



# HERNHILL NEWS

## AUGUST 2011

### PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council took place on Wednesday 27th July. Apologies for absence were received from Mr Woods and Mr Elliott. Five Councillors were present, as were Mr Bowles and the Clerk. Apologies for absence were also received from Mr Bobbin, who has been elected to Deputy Mayor of Swale Borough Council, which was considered to be a just reward for this long-serving public servant. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29th June were signed as a true record.

**Matters arising:** at last some progress is being made to evict the illegal presence of a traveller on the old Silver Sands Nursery site - a writ has been issued and a hearing will shortly take place in court.

**Reports:** Mr Morsman has received a complaint about motorcycles being ridden on waste land at High Street. He also complained that the "School" sign at the original site is still in place, and thinks that it should be moved nearer to the present school. Mr Chapman also reported on a Boundary Commission meeting he had attended at Sittingbourne. The outcome of the meeting will take many years to implement. He also said that the ever-ongoing problem of flooding in the area of his residence has

taken a new turn and that something different is to be tried. Mrs Taylor spoke of the problems of printing the July issue of the 'News', due to the lack of supplies of toner. After discussion, it was decided to wait for the toner to arrive rather than to make alternative (and costly) arrangements to have it printed elsewhere.

**Correspondence:** Swale residents can now get help from local engagement and regeneration grants, and the Clerk is to make the necessary enquiries. South East Water has informed the Clerk of further disruption in the Parish. To connect the new main to the rest of the network, it will be necessary to close Church Hill from the Staplestreet junction to Crockham Lane to through traffic between September 12th and October 7th. Access for residents will be maintained throughout the work. Diversions for through traffic will be through Staplestreet, Kemsdale Road and Kays Lane. A closure order for four weeks had been made but it is hoped work won't take that long. (Mrs Taylor has since extracted a promise from South East Water that the closure will be finished before the 30th September when the Flower Festival is due to start.) Be aware also that there will be work taking place in the Graveney area. All present were critical of the inconvenience being

Chairman: Helen Figgis 01227 751149

e-mail [helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com](mailto:helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com)

Clerk: Terry Smart; phone 01227 752840

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 767423

and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

caused - largely, the work is being done by the 'moling' system, which involves only small amounts of actual excavation, but the contractors apparently still believe in maximum disruption in this

allegedly modern age. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting to be closed at about 9 00pm.

### ART EXHIBITION

July 23rd and Sunday July 24th  
The Exhibition was staged to launch the 2012 Hernhill Artists Calendar and in that respect at least the event was very, very successful. The works exhibited were much admired by visitors, there was a richness about the styles and quality of the exhibits. In excess of £750 was received in takings of which over £500 will go into the Restoration Fund when artists sales have been deducted. My thanks to the Restoration Committee for their support and tireless energy; My thanks also to Frances Attree, Jane Potter and Janet Macintosh because without their support and artistic skills in presenting the Exhibition, the high

standards would not have been achieved. Ian as always provided transport for fetching and returning the exhibition boards loaned to us by the Faversham Arts Society. Last, but by no means least of all, my thanks to the 10 calendar artists who have responded magnificently to my requests for their work and all of whom contributed so much to the Exhibition with the variety and quality of their exhibits. The 2012 Calendars are selling well, 66 sold during the Exhibition weekend. But stocks are running low and although we are anticipating a re-print, if you wish to make sure of your copies, give me a ring.

Brian Jelfs 01227 752309

### FROM THE VICAR

The wedding season has started late in Hernhill Church this year. By this time last year all the Hernhill Church weddings had finished, but this year they only just started last month with the wedding of Naomi Morgan (of Staplestreet) and Jonathan Colmer. This year I have four weddings or blessings of marriage booked for St Michael's Church but for next year I already have three weddings booked and three other couples hoping to get married in St Michael's. The increase is because couples are beginning to realise it is now easier to get married in church than previously. The Church of England also decided recently not to put its charges up by over 50% so a church wedding is not expensive when compared to other venues.



rules back in October 2008 so you now don't have to be resident in the parish to get married, you do need to have a connection such as being baptised or confirmed in the parish or have lived in the parish for at least six months, (there are other qualifying connections so it is worth asking me if you are interested). If you don't have a connection there is still hope, if one of the couple worships regularly in St Michael's for six months then they are entitled to get married in St Michael's, these rules work for any church in the Church of England. Why get married in church? The beautiful setting of St Michael's is one big draw for many couples but there is also the feeling that getting married in church is the right thing to do and an ancient church like St Michael's gives a sense of continuity. Think of the count-

less couples over the centuries who have stood in the same place and made the same promises. A ceremony in church also includes God's blessing on a marriage, this is an attraction for many couples whatever their beliefs. We wish all our couples who are getting married in church this summer a very happy wedding day, a long marriage and deepening love, trust and commit-

ment over their years together. If you are interested in getting married in St. Michael's Church then please do contact me. Hernhill Church welcomes you and we will do all we can to make your wedding day a meaningful, spiritual and beautiful occasion.

Revd Jean Burrows  
01227 751410

### THE FIRST RESIDENTS at ME13 9JX

In the spring of 1955 Iris and I together with Clifford moved into a house in Hernhill. It had a large garden backing onto coppice woodland. The soil was sand and we had a morello cherry tree in the far corner of the plot.

Over the next few years we grew all our vegetables and occasionally found a number of sharp flints, never from the same spot. Our interest in these flints was increased when Iris discovered a large flint which appeared to be a scrapper or possibly an axe head.

Some years later I took my collection to Dr Pat Reid, Director of the Faversham Archaeological group and this lady confirmed that the axe head alone was over 2000

years old. On her recommendation I contacted the Portable Antiques Scheme Department at Kent County Council in Maidstone.

I have recently received confirmation from Mr Matt Butler that some of my finds date from the Mesolithic period through to the Neolithic period. My collection includes 22 blades, two flakes (scrappers) eight flakes of flint debitage (waste material) and one axe head, slightly worn but in good condition.

Neolithic period -  
4500BC to 1500BC  
Mesolithic period -  
10500BC to 4500BC

Manufactured method -  
'knapping'  
Question: "What type of tool did they use for knapping"?

Answers please - on a stone tablet.

Allan George



### DOVE DOINGS

Many apologies to all of you who were looking forward to the family dog show that we were forced to cancel earlier on in the season. Our insurance restrictions prohibited us from running the event as we would have liked, but rest assured this is not the end of events at The Dove!

Glyn Eldridge has worked his absolute socks off to ensure that our Bat and Trap pitch is one to be proud of. Come

rain or shine, Glyn has dedicated his spare time to perfecting our pitch and we are excited to report that we are nearly ready for our first match. We owe Glyn more than a pint for this one! Thank you to all of you who have expressed an interest in playing. Watch this space for more information!

Last year many of you supported our music in the garden that sa Phill take his kitchen outside for the afternoon. This year promises to be HOT, HOT,

HOT with the popular *'Pepper Set'* playing on Bank Holiday Monday (August 29<sup>th</sup>) in the pleasant setting of The Dove's garden. Accompanied by Phill's B-B-Q Grill, what could be more ideal for a Bank Holiday afternoon .... in the sun (we hope!) All are very welcome to come along and join us from 2.00pm. The Pepper Set, from their well established and highly recommended 'peppertoire', promises some great original

and cover numbers to suit all. For a taste of what's in store visit the band's website - [www.thepepperset.co.uk](http://www.thepepperset.co.uk). We are off on our holidays and look forward to seeing you all with some HOT NEWS of our own when we return from what we hope will be a restful break!

Best wishes;  
Sarah and Phill

### **FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES SPONSORED BICYCLE RIDE & STRIDE**

The Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Bike Ride and Walk takes place on Saturday 10th September, 10.00am - 6.00pm. It is open to everyone. 50% of the sponsorship money raised goes to the church chosen by the participant and the remaining 50%, plus any gift aid, goes into a fund administered by the Friends of Kent Churches. All of this fund is distributed in grants to Kentish churches provided they are in use and are of historical interest or architectural merit. St Michael's is fortunate to have been one of those churches to benefit from this fund.

Participants plan their own routes with the assistance of a printed list of churches open on the day. Riders and

walkers are sponsored so much per church visited, and can take part for as long or short a time within the day as they wish. Last year just under £140,000 was raised in Kent with over 740 churches and chapels involved.

In 2010 the riders/walkers who took part on behalf of Hernhill church raised £944 in total. The £472 which came to us was much needed and gratefully received. Nothing changes, and in 2011 we are as much in need as we were then so we would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to take part on behalf of St Michael's.

For sponsorship forms, list of churches and any further information required please ring me.

Pat Hall  
01795 529156.

### **HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**Summer quiz:** We are having a quiz at the Village Hall on Saturday 6th August at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Make up a table of six people or you can join a table with others. Bring your own food, drinks and glasses. Tickets are only £2.00 per person. The prize for the winning table will be £5.00 garden vouchers for each person up to six. If you can't make up a table, come along, we will fit you in.

To book a table contact me (evenings only).

**Thursday 6th October:** We have ar-

ranged an evening with Matthew Biggs, well-known from 'Gardeners Question Time' & articles in 'Gardeners World'. Entry is by ticket only and numbers are limited to 80. To get a ticket please write to me, Peter Bentley 41, Clover Rise, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3EY; enclosing a cheque for £4.00 per ticket made payable to Hernhill Horticultural Society together with a stamped addressed envelope.

Peter Bentley  
01227276032

### FLOWER FESTIVAL 2011

Plans are well under way for the 2011 Flower Festival at St Michael's which will be held on Friday 30th September, Saturday 1st October and Sunday 2nd October. There will be stunning flower arrangements and stalls selling local produce, books and gifts. Refreshments will be at Church Oast - hopefully in the garden.

As part of the flower festival, there will

be a flower arranging demonstration by Carol Murray who is a Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medalist. This will be on Thursday 8th September at 7.00pm in the Church. Tickets are £5.00, available from me. An early booking is advisable as this is always a very popular event. Arrangements will be raffled at the end of the evening.

Jill Geliot  
01227 750974

### ABDUCTED RABBIT?

OK I realise it is not the theft of the century, not terribly expensive, but sentimental and twenty odd years old, and meant a lot to me!

The old stone caste rabbit was holding the gates to our property open, stopping them blowing shut in the high winds, a gift from my children years ago, I was happy that he had a place where he could look out and be a useful addition. Heavy so whoever took him must have had longer arms at the end of the trip! After the last venue at the Horseshoes,



he has disappeared - perhaps a joke (not to my taste) and they had to come onto our property to remove him! This coupled with the eggs that were thrown at our windows from the footpath adjoining our property, makes the country feel somewhat more menacing, so if you see an old stone rabbit, thrown in the hedgerow, please return him to his home.

Thank you  
Eve Elcomb  
01227 751262

### THE LION'S ROAR

Wow! What a month! I'd like to start by saying a massive thank you to everyone who has come into The Red Lion this month, customers old and new. We have also been incredibly lucky with the weather, what better way than to spend a lazy day or evening than in the recently maintained pub garden, long may the sun last. I have to say a very special thank you to all the ladies in the village, *Ladies Night* organised by Gabbie Johnson was a fantastic evening, a month's supply of wine was drunk in one night! You are very welcome to come back anytime with complimentary snacks of course!

If you have not made it in this month then maybe you would like to come in and check out the revised menu and ever changing weekly specials. Prices have been dropped to hopefully suit your pocket! We also have some forthcoming events for you to look forward to! Book now for a special Indian Night on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August, we only have 40 spaces available for this so check out the menu on 'theredlion.org'. We also have a children's fun afternoon on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August featuring fire juggling, a magic show, face painting and of course balloon modelling! The more the merrier! Look forward to a Bank Holiday hog roast or BBQ on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>;

we hope you can join in the festivities in some way this summer! As ever, I am always open to your ideas and suggestions please e-mail these to

enquiries@theredlion.org. Your comments are always welcome.

Ben Edwards

### **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING**

Saturday 20th August  
10.30am - noon

The annual opening of the Children's Society boxes will take place in the meadow adjacent to Crockham Farm Cottage, Crockham Lane. The Children's Society works with children at risk, on the streets, in their homes, those in trouble with the Law, young refugees and the disabled.

You are invited to come and bring

friends. Young families will have lots of space to run around, kick a ball or ride a bike.

Refreshments will be provided. There will be several stalls to encourage you; bring-and-buy, cakes, books, toys, plants and garden produce.

Last year, Hernhill raised £681 for this good cause, so please come along or make a donation to enable the 2011 occasion to be equally successful.

Doreen Jelfs  
01227 752309

Dear Readers

In celebration of the 400th anniversary of the King James' Bible, the Restoration Committee is planning a complete reading of the book, described by Melvyn Bragg as a "massive part of our national identity for several hundred years". I am writing to enlist your help and participation.



The reading will take place during the week commencing the 7<sup>th</sup> November at St. Michael's Church in Hernhill from 9.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. each day. We very much hope that you will be able to read for one or more of the half-hour slots. Since we are also hoping to raise money for the Restoration, may we invite you to obtain spon-

sorship or make a donation to the Fund?

We shall be grateful if you will pass on details of this reading to your family, friends, colleagues, parishioners and students who may wish to participate in this celebration (the like of which will not re-occur for 100 years).

To book one or more slots, please contact Mrs. Diane

Biggar at Pocock's Solicitors of Whitstable LLP, Elizabeth House, 63 Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1DA, phone 01227 770222 or email - mail@pococklaw.com

Yours sincerely,  
Stephen Pocock

### **STAPLEGATE WI**

We have a good few things lined up for the following months, including a tea-party for a centenarian, a fun evening playing indoor games with a large bring and buy for our charity of this year 'The Samaritans', craft shows to be enjoyed and the Denman Jam Festival. So do

join us by coming to our meetings!

This month we were hugely interested in our speaker, Brian Whitehead who is the area fundraiser for the charity 'Hearing Dogs'. He illustrated his talk with slides showing the variety of animals used, and the extent of their ability to help their owners. There is a long wait-

ing list for these dogs as the training is so specialised to each person, according to their need. We were astounded by the intelligence and commitment shown by the dogs and all agreed that

it is a vital help to many who are profoundly deaf.

Next month we meet on August 10th in the village hall at 7.45pm

Liz Walton 01227 750753

### **BITS AND PIECES**

I was sad to hear of the death of Jill Dawes this month. She has been living in Scotland for some years with her husband John who pre-deceased her as did her daughter Janet. Before moving to Scotland the family lived for many years at Sonstall and were very active in Village affairs.

I have just heard that Brian Jeliot has been taken into hospital for an operation at the Kent and Canterbury. I am sure we all wish him well and hope that he makes a speedy recovery.

The Dargate Dairy has got into the news recently. One of their specialist cheeses is being used to flavour a brand of potato crisps. These made in Kent crisps, have just won a gold medal with the Guild of Fine Food.

The horse show was held at Cairo Lodge on Sunday 10th July. It was very successful and raised over £4200 for the Pilgrims Hospice. I don't doubt that it was a lot of hard work but it clearly paid off. Well done all those concerned.

I understand that the BBC has more or less been told to shut-up about global warming. Or at least shut-up criticism of the theory. Although I have some reservations, I'm not going to get involved, but, something funny is definitely going on in my garden that hasn't gone on before. The magnolia has come into

bloom again; in late July??? This presumably has something to do with a change in the weather.

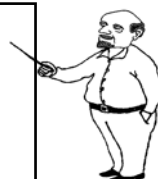
Certainly the weather in July has been very mixed; a lot of heavy rain but also some hot, blue-sky days. Friday 15<sup>th</sup> was just such a day and that was just as well. Behind the Village school the brass band was playing and cakes and drinks were being served. It was a festive gathering of pupils, Governors and staff, past and present. The party was to celebrate nearly twenty years at the school by the popular deputy head, Mary Clarke. We all wish Mary a long and happy retirement.

There is a lot going on in the Village these days so I would ask you to earmark a date in your diaries. On the morning of Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September there is going to be a B-B-Q Breakfast. You will be able to indulge yourself in a full English breakfast without the chores of either cooking or washing up. And then you can browse the stalls for books, produce and other tempting things. The breakfast is being run to raise funds for the repair and refurbishment of our church. Make a note of the date and read the next issue of the 'News' or check the notice boards for details.

ADT

Alan D. Taylor  
Yew Tree House, Dargate  
near Faversham, Kent ME13 9HG  
01227 751293

**COPY  
DATE  
Mon  
29th  
Aug**



<b>Mon 1 Aug</b>	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall AGM
Tues 2	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 3	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 7	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Tues 9	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 10	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Social evening
Sun 14	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Mon 15	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 16	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sat 20	10am to noon	Crockham Farm	Children's Soc coffee morning
Sun 21	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service & baptism
Tues 23	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 28	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 30	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 31	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
<b>Sun 4 Sept</b>	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Mon 5	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 6	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 7	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Thurs 8	7.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Flower arranging demo
Sat 10	-----	Crockham Farm	B-B-Q breakfast
Sun 11	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
	-----	Mount Ephraim	Apple Sunday
Tues 13	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 14	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - John Hinns, WI judging
Sun 18	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service & baptism
Mon 19	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 20	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 25	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 27	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 28	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Fri 30	-----	St. Michael's Ch	Flower Festival starts