



# HERNHILL NEWS

## October 2022

### PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact the Clerk for Parish Council business on 07876221580 or [hernhillclerk@gmail.com](mailto:hernhillclerk@gmail.com). Full copies of the approved minutes for meetings are available on the Parish Council Website.

**Planning:** An extraordinary meeting was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September concerning two planning applications attended by five councillors. A minute's silence was held for the passing of HM The Queen. The council objected to the demolition of Thatch Cottage, Staplestreet (22/504096) with the replacement of two dwellings. The Parish Council voted to support the application concerning the conversion of the agricultural building into a dwelling through raising of the roof height (22/504165). Noting that change of use had previously been approved to residential use (20/504753) under prior notification.

**A regular meeting** was held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September attended by three Parish Councillors, Ward Councillor Alastair Gould, and ten members of the public.

**Planning Discussion:** Josh Wilson of George Wilson Developments Ltd provided an update on why the application (22/502565) for three commercial building and a McDonald's Drive-thru was withdrawn. The commercial buildings already have potential tenants

should the application be approved. Since there was a significant opposition to the drive-thru, this would have potentially delayed the now withdrawn application. Therefore, a new application would be submitted for just the commercial buildings alone. There is also to be a new application submitted concerning the existing approved application of the extension of Waterham Business Park (20/505778) on High-street Road for three commercial units. The new application will be for a reconfiguration of the commercial units on the site.

**Complaint:** A complaint had been received to the Parish Council concerning the previous Chair of the Parish Council, Jill Geliot, concerning her son moving into a house in Forge Farm Row. The complaint was passed to the Monitoring Officer at Swale Borough Council who found that there were no grounds for action with regards to any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest. Considering the statement made in the previous month's meeting by Mrs Geliot surrounding the timeline of her son's application, the Council do not consider further investigation is required.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** Mr Tuff, who is councillor at Dunkirk Parish and is also involved in the Boughton and Dunkirk Neighbourhood Plan gave a talk on the process and timelines along with

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Clerk: Rebecca Parr 07876 221580  
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how such a plan can add more weight and control to development and open spaces within the parish. The importance of volunteers in the parish was highlighted to see such a plan through to fruition as it is a community led project rather than by the Parish Council. The Parish Council are to discuss at the next meeting how they can encourage community involvement for the Hernhill Parish's Neighbourhood Plan.

**Bonfires:** The council is asking people who are lighting bonfires to be considerate of their neighbours and surroundings keeping the number of bonfires to a minimum. Garden waste can be added to Brown bins rather than burnt. Do not burn synthetic items that create black smoke. Avoid lighting up in strong winds that blow directly towards houses. Never leave a fire unattended or smouldering for hours. Complaints about bonfires that become regular problem can be reported to the Environmental Department at Swale Borough Council 'environmental@swale.gov.uk',

(01795 417850).

**Allotments:** A half plot is currently available, if interested please apply to the Clerk.

**Councillor Vacancies:** The council currently has two vacancies for councillors, following the resignation of Paul Couzens and Simon Edgington. Both have been involved with the council for a large number of years and their support and experience will be missed. If you are interested, please contact the clerk for more details.

**The next full meeting** of the Parish Council will be held at the village hall on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of October at 7.30pm 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 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.

### KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

I usually stick to writing about local matters in my updates, but it would be wrong not to acknowledge the national events of the past month.

In the space of just a few days we saw a new Prime Minister and new government, and then on the 8th September came the sad news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

Queen Elizabeth was an incredible public servant, and the news of her passing has left many of us disoriented. Not only because the first week of September was already a time of great change, but mainly because Queen Elizabeth was the only mon-

arch many of us had ever known. She was a constant in our lives (for many, most notably at family Christmases) from childhood right through to the present day and we not only feel her loss, but the loss of our connection to a fading generation. We mourn the past and feel a collective anxiety about what comes next. She will be greatly missed as a stable presence in our lives.

Coming back to local matters, the ongoing issue of the proposed cuts to bus services across many parts of Swale East still looms over us. KCC's cabinet member made the decision in mid July to push ahead with the cuts,

but I successfully appealed for the decision to be reviewed by KCC's Scrutiny Committee. This meeting took place in mid August and the decision was referred back to full council for further debate. The full council meeting was scheduled for 15th September, but has been postponed in respect of the national period of mourning and has not yet been re-scheduled.

Over the coming month I plan to start talking with parish councils to see what plans can be made to help vulnerable residents during the coming winter. Even with the newly announced price cap, energy prices will be soaring and some residents may find it difficult to keep their homes

heated throughout the winter. I will provide an update on this in next month's column.

In the meantime, if you are concerned about energy bills, this Which magazine calculator provides a useful estimate of what you can expect to pay for energy over the next couple of years.

[tinyurl.com/energycost22](http://tinyurl.com/energycost22)

Swale residents needing extra support can also contact 'The Fuel and Water Home Adviser Service' Contact Steve Pettit on [pettitt@children-families.org](mailto:pettitt@children-families.org) or telephone 01795 889233.

Rich Lehmann  
[rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk](mailto:rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk)

### SEEK AND WONDER

We are looking forward to a new term of Seek and Wonder sessions for children and families. With stories, music, crafts and prayers they will be fun for all the family. The paint and glue are all ready and waiting for our first session of the autumn on

Saturday 8 October at 3.30 pm

St Barnabas Parish Centre.

We will be hearing a story that Jesus told about a mustard seed and thinking about how big things can grow from something tiny.

For more information contact me.

Pat Saunders (07790 703675  
[patriciasaunders679@gmail.com](mailto:patriciasaunders679@gmail.com))

### FREE DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Dunkirk Village Hall

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 2.00pm

Hernhill currently has defibrillators at Hernhill village hall and also at The Dove in Dargate. But, would you know what to do? Could you save someone's life?

Learn how to use a defibrillator.

There will be a demonstration and an opportunity to get 'hands on' experience.

Contact the Clerk for Details:  
0787 6221580

### SERVANT KING - SERVANT QUEEN

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, a lot has been written and said about what this wonderful woman did for our nation and the Common-

wealth during her long reign. The declaration she made as Princess Elizabeth on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in South Africa in 1947 has been quoted and shown many times, because of her platinum jubilee and her passing,

and we are all now very familiar with those words, “I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service...” She certainly kept that vow.

The ancient liturgy used at the Queen’s Coronation doesn’t mention the words serve or serving, the oath she solemnly took in Westminster Abbey on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953 was to govern her “Peoples”. However, once she had been anointed and crowned the Archbishop referred to her as God’s “anointed servant, our gracious Sovereign”. Despite having been adorned with all the splendid trappings of an earthly monarch, the Queen knew she must serve a greater King, who “came not to be served but to serve.” Yet this greater King, the one she wanted to serve, had never claimed kingship himself. He was not born in a palace but a lowly stable, he had no golden coach, but rode before the cheering crowds in Jerusalem on a donkey. There was no royal crown on his head, only a crown of sharp thorns. Instead of rings on his fingers, symbolising power and wealth, nails were hammered into his hands. No regal throne to be raised upon, instead hung from a wooden cross to die a common criminal. Although Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God, he never said he was a king. Anyway, kings, queens and presidents are earthly titles and Jesus said in St John’s Gospel “my kingdom is not from this world”, when asked by Pilate if he was the King of the Jews.

Her late Majesty said, “For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead

my life....” At the opening of the General Synod of the Church of England in 2010, she said, “At the heart of our faith stand not a preoccupation with our own welfare and comfort, but the concepts of service and of sacrifice as shown in the life and teachings of the one who made himself nothing, taking the very form of a servant.” In her 2012 Christmas Day message the Queen spoke again of God sending Jesus “to serve, not to be served....He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ.”

To commemorate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday a book was published entitled ‘*The Servant Queen and the Servant King she serves*’. The Queen wrote the forward, “I know the only way to live my life is to try and do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings and to put my trust in God.”

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2022, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her accession to the throne, the Queen sent a message to the Commonwealth and signed it, “Your servant, Elizabeth R.” How many of the heads of state in the world today sign themselves as a servant?

The Archbishop of Canterbury in his sermon at Her late Majesty’s funeral said, “People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer. But in all cases those who serve will be loved and remembered.”

Queen Elizabeth II was certainly loved and will definitely be remembered with great affection.

Peter Willcock  
Churchwarden

## CHURCH SERVICES

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

10.00am Holy Communion, Hernhill  
Rev'd Sharran Ireland

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October

10.00am Harvest & Holy Communion, Boughton

Rev'd Nina Coulthard

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October

10.00am Harvest & Morning Worship, Hernhill. Rev'd Maurice Worgan

Donations for "Catching Lives" gratefully accepted.

### Sunday 23<sup>th</sup> October

10.00am Benefice Holy Communion,

Graveney. All Saints Patronal Service Rev'd Rex Morton

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October

4.30pm St Barnabas, Boughton "A Time to Remember"

A service of prayer and thanksgiving to remember the departed.

### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October

10.30am Wednesday Worship, St Barnabas, Boughton

A short service, followed by refreshments.

All are welcome to our services.

## GARDENER'S CORNER

So autumn is upon us once more and I'm itching to start the clear up and cut back but there is still a lot of colour and new plants popping up – nerines, autumn crocus, autumn cyclamen and the crab apples are forming. It is amazing how our gardens survive such adverse conditions as we have experienced this year although I have lost one or two shrubs. The grass is growing again all be it with bare patches.

I have been very pleased and somewhat surprised that the lemon and orange trees that I treated myself to this year are bearing fruit. I regularly check the one orange, now the size

of a satsuma, and a number of lemons look as if they might mature. They have been out on the terrace all summer but I have moved them to the conservatory as we have had cold mornings. What one upmanship to put your own lemon in your gin and tonic!

Now is the time to plan for next year, planting spring bulbs and ordering seeds. If you are considering moving plants around or buying new ones autumn is the best time. One last effort to do the autumn tidy and then you can sit back and wait for the snowdrops.

Jill Geliot

## ROYAL COMMEMORATIVE CHINA

### A talk and display

Hernhill Church

Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7.00pm

(Postponed from 9<sup>th</sup> September because of the death of her late Majesty) It is now an event to mark the start of the reign of King Charles III. Items on display will be from the Re-

gency period to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, commemorating royal births, coronations, jubilees, weddings, royal tours, deaths and other important events, some being rare pieces from a private collection.

Refreshments.

Free admission with a retiring collection for church funds.

All are welcome.

### **A TIME TO REMEMBER**

Sunday 30th October at 4.30pm

St Barnabas Parish Centre

A service of prayer and thanksgiving to remember the departed.

During this service the names of our loved ones who have died will be read out, and there will be an oppor-

tunity to light a candle in their memory.

All our welcome.

For more information please contact me,

Pat Saunders.  
patriciasaunders679@gmail.com

### **HERNHILL CE SCHOOL**

The new academic year has started well at Hernhill. It has been lovely to welcome our 30 new Reception children - they have been brilliant at picking up the school routines and they are certainly making the most of playing, learning and building friendships. Our Year 6 win the prize for being the busiest class so far having completed a week of bikeability, a multi-activity day at Davington Primary with all the other Year 6 children from our collaboration schools (Davington, Ospringle, Boughton and Ethelbert) and applying for and taking on their prefect roles. Well done Year 6.

The biggest event of September has been our PTAFAs fete which was a huge success. There were lots of stalls, a brilliant BBQ and cake stall, singing and dancing performances from the children and a raffle with amazing prizes. Thank you to everyone who donated items, who volunteered and/or who came along on the day to support us. We hope to raise close to £4000 for the school which will go towards funding new 'Chrome-books' We will let you know how we get on.

Sarah Alexander  
Headteacher

### **THANKS**

Thank you to the bell ringers, especially our friends from Boughton, who joined us at Hernhill to ring the muffled bells at the church on the day after her late Majesty's death and prior to her funeral.

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 4.00pm the bells at Boughton Parish Church were rung open (not muffled) to celebrate the Accession Proclamation of King Charles III.

Throughout history the church bells have been rung to mark the death of

the sovereign and the start of a new reign. It was good we were able to carry on that tradition.

The retiring collection at the special commemorative service for her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September raised £124 for Great Ormond Street Hospital. (One of the many charities of which the late Queen was a patron.)

Peter Willcock  
Churchwarden

### **OVER THE GARDEN WALL**

What a terribly sad month this has been. I personally lost a very dear friend of nearly 40 years, David Barling. He will be missed beyond belief.

Then our very dear Queen. I am proud to say that Peter's granddaughter, who is only 21, got herself on a train to London and laid flowers at the Palace all on her own. Also, two

dear friends queued for 14 hours to pay their respects in Westminster Hall. I don't think I am alone in saying it felt like losing a member of your own family. Although the funeral was very moving and there were more than a few tears shed in our household, there was a great feeling of pride at how beautifully the British really do pomp & ceremony. They do it so well. We attended the Hernhill school fete and were so impressed with the transformation of the outside space that has taken place since we last visited before the pandemic. A lovely glass of wine & delicious burger were much enjoyed, and of course, Mr. Lucky won on the raffle. I think he will

enjoy his bubble bath & shampoo for babies!

On the cat front, yet another mouse trap appeared, thankfully this time empty. Still no idea where they are getting them from!

The weather is changing fast and as Oscar Wilde said "All at once summer collapsed into fall". We have noticed all the starlings lining up on our neighbour's roof. Can't help remembering that scary film "The Birds".

Is it just me? The older I get, the stronger I must be getting. I can now carry around £150 worth of shopping in just two hands!

Stay safe & God bless,  
Sandi.

#### **BITS AND PIECES**

One can't ignore the events of the last month. Pretend that they didn't happen. But, what is there left to say that hasn't been said already.

I am one of the lucky ones who has been around for all of the great events of the Queen's reign.

Barbara and I were lucky enough to be given tickets to a grand ball in celebration of the Queen's accession to

the throne. Long dresses, black tie, two big bands and tables loaded with posh food and drink. It was fabulous. We were in Regents Street, standing shivering in the rain, to watch the procession for her coronation. That was wonderful too. And now I have watched on TV the ceremonies and parades for her burial.

Precious memories.

ADT

#### **REFUSE COLLECTION**

|     |    |         |           |
|-----|----|---------|-----------|
| Oct | 4  | Tuesday | Blue Bin  |
|     | 11 | Tuesday | Green Bin |
|     | 18 | Tuesday | Blue Bin  |
|     | 25 | Tuesday | Green Bin |
| Nov | 1  | Tuesday | Blue Bin  |
|     | 8  | Tuesday | Green Bin |
|     | 15 | Tuesday | Blue Bin  |
|     | 22 | Tuesday | Green Bin |
|     | 29 | Tuesday | Blue Bin  |

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