



HERNHILL NEWS

DECEMBER 2011

Please note. There is no Parish Council meeting in December so the next issue of the 'News' will be for February with the copy date Monday 23rd January



CAROLS ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

followed by mince pies and hot drinks in the Church
Saturday 17th December at 5.00pm



PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 30th November. All Councillors were present, as were two members of the public, and the Clerk.

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th October were signed as a true record.

Matters arising: the ongoing problem with alleged occupation of private land at the old Silver Sands site appears to be no nearer solution. Unsur-

prisingly, the delay would appear to be a legal hold-up. The Chairman said that similar problems were being encountered adjacent to family land off the slip road in the Wey Street area. This will not be finalised until the summer of 2012, if then.

Councillors were disgusted at the decision to allow development for stabling etc. at Butler's Hill. The Clerk said that it was plain the permission was to be granted, even before the so-called revised plans were submitted. After all, the "revi-

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e-mail helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com

Clerk: Terry Smart; 01227 274047

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; 01227 752840

and George Bobbin; 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

sions" merely involved a few trivial matters of the syntax.

Swale Borough Council's Planning Department is to be asked for further details of the approval granted to the site at the Duke of Kent, for BI/S2/B8 units. This was the only information given in a letter from the Department. The Clerk is to write to them, seeking some details of the approval. Whilst writing to the Department they are to be reminded that there is a walnut tree in the grounds of the old public house which has a tree preservation order placed upon it.

Mr Chapman reported that a local villager was about to saw down a large tree of the Christmas type. He has suggested that it be placed temporarily (i.e., over the Christmas period) on the Village Green. Councillors thought this to be a generous gesture. Carols will be sung on the Green over the period, and the tree will add some atmosphere to the proceedings. Care is to be taken to erect the tree safely, in accordance with all of the Health & Safety requirements.

Mr Woods said that the oak tree on the Village will require its bottom-most branches 'lifted' next spring. He also said that Mr Willis, of the White House, Staple Street, had or-

ganised, and paid for, the refurbishment of Wellside, a perennially untidy site in the area. The Clerk is to write to Mr Willis, to thank him for his public spirit. It will be remembered that some years ago the Parish Council carried out work on this site, only to be criticised for spending Council Taxpayers money on a task for which the Parish Council was not responsible.

Mr Elliott gave a report on the new printer. He said that there will be a definite cost-saving to the Parish as a result of its use. He has spent a considerable amount of time on this project and he was thanked for his efforts by Councillors.

The question of speed limits in the village was discussed but no definite conclusions reached. The Parish Council will return to this problem at a later date.

On a proposition by Mr Chapman, and seconded by the Chairman, the Precept for the accounting year 2012/13 is to be maintained unchanged at £6,500.

The Clerk is to make enquiries as to the viability of the telephone box adjacent to the old shop.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting to be closed at about 9.10pm.

FROM THE VICAR

Over Christmas many people have a nativity scene or Christmas Crib in their home. The tradition was started by St Francis of Assisi who visited Bethlehem in 1220. He liked the way the Christmas was celebrated there so much that he asked the Pope for

permission to recreate it in his own Italian village. He wanted to make the birth of Jesus real to people and for them to see that Jesus wasn't born in a palace but in a humble stable. With the help of some local people he recreated the scene in a cave near the small town of Greccio

with a manger, straw and real animals; the scene was lit by candlelight (no health and safety in those days!) On Christmas Eve he celebrated Holy Communion in the cave and people said they found it so moving, it was almost as if they were there at the actual birth of Jesus.

Before long, wooden nativity scenes were displayed in churches and homes across Europe. Today nativity scenes are made from a variety of materials and come in all styles and sizes. Canterbury Cathedral has a life size stable scene and often they are displayed in shopping malls, they continue to be popular as a way of reminding us that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus. In December 2004 Madame Tussaud's nativity scene featured waxwork models of David and Victoria Beckham as Mary and Joseph and Kylie Minogue as the angel, it turned out to be quite controversial, offending some people.

This year, for the first time, we are holding a Christmas Crib Festival in our church on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th December, 11.00am – 4.00pm, admission is free and refreshments and Hernhill calendars and cards will be on sale. We have been loaned a great variety of cribs for the festival and many have a story attached to them. We also hope that some children from Hernhill School will display cribs they have made in a shoebox. If you would like to lend a crib to display please contact me on 01227 751410 as soon as possible. The festival will appeal to all ages and is a great way to mark the beginning of Christmas. You will also be able to see the cribs after Carols on the Green on Saturday 17th at 5.00pm and at the service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday 18th at 4.30pm. I am sure they will enhance our Christmas worship too.

Revd Jean Burrows

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We are planning a trip to the Dutch Bulb Fields, Keukenhof Gardens & Flower Parade on Friday 20th April 2012 with Buzzlines Travel. If any members and friends are interested in the trip it is for 4 days price from £349. Single supplement £75. to include , Channel Tunnel Crossings, 3 Nights Dinner , Bed & Breakfast & Staying in a 4 star Ho-

tel. Entry to Gardens, & Flower Parade, & Amsterdam Excursion. There are optional excursions to Volendam & a River Cruise.

If you are interested in this trip please call me on 01227 276032 I must know by Monday 19th December as I need to book.

Merry Christmas and happy new
Year

Peter Bentley

OPEN GARDENS

Next year this event is going to be on Sunday 24th June.

For those of you new to the village or anyone who has not visited over

the years. the Hernhill Open Gardens is a wonderful way to see the village and visit many interesting gardens around the locality. Some gardens open each year some gar-

dens open once in a while. Gardens are not necessarily perfect and there is often 'work in progress' which visitors enjoy as they then return the following year to see the result! If anyone has thought about opening their garden and would like more information about what is involved (nothing really apart from being there on the day!!!) do get in touch with me. Also if you have a friend or

neighbour whose garden you think should be included do ask them yourself or persuade them to call me. alison.west@kemsdale.plus.com is the e-mail address or you can phone me on 01227 752550.

More information will be posted next year nearer the date but do put Sunday 24th June 2012 in your diary.

Alison West

WHO IS THE FALCONER

Would the falconer who was flying his beautiful young hawk early in October in the Fairbrook area, and who temporarily lost contact with her, phone 01227 751383. We think that we may have found a piece of your equipment.

The gentleman in question called in, enquiring for his bird. He later came back, plus bird, to show us. That was gracious of him. He also brought a

bitch with him; I think she was called Isabel.

Later, when the scaffolding round the house was removed, the 'piece of equipment' was discovered on the roof.

The falconer had nothing to do with Farming World and may not even be local but someone may know him, so please get in touch.

Pam Jaquet

CHRISTMAS TREES

If you're going to buy a Christmas tree then go to Nash's Farmhouse, Luddenham where Peter Howard grows trees of every size which he sells in aid of various charities, including the parish churches of those purchasing the trees. They have roots so you can plant them out or pot them for next year.

When you've chosen your tree you're asked what parish you come from and a proportion of what you pay goes to



the church of that parish. The rest goes to charities such as Cancer Research, Macmillan Cancer Support, Pilgrims Hospices, Samaritans, Alzheimer's Society, Brain Tumour UK, Help for Heroes and many more. Last year a total of £9035 was raised for 45 parishes and all those charities.

Peter's telephone number is 01795 532596 if you want to ring for opening days/hours.

Pat Hall

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

I wanted to write a short piece on Geoff Savage from Dargate Road in Yorkletts who died on 31st of October. His funeral was conducted by the

Rev Guy Laurence at Barham.

I was a barmaid in the Three Horseshoes in Staple Street in the 1980's where Geoff and his wife, Sandi, were customers. Just before Christ-

mas one year, times were exceptionally hard and funds were low. At the time I had an aged Ford Cortina and due to the particularly hard winter, the battery wasn't at its best. Geoff and a fellow customer, Kevin Freed, took pity on me and between them bought and fitted a brand new battery for the car. It came in a huge box complete with a decorative ribbon and bows. I

was both pleased and slightly embarrassed by their kindness as at the time I was worried about getting to work and visiting family and friends. It was one of the best and most useful presents I have ever had. I will, always remember Geoff and Kevin's kindness.

Rest in peace Geoff.
Dawn Gorham



The Restoration Committee will only be running two major events in 2012. We are again planning to have a cake stall in the Faversham market. Subject to approval this will be on Saturday 18th August. In July we are going to repeat the very successful B-B-Q

breakfast. The date for this is Saturday 7th July. We need as much support as we can get for both of these events so please keep the two dates free.

ADT

THE LION'S ROAR

October ended here in the Red Lion with an invasion of ghosts and ghouls and all things scary! The children all enjoyed getting dressed up for trick or treating. Jennifer Roffey won our pumpkin competition with her fantastic pumpkin outfit. This is an event we will definitely repeat next year thanks to the support of all the parents in the village.

I'd also like to thank the village and friends for making Ike's 80th Birthday Night such a success. As you know, Ike was collecting money for The Pilgrims Hospice and his new crew-cut hairstyle is testament to his commitment to raising money for this cause. By the time this goes to print, I hope my back will have recovered from the good waxing it endured on the same night!

My final thank you goes to all the la-

dies in the village for their excellent consumption of wine on Ladies Night! The pub is now set for the winter months with a fresh lick of paint inside, just in time for the Christmas decorations to go up. Our new Italian coffee machine is up and running and with mulled wine also now being served, we're sure to keep you warm, whatever your tippie, as the temperatures continue to slowly drop.

Forthcoming events for your diary include 'Hullabaloo' returning with live music from 8.30pm on Tuesday 10th January, the ever popular Spider Show from 4.00 to 7.00pm on Sunday 22nd January and don't forget our New Years Eve combo with live music from The Boogie Men, upstairs from 6.00 to 8.00pm and a DJ downstairs from 8.00pm. Keep your eyes peeled for news of a special Murder-Mystery Night. As promised, we will be starting

traditional London Pie & Mash Nights on every second Tuesday of the month, beginning in January. This will also include such East-End classics such as jellied and stewed eels.

Just to finish off, if you've been wondering why there has been an increase in the men sporting moustaches, its in support of "Mo-

vember" a charity event raising awareness for Prostate Cancer. We have a donation box in the pub for this event and are also selling tickets for the Canterbury Lions Club Christmas Draw.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas

Ben Edwards

DESPITE THE WEATHER

We are just finalising our accounts for the 2011 fireworks event, and despite the bad weather and resulting lower attendance, we have still made a profit of around £3,000. I would like to thank all the committee and everyone who helped over the weekend, for all their hard work. It really is a team effort.

This year we will once again be able to offer a donation to the Village Hall as well as the Church Restoration Fund.

Although the fireworks event is the major fundraiser for the DCA for the year, we would very much like it to become more of a fundraiser for the whole community, especially since there are discussions in progress regarding the better joint use of both the DCA and Village Hall buildings.

There are more and more people

from the village getting involved and we are keen to encourage locally based stall holders etc. Obviously the event would not be possible without the long term support of the Dawes family, but in these very difficult times, the fireworks event represents a real opportunity for more of our community to work together for the benefit of all.

Next year's date for the fireworks event is November 3rd. I would encourage any newer and or older members of our community to get involved in any small way they feel they can. This can be help with set up on the Friday/Saturday. Help on the night or help with packing up on the Sunday morning. We are really trying to spread the load amongst more people so that no one has to give up too much time.

Felix Krish

DOVE DOINGS

Well we are fast approaching the end of the year and the end of our busy events calendar for 2011 - from 'Gourmet Food and Wine Matching' to 'Pie and Mash', we have enjoyed your company at them all and thank you for your support.

Last but not least (we hope!) will be our 'Carols, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies' event that will take place on Sunday 18th December from 6.00pm. We

were few in numbers last year due to the heavy snow but we are hoping that we can entice the musical, half deaf and even the reluctant down to The Dove for a good old festive sing song this time! If anyone remembers Guy Hart's glass shattering '5 Gold Rings' solo in 2010 you will be able to vouch for how much fun we had caroling!

New Year's Eve at The Dove will see an exclusive a la Carte menu. With

your own table in our restaurant for the entire evening you will be able to see the New Year in with family and friends, good food and a great atmosphere - (Limited availability). I would like to take this opportunity to wish Phill many happy returns as his birthday falls this month. I might afford

him a little celebration and relaxation before he's back in the kitchen with his hand up a turkey's bottom for the rest of the month!
Finally a very Merry Christmas to one and all and a wonderful and prosperous New Year 2012!

Sarah

BITS AND PIECES

Where did the year go? As I get older the years seem to accelerate at a furious pace. At this rate, by the time I reach my next big birthday, and that's not far off, a single year will only be worth a couple of months. The same thing is happening to the value of money. It's shrinking fast. Shopping last week I took home four super market bags, barely full. The bill for them was nearly £70 with not one luxury item included. And let's not talk about the price of petrol!

The plants in the garden are clearly bewildered by the weather we are having. This November the roses are still blooming and I have tulips that have broken through the soil. However, the weather men are brave enough to make forecasts despite the unseasonal weather. I have just been reading that the Met Office is predicting a mild winter. I find that very worrying. Their last long-range prediction was for a B-B-Q summer in 2009. And look what happened to that. With this in mind I have just bought myself a snow



shovel to put in the car. But enough of the carping. Christmas is coming. Let's put the commercialism to one side, it is a time for family, friends and perhaps a little nostalgia. My mind just drifted back to childhood. I remember slipping out of bed in what seemed to be the dead of night although it was probably no more than late evening. I crept into the small front room and cleared a peephole in the frost on the inside of the window with the sleeve of my pyjamas. Across the road, under the street light I could see a small group from the Salvation Army band. They played a couple of carols and moved on to the next lamppost. It had sounded magical and I hurried back to bed to warm my frozen toes. I am sure that, in years to come, the village children will enjoy similar happy memories of singing carols on the Green and then mince pies in our brightly lit church. Merry Christmas to you and a happy New Year.

ADT

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**COPY
DATE
Mon
23rd
Jan**





Sun 4 Dec	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Mon 5	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Comt
Tues 6	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 7	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 11	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 13	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 14	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - J. Zee, Conjuror
Sat 17	-----	St. Michael's Ch	Crib Festival
	5.00pm	Village Green	Carols
Sun 18	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Lessons & carols
	7.30pm	Mount Ephraim	Pantaloons
Mon 19	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 20	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sat 24	4.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Crib Service
	11.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Sun	9.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 27	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection

KEY DATES FOR 2012

Friday 20th April	Horticultural Soc visit to Holland
Saturday 5th May	Village Fete
Sunday 24th June	Open Gardens
Saturday 7th July	B-B-Q Breakfastll
Saturday 18th August	Faversham market stall
Saturday 3rd November	DCA Fireworks