



HERNHILL NEWS

JULY 2022

PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact the Clerk for Parish Council business on 07876221580 or hernhillclerk@gmail.com. Full copies of the approved minutes for meetings are available on the Parish Council Website.

The June meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 29th June in the village hall. It was attended by four Parish Councillors, the clerk, Councillor Gould (Swale Borough Council), Councillor Kemp (Chairman of Dunkirk Parish Council) and three members of the public.

Planning: Application 22/502565 Proposed development of McDonald's drive-through restaurant and three commercial buildings with floor space of 4043 sq m plus parking at Plumpudding Lane and Highstreet Road. Josh Wilson attended to answer questions from parishioners and Councillors. A letter from a parishioner concerned about rat runs and construction traffic was read out by the clerk. Councillors gave their views and voted by majority to support the application on grounds of local employment opportunities, but requested that an improved litter picking plan, to include the three bridges over the Thanet way and a limit on lorry movements through the village, be considered. Section 73 re: application 17/504077, a request to remove conditions placed upon allowed construction at Smith's Transport Yard, Highstreet Road. A parishioner and neighbour to the site,

Charles Boyle, attended and drew Councillors attention to mistakes in the application which should have referenced 19/504983. Councillors considered the application as it stands and voted unanimously to object on the grounds that the conditions were imposed by the head of planning to improve the visual amenity of the site and reduce any deleterious impact on nearby properties and Victory Wood.

Affordable Housing: Councillors met in closed session to discuss the short listed applicants for the properties at Forge Farm Row. English Rural have requested that the Council verify local connections if they are able to do so. Concerns have been raised about the entrance gap created in the hedge close to the Bull Lane crossroads. English rural will be contacted to request that the gate to this exit be placed in line with the hedgerow and to be of materials and design sympathetic to the sensitive site.

Neighbourhood Watch: Peter Wilson reported that villagers have been getting scam phone calls purporting to be from energy suppliers.

PCSO: Our local PCSO Denis Pashav will attend the August meeting. The clerk has his contact details if needed.

Woodland Coppicing: A great deal of concern has been expressed by parishioners about the timing of and extent of work on woodland adjacent to Thread Lane. Eventually a Forestry Commis-

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sion representative has visited the site and confirmed that the work is compliant with the felling licence, which apparently overrides any tree protection orders in place, and that the timing of the work, at the height of the nesting season, is a matter for the police. The Council have been informed that the work is now complete.

Road Closure: M2 Westbound will be closed between junctions 7 and 5 from Friday 1st July 8.00pm until Monday 4th July 6.00am. Staplestreet road will be closed for resurfacing on 4th July. Staplestreet road will be closed for the Wheelie Bin Race at the Three Horse Shoes on 23rd July from noon to 3.00pm. Uk Power Networks will be working in Crockham Lane which will be closed to traffic for seven days from

Saturday 17th July.
Bensted's Charity: is currently inviting applications for assistance grants for relief for old, sick or infirm persons; or for recreational facilities; or for educational bursaries. Forms available from The Alexander Centre or online: office@benstedscharity.org.uk.

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30pm July 27th at the 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 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.

NEW CONTRACTS

The Parish Council is reviewing their contract for the mowing of the village hall playing fields. We are also looking to replace the allotment gate. If you would like the opportunity to quote for either or both of these pieces of work, please contact the Clerk for details.

KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Well, one year into the role and what a roller coaster of a year it has been. So much so that the below was originally due to be my councillor update last month, but I couldn't find the time to write it.

A year ago when I was fresh faced and two weeks into my tenure, the first piece I wrote for our local parish magazines shared a few of the ambitions I had in mind for my four years in this role. Among them were 20mph limits and roadside verges. Two areas which, at the time, I thought might be possible to make good progress on in my first year. Sadly these tasks both turned out to be more complicated than I had realised. To get a change in speed limit there are a number of hoops to jump through, each of which can take several weeks. Progress has been slow, but I'm

pleased to have assisted a number of parish councils to varying degrees in moving their requests forward. Shield which will hopefully have a long overdue 20mph limit on Lees Court Road by the end of this year, and, if all goes well, other parishes won't be far behind.

Letting roadside verges grow long is another area more complex than I'd originally realised. Despite KCC's vocal support of No Mow May via their 'Kent's Plan Bee' campaign, many verges across our area were unnecessarily cut back during May 2021 and May 2022. In some cases there was a necessity to maintain sightlines for road safety, but in many more this wasn't an issue. KCC are in a tough position on this topic as public opinion is still greatly divided. Recent studies suggested that Kent has seen a 70% reduction in insect life over the past two decades, so we really

should be doing all we can to try and reverse that worrying trend. I will continue to push for KCC to reduce their use of glyphosates and leave verges that don't impact on highway sightlines. I would be lying if I said that my first year as a councillor hasn't been tough. My hair is now greyer and I've gained a few lines on my forehead and inches around my waistline. That being said, the second half of the year was far more enjoyable than the first. The incredibly steep learning curve I started out with is beginning to level off and I'm able to respond to many more enquiries without having to go round the houses to get an answer. More importantly, this knowledge has bolstered my confidence in dealing with KCC related matters.

Regardless of political leaning, our local authorities work best for everyone when opposition parties can provide strong and effective scrutiny of the administration. In February I submitted a motion at KCC's budget meeting which prevented the cost of school bus passes being increased for families with children in receipt of free school meals. This was voted through by the council and the cost of a pass for those families should remain frozen for the next three years.

All things considered, my first year has been a case of finding out just how much I didn't know about local government, and then filling the gaps. I still have a lot to learn, but am looking forward to being more proactive as time moves on and I really get to grips with the role.

Rich.lehmann@kent.goc.uk

CELEBRATIONS

Thanks are due to Steve Castle on behalf of the Village for lighting the beacon at New Zealand Bank on 2nd June.

It was a great start to a busy and memorable week-end.

On Friday 24th the church bells were rung in celebration of the coming hundredth birthday of John Sim. After that, Peter Willcock gave a fascinating and enlightening tour of the church windows, explaining their history and meaning.

Anne Butler

VILLAGE PLATINUM JUBILEE EVENTS

There were three Platinum Jubilee events in Hernhill during the Bank Holiday. The Beacon Lighting, a pig roast at Summer Lees Farm and an afternoon picnic on the Village Green.

All these events initiated special moments, contact with neighbours.... old and new! ... and a village community coming together to celebrate an historic occasion. There were many people whose hard work and superb organisation contributed to, and ensured that, these were successful and memorable events. A heartfelt THANK YOU to each and everyone of you!

Gill Couzens

HERNHILL SCHOOL

The school has had a busy few months and it has been lovely to have many of the traditional school events back after missing them for the last two years. Our summer term started with a new larger shed being installed in our playground

for all of our playtime loose parts. I am incredibly proud of the way in which playtime has been transformed at Hernhill this academic year. Taking part in the OPAL (outdoor play and learning) has been transformative; all of our children say that they love playtimes and

the creativity, team work, resilience, determination and sheer happiness on display will confirm this. Anyone who has been lucky enough to visit, peep through the field gate or to walk across the village hall field between noon and 1.00pm on any week day and hear the sounds of joy and laughter ringing from our playground, I am sure will agree. Long gone are the days of wide open expanses of playground and field with nothing to occupy the children except a range of balls and a few rackets. There is dressing up, den building, make believe play, digging, mud kitchen, water play, lego, scooters.... the list goes on. This transformation would not have happened without the hard work of every staff member and the kind donations of loose parts from all of our families and community. However, I would like to highlight the driving force behind this project because without them, it would not have happened. The passion, enthusiasm and sheer hard work of Kerry Thompson (our play leader) and Harvey Sharp, Sophie Greener and Fiona Palmer (our OPAL working group) has been inspirational. Huge thanks to them. What lucky Hernhill children. And it is a genuine offer when I say, any members of the community are welcome to visit any lunchtime to see for yourselves - just pop in!

And now onto school events. Just before half term, we held an exhibition of all the children's creative curriculum work from across the year. And it was spectacular. Do take a look at our website for photos of the work on display hernhill.kent.sch.uk/News/Galleries. This term we started with a Jubilee tea party with everyone dressed in red, white and blue. It was lovely to watch our Maypole Team perform and, of course, it wouldn't be a British tea party without a downpour of rain at the end!

Sarah Alexander
Headteacher

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
The show goes on. Admittedly, it wasn't as big a deal as once again raising the lights and curtains in the West End. However, the return of our Summer Show, hopefully, takes us one more step towards a return to normal life. It allows our members and friends a chance to socialise, gossip, have a cuppa, spend silly money on bunches of wilting flowers. It also gives an opportunity to curse, mutter and swear about the judges' decisions and competing exhibitors choices and methods. In all seriousness though, our three annual shows are a major part of the

CHURCH IN JULY & AUGUST
July and August are traditionally months for holidays and travel and taking some time for rest and refreshment. This year, time away from home feels especially precious, after the lockdowns and restrictions of the past two summers. I'm not a great traveller, but I've enjoyed visiting family and friends again this year in Scotland, Yorkshire and Cambridgeshire. So I feel sad that as I write, the news is full of items about the challenges to travel in the coming weeks: lack of staff at airports, train strikes, the rising cost of petrol. At the very time that we look forward to travelling freely once again, these things are thwarting our plans and making journeys both difficult and expensive. Recently I spent a day at the Living Well in Nonington, the Diocesan Centre for Healing and Wholeness. It was an opportunity to spend a day away from my laptop and phone and simply enjoy their beautiful house and gardens and spend time quietly with God. Not a holiday exactly, but definitely a few hours of rest and refreshment. The day began with a service of Holy Communion, taken from the Northumbria Community's book of Celtic Daily Prayer and inspired by the

whole raison d'être of our Horticultural Society. Without them the Society would, in all probability, fold. Some may well say that such an outcome is long overdue. But there are still enough of us (and I thank them all) who masochistically enjoy exhibiting and competing to keep the Society alive. Having said that, we really do need an addition of new blood, new ideas, new experiences and new interests. A rough calculation brings the combined life experience of our committee to over 600 years! Don't k/look it, it works, but we could do with a few more years worth to help us along. Mark

Irish Celtic saint, Brendan. I love the story of St Brendan, who lived in western Ireland from about 486 to 575 and sailed the seas in a coracle, allowing the wind and waves to take him where they will. He became a priest at a young age, and then a monk and an abbot, founding several monasteries, such as Clontarf in County Galway. But he's mostly remembered for the stories of his sea voyages, which gave him the title Brendan the Navigator. Brendan's first voyage took him to the Aran Islands, where he founded a monastery, before sailing on to Wales and then Brittany. Returning to Ireland, he embarked on his legendary voyage of seven years in search of Paradise. Brendan and a small group of monks constructed a boat out of leather tanned in oak bark and rubbed in fat. After a time of prayer and fasting they began their journey, an account of which was written several centuries later in *The Voyage of St Brendan the Abbot* (the *Navigatio*). The *Navigatio* describes their discovery of many different islands, named variously as the Island of Sheep, the Island of Birds and the Island of Strong Men. Eventually they discovered the Promised Land (possibly the

cores) and they stay there for a short while before returning to Ireland.

The *Navigafo* is a wonderful read, and inspired Tim Severin to build a coracle the style of St Brendan's and attempt a voyage himself in the 1970s. Tim did his crew sailed across the Atlantic and reached Newfoundland, via Iceland and Greenland. Tim Severin's book, *Brendan Voyage*, is also fascinating to read. It's impossible to know how much of the story of Brendan's voyages true and how much is legend, but Tim Severin's own voyage proved that such a journey is possible and the story itself remains inspiring as a testament of per-

sonal faith.
At the afternoon service at St Barnabas at 4.30 pm on Sunday 31 July, our worship will be focused on the story of St Brendan and his amazing voyage. We will also keep in mind those refugees who today risk their lives trying to cross the English Channel to reach our shores and make a new and safe life for themselves. Tea and cake will be served after the service, and you are most welcome to join us.

Whether your travels are near or far, I wish you a refreshing summer.
Pat Saunders

PRAYER OF ST BRENDAN

Help me to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown.

Give me the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You.

Christ of the mysteries, I trust You to be stronger than each storm within me.

I will trust in the darkness and know that my times, even now, are in Your hand.

Tune my spirit to the music of heaven, and somehow, make my obedience count for You.

CANTERBURY FLOWER CLUB

We are holding another Garden Party and Strawberry Cream Tea this year on Saturday 23rd July from 2.00 to 5.00pm.

It will be at Church End, Hernhill, ME13 9JU.

There will be a raffle, plant and cake stalls. Tickets are £5 from Vicki Hodgkiss 01227 751511 or 07724010767 or vickihodgkiss@hotmail.com

A percentage of takings is going to Alzheimers UK.
Hope to see you there.



FLOWER FESTIVAL

St. Michael's Church, Hernhill

Saturday 27th to Monday 29th August

All proceeds are in aid of this church



WHEELIE BIN RACE

Three Horseshoes, Staple Street

23rd July at 1.00pm

followed by Leigh Highwood at 3.00pm. Plus a charity auction

All the proceeds will go to the PILGRIMS HOSPICE

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

This month my husband & I decided to go to the cinema to see the new "Top Gun" movie. When did a trip to the cinema become so expensive? Once we had paid for the tickets, bought a bottle of wine to enjoy through the film and then paid for the car park, the bill was in excess of £50. Thankfully the film was well worth the effort.

My cats have turned into massive hunters at the moment. We had a live bird in our shower which thankfully we managed to save and a baby rabbit in our conservatory, again saved. But the most amazing thing was Jo coming in

with what I thought was a plank of wood in her mouth. When she dropped it at Peter's feet, we realised it was a large mouse trap with a dead rat in it. If you have lost one recently and wondered where it went, we have thrown it away. We have been royally entertained by nine horses in the field behind us. Absolutely beautiful, but dreadful time wasters, as my neighbours and I have spent so much time just watching them play & gallop around.

Joke for this month: How do you spell "Hungry Horse"? Answer, "MTGG". Stay safe & God bless Sandi.

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 3rd July
10.00am Holy Communion, Hernhill
Rev'd Sharran Ireland
Sunday 10th July
10.00am Holy Communion, Boughton
Rev'd Lindsay Collins (Chaplain at the King's School, Canterbury)
Sunday 17th July
10.00am Morning Worship, Boughton
10.30am Holy Communion, Graveney
Rev'd Nina Coulthard

Sunday 24th July
10.00am Benefice Holy Communion, Hernhill
Rev'd Martin Burrell
Wednesday 13th July
10.30am Wednesday Worship
St Barnabas, Boughton.
A short service followed by refreshments.

All are welcome to our services.

REFUSE COLLECTION

July	5	Tuesday	Green Bin
	12	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	19	Tuesday	Green Bin
	26	Tuesday	Blue Bin
Aug	2	Tuesday	Green Bin
	9	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	16	Tuesday	Green Bin
	23	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	30	Tuesday	Green Bin

Alan D. Taylor

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BITS AND PIECES

It was a joyous long weekend, the Platinum Jubilee. It will be fondly remembered for a long time. The parades, the ceremony, the shows, the colour, the fantastic light displays and the thousands upon thousands of happy people. And now we all know what Her Majesty the Queen keeps in her handbag, a marmalade sandwich.

After that indulgent holiday, a return to the real world. We landed with a thump. Travel chaos, a surging cost of living, war in Ukraine, rail strikes and the threat of other strikes to follow. As a small boy, whenever I was faced with a non-meat main course, because the meat ration would not stretch that far, my mother would unsympathetically say, "Count your blessings. It might have been worse". Mothers were like that then. In truth, we have seen it all before. Inflation, the three-day week, social unrest. "Count your blessings". We recovered then and will do so again.

Wonderfully, we haven't had to wait

very long for some really good news to offset the bad. One of our number has beaten the Queen's longevity record. John Sim recorded his 100th birthday on Thursday 30th of June. Over fifty villagers, family and friends gathered on the village green to enjoy and celebrate this happy occasion. "Very many happy returns, John."

I recently had to have a dental surgeon removed a wisdom tooth. Not something I was enthusiastic about, but it had to be done. After the offending object had been removed I found that I had lost two pounds in weight. I had no idea that a tooth could be so heavy. True, for a couple of days what I could eat was rather restricted so that may just have had some influence with regard to my weight loss.

Despite my tender gum and the malaise of the nation in general, I am still able to enjoy a wonderful display of roses and other flowers in the garden. If you concentrate on the good things, it's great to be alive.

ADT

