in September and the preferred scheme will go forward to DoT for funding early next year. He also made the council aware of Faversham's cycling and walking development plan (LCWIP).

**Road Closure:** Thanet Way slip road will be closed at Yorkletts from 7.00pm to 5.00am from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May for works by SE Water.

**Queen's Jubilee:** Lighting of the beacon 2nd June 9.45pm. The parish council agreed to join in the national

chain of beacons to be lit in celebration of the Queen's jubilee on the evening of 2nd June. Picnic on the village green 5th June 3.00pm; parishioners are invited to bring a picnic and listen to music on the green in the afternoon. A request for a temporary road closure between the Red Lion and the village green for the duration has been granted by KCC.

**Public participation:** Mrs Chapman raised the issue of the disappearing large fixed bin from the village hall path. The clerk will explore a replacement. She also raised a concern about the sad state of the telephone box opposite the Red Lion. Cllr Page agreed to contact BT about its maintenance.

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 8.00pm Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May at the Village Hall. 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 to the Parish Council.

## **SWALE BOROUGH COUNCILLOR Energy Rebate Payments**

There has been considerable publicity of the government's announcement that a £150 energy rebate payment will be made to all eligible households within council tax bands A-D. These payments will be administered by Swale Borough Council. They will be made to council taxpayer, who is not necessarily the person who pays the household energy bill. As is often the case, the government announced the scheme before the practical arrange-

ments for local authorities to administer it have been put in place.

Swale Borough Council have been allocated funds to distribute these payments. In addition, borough councils have also been allocated a discretionary grant to assist households that are not in those tax bands, but who need additional support for their energy bills. The discretionary funds can also be used to increase support for vulnerable households in the A – D council tax bands.

Kent councils have been working to-

gether to deliver broadly similar schemes for the discretionary payment. In Swale the discretionary payments will be made to residents occupying properties who fall into the following groups.

- Band E – H £150 award to all Council Tax Support claimants in these bands.
- Band F – H £150 award to all properties with a disabled banding.
- Band A – D £30 additional award to all Council Tax Support claimants.

The government has indicated that payments will be made in April, however the scale of the operation to enable councils to deliver the payments means that payments are likely to be made in May and June. Councils have until September to pay mandatory grants and November to pay the discretionary grants.

It is expected that Swale will start payment of the first phase of mandatory grants by the end of April for those tax-

payers who pay their council tax by direct debit. The software package to facilitate the grant payments has not yet been received from government and the council will need to set up the data and test the software before being able to make the first payments. The second phase of the grant payments will be for those households for which the council does not hold bank details and so will require an application and verification process to ensure we are paying those entitled to that payment. Householders will receive an email or letter advising them of how to claim. The customer services team at the council (01795 417850) are on hand to provide assistance when the process goes live.

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### **KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

It can be very easy to feel daunted when responding to consultation documents. They use official sounding language and questions can sometimes be written or framed in a leading way, leaving it hard to work out how to share what you want to say.

Across the five drop-in sessions I helped a total of 36 residents fill in paper consultation responses. In many cases the respondents were people who for various reasons would not have been able to complete the consultation online. Whilst I'm glad that the views of these residents will be represented, I fear that they are just the tip of the iceberg and that there are likely to be hundreds more across the county who rely on these services but for one reason or another will have missed out on responding.

In addition to ensuring that residents'

views on buses are heard, the drop-in sessions were hugely valuable for me in my growth as a councillor. I have been on a steep learning curve since last May's election, and various demanding elements of council work have meant I've not had as much time to spend in our community as I had hoped. Meeting people face to face and listening to their thoughts and concerns helps me to better understand the needs of the dozens of parishes, communities and hamlets that make up Swale East and I will be looking to hold more general drop-in sessions over the coming months.

One resident whose views particularly stuck with me was a woman in her 80s who had been getting the same bus for 40 years. She explained to me how she saw the same people on the bus week in, week out, and that the bus passengers were effectively a commu-

nity too.

Kent County Council have a long list of responsibilities, the first of which is to “seek to improve the lives of all residents in Kent”. If they go ahead with

cutting these bus services it will be a serious failure of that responsibility.

Rich Lehmann  
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## HERNHILL VIL- LAGE FETE

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May  
Village Hall from  
2.00pm

Live music, B-B-Q, Bar, Teas,  
Local Crafts & many stalls

Flower demonstration  
**THE WORLD OF  
FLOWERS**  
Hernhill Church



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 7.00 for 7.30pm  
£5.00 at the door, a glass of wine  
inc.

### THE MONTH OF MAY

In this year's church calendar, the month of May is also part of the season of Easter – the season when we especially remember the new life offered to us by the resurrection of Jesus on that first Easter Day. At seemingly the lowest point of Jesus' life – his death on a cross on Good Friday – everything changes and we are shown a new way – a way of forgiveness and new beginnings as Jesus bursts from the tomb and over the following days appears to his disciples. We celebrated all this with Bishop Rose in Hernhill Church on Easter Day, covering the wooden cross on the village green with spring flowers as a sign of new life. And we continue to celebrate the good news of the risen Christ as we make our way through the seven weeks of the Easter season until we reach the feast of Pentecost on 5<sup>th</sup> June, which marks the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Just as we cannot separate the joy of the resurrection from the sorrow of the Good Friday cross, so we cannot rejoice at the Easter message without remembering the pain and suffering that is such a big part of our world. Especially at this time we think of the

people of Ukraine; their plight is so very present to us. But we know that there is much suffering in other parts of the world too, and at any one time it is likely that someone we know is undergoing personal suffering, perhaps through illness or stress or loss of some kind. The resurrection gives us hope but it does not eradicate the pain and suffering that are somehow inextricably a part of it. Legend has it that St Dominic laughed with his brothers in the day and at night wept with God for the sufferings of the world. St Francis rejoiced at the wonder of creation and yet suffered the pain of the stigmata – the marks of the nails of the cross on his own hands and feet.

We can find ourselves needing to balance joy and suffering on a daily basis, and the Easter message can be our source of hope in this. In a spirit of hope, love and compassion, we can reach out to those who are suffering, holding them in thought and prayer and doing as much as we can in a practical way to be alongside them and ease the circumstance of their pain. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have written the prayer be-

low, which we are using in church to pray for the situation in Ukraine; and Canterbury Diocese has created a web page with links to various charities and organisations that are reaching out to the people of Ukraine: <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/mi ssion/faith-in-action/ukraine/>

At 4.30 pm on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May, the last Sunday of the Easter season, there will be a Celtic-style service at St Barnabas Parish Centre, Boughton, in which we will continue to explore these themes using words and music from the Iona Community. As we rejoice in the Easter message, we also pray for peace for all who suffer, and especially for the innocent who suffer at the cruel hands of others, as Jesus himself did.

God of peace and justice,

we pray for the people of Ukraine today

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,

for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Pat Saunders

Reader

Boughton, Hernhill & Graveney

### THE HERONS

You may have picked up on the subject of "Headers" in the media recently, following research into their impact on long-serving professionals. If you watch youth football you'll know that in today's modern game, children play on smaller pitches, with less players and with the retreat line rule to encourage players to "play through the thirds". At Hernhill Herons we follow FA guidance to not introduce "Heading" in training

until the U12's level - and even then as a very low priority, always using size 3 and size 4, age-appropriate balls.

We're finishing up a very busy season currently, with our AGM on 18th June and Club Presentation Day on 9th July. As ever, if you can help our village club in any capacity - from admin and odd jobs to sponsorship and grounds-keeping, please get in touch.

Mark Woodcock

### HERNHILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We are looking for new members. 2022 is a good time to join us. No subscriptions this year, free entry to shows, helpful hints on plant care, visits to local gardens & National Trust properties. Lots of laughs.

Seasoned gardeners, enthusiasts and novices are all welcome.

GIVE IT A GO!

Phone Jill on 750974 for more information.

### OVER THE GARDEN WALL

I visited the hairdressers this month and was thrilled to not only be offered magazines and coffee, but no longer

required to sit with a mask on. Sure enough, upon leaving, the prices had gone up. Obviously to cover the cost of such luxury!

Our friend, who does our garden, has planted lots of lovely new plants for summer colour, but, what happened to April showers? I have had to go out watering every other day. Who said gardening was fun?

Our lady who does went away for two weeks holiday & arranged for a friend to cover for her. We thought that we got away lightly as one of her other clients had his ironing done at his house. We let her take ours home to do. Apparently, she spent two hours ironing without having turned the iron on. Our ironing just came back smell-

ing of cooking. We have all decided, next time she goes on holiday we will go away too.

We went to my husband's granddaughter's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party this month. Upon leaving we found some very unwell young people outside who obviously shouldn't have been drinking shots. The best thing about being older is that the internet wasn't invented when we were young, so there is no social media proof!

Stay safe & God bless,  
Sandi.

THE RACE IS ON  
for the famous  
**WHEELIE BIN RACE**  
Three Horseshoes, Staple Street  
**23rd July at 1.00pm**

followed by Leigh Highwood at 3.00pm. Plus a charity auction  
Entry forms are available now at The Three Horseshoes. 01227 750842  
Entry £20 per team when you return your entry form

All the proceeds will go to the PILGRIMS HOSPICE

**GARDENERS CORNER**

What a glorious spring we've had this year. The bulbs put on a good show, especially the tulips and now the iris, bluebell and camasia. The early blossom had to contend with fierce cold winds but now the apple blossom is out and to my mind is the best it's been for years. And to cap it all I heard the cuckoo last weekend – the first time for at least two years.

Now is the time to sow vegetable seeds especially in the greenhouse. I have delayed sowing carrot and parsnip seeds outside because the ground is so dry. I am therefore on the verge of doing a rain dance as we've had so little in April – things are never perfect. The grass is beginning to grow al-

though rather unevenly so the mower has been resurrected from the garage and extra exercise enjoyed every 10 days or so. I wonder if we are going to have a drought year, in which case it won't be a lawn for long but a brown dust bowl.

The birds are nestbuilding and I watched a sparrow going into the box with straw and feathers. The collared dove in the rose near my front door has been eyeing me from her platform of twigs which pass for a nest. This rose is also sheltering nests for a blackbird and sparrow.

So all in all the garden is full of renewal and promise, let's hope the year ahead fulfils this.

Jill Geliot

### BITS AND PIECES

The other day, I finished reading the morning paper and sat thinking about the news. Maniupole & Ukraine, food prices, travel restrictions, social unrest, fuel shortages, hospital waiting lists, traffic chaos, heating costs, doctor appointments, climate change, atom bombs, knife attacks, inflation..... Then I did something sensible. I went into the garden and watched the two fish in our pond. They were gently waltzing in the sunshine. I felt much better.

As usual, an enormous amount of ef-

fort has been put into ensuring that the Fete has much to entertain and enjoy.

The Fete represents the beginning of a return to normality for the village after two years of lock-downs involving a loss of contact with others in the village. Next comes a flower arranging demonstration to be followed later in the year by a Flower Festival in the church and, in between, the wheelie bin race. Although I have not been told, I suspect that we will also be able to enjoy another Fete in the village courtesy of Hernhill school. ENJOY!

ADT

### MAY CHURCH SERVICES

#### Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> May

10.00am Holy Communion, Hernhill.  
Rev'd Nina Coulthard

#### Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> May

10.00am Holy Communion,  
Boughton. Rev'd Ros Parrett

#### Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> May

10.00am Holy Communion, Hernhill.  
Rev'd Louise Seear

#### Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May

**10.30am** Benefice Holy Communion,  
Graveney. Rev'd Rex Morton

#### Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> May

**4.30pm** Special service for 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Ascension Day. St. Barnabas, Boughton.

#### Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> May

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

**All are welcome to our services.**

### REFUSE COLLECTION

May	3	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	10	Tuesday	Green Bin
	17	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	24	Tuesday	Green Bin
	31	Tuesday	Blue Bin
June	7	Tuesday	Green Bin
	14	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	21	Tuesday	Green Bin
	28	Tuesday	Blue Bin

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## **HERNHILL CE SCHOOL**

The end of the spring term didn't go quite as planned. We should have known this would happen given that we broke up on 1st April! We had decided to hold our end of term Easter worship outside in the playground rather than the church due suffering large numbers of covid cases in the run up to the last weeks of term. However, the unexpected snowfall put paid to that idea so we were all back on zoom in our classrooms! The PTAFAs did brighten our days with a large delivery of Easter eggs for children and staff which ended the term on a high note.

Our summer term has started well with a return to whole school collective worship in the hall together and lots of sunny days to enjoy our playtimes

(although it has been rather chilly!). We are looking forward to lots of exciting events coming up including residential visits and camping trips for our Year 4, 5 and 6 children.

On another note, we have recently started up a staff 'wellbeing' book club. This has been the brain child of our lovely Mrs Clements and encourages all of us to enjoy a book and then get together to chat about it (in a pub!) which has been fabulous for wellbeing! If you are looking for your next interesting read, do try one of these books. Very different books but both great.

Before the Coffee Gets Cold by Toshikazu Kawaguchi

The Mad Women's Ball by Victoria Mas  
Sarah Alexander  
Headteacher

