



HERNHILL NEWS

MAY 2023



HERNHILL VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY 13th MAY
From 2.00pm
By the Village Hall



PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Annual meeting was held at the village hall on Wednesday April 26th 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.

We listened to reports from various village organisations **Sarah Alexander (Head Teacher)** reported on the school's successful year including gaining a platinum award for creative play-time activities which have become a model for other schools. Residential visits, sport and musical activities continue. The school is full with a waiting list. **Mark Woodcock** reported on the DCA groups including childcare and Herons club. He also gave a review of the village hall year which saw the resumption of bookings beyond those achieved pre-covid and the installation of solar panels. **Peter Wilcock** gave us a report on the activities of the Church and the Parochial Church Council. This included describing the ongoing search for a new vicar to rise to the challenge of ministry to our four rural parishes and thanking the many other visiting clergy who have allowed services to continue, including

Dover's Bishop Rose at Easter. **Jill Gelliot** described the horticultural society's programme of shows and garden visits for this coming year and the possible name change to Hernhill Gardener's Club or Society.

Twinning We received a report about the progress of twinning activities between families in the village and our counterparts in Vis en Artois. If any villagers are interested in joining in please contact the clerk.

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN A meeting was held on 19th April in the Red Lion attended by 11 parishioners. Terms of reference for the steering group were discussed and will be circulated for agreement. A logo for the process designed by Mark Woodcock was considered subject to potential changes. Next Meeting: 7th June, 7.15pm Red Lion, All welcome.

HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN Cllr Page reported that the informal consultation on the proposed speed limits is now underway. The plans are on the PC website and Facebook any com-

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

ments may be sent to the clerk.

KENT PLAN TREE: The fund team are calling for expressions of interest for funding small woodland creation, community orchard and individual tree sites. Money is available for planting and natural colonisation of trees in areas outside of designated woodlands, including gardens, parks, beside roads and footpaths. For more details and an application form contact the clerk.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

23/501781/FULL Creation of new vehicular access and driveway. Bungalow, Mount Ephraim, Staple Street, Hernhill Faversham Kent ME13 9TX. Councillors voted to oppose this application on grounds that it represented a change of use of agricultural land east of the bungalow to 'residential' and the new drive was an unsafe additional vehicle access onto the narrow rural lane.

23/501777/FULL PROPOSAL: Erection of annexe ancillary to main dwelling, incorporating log store and garage. ADDRESS: Crockham Farmhouse, Crockham Lane, Hernhill. Councillors voted to oppose this application on grounds that it represents residential over-development beyond the previously agreed garage and store.

ELECTIONS UPDATE: The Parish Council election was uncontested and

five members were re-elected. two vacancies have been advertised for co-optation at the next meeting. Any parishioner interested in applying can get further information from the clerk.

FAVERSHAM HEALTHY FUTURES: Have your say on future health care provision by completing the survey either online via <https://qrco.de/fhf2023> or get a paper copy from Faversham Town Hall.

ROAD CLOSURES: Staple Street will be closed for approx.. three days from 3rd June between 9:30 and 15.30 in the vicinity of Mountfield House and also Kemsdale Lodge for pole works. Staple Street will also be closed on the 8th June for up to two days in the vicinity of Fairbrook Cottage for South East Water.

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30pm May 24th 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 3 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.

FROM OUR MP

Ask any Kent MP what issue - come rain or shine - fills their constituency postbag more than any other and I think they'd tell you the same thing: housing. It's no wonder. We live in a beautiful part of the world and people want to protect it. I feel exactly the same and understand the emails objecting to new homes. But at the same time, I also get emails from people desperate to find somewhere to live that they can afford - people experiencing the consequences of the need for housing outstripping supply. Besides from its impact on our countryside, we also know that new housing can put ex-

tra strain on our local infrastructure – like putting more traffic on our roads or making it harder to see a doctor or a dentist. This is why planning is decided locally. No one knows better what an area needs than the people living in it, and no one cares more about making sure that development goes in the right place. As a government it's our job to look at the bigger picture, think about our long-term national housing needs and decide how we're going to meet them. It's undeniable that we have a national housing shortage. That's why in 2019 we pledged to build 300,000 new homes a year, and we weren't alone in coming to that con-

clusion. In fact, all the main parties made similar commitments in their manifestos. One problem is that because of the current allocations, the scale and pace of the development expected in areas like ours – beyond the protected green belt - has been really tough to keep up with. I know how worrying that's been for local residents, and that's why along with other Kent MP's I've been fighting to get the current mandatory targets reviewed. In fact at one stage I met with the Housing Minister three times in a month to get our point across! Just before Christmas we found out that we'd been successful, when the Government put forward its plans for updating the National Planning Policy Framework.

Not only have ministers proposed a move away from mandatory housing tar-

gets towards advisory, but there's also tougher rules to make sure developers meet community commitments, and a renewed focus on finding more brown-field sites.

We can't bury our heads in the sand about the need for more housing. There simply isn't enough out there and our children and grandchildren deserve the chance to own their own home. Some of these homes need to be in the South East, as well as in towns and cities across the country. But I think where possible that development should be concentrated in urban areas and, crucially, coupled with the investment in infrastructure we need. Together we need to get housing right for people now, as well as for our children in the future.

Helen Whately

AN ACT SO SACRED IT IS HIDDEN FROM VIEW

Witnessing the coronation on 6th May for the majority of the population will be a first, as many are not old enough to remember the last one. I fall into that category, but only just, I was 11 months old on 2nd June 1953. Coronations are a combination of pageantry and celebration, steeped in history and tradition and an important milestone in the life of our nation. The ritual has changed very little in a thousand years and some may say it is an archaic ceremony of no relevance in the 21st century, and a waste of money. However, most Brits enjoy having the opportunity to see some pomp and circumstance because it is something we do better than anyone else.

All the splendour the Church and State can provide will be on display for the coronation, but despite all the grandeur and magnificence of the service in Westminster Abbey, it is a very solemn, religious act as Charles, like his late mother, vows to serve his people and God as King and Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Prince Charles became king the moment the late Queen died. The coronation will be when he is formally recognised and acclaimed as our rightful sovereign; takes and signs the oath of committal to his people; anointed, presented with the symbols of kingship and crowned. The most sacred part of the service is the anointing. The earliest account of the anointing of an English King was Edgar in 973 at Bath Abbey. Edgar's reign marked the start of the English Monarchy and a united England because he ruled over the kingdoms of Mercia, Northumbria and Wessex. It was St Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, who devised a service that featured the anointing of the monarch as the first kings of Israel were, Saul and David by Samuel, and in 1 Kings 1:39-40 we read that Zadok the Priest and Nathan the prophet anointed Solomon king. This text was used for the anthem Unxerunt Solomonem which was sung at Edgar's anointing. Anthems using the same text have been sung at every coronation for over a thousand years, but it's Handel's stirring and wonderful version, composed for the Coro-

nation of George II in 1727, which will be sung in the Abbey on 6th May.

The anointing is considered so sacred, a canopy is placed over the sovereign by four Knights of the Garter to conceal the Archbishop anointing him with the holy oil on his hands, breast and head. The provision of a canopy has been part of the ceremony for hundreds of years and was not introduced in 1953 to prevent the television cameras filming the sacred act. The holy oil is made of olives harvested from the Mount of Olives which are pressed near Bethlehem and perfumed with a formula said to date from the coronation of Charles II in 1661. The ancient spoon used for the anointing is the only item to survive from the medieval regalia, everything else was destroyed by Cromwell and the Puritans.

On anointing the king's head the Archbishop will say - " Be thy head anointed with holy oil: as kings, priests and prophets were anointed: And as Solomon was anointed king by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet, so be thou anointed, blessed and consecrated King over the peoples, whom the Lord thy God hath given thee to rule and govern, In the name of the Father and of the Son and

of the Holy Ghost. Amen"

There will then be a prayer asking God to pour down upon the king's head and heart the blessing of the Holy Spirit and to prosper the works of his hands: that by the assistance of his heavenly grace he may govern and preserve the peoples committed to his charge.

Appointed by God to reign and serve his people, but not considered divine as monarchs were before the 17th century. Previous monarchs have found this part of the service the most significant and moving. Making this commitment the King is following the example of Christ who was also anointed, as the word 'Christ' means, a King who came not to be served, but to serve.

A prayer for the King Charles III
Almighty God, let your wisdom be his guide and let your arm strengthen him; let truth and justice, holiness and righteousness, peace and charity, abound in his days; direct all his counsels and endeavours to your glory, and the welfare of his people. Amen

Peter Willcock
Churchwarden

HERNHILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We will be having our outings on the following dates.

1. Anna's Country Flower's 6th June.
Hares Farm, Shottenden, Canterbury CT4 8JG
Arriving 5.30 to 6.0pm
£6.00 Entry fee which includes refreshments.

2. Eltham Palace 6th July. English Heritage

Meeting at Mount Ephraim car park, The coach is leaving at 9.45am, returning at 4.30pm approximately.

Cost of coach £26 members, £27 non-members.

To book the outings please contact our Outings Secretary, Trisha Chapman on 07487 258438.

HERNHILL SCHOOL NEWS

The school has had a busy few months. At the start of March, we welcomed over 30 staff from other schools to come and be part of our OPAL lunchtime. This event was led by our OPAL mentor, Cath Prisk, and the visitors were able to chat all things "play" and, most importantly,

observe lunchtime play. We are incredibly proud of how hard our staff have worked over the past 18 months to implement our OPAL play programme to ensure our children have the best play experience every single day. There cannot be many schools in the area who can say that there hasn't been a single indoor

playtime due to the rain over the past few months. Our children are brilliantly prepared in their wet weather gear, thanks to the immense support from the parents, and so are our staff...and so we go out to play whatever the weather. And what a wet few months it has been! Our children continue to amaze us with their creativity, imagination and ability to assess their own risks. As in previous terms, our parents and carers are invited to come and enjoy lunchtime play on any day during the week before half term (week beginning 22nd May). If there are any villagers who would also like to experience our wonderful playtimes and see what we have been up to. To arrange a time to pop up and see us please e-mail the school using headteacher@hernhill.kent.sch.uk. You would be most welcome. The children, as well as playing, have also been very busy with their learning over the past months. Year 2 have en-

joyed forest school and this term it is the turn of Year 4. Year 3 spent a fascinating morning at the Faversham Magna Carta exhibition. Years 1 & 2 visited Herne Bay to expand their knowledge about the pioneering English pilot, Amy Johnson and enjoyed an artistic experience of decorating a tile at Activity Box. Year 5 took part in a collective worship service at St Mary Charity church with Year 5 classes from other local schools. The school has also been busy with sporting activities organised by the East Kent Sports Partnership - with teams competing at the Infant Agility Festival, Infant and Junior speed-stacks competitions, local schools' football matches, hockey competition and cross country competition. The diary is still fit to burst over the coming months so there will be more news to share with you all next month,

Sarah Alexander
Headteacher.

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

Easter this year, I did not take any chances with fancy chocolates like last year for my husband. I bought his egg a fortnight before, just in case! According to his god-daughter the Easter Bunny brings one for every year of your age. I decided the Bunny must have more money than me, so left it to him. We met Peter's granddaughter for lunch this month at The Albion in Faversham. If you haven't tried it, do. She and I had a delicious seafood & chicken paella. The only downside was waiting over 20 minutes for Peter to decide between ribs, fajitas or enchiladas. There was no such problem with the dessert menu, needless to say.

We received an invitation to a 60th birthday party in May and I kept thinking we had something already booked, but my diary showed nothing. We decided to turn down the invitation as it was quite a dis-

tance away, and not someone we know well. Thank goodness, it turns out that is Coronation Day. We will be glued to the TV, I've never seen a coronation before and although Peter was alive, he didn't see the last one either, probably as they didn't have a TV. Interesting choice for the commemorative food I thought. A Coronation Quiche. I think I lost Peter's interest after mentioning spinach & broad beans. He's not known for eating green stuff!

We had the 2nd quiz at The Red Lion. Ever consistent our team came 4th again. Just like my school reports, must try harder. This time of year is proving challenging for knowing what to wear. You are either stifling in winter clothes or freezing in summer ones. I thought the washing machine was shrinking my clothes, turns out it was the pub all along.

Stay safe & God bless,
Sandi.

CHURCH GREETINGS CARDS

The sale of greetings cards in St. Michael's Church Hernhill, has been a very successful project but we have

reached a point, I think, where some fresh images are needed. One source of images for cards in the past was the Church Calendar but sadly this annual

production had to cease due to a drop in sales, mobile phones proving to be a more useful source for a calendar.

I know there are many keen photographers and artists in and around Hernhill and I am making this appeal. Would you think about donating any of your photographs (or photographs of your paintings) of local scenes to be produced for the church cards. But in addition, photographs/paintings of flowers, gardens or animals. Clearly the quality of the photograph will be an important factor when the printer considers it for production, colour and clear images for example, and whether or not you feel it could be a good 'seller'.

The cards are 6 x 4 inches but if your photograph is not exactly this size please do not worry the printer will ad-

just. I would obviously need your name together with the title of the photograph and whether it is a photograph, a water-colour, oil or acrylic painting.

I think contributors in the past have been very pleased to have their work translated into the cards and I would not be the sole judge about the suitability of any image submitted but clearly there would need to be some kind of appraisal. I would be most grateful for your help. Pop your photos in an envelope and send or deliver to me at

Stable Barn, Crockham Farm Cottage,
Crockham Lane, Hernhill,
Faversham: ME13 9LB.

My email is brian.jelfs3@gmail.com.

Many thanks,
Brian Jelfs

MAY CHURCH SERVICES

NB. The usual pattern of services has been changed for the 1st and 2nd Sundays.

Sunday 7th May

10.00am Special Sung Communion for the Coronation, Boughton Parish Church. Rev'd Ros Parrett

Wednesday 8th May

10:30am Wednesday Worship. St Barnabas, Boughton. A short service, followed by refreshments.

Sunday 14th May

10.00am Sung Communion, Hernhill. Rev'd Rex Morton, Assistant Chaplain at the Living Well.

Sunday 21st May. Sunday after Ascension Day.

10.00am Morning Worship, Hernhill.

10.30am Holy Communion, Graveney. Rev'd Nina Coulthard.

Sunday 28th May. Pentecost.

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion, Graveney. Rev'd Martin Burrell

All are welcome to our services.

GARDENER'S CORNER

Our gardens are full of flowers, shrubs and trees but we have a number of invited and uninvited guests. Most obvious are the birds and insects that we invite by providing tempting food either in feeders or the choice of plants that we grow. Great pleasure is to be had watching and listening to the birds especially at this time of the year as they nest build. The other day you could hear the buzz of the huge number of bees in my bed of heathers. However slugs and snails are less welcome as are magpies and sparrow hawks which predicate on the small birds. I shall always remember, when I was gar-

dening a few years ago the glare from the yellow eyes of a sparrow hawk landing about a metre in front of me to take out a sparrow.

Rabbits who nibble our carrots and young shoots, moles who ruin our lawns with their earthworks, squirrels who pepper our gardens with holes for their nuts and badgers who reduce our lawns to looking like a battlefield as they search for grubs all look lovely in pictures but are not welcome in our gardens. Hedgehogs are welcome visitors and again can be encouraged to come with appropriate food but alas their numbers are declining and they are rarely seen here, as there are

badgers about. I once had a hedgehog in my living room. He (or she) had come in through an open door and I only realised his presence by hearing him snuffling around as I sat there. Rescue by cardboard box and release when it was dark followed.

I was cutting back my ornamental grasses a while back when I came across a ball of grass with a little hole in it - evidence that a field mouse had spent a cosy winter among the grasses. A few days later I went to check on the nesting box that the bluetits use and found the entrance full of grass which I cleared to find that the box was full of peanuts. More evidence of field mice and competition for a Des. Res. in my garden.

There are foxes around which means that anyone with chickens have to make sure that fences and pens are in good repair but the foxes do help to keep the number of rabbits down. Pheasants can also do damage by scratching around newly planted seeds and young plants but the males look so decorative as they strut around. A few years ago the village was visited

by a peahen. Nobody seemed to know where she had come from but she visited for several months. She wandered round various gardens including mine and really looked very handsome. She became quite tame, coming close to feed on proffered seeds and also adept at flying up onto the roof of the garden room when the dog was around. It was an odd experience to be woken up by a bird call that you usually associate with gardens of stately homes. I called her Gloria and was sorry when she left to a destination unknown, as suddenly as she had arrived.

I have a friend who lives in Devon and her most unwanted visitors are deer. I have seen them jump through (not over) a hedge to get at juicy new shoots on shrubs and trees. Any new tree or shrub has to be protected by masses of chicken wire. Again, deer are lovely to look at but devastating in your garden.

So a round-up of gardeners' friends and foes. Hope that you get more friends than foes in your garden.

Jill Geliot

HERNHILL SCHOOL ECO CLUB

Hernhill has been selected to participate in a pilot of Schools with the organisation "Pupils Profit", to see if children can make a big difference to plastic waste, by introducing refill shops that they run at school. Please help us to help our planet! Re-using and refilling containers reduces waste and prevents all the emissions that go into making more and more plastic containers. The ECO CLUB, which consists of twenty Year 4, 5 and 6 children, has created a business called 'Refill With Hernhill'. Our ECO shop will offer refills of branded washing up liquid, body wash, hand wash and laundry liquid, with our gorgeous range of eco friendly, vegan, cruelty-free products that are made here in the UK. Our business is fully circular and even our big bulk containers will be returned to be refilled and re-used, so we're working hard to protect our planet. The idea is that

our customers (you) will bring empty plastic bottles from home, such as, washing up liquid bottles, and refill them from our shop. Re-using and refilling containers reduces waste and prevents all the emissions that go into making more and more plastic containers. We hope by having a nice convenient refill shop at school, you'll find it easier to reuse more and waste less.

We are aiming to open once a month. We are opening to the school on Friday 28th April and then, at our next shop on Friday 26th May, we would like to invite anyone from the local community who would also like to purchase items and help re-use plastic bottles to come along

What we will be selling:

- Washing up liquid - wild rhubarb and lemon or apple orchard - £2.00 for 500ml
- Hand soap liquid - clementine or French vanilla or cucumber and aloe vera - £2:50

for 500ml

- Body wash- pink grapefruit and aloe vera or tea tree and mint - £2.80 for 500ml
 - Laundry liquid - fresh linen - £2.50 for 500ml
 - Soap bars - fragrance free- £2.50 each
- We are a cash free shop so will be asking all our customers to pay by card.

How you can support us:

Save up your empty 500ml bottles (you can always donate them to us if you do

not wish to refill and we will re-use them) Come to our shop on Friday 26th May at 3:15pm in the school playground and buy something!

Thank you.

From the Hernhill ECO club - (Joseph, Ethan & Lucia from Y4 / Niall, Amelie, William, Rosie, Sophia, Catalina, Freya, Pearl, Millie & Sophie from Y5 / Charlotte, Jude, Lucia, Imogen, Tess, Lucas & Taylor from Y6)

BITS AND PIECES

Having no interest in boats, trains or planes for holidays and with the children discussing pension plans, national strikes have not been a problem for us. Except that is for the ones in the NHS. I can't believe how fortunate I was to have had my cancer surgery before nurses and doctors walked out. As it is, my follow-up appointment with the cancer surgeon has been delayed twice and now cancelled until further notice. However, the Macmillan Nurse has already told me that my various scans are clear of cancer.

Even when treatment is in progress, I know how worrying the uncertainty can be. I'm not taking sides but I do feel for the many who don't even know the seriousness of their condition. For some it will be

minimal, for some it will be terminal.

On the bright side, we have two events coming that should cheer us up.

The Coronation is the first. This time, I will not be standing on the processional route, in the rain, as I did for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth. I was a lot younger then and anyway, we did not have a television at home as an alternative way of viewing it.

The second event is the Hernhill Fete. Certainly Joyce and I will be attending that. Come rain or shine, we will be serving tea and cakes in the Village Hall. If anyone should care to bake a cake for that, we would be most grateful. Whatever, we hope to see you there enjoying yourselves.

ADT

BIN COLLECTIONS

May	2	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	9	Tuesday	Green Bin
	10	Wednesday	Brown bin
	16	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	23	Tuesday	Green Bin
	24	Wednesday	Brown bin
	30	Tuesday	Blue Bin
June	6	Tuesday	Green Bin
	13	Wednesday	Brown bin
	14	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	20	Tuesday	Green Bin
	28	Wednesday	Brown bin
	29	Tuesday	Blue Bin

Alan D. Taylor

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