



HERNHILL NEWS

MARCH 2022

PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact the Clerk for Parish Council business on 07876 221580 or hernhillclerk@gmail.com. Full copies of the approved minutes for meetings are available on the Parish Council Website.

The council held an extraordinary planning meeting on the 9th February. The following planning applications were discussed. (A) Creation of wildlife pond to attract great crested newts at Acorns Dargate. The Council unanimously voted to support the application and look forward to welcoming the new residents. (B) Erection of side porch at Autumn Cottage, 5 Staplestreet. The Council agreed to offer no adverse comments on the application. In addition, Cllr Page updated the members on the progress of the various groups applying for improved broadband in the village. As at the time of the meeting the Dargate group have an Openreach portal and have been canvassing for eligible properties to sign up for a voucher. This started well but seems to have stalled at 75% of the number needed after about two weeks. An application has been made for KCC funding to top the pledged voucher value to the amount required for the project to go ahead. The small lower Staplestreet group were at 95% of target earlier this week. Cllr Edginton said he believed

the target had now been reached. The larger village bid coordinated by the PC is still waiting for Openreach to get the necessary agreement from DCMS so a portal can be opened to applicants. It was agreed at the meeting that as soon as this happens the information leaflet written by Cllr Page would be circulated through the PC website, Village Forum, Hernhill News and noticeboards. It was also agreed that we should ask villagers to email the PC when they sign up so as to keep a tally of properties opting in. Cllrs undertook to individually canvas other eligible properties in order to reach a sufficiency of applicants and thus vouchers to achieve the necessary funding for the fibre upgrade.

Cllr Page said that top up funding from KCC will also be needed and they only had a limited amount of funding. With the Rural Gigabit scheme being closed by the Government on 6th April, there was a scramble for vouchers and KCC funding. The timescale involved is extremely tight. The Parish Council's bid had only been accepted by Openreach at a very late stage and we are still waiting to hear from them.

There was a full meeting of the Parish Council attended by four Parish Councillors and two members of the public on Wednesday 23rd February.

Affordable Housing: English Rural reported a short delay in expected com-

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solicitors may not have all the information.

Queen's Jubilee: A request for a temporary road closure between the Red Lion and the village green for the duration of the picnic and music on the afternoon of June 4th will be made to KCC. Plaques will be purchased from the British Legion Institute to be placed next to the trees to be planted in the Autumn in the village school and churchyard as part of the Queen's green Canopy.

The next full meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the village hall on Wednesday, March 24th at 8.00pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend. 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 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.

Centre in Sheerness, the service offers

free advice to anybody in Swale. Stevie can help with understanding bills and tariffs, energy and water efficiency measures, advice on mould and condensation, and help dealing with suppliers and energy debt. In some cases, energy or water debts can be reduced or even written off. For free advice and support contact Stevie on

07862158783

Citizens Advice Swale offer free, confidential and impartial advice including debt advice and help applying for universal credit. For help visit citizensadvice.swale.uk/get-advice or call 0808 278 7979.

To get help from Faversham Foodbank you need a voucher. Citizens' Advice Faversham can issue food vouchers via their helpline on 0808 278 7979.

ation of the building, now to be May, due to electricity supply problems. It was also stated that 16 households have registered an interest in the properties.

Planning enforcement: Cllr Chipperman attended a meeting at Swale arranged for Parish councillors to put forward ideas for what they require from the planning enforcement department. George Moynihan, James Freeman and Nerissa Reid were the councillors on the panel. They disclosed that sadly the department is understaffed at the moment but they are hoping to enrol further help. More information will be passed on. There were no openings for individual cases to be discussed but some interesting discussions emerged including clarification on the buying of small pieces of land from farmers. For my plots however small, change of use planning should be sought from Swale Council. This can easily be done retroactively. If not done this could prove a problem when selling properties as

SWALE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cost-of-Living Crisis

We are all facing a big increase in the basic cost of living. The cost of gas, electricity and petrol have all increased sharply. Food prices have increased too, with the largest increases on the basic everyday foods. These price rises have come on the back of the removal of the £20 uplift to universal credit, and April there will be a significant increase in national insurance deducted from pay packets. All this is leaving some having to choose between heating and eating. Here we set out how to get help locally if you find yourself in a difficult situation or know a family who are struggling.

Swale Borough Council fund a Fuel and Water Home Advisory Service. Run by Stevie Pettit at Seashells Children's

There is a list of other agencies who can issue foodbank vouchers at

faversham.foodbank.org.uk

The food bank relies on voluntary help and support to make sure that no one in our community has to go hungry. If you'd like to offer voluntary help, or donate food or money, you'll find the information you need at

faversham.foodbank.org.uk

if you're in the fortunate position to be able to consider fitting solar panels to your home to reduce you fuel bills, the

rising cost of electricity makes this an ever more financially attractive investment. Once again Swale Borough Council are working with Kent County Council to offer a group buying scheme to get the best value installer. You'll find further details and can register your interest, with no obligation, at

solartogether.co.uk/kent

Tim Valentine, 07752 191807

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Alastair Gould

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KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Since the election I have been acutely aware of the fact that I was fairly 'visible' across Swale East ahead of the election, but have been much less so since becoming a councillor. There's a certain irony in the fact that the busier you are, the less time you have to be visible. Ideally a balance has to be struck which allows you to do both, but it's a little like spinning plates, as the more visible you are, the more enquiries you receive, which in turn means you are busier!

The past month has been a particularly busy time, so I thought this month I would write a 'week in the life' piece to give a brief summary of the kind of things that keep me busy, but not necessarily visible. The week in question was the week beginning 31st January 2022.

I spent Monday morning responding to emails (which, along with meetings, make up the vast majority of my work) including enquiries relating to speeding traffic on the A2 at Teynham, a dangerous T-junction in Graveney, and the authorisation of a grant payment towards the installation of an air filtration system in Stalisfield Village Hall.

In the afternoon I attended a meeting of the Swale Local Children's Partnership Group. This group meets five times a year, bringing together representatives

from KCC, Swale Borough Council and a number of local groups and agencies in Swale to encourage dialogue with the goal of enabling more cohesive services for children in the area.

On Tuesday I attended a training session on project management in the morning, and in the afternoon headed to Doddington to meet with parish councillors and KCC officers to look at potential options for managing the flood risks in the village, which was badly flooded in May 2018. Emails today included an enquiry about the morning bus service through Graveney and a planning application for brick earth removal from a field in Bapchild.

Thanks to a last minute postponement, Wednesday was a rare, meeting free day. I dealt with email enquiries including tree planting in Bapchild, broadband vouchers in Throwley, a dangerous road in need of repair between Bredgar and Milstead, and an odd case involving a streetlight that no one owns in Selling.

Thursday's email enquiries included a request to improve a well used footpath in Teynham, a request for road repair in Doddington and ongoing work towards the introduction of a 20mph limit on Lees Court Road in Sheldwich. In the afternoon I met with my Green and Independent group colleagues to talk

ut the amendments we were plan-
 ing to put forward at the KCC budget
 meeting on 10th February, followed by
 meeting with a Traffic Schemes offic-
 er to discuss various projects and par-
 ticipated in discussions with various
 councils, and see which of them
 might be viable on KCC's ever tighten-
 ing budget.
 A meeting was packed with back to back
 meetings, including two more budget
 amendment meetings and a briefing
 for KCC officers to all councillors
 on the budget. All four of the Greens
 on KCC were newly elected last year.

GARDENERS CORNER

in the keenest of gardeners need a
 good plan. I arranged with
 my friends to down tools and go for
 a walk from Challock church; and what
 a glorious view along the downs
 we had! The church is
 situated a mile outside the present village
 on a narrow winding lane – ah a
 beautiful village you think. But no the his-
 tory is unusual. In the 1560s the estates
 of Eastwell and Otterley were merged
 and enclosed to form East-
 well Park. The villagers (then living
 in the church) were given notice
 to quit and the houses demolished. The
 church is locked but the key can be
 borrowed from the Barn Shop in the
 present day village and it is well worth
 a visit. Plenty of history and the walls
 are covered in modern day wall paint-
 ings – a very warm and welcoming at-
 mosphere. Outside we were greeted by

CHURCH NEWS

the arrival of March is also the arrival
 of Lent, with Shrove Tuesday on the 1st
 of March and Ash Wednesday on the 2nd.
 Shrove Tuesday is traditionally the day
 to eat rich foods such as milk and eggs
 before eating more
 frugally during the weeks of Lent. We
 are to give up something for Lent.

so the budget process was a very steep
 learning curve for all of us. I'm hoping
 we remember everything we've learned
 over the last few weeks by the time the
 2023 budget comes around!
 I know a couple of years ago I wouldn't
 have had much of an idea or much of a
 clue about what the day to day activities
 of a county councillor would involve, so
 I hope that this has been an illuminating
 and informative summary.

Rich Lehmann
 rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk

swathes of snowdrops in the church-
 yard, a wonderful sight.
 The track winds gently up the hill at the
 back of Eastwell Park and as you get
 higher a glorious view along the downs
 and over the Weald emerges. Then
 look back and you have the sight of the
 beautiful church nestling at the foot of
 the hill, the undulating fields, the cops-
 es of trees and not a house in sight.
 Fantastic. You can walk all the way to
 the gate at the bottom of the estate (the
 one where all the wedding photos are
 taken) but our stamina was not up to
 that so we turned back. The delights of
 the day were completed by an estates
 van drawing up to us and a man offering
 Labrador Lucy some treats, which she
 eagerly accepted.

Now back to the digging and seed
 planting.

Jill Gelliot

and lemon juice or maple syrup. But
 probably very few of us significantly al-
 ter our diets during Lent, apart from
 maybe giving up 'treats' such as chocolate
 or alcohol. These days we're perhaps
 more likely to eat frugally in January
 (Veganuary) or take part in Dry January
 after the excesses of Christmas than
 we are to give up something for Lent.

Rather like New Year resolutions, Lent
 gives us an opportunity to think about
 our lifestyle. Not only what we eat, but
 also how we exercise, what we read,
 how we spend our leisure time, what we
 do for others or give to charity. Increas-
 ingly in recent years we have begun
 speaking about 'taking up' something
 for Lent rather than 'giving up' some-
 thing. For Christians that 'taking up' is
 often about taking up some spiritual
 reading or making a commitment to
 pray regularly – that is, it's about putting
 time aside to reflect on our relationship
 with God.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's lent
 book 2022 is 'Embracing Justice' by
 Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley. With six
 chapters taking us from Ash Wednes-
 day to Easter Sunday, this book is help-
 ful reading for anyone interested in
 issues of justice. It covers subjects from
 climate and economic justice to gender
 and racial equality. Full of practical en-
 couragement, it weaves together bibli-
 cal texts and contemporary stories to
 reveal imaginative ways in which we
 may both grow in faith and also more
 fully reflect the justice, mercy and com-
 passion of Christ in our lives. Justin
 Welby says of it, "In a world where jus-
 tice is too often about power, Isabelle
 Hamley shows that God's justice brings

transformation, healing and hope for
 all".

Alongside the Archbishop's book for
 Lent, Isabelle Hamley has also put to-
 gether two specially written booklets for
 Lent (one for adults and one for chil-
 dren) called, "Live Lent: Embracing
 Justice, a 40 Day Challenge". The
 booklets provide a Bible reading, short
 reflection and prayer as well as a prac-
 tical challenge for each day of Lent.
 They are a good resource to accompa-
 ny us through the weeks leading up to
 Easter. Find out more at

Churchofengland.org/liv Lent

Canterbury Diocese has put together a
 list of resources for personal use during
 Lent this year which includes 'Embrac-
 ing Justice' as well as other books and
 online material. And Bishop Rose Hud-
 son-Wilkin (Bishop of Dover) has writ-
 ten a new Lent course based on the
 musical Hamilton called 'The Room
 Where It Happens'. More information
 can be found at

(canterburydiocese.org/ourlife/spiritual
 ity-discipleship/lent)

Whatever you choose to give up or take
 up for Lent, I pray that it may be a time
 of blessing and growth for you.

Pat Saunders
 Reader, Boughton, Hernhill &
 Graveney

MARCH CHURCH SERVICES

Please note the change in the usual
 pattern of services on 1st and 2nd
 Sunday of the month

Sunday 6th March
 10.00am Holy Communion, Boughton,
 Rev'd Ros Parrett

Sunday 13th March
 10.00am Holy Communion, Hernhill,
 Rev'd Nina Coulthard.

Sunday 20th March
 10.00am Morning Worship, Hernhill
 10.30am Holy Communion, Graveney,
 Rev'd Peter Ould.

Sunday 27th March
 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion,
 Boughton, Venerable John Barton

2nd March, Ash Wednesday
 8.00pm St Barnabas, Boughton, Short
 service to mark the start of Lent.

Wednesday 9th March
 10.30am Wednesday Worship
 A short service followed by refresh-
 ments.

OVER THE GARDEN WALL
Well, this month has been busy. We celebrated a Birthdays, a Golden Wedding, and sadly, two Funerals. My nephew's funeral took place in Folkestone right in the middle of storm Eunice. Most of us were looking to the roof of the church hoping it would hold up. It was not all sad, I have never before at a Service seen a full choir, plus vicar process through a church singing "Glory, Glory Tottenham Hotspur". After trying to get a booking for many months, we finally went to The Pig at Bridge for dinner. I spent many a misspent evening there in my youth, especially on a "Tuesday

Over 25's" night, also known as "Grab a Granny" night. Thankfully, the décor has changed considerably and the experience was well worth the wait.

I was driving to Thanet recently when my rear tyre blew out. This was a first for me and not an experience I wish to repeat, but the recovery people were wonderful and all was well in the end. This month we have had storms Dudley, Eunice & Franklin. My vote is that the next one should be called "Gail". That should confuse a few people.

Stay safe & God bless,
Sandi.

AN ILLUSTRATED TALK

HERNHILL THROUGH TIME

Village, Church & School

Hernhill Church

Friday 18th March 7.30pm

Pay at the door £5.00

Refreshments provided

THURSDAY 18th MARCH

History books and lessons usually concentrate on the actions and events surrounding kings, bishops, lords and politicians. This talk is different.

This illustrated presentation is about the lives of the ordinary people who have lived and worked in and around Hernhill from earliest times to the present day.

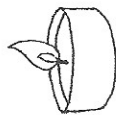
As usual refreshments are included in the entry price of just £5.00; the talk will be an added bonus.

An occasion not to be missed!

BREATHING SPACE

St. Michael's Church, Hernhill
An hour of music especially for Lent with silence and candlelight in our beautiful church.

Friday 25th March
7.30 - 8.30pm



BITS AND PIECES

We have probably all been following the terrible news from the Ukraine. It seems that there is nothing we can do to stop it. It may be naive but I have a guilty feeling. Perhaps the enormous sums spent on bringing us the distressing pictures would have been better spent on helping the sufferers.

To a lesser degree we have sufferers in this country too. Victims of the recent storms. Sitting in the garden room, Joyce and I watched the trees bowing to 'Eunice'. We decided that she was no lady as she tried to push them over. Fortunately only one branch broke from one of the evergreens. A lack of leaves on the others saved them from serious damage. I hope that others of you also escaped although I know that there was some damage in the village. Fortunately it was nothing like the damage caused by Mr Fisher's storm in 1987.

In the north they have not only had the winds but snow and bitter cold. Of course it hasn't been as cold so far as we have experienced in the past. The following quotation reminded me of just how cold it can be.

"It's almost too cold to hold a pen this morning. I've lost a toe since breakfast, my nose is on its last nostril. I've four sweaters on (including yours), two pairs of trousers and socks, a leather coat and a dressing gown. Who was the French poet who had alphabetically lettered his underpants, and wore everyone up to H on a cold morning?" - Dylan Thomas. It hasn't been like that yet but, be warned, there is still time!

On a happy note, in church last Sunday, few were wearing masks. I could at last see if people were smiling or grimacing at me. They were smiling and that was wonderfully cheering. Thank you.

ADT

REFUSE COLLECTION

March	1	Tuesday	Green Bin
	8	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	15	Tuesday	Green Bin
	22	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	29	Tuesday	Green Bin
April	5	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	12	Tuesday	Green Bin
	19	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	26	Tuesday	Green Bin

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