



HERNHILL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2023

PARISH COUNCIL

The August meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 30th in the village hall. It was attended by the clerk and seven parish councillors, Councillors Alistair Gould and Rich Lehmann (SBC) and four members of the public.

Planning: The Parish council is allowed to comment on plans submitted to Swale and publicly available to view on Swale planning portal.

Application 22/505852: Surface water drainage details pursuant to conditions 14 and 17 for application 20/503666 the newly opened crematorium off Staple Street. This work has been completed by the contractor before approval of the plan and includes use of a potentially aquifer-fed pond outside the site for discharge of effluent and surface water which is not described in the application plans. All local residents know that the road adjacent regularly floods after heavy rain. The Parish Council object to this post hoc application on the above grounds and request that mitigation work is undertaken by the developer both to restore and protect the pond and wildlife including newts and frogs and prevent exacerbation of flooding on the road.

The Neighbourhood Plan: The next meeting of the informal working group will be held on 3rd October at 7.15pm upstairs in the Red Lion. All welcome.

The agenda will be circulated in advance to those who have agreed to share their email addresses and will be on the web site and notice boards. There is now a new tab on the parish council website for all matters about the neighbourhood plan, whilst the group works to develop its own website. Flyers and posters have been designed and printed to publicise a public meeting in the village hall on Friday 13th October at 6.00pm to seek support for the plan and canvas for volunteers to assist the established group to move forward.

Oakwell drainage redux: Problems with the pumping station next to Oakwell cottages have been at issue for over 20 years. In response to recent problems, the council contacted the CEO of Southern Water to seek action. The complaints team have agreed to undertake a drainage survey to identify solutions and to put in place mitigating measures in the meantime. Engineers have been observed on site, we hope for a good result!

Closure of Faversham tip: Rich Lehmann gave us an update. The measure has been put on hold for now. A protest at Kent council meeting on 21st September is being organised by Faversham Town Council with a bus to take people from Faversham to Maidstone. The petition is still running on change.org/p/save-faversham-tip

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

from-closure.

M2 J4-J7 resurfacing: Overnight closures of east or west carriageways are planned over the next few months. For the latest information go to nationalhighways.co.uk and click on daily closures which is refreshed twice daily.

Kent County Council consultations: Kent County Council is in the invidious position of allocating its dwindling resources once again and is providing information on what is spent and seeking views from residents via a series of online surveys. They are fairly brief and easy to complete provided one has access to the Internet:

KCC Budget Consultation; Kent Family Services Consultation; Kent Communi-

ty Warden Service review; Local Transport plan Consultation. Kent Resilience Forum has launched an online public survey to explore how aware and prepared people are in relation to a range of risks and emergencies that could impact residents of Kent and Medway.

Next Parish Council meeting 27th September 7.30pm 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.

GEOFF HALL

The church was full and it was truly a service of thanksgiving for the life of somebody whose generosity of spirit, concern for others and contribution to his community touched us all. A lovely man. Thank you Geoff.

Jill Geliot

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

Well Peter's 80th has come and gone. What a wonderful three weeks of celebrating, I can't wait for the 90th. My liver should have recovered by then!

Back to 4th in the quiz again, oh well consistency is good.

God continues to do a wonderful job of watering my garden, but as the hosepipe ban was lifted, he could take a break.

We were lucky enough to have lunch at The Ivy, Covent Garden. What a lovely experience. They have a signature cocktail I can highly recommend called "Dream Cocktail". You put candyfloss in a glass, pour over some grapefruit gin then top up with champagne. Very yummy.

We had a tour of Berry Bros & Judd by Jed Berry himself, 9th generation in the business apparently. It was a fabulous experience & they have a great history

from tea & coffee to fine wines. Wish I owned the real estate they sit on!

Our friend supplied huge excitement with the Air Ambulance landing on the playing field this month to fly her off to hospital. Thankfully, she is fine although still in some pain. Get well soon Angela. We went to a party of recently engaged friends and met some really lovely German members of his family. In time honoured tradition a penalty shootout took place and I am pleased to say that for the first time the Brits won 7 - 4. Probably because neither Peter or I took part. Great fun was had by all.

Our adopted daughter announced that her new cat was pregnant, but not to worry they don't have large litters first time round. Famous last words....six kittens. If anyone is looking for one let me know. That's always supposing her children let them go!

New Day Festival arrived again. We

thoroughly enjoyed the Glenn Miller Orchestra, From the Jam & The Zombies. I wonder who they will have next year? Great for the village though. If you haven't tried the Red Lion 'Fajita' on Thursday night, make sure you do.

They are really tasty. In fact Simon deserves an award for his sizzling performance!

Stay safe & God bless,
Sandi.

THE REV CATHRINE NGANGIRA will be licensed by the Bishop of Dover and installed by the Archdeacon of Maidstone as our new priest at a special service in Boughton Parish

Church at 4.00pm on Sunday 8th October.

We look forward to welcoming Cathrine, and pray for her as she prepares to take on her responsibilities

SEPTEMBER CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday, 3rd September

10.00am Hernhill, Sung Communion for Creationtide, Rev'd Nina Coulthard

Sunday, 10th September

Flower Festival at Hernhill

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

Wednesday, 13th September

10.30am St Barnabas, Boughton, Wednesday Worship.

A short service, followed by refreshments.

Sunday, 17th September

10.00am Hernhill, Morning Worship

10.30am Graveney, Holy Communion, Venerable John Barton.

Sunday, 24th September

10.00am Hernhill Benefice Sung Communion. Patronal Service for St Michael and all angels. Venerable Andrew Sewell, Archdeacon of Maidstone

Sunday, 1st October

10.00am Hernhill, Harvest Sung Communion, Rev'd Ros Parrett.

Donations of dry and tinned food will be gratefully received for 'Catching Lives' in Canterbury.

Sunday, 8th October

4.00pm Boughton Parish Church. Installation of Reverend Cathrine Ngangira as priest in charge of our benefice.

All are welcome to our services.

GARDENER WANTED

Part-time gardener wanted for approximately 5 hours per week in Dargate village.
Call Sandy 07970 102647

FLOWER FESTIVAL

St Michaels Church

The long awaited Flower Festival is coming to our beautiful church on the 8th, 9th and 10th of September. The theme is "Our Village" and we hope to capture in flowers what makes our village so special, past and present. Jill Geliot has kindly offered to arrange light lunches and teas from Church Oast.

This is of course a fund raising event for the church.

As you may know, the price of flowers has gone up considerably recently. We have had flower demonstrations to raise some funds for the flowers but we are asking if anyone would like to make a donation or sponsor an arrangement so that we can put on a wonderful show.

Please contact me,

Vicki

07724010767 or 01227 751511
vickihodgkiss@hotmail.com



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Reference No. HW56408

18 August 2023

Dear Michael,

Re: National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) review / Faversham and Mid Kent Survey

Housebuilding in Faversham and Mid Kent is a hugely contentious issue. Many new homes have been built over the last decade, but still my constituency is largely rural with beautiful countryside, historic towns and small villages full of character. My constituents cherish this and fear the impact of further development.

At the same time, we know there's a need for more homes, with waiting lists for social housing, rising rents and young people living with their parents for longer. People want rents they can afford to pay, and the chance to own their own home someday. The need for homes is a fact recognised by all the major parties, including in their 2019 manifestos.

Earlier this year I sent a survey to several wards in my constituency to gather data on what people want. I received over 2,000 replies and I've summarised the findings briefly below and at greater length on the following pages.

The concerns of my constituents split into two main areas: protecting the local environment, and the availability of local services and infrastructure.

Meeting our housing need with local support means building the right housing in the right area. The support for retirement homes, eco-homes and brownfield sites far exceeds that for larger homes built on productive agricultural land.

I'm in no doubt that Labour's policy to build over the greenbelt isn't the way forward. It would mean a green light for development on any green space, and we need to find a way to meet housing need which responds to the very real concerns of constituents like mine.

Kent MPs have been campaigning about this for years, and we were hugely grateful to hear about your plan to review the National Planning Policy Framework. As you take forwards this review, please can I ask you to take the views of my constituents into account.

Yours ever,

Helen Whately MP
Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid Kent

The above is a copy of the letter sent by our MP, Helen Whately to the minister responsible for house building. More information is available on her web site;
helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

**Hernhill Gardening Club
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ**

14th October 2023 @ 2.30pm Hernhill Village Hall

£3 per person (paid on the day)

Teams up to 6. but individuals welcome & can be teamed on the day.
Coffee, tea & cake included. Can also bring your own drink and nibbles
and money for raffle

Email jill@geliot.plus.com to book or for more information

CHURCH LETTER

We are greatly looking forward to welcoming and getting to know our new Priest-in-Charge, Revd Cathrine Ngangira, who will be licensed to our group of parishes at a special service on Sunday 8th October at 4.00pm in Boughton Parish Church. We look forward to celebrating with Cathrine as she begins her new ministry here and to working with her in the years ahead.

At the same time we look back over these past two years, when we've been without a vicar, with much gratitude to the clergy who have supported us by taking services of Holy Communion every Sunday and helping with baptisms, weddings and funerals. Many of those clergy have retired from full-time ministry, and out of their retirement have generously given of their time to our congregations. We have been blessed not only by their willingness to take services for us, but also by the Word of God they have shared with us in their sermons, which have often inspired, encouraged and upheld us.

Recently, Revd Lindsay Collins, the Chaplain at King's School Canterbury, took a Sunday service at Hernhill Church and preached on the parable of the wheat and weeds. It is a parable about the kingdom of heaven. It can be found in the Bible in St Matthew's Gospel (chapter 13, verses 24 to 30). This is a story Jesus told of how a farmer sowed good seed in his field, but an enemy came at night and sowed weeds

among the wheat. So when the plants came up and bore grain, the weeds appeared as well. The farm workers wanted to gather up the weeds, but the farmer said to them: "No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and then the reapers can collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles, and then gather wheat into the barn".

Here are some reflections from Revd Lindsay's sermon on this story.

'Where then did these weeds come from?' Or, as my A-Level students ask me: 'How can you believe in an all-powerful, all-loving God when there is so much evil and suffering in the world?'

Who has not at some point asked that question? Maybe the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine has you asking where then did these weeds come from. Maybe you are horrified by the four million people in 37 countries cross the world who are at risk from starvation or, closer to home, the cost-of-living crisis increasing the number of homeless and destitute in our own country. Or perhaps life's circumstances have left you questioning how God could allow these things to happen to you when you have tried to live a life pleasing to God.

Somewhere we grow up with the belief that if we do good, work hard and be

kind then everything should work out just fine for us. Obviously from experience we realise that isn't true. But we want it to be, just as much the farm workers in today's parable. They know that the farmer sowed good seed, which is why in discovering the weeds they are so surprised. And they want an answer, a reason, and someone to blame and hold accountable.

Yet Jesus seems less interested in this approach. He answers simply that the enemy did it. He doesn't name the enemy or give instructions to drive out and punish the enemy. Jesus seems to be reminding us that in our world we have both good and evil, life and death, joys and sorrows, hope and despair. In our world the wheat and the weeds grow together, as they do in each of our lives.

We so often want things to be black and white, but no one is all good or all bad. We are all capable of the most heinous thoughts and actions and we are all capable of the very best. And when we look honestly at our lives we see that we have committed both those things that enable us to flourish as human beings and those things which diminish us as human beings. Yet when the farm workers in the parable ask if they should pull out the weeds, the answer comes back: 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat alongside them.' These aren't just generic weeds. The parable speaks of a particular weed called zizania, sometimes known as false wheat. It grows up looking like wheat, intertwining with the roots of the real wheat and the difference between the two is not always readily apparent. It appears the separation between the wheat and the weeds is not as clear cut or black and white as 'Facebook', the media, our politicians and our personal opinions

would have us believe. In any event we are not the ones called to make that judgement. We are not the ones to uproot those we see as weeds.

'Let them grow together until the harvest,' the farmer says. Jesus is more interested in growth than in extermination. Only God reaps in the harvest, only God truly knows the hearts and minds of his creation. Only God has the right to choose between the wheat and the weeds. So do we do nothing? Absolutely not. The farmer in the parable says, 'Let them grow,' and here, as in all of Jesus' teaching, is the hardest lesson for us: love your enemy, love your neighbour, love yourself, love God.

Yes, Jesus is telling us to forgive the weeds, to love the weeds. Maybe that's how the wheat begins to disentangle its roots from the weeds and show itself to be the real wheat. Maybe love and forgiveness are what life needs to be in the mixed field of God's kingdom. Maybe instead of wanting to apportion blame, guilt, responsibility, and punishment, we all need to forgive the weeds in our own lives and recognise that we and everyone else are a combination of good and bad, wheat and weeds. It is through seeking God's love and forgiveness that we allow our wheat to grow and be harvested, and through sowing those seeds of love and forgiveness in our world we allow others to do the same. Amen.

Here in our group of churches, as this two-year vacancy draws to a close and a new ministry begins, we pray that we may live together in love and forgiveness so that God's kingdom may flourish in this place.

Pat Saunders
Reader, Benefice of
Boughton, Graveney and Hernhill

THE HERNHILL NEWS

I can't be precise because my records are incomplete but I believe that the first issue of the HERNHILL NEWS was in January 1981. At the time there were two problems in the village. There was no easy access to the deliberations of the Parish Council and there was no co-ordination of village activities and events.

In those days there were over twenty different village clubs and societies. Without a common source of information events could clash, and sometimes did. The solution was obvious, a regular news sheet giving all the dates of all the meetings and events. And so the 'Hernhill News' was born, compiled and printed by Ricky Holdstock. He continued to gather the information, print and arrange its distribution until his death in April 1999. In all, he produced between 200 and 220 editions.

I took over publication with my first issue being in July 1999. I changed the format to match the requirements of some new software that I had bought for the purpose but, in most respects, the content was as before and so it has

continued. To my surprise it is now 24 years since my first issue. With a few breaks for illness and, a fairly recent decision not to produce a January editions, that represents something like 270 deadlines that have been met.

As I rush recklessly towards my 91st birthday I am conscious of the fact that my health is less reliable than it was. It is time for me to be realistic. And so, I have decided to retire from being editor of the Hernhill News.

To give time for someone else to take over, I plan to complete the last three issues of the current year. The need therefore is for someone to take over as soon as possible, but their first publication will not be until the February edition in 2024.

My thanks go out to all the contributors who have made the NEWS interesting, informative and fun. I also wish to thank all those behind the scenes who have printed and distributed the NEWS over the years. Without their work there would have been no Hernhill News.

Alan D Taylor

BIN COLLECTIONS	September	5	Tuesday	Blue Bin
		12	Tuesday	Green Bin
		13	Wednesday	Brown bin
		19	Tuesday	Blue Bin
		26	Tuesday	Green Bin
		27	Wednesday	Brown bin
	October	3	Tuesday	Blue Bin
		10	Tuesday	Green Bin
		11	Wednesday	Brown bin
		17	Tuesday	Blue Bin
		24	Tuesday	Green Bin
		25	Wednesday	Brown bin
		31	Tuesday	Blue Bin



Alan D. Taylor

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