



HERNHILL NEWS

NOVEMBER 2023

PARISH COUNCIL

The October meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 25th. It was attended by the clerk and five parish councillors, Councillor Alastair Gould, PC Gary Morris and three members of the public including Councillor Sarah Moakes from Boughton PC.

Kent Police: PC Gary Morris can be contacted by e-mail at

gary.morris@kent.police.uk

or through

"my community voice"

a messaging service for Kent and Medway residents, businesses and community groups. The service sends updates by e-mail. You can sign up to join the service at

mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk

Gary reported local crime statistics for the month during which time there was no activity. Councillor Wakes mentioned unwanted press attention in High Street.

Planning:

Application 23/50441 for variation of condition 29 (high building construction standards) relating to the newly opened crematorium. Extensions to the building to increase its size and alterations to the toilet block and construction of electrics cabinet. Councillors voted unanimously to oppose this application on the grounds of inadequate evidence. It was noted that the crematorium is operating despite various conditions that have been imposed not being discharged.

Evaluna: Alistair Gould reported that

enforcement action is ongoing.

Neighbourhood Plan: Councillors Waters and Wakes gave a report on the meeting in the village hall on Friday 13th October. This was well attended with more people volunteering to help produce the plan. A questionnaire will be circulated with this newsletter to explore areas of concern for local people. The completed questionnaires can be put into drop boxes in local pubs or posted to the clerk. The council agreed to provide a prize hamper for a randomly selected returned questionnaire. The next meeting will be on the 27th November at 7.15 upstairs in the Red Lion.

Editor for Hernhill News: Councillors (minus Barbara Heller who excused herself from the discussion) agreed to ask Andrew Heller and Martin Wood to take on the editorship following retirement of Alan Taylor after many years of sterling service.

Village Speed Limits: With respect to costs of implementation, Councillors agreed to release funds to put the plan in place. Thanks to contributions from Richard Lehmann (KKC and Swale) and Alastair Gould (SBC) the final cost can now be met from our reserve. A new Highways Improvement Plan will be needed. Suggestions from parishioners would be welcome. We plan to work with Boughton and Dunkirk in order to share costs where possible.

Climate and ecology bill: Councillors agreed unanimously to support this cross party private members bill to reverse nature loss and to urge the gov-

Chairman: Cllr Barbara Heller

Clerk: Rebecca Parr clerk@HernhillParishCouncil

ernment to fulfil the commitments agreed at COP21 (hosted by UK) to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees C.

Biodiversity: Councillors agreed our own local plan for the green spaces which we control in order to encourage wildlife including birds, bats and insects. The plan is now on the website.

Clerks hours of work: Councillors agreed to increase the clerk's allocated hours of work to the recommended minimum for our size and activity.

Finances: The council discussed next year's budget which will be finalised at

the meeting in November.

Next Parish Council meeting is on 29th November at 7.30pm, 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.

CHURCH LETTER

A few days ago, I received a 'rant' message from a dear friend sharing his thoughts about the world's current situation. He expressed worry and confusion over what he described as a meltdown of the world. He referred to different issues including the recent war Israel and Palestine, in Ukraine, Global warming, male menopause and assisted dying.

Although to him it was a rant to a friend, it was more to me. He managed to put into words what many people, myself included are experiencing daily. Every time I read a newspaper or listen to the news, I find myself asking life's big and complex questions.

What is becoming of the world?

Are there any solutions?

Where is God in all of this?

The truth is I haven't found answers to most of these and many other complex questions. So, if you were hoping to get answers in this article, I'm sorry to disappoint you. However, in times like these I turn to my Christian faith for strength and hope. There are plenty of stories in the Bible that express the pain and suffering that relates to our human experiences. In the Christian tradition, there is something called la-

ment. It is a type of prayer. One writer described it as a repeated cry of pain, sorrow, rage, and grief directed to God that emerges from personal or corporate suffering and turmoil. The words of lament sound hopeless yet they are doing the opposite. In Lament, a person is reaching out for hope by directing the difficult questions and feelings to God and seeking deliverance.

One of the places in the Bible I turn to for words to lament is the book of Psalms. Although most of the psalms are songs of praise and very comforting such as the famous Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd", there is a group of psalms that expresses rage to the Lord. In these psalms, God is often felt distant, silent, and sometimes hostile to the writer. The pattern of lament is usually words of anger, a recollection of God's previous demonstration of help and restoration, concluding with praise to God. However, there is one lament psalm which doesn't follow the usual pattern. It does not end with words of praise. Instead, it finishes with, "You have taken from me friend and neighbour. Darkness is my closest friend". It seems we are living under a great cloud of darkness in the world despite the many prayers for peace be-

ing said in various communities. While for us, this darkness is a distant friend, for some it is their closest friend. Regardless of the distance, the reality is the cloud of darkness is there.

In the UK, 11th November is a date set aside to remember the lives lost during the world wars. We deny living under pretence that the freedom we enjoy today was not painful. We refuse forgetting the names, known and unknown of the many who died during the war. Like last year, Remembrance Day is occurring in the context of the Israel-Palestine war. The image of innocent lives, young and old that have been lost is still fresh in our minds. We cannot ignore our shared pain, helplessness, and questions.

Therefore, in acknowledgement of this great cloud of darkness that surround our world today, I invite you to come and join with others at 10.50am on Sunday 12th November at St Barnabas for a Service of Remembrance or at the Hernhill War Memorial for an act of Remembrance. In either of these places, we not only remember 'not just names' of those in our community who have died, but we also lament and ask how many more lives should be lost in the terrible wars.

I finish with a lament from Psalm 88.

LORD, you are the God who saves me; day and night I cry out to you.

May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry.

I am overwhelmed with troubles and my life draws near to death.

I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am like one without

strength.

I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no more, who are cut off from your care.

You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths.

Your wrath lies heavily on me; you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.

You have taken from me my closest friends and have made me repulsive to them. I am confined and cannot escape; my eyes are dim with grief. I call to you, LORD, every day; I spread out my hands to you.

Do you show your wonders to the dead? Do their spirits rise up and praise you?

Is your love declared in the grave, your faithfulness in Destruction?

Are your wonders known in the place of darkness, or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?

But I cry to you for help, LORD; in the morning my prayer comes before you.

Why, LORD, do you reject me and hide your face from me?

From my youth I have suffered and been close to death; I have borne your terrors and am in despair.

Your wrath has swept over me; your terrors have destroyed me.

All day long they surround me like a flood; they have completely engulfed me.

You have taken from me friend and neighbour— darkness is my closest friend.

Have a blessed month.

Cathrine Ngangira
Priest in Charge

MISSING CAT

Please could you look out for a missing cat.

It is a small, one year old white and tabby cat with a brown chin. It has been missing from the Red Lion area for the last couple of weeks.

Please ring

Helen Figgis 07775 426551

HERNHILL CHURCH CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, 11th November

10:30am to 3:30pm.

Refreshments served all day

This annual event, which started in 2013, offers a good selection of Christmas gifts and novelties.

HERNHILL CE PRIMARY

Our first term of the academic year has been packed to the brim with learning, play and events. Our PTAFAs fete in September was extremely successful, raising a record £4874 for the school. We are extremely grateful for all the time and efforts put into this event by some many people.

Our fabulous Year 2 class held their Macmillan coffee morning at the end of September. The children welcomed visitors, made drinks, served cakes, collected donations and cleared up all the rubbish. They can be rightly proud of their achievements having raised an incredible £654 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

In the same week, we were honoured to host the first South East OPAL (outdoor play and learning) conference. Over 50 delegates from schools across the South East of England attended, along with Michael Follett (founder of OPAL) and Tim Gill (the UK's leading expert on risk and play, and a global advocate for children's outdoor play and mobility). It was an inspiring day and our children loved showing visitors around our playground and fields.

At the start of October, we celebrated Neurodiversity week. We all learned about the word neurodiverse which is an 'umbrella term' used to describe lots of differences in the brain. We celebrated that we are all different with our own gifts and talents. We also found out about some famous people who are neurodiverse. Did you know Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter actor) has dyspraxia, Greta Thunberg (climate

change activist) has autism, Simone Biles (US gymnast) has ADHD, Lewis Capaldi (singer) has Tourette's Syndrome and Tom Holland (Spiderman actor) has Dyslexia? We finished our special week with dance workshops for every class from the Springs Dance Company. All the workshops focused around the picturebook 'You are Special' by Max Lucado. A wonderful week! Alongside all of this, we have also fitted in a term of swimming for Year 5, a term of forest school for Year 3, digital leader training for Year 5 children across a group of local schools, a Year 2 basketball festival, a junior football tournament and our Harvest festival at the church (with donations to Faversham foodbank). We were especially delighted that our junior choir was invited to sing at Revd. Cathrine's first service, held at Boughton church.

We certainly have been living life in all its fullness (John 10:10)!

A few dates for your diaries; all villagers and members of our local community are most welcome at the following events.

Tuesday 7th November and Tuesday 5th December 3:30-3:45pm - our Eco Refill shop. Come along and pick up some lovely washing up liquid, hand wash, body wash or soap bars. Card payments only.

Monday 13th November 9:05-9:20am - our annual remembrance collective worship around our poppy memorial in the car park .

Do come along if you can.

Sarah Alexander
Headteacher

THE HERNHILL NEWS

24 years, 700+ 'Bits and Pieces', an incredible record of dedication and editorial skill by Alan Taylor who has decided to stand down after the December edition of the News.

I think 'Bits and Pieces' is a very appropriate phrase to describe the contents of the News and always, a very pleasant, frequently amusing way for Alan to finish off each edition. But of course, with news that the Village Fete needs a new organising committee, questions will arise about the future of the HHN if a new Editor cannot step forward. Anyone interested in the role will find Alan a most helpful and enthusiastic bloke to consult.

Alan I know, and maybe Ricky Holdstock the previous Editor, relies entirely on the goodwill of locals to offer items for publication in each of the 11 editions on an annual basis.

In most cases, when there is a change of Editor for any publication, a change of focus, approach or style is frequently expected or anticipated. In the case of the HHN, the Hernhill Parish Council

sponsors the publication and require that each publication will report on items debated by the Council at their meetings. Our local MP and our local County Counsellors are also given space in each publication for items they consider to be of local interest. I sometimes feel that the length of these reports lack a certain amount of brevity and if this was applied I am sure there would be no loss of interest.

I frequently ask myself, after reading an edition of HHN, is this or that article newsworthy, of interest, amusing or just plainly dull. But of course, items I think are rather dull, others might applaud. I do think, however, that a regular space for 'Replies to the Editor' might encourage more debate and interest in the contents of each edition and this feature might gain appeal as readers became more confident in airing their views and responses to the articles presented.

The Village, Alan, owes you an enormous debt of gratitude for your work with HHN, thank you dear friend, I raise my glass of rouge to you.

Brian Jelfs

NOVEMBER CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 5th November

10.00am Hernhill, Sung Communion.
Rev'd Cathrine Ngangira

Wednesday 8th November

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

Sunday 12th November. Remembrance Sunday

10.50am Hernhill War Memorial. Spe-

cial service of remembrance.

Followed by refreshments in the church.

Sunday 19th November

10.00am Boughton, Morning Worship.

Sunday 26th November

10.00am Boughton, Benefice Sung Communion

Sunday 3rd December. First Sunday of Advent

10.00am Hernhill Sung Communion

All are welcome to our services.

FARMERS MARKET

We have a new "Farmers Market and Artisan Products" event taking place in **the Hillage Hall on Sunday 17th December.**

Markets will then be on the first Sunday of each month from February 2024 throughout next year. These may be of interest for local residents to attend or for those looking to sell their own suitable products, at future events.

David Mann

A date for your diary
"BREATHING SPACE" FOR ADVENT IN HERNHILL CHURCH

Friday, 1st December 7.30 to 8.30pm.
with the University of Kent Cecilian Choir

Free admission.

A time of peace, silence, wonderful music, candlelight and stillness in the unique atmosphere of our beautiful 15th century church.

All are welcome.

**RINGLEMERE ENSEMBLE
CONCERT**

An enormous thank you to everyone who turned out in such foul weather to hear The Ringlemere Ensemble play a beautiful concert in St Michael's church on Wednesday 18th October. The Friends of Hernhill Church raised over £1000 from the evening, and after expenses made a profit of £875. This will be used for preservation and maintenance of the building which has been standing next to our village green since just after Agincourt. It was lovely to see so many different people in the church mingling, meeting the new vicar Catharine, and enjoying the atmosphere as

well as the music.

If anyone wishes to become a Friend, further donations and/or memberships are always very welcome. Even as little as £3 a month amounts to an extra £45 a year once gift aid is claimed. It all makes a big difference! Please contact

Brian Jelfs, Secretary
The Friends of St. Michael's Church
Stable Barn,
Crockham Farm Cottage
Crockham Lane
Hernhill, ME13 9LB
e-mail brian.jelfs3@gmail.com

Chris Page

GARDENING CLUB QUIZ

Five tables of quizzers prepared themselves for battle to find the most knowledgeable about subjects such as: "Kent", "Food and drink", "False or true" statements, "Plants and flowers" and "Television".

They also had the task of unscrambling anagrams of "breeds of dogs".

Mark, the quizmaster, had a permanent grin on his face as he observed looks of anguish as memories were searched (and often found wanting).

It has to be said that things became more relaxed after the interval during which there was an opportunity to have a slice of Rebecca's gin cake or Kim's fruit cake laced with amoretto.

In the end the scores were quite close but table three just pipped table five to the post. A most enjoyable afternoon had been held by all.

Many thanks to Mark for setting the questions.

Jill Geliot

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

Autumn is most definitely here as we have seen the return of 'Strictly Come Dancing' & 'The Great British Bake Off'. Needless to say, Peter is less than impressed.

Weirdly we had a great lunch at Crescent Turner and sat out on the patio in

25 degrees heat and the following Sunday had to dig out the heaters to sit in our conservatory as it was only 11 degrees.

We saw the last of the 'Music on the Green', such a great way to meet up with your neighbours on a Sunday afternoon. Thank you Red Lion and let's

hope it returns next year.
 I had to go for the three-year mammo-gram check this month. This is where they manage to turn a cup into a saucer. It has to be done though, ladies, don't even think of not going.
 Peter went for a regular blood test and I urged him to ask about the shingles jab. When he returned, I asked if he had remembered to enquire and he was thrilled to know he is too old to have it. That's the jab, not the disease! They

only vaccinate between 70 & 79 years of age so if you fall into this, go get it. We went to Faversham cinema to see the Great Escaper with Michael Caine & Glenda Jackson. What a lovely film, laughter and tears in equal measure. Halloween is nearly upon us; you can tell because the shops are full of Christmas treats! I'm sure Peter uses it as an excuse to buy more chocolate!
 Stay safe & God bless,
 Sandi.

BITS AND PIECES

Being of a certain age, I enjoy reading "The Oldie". It is written by those who are often a little younger than me but who express views which don't disturb me in my 'armchair' tranquility. However, this month the magazine had a paragraph that did ruffle the grey matter. It was about a surprising aspect of the way in which the brain works when we read printed matter. This is an example.

'It has been dnomeatrsetd taht if the fsrit and lsat lletres of a wrod are in crorcet oedrr teh the oder of the lletres in bwteen deos not mtater. The wrdos are aciluotmtalay reordered by the bairn and the manneig can slitl be fluly uredt-sonnd by the rdaeer'.

Try it!
 To my surprise, when I did, I found that what it claims is true. That now raises a couple of interesting questions for me.
 a) Why, in infant school, did I have to spend so much time learning to spell?
 b) Are those abbreviations that are used by texting gurus with their flashing thumbs the inevitable future for writing? Whatever the answer, I have decided to hold on to the hard work that I put in when I was in the infant class. So, if you find that I have produced any strange spelling, it's regrettably a mental aberration. It is not an attempt on my part to get up-to-date and emulate the younger generation.

ADT

BIN COLLECTIONS	November	7	Tuesday	Green Bin
		8	Wednesday	Brown bin
		14	Tuesday	Blue Bin
		21	Tuesday	Green Bin
		22	Wednesday	Brown bin
		28	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	December	5	Tuesday	Green Bin
		6	Wednesday	Brown bin
		12	Tuesday	Blue Bin
		19	Tuesday	Green Bin
		20	Wednesday	Brown bin
		26	NO COLLECTIONS	



If the piece in 'Bits and Pieces' didn't work for you, this is the translation.
"It has been demonstrated that if the first and last letters of a word are in correct order then the order of the letters in between does not matter. The words are automatically re-ordered by the brain and the meaning can still be fully understood by the reader"

Why not apttmet rdineag taht pceie ainag?