



HERNHILL NEWS

MAY 2024

PARISH COUNCIL

The latest news from your Parish Council: Annual Parish Meeting, Neighbourhood Plan, Village Fete, Roads and as always Planning

If you have a suggestion: You can contact the Parish Council Clerk on 07876221580 or clerk@hernhill-pc.gov.uk

Full copies of the approved minutes for meetings and updated news on planning and road closures are available on the Parish Council Website. www.hernhill-pc.gov.uk information is also shared on Facebook through the Parish Council page and Hernhill Village forum.

An Extraordinary Meeting was held at the village hall on 8 April 2024. Two planning matters were discussed:

Application 24/501209 Erection of double garage with cycle parking and gym amenities and new access. Church Farm House, Church Hill, Hernhill.

The councillors noted some concerns voiced by some attending members of the public and discussed the application. The council then voted unanimously to object to the application with the following comment: "Hernhill Parish Council voted unanimously to object to the application. This was on grounds of highway safety due to poor viability splay in creating a new entrance close to a junction on a narrow road. In addition, the Council feel that there would be significant loss of privacy and diminished amenity value for residents on the opposite side of Kays Lane to the proposed garage entrance. The Council note that Church Farm House already has an existing large private separate entrance on Church Hill which could be utilised for which a garage could be located similar to a previously approved application submitted in 2008 (SW/08/0795). This would then negate any loss of

hedge."

The Duchy of Cornwall application was discussed at the meeting and again at the full meeting on 24 April and is summarised below.

The Annual Parish meeting was held on 24th April in the village hall just before the regular PC meeting. The chairman gave the annual report on the work of the council. The clerk presented the accounts and detailed the major items of expenditure including the speed limit signage.

The KALC community award was presented to Peter Willcock for his significant contribution to the community over many years and most especially all the work he has done for over two years in the absence of a vicar in the parish.

Representatives of our village organisations gave very encouraging reviews of the years activities including the Herons and DCA, the Gardening Club, and Hernhill School. Mark Woodcock representing both the DCA and the Hernhill Herons informed the meeting of the healthy state of the DCA finances and pre school and after school clubs. The Herons go from strength to strength and have outgrown facilities on the Hernhill playing fields! Hernhill School head listed the numerous activities the school are involved in and told the meeting of the results of the recent Ofsted inspection in March. The council were delighted to hear that the school retained their outstanding status. Kim Wakes reported on the work of the Neighbourhood Plan group including the stall at the **village fete 11th May**. The new editors and printers of the Hernhill News, Andrew Heller and Martin Wood introduced themselves and

Chairman: Cllr Barbara Heller
Clerk: Rebecca Parr 07876 221580

thanked contributors and distributors. They were thanked themselves for stepping up and for their generous provision of paper for the printing. Jill Geliot gave a report on the Hernhill Gardening Club (formerly Horticultural Society). A successful year with increasing membership. Our new vicar Rev Cathrine Ngangira outlined her ambitions for her three parishes and Hernhill in particular. (see later).

PLANNING

Application 23/505533: Duchy of Cornwall plan to build 2,500 homes between M2 and A2 from Faversham to Brenley Corner in phased delivery. The Parish council has voted unanimously to oppose this speculative development. In the light of new information constantly appearing including an objection from Highways England it was decided to put in our preliminary objection on the basis of the clearest material considerations we can list and to work with neighbouring parishes to produce a joint response at a later date prior to SBC's decision.

Application 24/500517: Side extension 2 Upland Cottages Highstreet Road. This was previously supported by the council. The applicant attended to explain SBCs requirement to slightly amend the plan and the council reiterated their unanimous support.

Planning Discussion:

Canterbury District Draft Local Plan 2045 Consultation. Councillors agreed to submit comments on the plan objecting to the new town proposal on farmland and countryside north of the University of Kent.

Planning Enforcement:

Evaluna and George Bell Farm. The next steps in this ongoing saga were discussed by the council in closed session. Any local residents who can gather evidence of activities of concern are requested to submit it to Swale and to the Clerk.

Highways Improvement Plan (HIP): The long awaited speed limit signs are being erected. The council have a number of banners, posters and stickers to be distributed via a stall at the **village fete on**

May 11th, with some information on the Speed Watch group.

A joint meeting with Dunkirk PC was held on 17th April to agree to pool resources and coordinate applications for the next HIP.

Litter pick: Next pick 1st June 2pm Village Hall. Equipment and blue bags will be available as will refreshments!

Allotments: A vacancy has arisen due to the holder moving away. Please contact the clerk if you are interested. The new fencing will be installed on 13th May.

PC Gary Morris is holding another surgery in Hernhill Village Hall 3rd May 4-5pm. He is also running a walk and talk in the village on 5th May (see separate article).

Fire Rescue Services are offering free home visits to check out your fire safety, smoke alarms etc. <https://www.kent.fire-uk.org/safety-home>

D Day Commemoration 6th June: The Beacon will be lighted once again.

Road Closures:

A299 Thanet Way: Temporary road closures, Speed restrictions and contraflow various times and directions between Hernhill and Herne Bay from 5th April until 20th July for major carriageway reconstruction. The parish council will request local traffic only signs to be placed at the obvious cut through points in an attempt to limit use of our village lanes as alternative routes.

Next Parish Council meeting 29th May 2024 7.30pm Village Hall

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Last month we shared with you a list of objectives that we created from your feedback from the survey.

Please help us and make time to return your form or reply online, even if you only fill in the YES or NO section. This will really help the working group understand if a Neighbourhood Plan is what you want.

If you've lost your form you can always

contact us for another one, go online, or come visit us at the Village Fete on May 11th. We will be there to talk about the benefits of Neighbourhood planning and answer as many questions as we can.

cllrwakes@hernhill-pc.gov.uk

cllrwaters@hernhill-pc.gov.uk

<http://hernhillp.wordpress.com>

KCC NEWS

It would be remiss of me not to write something about the subject which has been the talk of Swale for the past month – bins.

The problems we've seen with late, or in many cases entirely missed, collections across large parts of the borough have understandably generated a significant volume of calls to our customer service team and calls and emails to councillors. They have also generated a significant number of posts and comments on Facebook.

I am very sorry for the inconvenience and distress that this service has caused across the borough during the past month. The switchover has clearly been a failure, although possibly not to the degree that many would believe. There are large parts of the borough that have received a 'perfect' service so far, and it is primarily the rural areas which have been missed (in many cases consistently).

I'd like to share the reasons why this is, and what Suez have been, and are continuing to do, to remedy the situation. Firstly, to respond to a question which I've seen raised, the reason we no longer have a contract with Biffa is simply that the contract we had with them expired. Along with our partners in Ashford and Maidstone, we put out a tender and Suez were the only company to bid for that contract. More on this can be read online at www.tinyurl.com/SBCwaste

Some general reasons why the rounds are currently taking longer include:

New routes – the routes have been redrawn to be more efficient and resilient in the long term. We have more vehicles out in the same parts of the borough on the same day. This means that when a crew member is suddenly unable to work, (this work has a higher rate of injury than most), or there is a vehicle

breakdown, we have other vehicles nearby who can pick up the rest of that round. The completion of the new routes will get faster and more efficient with practice, but it may take a few weeks.

New processes – the crews now have handheld devices which can be used to register which properties have been collected from and which haven't. This additional piece of work may slow crews down as they get used to it, but in the long term will bring benefits in terms of more accurate data and a greater ability to send crews out to missed areas without them needing to be reported by the public.

The main reason the rural rounds have been hit disproportionately is that the new routes have not been assigned as efficiently as they should have been in terms of areas served by narrow lorries and those that have full-size lorries. There are large parts of the borough which can easily be navigated by the larger trucks and were under the previous contract. Suez have acknowledged this and are making changes to the routes to switch more properties and areas onto the full-size trucks. This will greatly improve their ability to complete collection rounds.

Suez have also employed a number of new staff, both on the driver side and the loader side, and this week, (week beginning 15th April), we are beginning to see the effect of those additional staff and a much greater proportion of collections being completed on the scheduled day. I am hopeful that this trend will continue and that we will reach a state of normal service by early to mid-May.

Rich Lehmann

rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk

VILLAGE FETE

Not every village retains the Maypole tradition. We do!

Come and watch the children of Hernhill School open the Village Fete shortly after 1pm on Saturday 11th May. Bring your canine friends to the Dog Show, enjoy the displays from the Faversham Gym and Miss Sophie's dance-school and grab yourself a cake and a cuppa from our local stalls. Refreshed, try your hand at Splat-a-Rat, take your chances on the inflatables and then head to the bar and barbecue for more refreshment. Relax to live music, pick up a bargain book, pat a miniature pony and participate in the epic "Grand Prize Draw". And you'll only just be getting started. Mark the date - Saturday 11th May - 1pm to 4pm.

Grand Prize Draw at The Village Fete

Thank you to all of the kind donations from local individuals and businesses this year. Tickets can be purchased from Julia Woodcock, Halim Soltani, Kim Parr, Kim Wakes, Amy Merrit and Richard Layton.

Prizes include:

Overnight stay at The Cave Hotel
Red Lion, Hernhill vouchers
Overnight stay at Nana's Hut (Shepherd's Hut) in Dargate
Maytree Nursery vouchers
Three Horseshoes, Hernhill voucher
Mount Ephraim season ticket
Papa Bianco pizza, Faversham voucher
Barge Burgers, Faversham voucher
The Raj, Faversham voucher
Ossies Faversham voucher
A family ticket to Faversham Swimming Pool
Doggie bath, blow dry and brush with Soraya Dog Grooming
A box of cupcakes from Daisy Cakes by Debs
Overnight stay at Myrtle Stables, Hernhill
A treat from the Hernhill C of E Refill Shop
Curious Brewery voucher
Garden water inflatable

Mark Woodcock

HERNHILL HERONS

As the Herons' 2023-24 season draws to a close we can reflect on having provided sporting challenges and behaviour-focussed coaching to over 200 local children. With 14 teams across 10 age groups we have 30 volunteer coaches making it all click. Not to mention the endless hours of fixture arrangements, maintaining the pitches, raising funds and improving facilities. This Spring and Summer as you enjoy the exciting

close to the Premier League and Championship, the thrills of the FA Cup and the pomp of the Euros in Germany, spare a thought for our "Grassroots" Village Club! We are always desperate for volunteers, especially away from the frontline coaching positions, and we are always on the look-out for corporate sponsors and equipment donations. If you can help please get in touch! - hernhillherons@gmail.com

Mark Woodcock

HERNHILL GARDENING CLUB

One thing about this cold weather is that the spring flowers have lasted a long time but the downside has been the sluggish germination of summer flowers and vegetables due to the cold, wet soil. The weather is never perfect for the gardener!

Summer Fete 11 May

We shall be running our usual plant stall and would be grateful for donations of plants both flowers and vegetables – just bring them up to the village hall on the day. This is a good opportunity to purchase your tomato plants and we usually have a good variety of other vegetables and herbaceous plants.

Summer coach outing

Don't forget to book your seat for our trip to Ham House on Thursday 18 July. This National Trust property was featured on the Antiques Road Show recently and looked well worth a visit. The outing is open to everyone so bring along your friends and neighbours. Cost of the coach is £26 for members and £28 for non-members. Entrance to the house and garden is free to National Trust members. Seats are already selling so don't delay.

Contact trisha5122@cloud.com telephone 07487258438.

HERNHILL CHURCH

Embracing the Liminal Space

I am fascinated by the concept of liminality – a transitional phase from one state to another. It is commonly spoken about in Anthropology as the middle phase in a three part rite of passage. A liminal period is disorienting, uncomfortable and challenging because it usually feels like being stuck between the end and a new beginning or 'what was' and the 'next'. Yet it is also an exciting period for creativity, exploring new possibilities and new identities.

An example of a liminal space is during pregnancy. A couple is no longer just an individual couple, but neither are they parents yet. They are somewhere in-between. Its a time of both excitement and challenge. A time that requires caution and preparation. Organisations too can find themselves in liminal spaces. This is true of our parish church (benefice churches).

The arrival of a new minister, in this case, my arrival raises the question 'what next?'. While for some this is an exciting period, for others it may be unsettling. We may find ourselves on either side of the threshold. One foot in something that is in the past, another foot in something not yet defined and not ready to start. This is the season that we find ourselves as a church community.

Since I started in October, people have been patient and given me time to settle in my role

– which I still am doing. But some people have also started raising questions about where we are going. I wish I had clear answers to all those questions. But, I am eager to find out what emerges from this liminal phase.

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council (the governing body that assist me in my role), we are keen to hear from parish members what they think about the church now and in the future, and what can be done for the church to be a village church not simply a church in the village – there is a difference.

May I please invite you to share your personal views on these questions.

1. Who does the church exist for?
2. Where are the gaps between those it exists for and how it is serving them?
3. What can be improved or done differently?

Please do send your responses to revcathrine@outlook.com or drop them in the letter box at the Vicarage. If you would prefer to share your views in a chat do please reach out to either myself or Pat Saunders our Reader or any of the churchwardens.

Your responses will help us figuring out where we are going and how we can get there.

Cathrine Ngangira

HERNHILL CHURCHYARD

Hernhill's churchyard is a place held dear by many in our community because the remains of their loved ones are buried there. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for keeping the churchyard in good condition and it is their prime concern that it remains a beautiful and tranquil area.

Unfortunately, not everyone is keeping to the strict regulations regarding memorials and the placing of items on graves and in the garden of remembrance. These regulations were drawn up by the Diocese in 2007 for

safety reasons and to keep churchyards tidy and dignified. This document is available on request and is displayed in the church porch.

Graves in the part of the churchyard currently being used for burials, should consist of a memorial stone, which has been permitted by the vicar, with a container for flowers set in its base. A flower container can be buried immediately in front of the memorial stone providing its top does not protrude above ground level. Glass, pottery and stone containers cannot be used. This is all for

safety reasons to protect the people mowing, strimming and caring for the churchyard.

The use of silk and plastic flowers is not allowed (except for Remembrance poppies and those on Christmas wreaths). The planting of bushes, plants or flowers is not permitted except for bulbs which may be planted under the turf. No other ornaments or decorations should be left on the grave. In the garden of remembrance only one small container with flowers or a plant per memorial tablet is allowed, which should either be incorporated into the tablet or stand on top of it.

Over the coming weeks any items that do not conform to the regulations in the garden of remembrance will be removed and placed by the church wall. Items removed from graves will be placed by the hedge between the churchyard and the orchard.

We would like to thank the many who do abide by the churchyard regulations. Please do not hesitate to contact us, or any members of the PCC, if you have any questions.

Peter (Churchwarden)
Cathrine (Priest in Charge)

HISTORIC HERNHILL



Sailor suits and Sunday best in the vicarage garden. This see-saw scene snapped by Faversham photographer William Hargrave (1868 - 1940) probably dates from between 1908 and 1914. The Rev Frederick Haslam had died, age 69, in January 1908, and he was followed by the Rev Alfred Clark, who had been curate at Boughton. The children pictured may well be part of the family of the Rev Clark, who was vicar until his death in 1930, and had a son and a daughter. If that is his son, John, pictured, he may have been old enough to have fought in the First World War. If he did, he survived because the Faversham News reported that he became a vicar on the Isle of Wight in 1930.

A plaque in Alfred Clark's memory was placed in the church in 1936, paid for by public subscription.

The new vicarage was built in April, 1952, and the old one put up for sale by the diocese that summer.

Crispin Whiting



**Kent
Police**

I will be holding a Walk N Talk event in Hernhill on Sunday 5th May 2024. If you would like to come and discuss any concerns about feeling safe walking around the local area and receive some advice on personal safety please come along.

I will be on the junction of Crockham Lane and Church Hill at 18:00hrs
PC Gary Morris

HERNHILL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

We were visited by Ofsted at the start of March and are delighted to now report that we have retained our outstanding grading. The inspection report included many lovely comments such as;

- There is a demonstrable sense of community and belonging in this welcoming, inclusive and exceptional school. The school's 'People Rule which is to treat others as you want to be treated' is deeply embedded in the school's culture. It is demonstrated incredibly well by everyone in every aspect of school life.
- Pupils' behaviour is exemplary and they are safe, happy and they love school. They thoroughly enjoy learning because they say teachers always make it highly interesting and enjoyable . Pupils are extremely proud of their school and say they are lucky to have such incredible experiences.
- There is an unwavering determination to empower all pupils to succeed, take risks and develop independence in a very positive and caring environment.

- The school's curriculum is extremely rich and vibrant. The precise knowledge, skills and vocabulary pupils will learn are set out clearly. The curriculum is carefully and skilfully designed so that pupils frequently revisit the 'sticky knowledge' or the key concepts they need to remember to really deepen their learning. Teachers check pupils' understanding.
- The school's exceptional provision for pupils to thrive and flourish through outdoor play and learning has an extremely positive impact. This is particularly evident in pupils' well-being, behaviour, confidence and learning.
- The school is outward looking and the school's exemplary practice is willingly and rightly shared with other schools.

I am extremely proud that the children's hard work and behaviour was recognised as was the excellent level of skill and commitment from the whole staff team.

Sarah Alexander, headteacher

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS

I would just like to say a big thank you to all the staff, pupils and parents for the brilliant Ofsted result which we can now share with you – Hernhill will continue to remain an Outstanding school. The Governors are all very proud of the outcome and the fact that the school has been recognised as the welcoming, inclusive and exceptional place that we all know it to be. The demonstrable

sense of community and belonging that we understand as "The People Rule" shone through the report underpinning the enjoyable atmosphere for learning that the children experience. WELL DONE EVERYONE!

Helen Figgis
Chair of Governors

Allotment Plot Available for Hire



A half plot (125m sq) has become available for immediate possession. Ideal time to start at the beginning of the growing season.

Please contact the Clerk by email on clerk@hernhill-pc.gov.uk for more details.

More Music at St Michael's - Wednesday 22 May 2024 7.00pm

So many enjoyed the very special atmosphere of the Ringlemere String Ensemble autumn concert in St Michael's Hernhill that we have been asked to organise a repeat event. At this second concert in May, Keren, Jane and Adrian will be joined by their colleague, violinist Ben Jones. Playing as a quartet gives these wonderful professional musicians access to a more varied programme of music - which this time will include works by Mendelssohn, Mozart and Mahler, plus a few surprises. It promises to be a hugely pleasurable evening. The ticket price of £10 is inclusive of a glass of wine in the interval, and the concert should finish around 9pm. All proceeds from the event will go to the Friends of St Michael's to pay for maintenance of the historic building on the village green at the heart of our village.

Everyone is welcome – do please come and join us if you can! For further enquiries, tickets, or a place on the guest list please contact either of us, **07971 178974**, or Chris via email on trhernhillpcc@gmail.com Hope to see you there,

Jane Ingram and Chris Page

CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY 2024

Sunday 5th 10am Hernhill

Sung Communion

Sunday 19th - Pentecost 10am Boughton

Sung Communion

Wednesday 8th 10:30am St Barnabas' Boughton

Wednesday Worship

A short service followed by refreshments

Sunday 26th - Trinity Sunday 10:30am Graveney

Benefice Holy Communion

Sunday 12th 10am Boughton

Sung Communion

Sunday 2nd June 10am Hernhill

Sung Communion

All are welcome to our services

BIN COLLECTIONS

May	1	Wednesday	Brown bin
	2	Thursday	Green bin
	9	Thursday	Blue bin
	15	Wednesday	Brown bin
	16	Thursday	Green bin
	23	Thursday	Blue bin
	29	Wednesday	Brown bin
	30	Thursday	Green bin

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