



# HERNHILL NEWS

## September 2022

### PARISH COUNCIL

All the latest news from your Parish Council is here for you to read! Planning, Housing, Rubbish, Roads and Speeding! Always aiming to keep you informed. If you have a suggestion: You can contact the Parish Council Clerk on 07876221580 or [hernhillclerk@gmail.com](mailto:hernhillclerk@gmail.com). Full copies of the approved minutes for meetings and updated news on planning and road closures are available on the Parish Council Website

. [www.hernhillparishcouncil.org](http://www.hernhillparishcouncil.org)

The August meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 31st in the village hall. It was attended by five parish councillors, the clerk, councillor Alistair Gould (SBC) and twenty two members of the public.

**Councillor vacancy:** At the last meeting Sandra McGuigan was invited to join the PC sadly she subsequently felt unable to complete the necessary DOI documentation so has resigned. However she attended this meeting and has kindly agreed to continue to assist the parish council in her capacity as a parishioner, including Neighbourhood Watch. Following the submission of the statutory notice to Swale Borough Council and advertisement on the parish website and noticeboards, we were very pleased to receive an application to fill the vacancy. At the meeting David Figgis was invited to join the parish council.

**Denislav Pashov:** PCSO Swale Community safety unit gave the police report covering crime in the parish over the last three months, including criminal damage, theft of number plates and a dumped vehicle. He and his colleague engaged with those present to discuss speeding and dangerous driving on our rural roads and the recent traffic chaos due to closures on A299 and A2. After intervention by the parish council and Rich Lehmann, KCC has belatedly provided local access only temporary signs for those occasions. Anyone who observes an incident is encouraged to make a report to police on 101.

**Councillor Page:** updated the meeting on the council's attempts to set up speed limits. He recently attended a virtual meeting with the KCC project engineer and community engagement officer also attended by Rich Lehmann (KCC councillor). Discussions continue about the suitability for various parts of the parish for 30 or 40mph limits rather than national speed limit as is currently the case. There was agreement for 20mph close to the school.

**Public Participation:** Ex chairman of the parish council Jill Geliot made a statement to clarify her position following her son moving into a house in Forge Farm Row.

**Planning:** Application 22/503510: Mount Ephraim Gardens, change of use of land for siting four timber glamping pods, lighting, waste/recycling,

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parking area, footpaths and landscaping. Removal of existing shed. Lucy Dawes attended and gave a brief summary of the plans including those for landscaping and general waste and recycling collection. Councillors voted by majority to offer no adverse comments on the plans. (Just to note here the Parish council is allowed to comment on plans submitted to Swale and publicly available to view on Swale planning portal <https://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online>)

**Allotments:** A half plot is currently available if interested please apply to the clerk. Three tenders for a new gate have now been received and will be considered at the next meeting.

**Staplestreet Bin:** English Rural declined a request from the council to support a new rubbish bin to replace the elderly uncovered and overflowing basket next to the development. Further avenues for funding will be explored.

**Village Hall:** (postcode and signage) After concerns raised by Fostall residents about misdirected visitors to the hall and recreation ground the DCA and VH have amended their website and

correspondence to a new postcode and included a 'whatthreewords' reference to improve directions. The Royal Mail postcode is not alterable. Requests have been made for brown signposts at relevant junctions but this would entail significant expense to voluntary organisations.

**Alert from KCC** received about scam calls purporting to be from Citizens Advice if you receive such a call please report via Action Fraud 0300 1232040.

**An extraordinary planning meeting;** will be held at 7.15pm September 8th at the church.

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30pm September 28th 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 e-mail 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

### FROM OUR MP

A week is a long time in politics, and these past few weeks in Westminster have felt particularly long. Earlier this month I resigned from Government, after two and a half years as a Minister. Throughout that time my first responsibility has been to my constituents in Faversham and Mid Kent, but being a minister gives you opportunities to do more - not only for your constituents but for people across the country. So, resigning was hard to do. Over the last few months my inbox has had a steady flow of e-mails criticising the Prime Minister, particularly for the things that went on in 10 Downing Street during the pandemic. Anyone who has written to me will know that I have defended Boris

Johnson, accepting his apologies and pointing to his vision and leadership of the country through difficult times. But there are only so many times a leader can apologise and move on. I felt that moment had passed. We now have a leadership contest giving us the chance to reunite behind a new leader, and I'm proud to be backing Rishi Sunak to be our next Prime Minister. I have known Rishi since 2015 when we were both elected to Parliament and have worked alongside him in the Treasury. Right now the biggest challenges facing us are about the economy, and crucially, how we tackle the cost of living. The next Prime Minister will need to get inflation under control, get our economy growing and bring down the debts we

built up through the pandemic. I know Rishi is up to the job. His grip of economic questions and his judgment is second to none. While I may no longer be in Government, I'm continuing to work hard as your local MP. In the past few weeks, I've asked a number of parliamentary questions, including what is being done to improve access to primary care services and NHS dentists in Faversham and Mid Kent.

Parliament is now on summer recess, but there is plenty of work to do away from Westminster – from fighting our corner about Operation Brock, to getting investment in our wastewater network, and supporting people struggling with the cost of living.

Summer got off to a great start with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend. I dropped into some of the fabulous events, and wow they were wonderful - from beacon lightings and tree plantings, to fetes, fairs and street parties, proms in parks and uplifting church services. Huge thank you to everyone involved particularly to event organis-

ers who I know spent months planning and preparing to make it all happen on the day.

It was great to be back at the Kent Show earlier this month after two years away because of Covid. It gave me the chance to catch up with some of our local farmers. Concerns about the shift to the new Environmental Land Management scheme and access to labour were top of the list, and I'll be taking these up with ministers when Parliament returns in the autumn.

Faversham at one time held the top spot for having the highest recorded temperature in the UK. But all records have been smashed following the recent heatwave. Our emergency services have been doing a truly outstanding job coping with increased calls in extreme heat.

Both in Westminster and across the country, I'm hoping for cooler and calmer times ahead. I wish you all a very enjoyable summer.

Helen Whately M.P.

### **CHURCH LETTER**

It's mid-August as I write and I've just returned from a few days away on retreat. They turned out to be the hottest days of the year. I was in Berkshire and temperatures were a few degrees higher than in Kent. Usually when I'm on retreat I spend the mornings reading and the afternoons walking, but last week I was off on my walk early in the morning, along with the local joggers, cyclists and dog-walkers, and back before breakfast. The rest of the day was focussed on keeping cool. Fortunately, there were some nice shady areas in the garden that offered some respite from the heat so that I didn't need to stay indoors all the time.

As I sat in a shady nook, thinking not only of the heat but also of the water shortage, I reflected on one of my fa-

avourite gospel stories, the story of Jesus and the woman of Samaria meeting at Jacob's well (St John's Gospel, chapter 4).

Jesus is hot, tired and thirsty from walking all morning. Although he's resting by a well, he has no means of drawing water, and besides which, it was the custom to seek permission from the owner of a well before using it. But it's noon, the hottest time of day, and no one is around. People are staying in the coolness of their houses until a lone Samaritan woman appears. There follows one of the longest conversations between two people recorded in the Bible and it's easy for us to miss how extraordinary this conversation was in the culture of its time. It was not customary for a man to be alone with a woman he was not related to; nor was it customary for

Jews and Samaritans to mix with one another socially or to share implements. Yet Jesus initiates a conversation with this Samaritan woman, asking her for a drink, which would mean sharing her cup. She immediately counters him by saying: 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' There follows an exchange between the two of them, which on the surface is an exchange of light banter, but at a deeper level it touches the woman at a point of great emotional need. She is isolated from her community by the lifestyle she leads, hence her coming to the well in the heat of the day. But this does not isolate her from Jesus. As she gives Jesus water from the well to drink, so he offers her the 'living water of eternal life'. Jesus says, "The water that I will give will become a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." and she replies, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty". It's a life-changing moment for her as the conversation continues and she knows herself to be listened to and understood by a man who seeks to offer her healing and a new way forward rather than to take advantage of her.

The current lack of rain and threat of water shortage has made me more mindful of the water I use on a daily basis. And reflecting on the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, it makes me mindful of the 'living water of eternal life' that Jesus offers each one of us. We don't have to earn it or deserve it. It is freely offered to us and we are simply

called to receive it. It never runs out. The essence of that living water is prayer; our own opportunity to be in conversation with Jesus, just as we are. To talk to him about our worries and concerns and also to talk about all that makes us fulfilled and hopeful, all that we yearn for. Like water, and like any relationship, there are times when prayer flows freely and times when we can feel in a bit of a drought.

At such times it can help to pray with others or to ask others to pray on our behalf. In our benefice we pray together at our services Sunday by Sunday, and there are other opportunities when we can pray together. Monday Morning Prayer and Benefice Prayers are both on Zoom on a regular basis, and Wednesday Worship takes place at St Barnabas on the third Wednesday of each month. We also have a Prayer Line (bhgprayers@gmail.com) that can be contacted if you have a specific prayer request and would like to ask others to pray in confidence for you or for someone close to you.

You can find out more about prayer at the Retreat Association website:

[retreats.org.uk/individuals](http://retreats.org.uk/individuals)

and click on the box labelled 'Prayer' to download a pdf about different ways to pray.

Lord Jesus, give to us and all who thirst for you the living water of eternal life. Amen.

Pat Saunders

## **HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

### **Dates for your diary**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September** Garden Party at Church Oast for members and their partners from 2.30pm to 5.00pm. The annual cups will be presented at this event as well as an opportunity to catch-up socially.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October** 2.30pm in the Village Hall. A talk by Mark James on 'Growing Carnivorous Plants'. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome. There is no charge but a donation of £2.00 for refreshments would be appreciated

Jill Geliot

## CHURCH SERVICES

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September

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

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September

10.00am Holy Communion,  
Boughton, Rev'd Louise Seear

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September

10.00am Morning Worship, Boughton  
10.30am Holy Communion, Graveney  
Rev'ds Martin and Diane Webb

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September

10.00am Benefice Holy Communion,  
Hernhill.

Patronal Service for St Michael and  
all angels. Rev'd Jon Marlow

### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September

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

All are welcome to our services.

## FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE

Saturday 10th September

10.00am to 6.00pm

Most of you know what this is all about, but for those who don't -The FKC Ride and Stride takes place on the second Saturday in September each year. 50% of the money raised goes to the church chosen by the participant and 50% goes into a fund, administered by FKC, to be distributed in grants for maintenance of Kent churches.

Participants cycle or walk between however many churches they choose planning their own route with the assistance of a printed list of churches open on the day. Riders and Striders seek sponsorship which is recorded on their sponsor form and can take

part for as long or short a time as they wish. Last year £135,042 was raised in Kent with over 700 churches and chapels involved.

The more people who take part, the more successful we will be in raising much-needed funds for our Benefice churches both directly from sponsors and potentially with grants from FKC who have been so generous over the years.

If this isn't your thing, or you're unable to take part, perhaps you could persuade a friend or family member to do it for us. or just make sure you sponsor someone you know is taking part. For further information and sponsor forms please contact me.

Pat Hall  
01795 529156  
07856 741497

## OVER THE GARDEN WALL

This month we had another party on the village green to say goodbye to Michael & Nicola at the Red Lion and hello to Simon & Emma. I'd like to think that Nicola will enjoy a well-deserved rest, but knowing her she will be probably be busier than ever. We all wish Simon & Emma every success in their new venture and are delighted that our village pub continues on in these financially challenged

times.

A new restaurant opened in Canterbury called Socialite. Peter and I with a friend had a delightful afternoon at their rooftop restaurant with incredible views over Canterbury and the cathedral.

Sadly, we lost Jackie this month, such a character. Mick held her wake in the tepee at Crescent Turner. The Irish certainly know how to celebrate peoples' lives. I don't think I have ever

seen four landlords from The Three Horseshoes in one place before. Lots of love to you Mick.

We took our dear friend to "Mamma Mia the Party" at the O2. The whole place is laid out as a taverna and you sit and have a four-course meal whilst the show goes on around you. I must admit, we totally believed the lady who introduced herself as the head chef, until she suddenly burst into song and we realised she was part of the show. Good job we didn't complain about the food. As Pooh said, "Sometimes, my greatest achievement is just keeping my mouth shut". Note to self! Peter & I celebrated our 6<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a deli-

icious meal at The Dove. Why is it that you feel someone has always been in your life, but then you realise it really isn't that long?

So, we have a hosepipe ban. I'm trying to keep on top of the watering with a watering can, but I have Peter's osteopath on speed dial just in case. I feel sorry for the colonic irrigation companies being put out of business though!

We attended the last day of the 'New Day Festival'. A great time was had by all, but probably more to do with the wine than the music!

Stay safe & God bless  
Sandi.

### **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

On Sunday, 25th September we will be celebrating the feast of our patron saint, St Michael and all angels, as it will be the nearest Sunday to the 29th, the actual date of the festival.

The Reverend Jon Marlow, Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocation Officer will preside at the service.

We are delighted the choir

from Hernhill Church of England Primary School will be singing at the service as this year is the 150th anniversary of the school and also 902 years since the first stone church was built in the village.

Everyone is welcome to join us at this special service.

Peter Willcock  
Churchwarden

### **ROYAL DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

To mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty there will be a talk and display of royal commemorative china in Hernhill Church on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm.

The items on display will be from the Regency period to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,

commemorating royal births, coronations, jubilees, weddings, royal tours, deaths and other important events. Some are rare pieces from a private collection.

Refreshments.

Retiring collection for church funds.

### **HALLOWEENFEST**

It's been three years,.....so get your Halloween decorations out of the loft and dust off your witches, ghouls and pumpkins. We are organising another Halloween Trail through the village from Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Monday 31<sup>st</sup>.

We will be posting out flyers again soon with all the details. Please text or phone Joy or me if you are interested in taking part.

Summerlees Events Team  
Jane 07857 432651  
Joy 07811 417600

### BITS AND PIECES

I am sorry that you are being somewhat 'short changed' this month. I have not received articles from some of the usual contributors. It is possibly that the holiday season is the explanation. On reflection, I should have asked them to write something while in the chaotic airport lounges waiting for their flights.

Since the result is that I have space to spare, I thought I might share with you a delightful word that I came across recently. COMPOTATION. Christopher Foyle, of the bookshop, says of it, "The word is derived from Latin, 'com' *together* and 'potare' *to drink*. It is a deliciously grand word for the joyful act of carousing in the company of one's fellow compotators."

The weather in July and August has really been biblical. First we had the fiery furnace of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Then, in some places, there was a touch of Noah's flood. Certainly the land and the plants are in need of refreshment, Aren't we all? But in moderation. Locally we have been very lucky in having mostly light showers. The hope is that, in the

coming months, the weather will settle down to some proper 'English type' conditions.

The frightening outcome of the heavy downpours has been that unprocessed sewage is being pumped into the sea and rivers. It would seem that someone hasn't noticed the needs of the ever increasing size of the population.

Official statistics show that in addition to the normal growth in population there have been 1.12 million legitimate immigrants and about 24,000 illegal ones in one year. We are now the second most populous country in the whole of Europe and fast rising to have the most people per square mile. The extra facilities that this requires seems to have gone largely unnoticed. More people require more houses, more roads, more schools, more hospitals, more fuel, more water, more waste processing, more food, more everything.

I have come to realise that being old has one compensation. I shall not be around to suffer the claustrophobia of living without room to breath.

ADT

### REFUSE COLLECTION

Sep	6	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	13	Tuesday	Green Bin
	20	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	27	Tuesday	Green Bin
	30	Tuesday	Green Bin
Oct	4	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	11	Tuesday	Green Bin
	18	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	25	Tuesday	Green Bin

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