



HERNHILL NEWS

JUNE 2023

PARISH COUNCIL

The May meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 24th in the village hall. It was attended by the clerk and five parish councillors, councillor Alistair Gould (SBC) and two members of the public.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman: Cllrs Heller and Waters were nominated and accepted these posts.

Co-option of two candidates: Parishioners Edwin Bannock and Paul Smith having volunteered to join the council were duly invited to take their seats.

The Neighbourhood Plan: The next meeting of the informal working group will be held on 7th June at 7.15pm upstairs in the Red Lion. All welcome. The agenda will be circulated in advance to those who have agreed to share their e-mail addresses and will be on the website and notice boards.

Faversham Household Waste Recycling Centre: Cllr Gould joined the PC meeting direct from a meeting at Faversham Town Council to discuss the strategy to oppose the closure of our local tip. All residents who are concerned about this proposal, and its likely effect on fly tipping, are urged to sign any petitions and make their views known. The Parish Council will make a submission to the formal consultation when that occurs later this year.

Planning: Application 22/505990: Marshalling yard and car park for vehicles

associated with Cleve Hill Solar Park on agricultural land between Staplestreet and Whitstable Road, Graveney. Applicants have amended wording, councillors agreed there are no grounds to change their original objection.

Roads and speeding: KCC highways have confirmed that they will be able to fund the first stage of implementing the planned speed limits with the TRO. A formal consultation will then be necessary before engineering works and signposting. The council have agreed that a number of further issues such as dangerous use of roads by HGVs especially around Wey Street and Waterham will be addressed in a new Highways improvement plan this year. It seems neither KCC nor SBC have funds available to assist with these matters at present.

Thefts: Following reports of suspicious vehicle activity, burglars were caught in the act at a local building supplies depot. Thefts of motor vehicle number plates have been reported in Boughton.

A New Day Festival will be held again this year at Mount Ephraim from 18th to 20th August. Work on the set up will start on 13th and will be cleared by 23rd. The usual ticket concessions for local residents apply.

Boughton Hill Closure extended to at least 2nd June, probably longer.

Next Parish Council meeting 28th June 7.30pm Village Hall. If you are not able

Chairman: Cllr Barbara Heller
Clerk: Rebecca Parr 07876 221580
e-mail hernhillclerk@gmail.com

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

SWALE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

It was good to see that the turnout in Boughton & Courtenay was one of the highest locally (40%), so thank you to everyone who took part in the democratic process by voting, whether for us or the other candidates. We are here to represent all of you at Swale council, so if you have views or questions on local issues, please get in touch. The best way is by e-mail. We cannot always promise to get the answer you would like, but will do our best.

There are some potentially challenging times ahead. The finances at Swale are very tight, and there will be some difficult choices to come. We will need to pick up on the Local Plan, which will be used to allocate sites for housing and employment land, and will include the policies that govern development, although we are still waiting to hear from central government about changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. We have to follow this framework

in putting together a plan, and it is a limit to the freedom we have to decide things locally. Above all though, there is the task of moving the way things are done towards a greener, sustainable path. This is the reason we both became involved in politics; it has become so clear that "business as usual" and a relentless drive for growth at any environmental cost is a path that has to be left behind urgently. Swale's budget may be tight, but our "Carbon Budget", (how much more carbon dioxide we can emit from fossil fuels before we tip this world into catastrophe), is even tighter, and every decision we make has to take this into account. We are also convinced that these choices have all sorts of added benefits in other areas such as health, air quality and generally making the world a more pleasant place to live in.

Alastair Gould:
alastairgould@swale.gov.uk
Rich Lehmann:

KCC COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Proposed Closure of Faversham Household Waste Recycling Centre

I have received an unprecedented number of emails about KCC's proposals to close the HWRC site at Salters Lane in Faversham. It's absolutely shocking that they are considering closing this site, and although there is a consultation coming, it feels to some degree like it's a done deal, given that Faversham is closed in all three of the options currently put forward by KCC. I have been on Radio Kent to argue against the closure and give some of the reasons why I thought it was a bad idea. Since then, I have continued to

assemble arguments against the closure; Swale district already has the highest rates of fly tipping in Kent, and the closure of the Faversham site would result in tens of thousands of extra car journeys through Air Quality Management Areas, (these are areas where air quality is already poor and the local authority have put together an improvement plan). The closure of the site is also likely to result in an increase in fly tipping, in an area which is already blighted by high levels of illegal dumping of household and builder's waste. In terms of action people can take to oppose this, the main one will be to respond to the consultation when it

opens. It may be fruitless, but it will carry significantly more weight than signing a petition. The consultation is due to open in mid-July and will "provide an opportunity for alternative proposals to be put forward". I will continue to investigate viable alternative options and will also ensure as many people as possible are alerted when the consultation is open.

I will be writing to the members of KCC's Environment and Transport Committee to ask them to request that the consultation be made as open and transparent as possible. Ideally the consultation should include the background data on ALL of the Household Waste Recycling Centre sites (current-

ly data on only 13 of the 19 sites has been shared), to allow for a greater understanding of the current situation and to also give more scope for alternative proposals to be found.

Boughton Hill Closure

At the time of writing, Boughton Hill is still due to re-open on 1st June and the bus arrangements will stay in place until then. There will be 2-way lights for some weeks afterwards, while the footway work, fencing and other non-carriageway activities are completed. There may also be a couple of night closures. I will keep you updated on social media if this changes.

Rich Lehmann

Rich Lehmann@swale.gov.uk

FAVERSHAM TIP

I'm sending this special newsletter to ask for residents' support in saving Faversham's tip.

Last week Kent County Council published their Household Waste Recycling Centre Review, and we found out that Faversham tip is set to close in all of the options they're considering.

I've started a petition for residents to oppose this - which you can sign here: helenwhately.org.uk/campaigns/save-faversham-tip

I know that times are tough, and KCC have got to make public finances add up, but Faversham doesn't want to lose its tip. We're a growing town and it's a service people rely on - and I

think we should have a chance to make that case in the consultation.

I'm going to put this to the KCC Cabinet Member for the Environment, Susan Carey, when we meet to discuss this on Wednesday.

Closing the Maidstone tip at Tovil is also up for consideration, although only in some of the current options. While it's located in Helen Grant's constituency, a number of my constituents would be affected and I'd like to hear from you if that's the case. I'll work with Helen to make sure these concerns are raised at the same time as I present the Faversham petition. Let's join together and make our voices heard.

Helen Whately

KNOW YOUR ONIONS

We are trying to find someone who has Perennial/Perpetual Spring Onions. They grow in clumps all year round.

We used to have some when we lived in Hernhill but have been unable to track down any for sale. Ironically, they have them at Wisley in their new Allot-

ment Gardens, but none for sale! If anyone has a "clump" that they could spare it would be very much appreciated.

Happy to collect of course.

Thank you.

David & Linda Mann
dsmann50@msn.com

JOURNEYS

I celebrated a significant birthday earlier this year, and as part of the celebrations I visited my daughter and her family in Cape Town. I don't travel abroad very often and making all the plans and arrangements, combined with attaining 'three score years and ten' prompted me to reflect on the nature of journeys and pilgrimages – not just the actual journey I was making to South Africa but also the journey that has brought me to this point in my life. I found myself reflecting on the places I have lived in and the people I have met over the last seven decades. I made a sort of mental pilgrimage from one place to another, marking the different stages of my life. There were ups and downs, twists and turns – things that I'd almost forgotten and things that I miss, things to regret and much to be thankful for. And running through it all was the golden thread of my faith – my relationship with God – sometimes glittering, sometimes hidden in dark depths, but there to be found if I looked carefully and mindfully enough.

One of the themes that runs through the Bible is the theme of journeys – again both physical journeys from one place to another and also inner journeys of faith. One of my favourites is the story of Abram and Sarai in the book of Genesis. They travelled from Ur, along the River Euphrates to Haran, through the desert and along the River Jordan to Shechem and finally settled in Hebron, by the Dead Sea – a distance of about 1000 miles. A remarkable journey to make all those thousands of years ago. A significant aspect of their journey was that Abram discovered God was with him wherever he travelled – and especially so in the desert, the place that was the most difficult to travail with its moving sands and lack of landmarks. Abram's jour-

ney was not just about discovering new places but also discovering new things about his relationship with God.

In the New Testament, the Acts of the Apostles tells us about the journeys that St Paul made. He was on a journey to Damascus when a blinding light stopped him in his path and caused him to give up his persecution of Christians and embrace the faith of the people he had been condemning – an amazing inner journey of conversion. He became a powerful evangelist, travelling from one country to another and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ wherever he went. He travelled both overland and by sea from Palestine to modern-day Turkey, Greece and Italy. He was ship-wrecked and imprisoned along the way but his surviving letters show a faith that never wavered.

The New Testament stories of the apostle Peter also show a faith that was strong. St Peter was a fisherman called by Jesus at the beginning of his ministry. Peter accompanied Jesus for three years, often misunderstanding things and acting rashly and passionately – most notably declaring shortly before the crucifixion that he would go wherever Jesus went and then denying that he knew Jesus once he had been arrested. And yet after the Resurrection, Peter was 'the Rock' on which the Christian Church was built, founding the church in Jerusalem, performing miracles and setting in train the fulfilment of Jesus' charge to the disciples to go out and preach the coming of the kingdom of heaven. Peter's inner journey of faith was a remarkable one.

At the end of June the Anglican Church celebrates the feast day of St Peter and St Paul. These are the saints that Boughton parish church is dedicated to and we will be holding our Patronal Festival there on Sunday 25 June at 10

am. You are most welcome to join us as we celebrate the lives of these two remarkable saints and also the life and witness of the Christian church in this place over many centuries. Whether your own journeys this sum-

mer are within or without, may they be times of adventure, discovery and blessing.

Pat Saunders
Reader, Benefice of Boughton,
Graveney & Hernhill

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Avalon garden will be open for the National Garden Scheme to raise funds for the various charities they support (see NGS.org.uk) on 17th and 18th June from 11.00am until 4.00pm. All are welcome.
Adults £6.00
Children free.

This is a half acre woodland garden, with mature trees, vegetable garden, fruits tree, roses, shrubs perennials, bananas trees, cannas and dahlias. Sorry but there are no refreshments.

Avalon
57, Stoney Road
Dunkirk
ME13 9TN

Violet Croll

VILLAGE FETE 2023

The fete was blessed with dry weather this year all be it a little chilly. A few of the highlights to mention & thanks are: Richard & Miriam's very successful dog show. Much enjoyed by owners & pooches alike. The Heron's Beat the Goalie ever popular. The queue for face painting seemed endless. The Leigh Highwood band were amazing and nobody wanted them to finish. Joy's legendary cake stall with Jane just fantastic. Wonderful burgers & donuts to keep us going. The hard-working ladies in the village hall with their cakes, tea & coffee. Well done Crispin on the book stall, you'll be relieved to know they have all gone now. The

Barnes family tombola's raised loads of money once again. The bar did really well, Peter Parr's Hernhill cider went down better than ever (didn't it Richard?).

All in all, after expenses, the nett profit was £3,775.31 to be shared equally between the village hall & the church. A lot of hard work goes into putting on a fete & the volunteers helping to set up & take down did a sterling job, but if we want to continue this tradition more help will be needed as some of us are feeling our age! Well done to all who worked tirelessly & all who supported.

Sandi

Ann Butler kindly sent me this poem which is still very apt today.

But the glory of the garden lies in more than meets the eye.

THE GLORY OF THE GARDEN

Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,
Of border beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues,
With statues on terraces and peacocks strutting by;

For where the old thick laurels grow,
along the thin red wall,
You'll find the tool and potting-sheds which are the heart of all,
The cold-frames and hot-houses, the dungpits and the tanks,
The rollers, carts and drain-pipes, with

barrows and the planks.

And there you'll see the gardeners, the man and 'prentice boys
Told off to do as they are bid and do it without noise;
For, except when seeds are planted and we shout to scare the birds,
The glory of the garden abideth not in words.

And some can pot begonias and some can bud a rose,
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that grows;
But they can roll and trim the lawns and sift the sand and loam
For the glory of the garden occupieth all who come.

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By singing - "Oh how beautiful!" And sitting in the shade
While better men than we go out to start their working lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel paths with broken dinner-knives.

There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick
But it can find some needful job that's crying too be done,
For the glory of the garden glorifieth every one.

Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders,
If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders;
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden,
You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden.

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away!
And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away!

Rudyard Kipling

JUNE CHURCH SERVICES

Trinity Sunday 4th June

10.00am Hernhill, Sung Communion with Baptism. Rev'd Rex Morton, Assistant Chaplain at the Living Well.

Sunday, 11th June

10.00am Boughton, Special Communion service and dedication of memorial plaque for Margaret Berry. Rev'd Will Mowl

Wednesday, 14th June

10.30am St Barnabas, Boughton.

Wednesday Worship. A short service, followed by refreshments.

Sunday, 18th June

10.00am Boughton, Morning Worship

10.30am Graveney, Holy Communion, Canon Norman Woods.

Sunday, 25th June

10.00am Boughton, Benefice Sung Communion for Patronal SS Peter & Paul. Rev'd Louise Seear.

All are welcome to our services.

HERNHILL GARDENING CLUB

(formally Hernhill Horticultural Society)

Dates for your diary

Tuesday June 6th

Evening visit to Anna's Country Flowers Hares Farm, Goldusp Lane, Shot-tenden, CT4 8JG. Meet there at 5.30 6.00pm.

Price £6.00 which includes refreshments. Anyone who would like a lift contact Tricia Chapman on 506573 and she will arrange a car share.

Thursday July 6th

Coach outing to Eltham Palace house and gardens. Departing from Mount Ephraim car park at 9.30am return approx. 4.00pm.

Price for coach members £26 non-members £28. If you are an English Heritage member entry is free, non-members £14.50.

This outing is open to friends and neighbours. We have had to book a large

coach and would like to fill as many places as possible. So far 22 people have booked. As we have a membership of around 50 people the committee are disappointed at the lack of support for what will be a very interesting visit. We would urge more people (including non-members) to book a place by contacting Trish Chapman on 506573 or tt.chapman@yahoo.com

Saturday June 10th

Summer Show - Staging of exhibitions 9.45am - 11.15am. The Show open to everyone from 2.30pm including refreshments, raffle and auction.

Saturday September 2nd

Autumn Show

Saturday October 14th

Quiz - Details to follow but always enjoyable thanks to Mark.

Please support us or the Club will close.

Jill Geliot

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

We entered the 3rd quiz at The Red Lion and guess what? Yes we came 4th again. Never mind, it really is a fun evening.

Peter has now had his 6th Covid booster, I'm only on my fourth and I am feeling left out.

Very sadly I lost two long term friends this month, Stephen Pocock & Sue Sinclair. Both will be remembered warmly and missed.

My best friend came to stay for the Coronation weekend which was really wonderful. We didn't miss a moment of the coronation and the following day really enjoyed the concert. We were exhausted after all that, goodness knows how the King felt.

One of my new neighbours was going away on holiday recently and appeared on my doorstep with a vase full of beautiful flowers that she had been given the day before. As she was going away,

she thought it better to let someone enjoy them rather than just throwing them away. How thoughtful is that?

Our dear friend David lost his father recently and whilst clearing his house came across an old-fashioned china decanter. It was shaped as a bell and with a sign, "Bell's Whisky". Who did he think of? You have it in one, Mr. "double Bells" Peter. He will treasure that, thank you.

I finally visited the hygienist for the first time in three years. She was a lovely young lady from Moldova, which shamefully I had to ask where that was. If you aren't sure either it is between Ukraine & Romania. As my teeth were a little stained she asked me "Do you smoke or drink coffee?" I told her, "I drink it, obviously!"

The fete went off really well, but I won't go on about that as I have been asked to write something separately.

Stay safe & God bless,
Sandi.

BITS AND PIECES

Joyce and I took a holiday in South Wales at the beginning of May. Being cautious, we made sure that we were fully prepared for rain. And it did rain, but to our amazement we hardly got wet at all. It did rain very heavily at times. The heavens gave us a full performance with thunder, lightning and fierce winds. However, every time, we were either in the car or indoors. Remarkable! At other times we enjoyed warm sunshine and mild breezes.

We were staying in a purpose-built holiday cottage on the edge of what used to be called the Brecon Beacons. (The locals still use that name.) There were wonderful views of rolling hills and lush woodland. On the hillside opposite there was a site where they put out food for the red kites. As a result we frequently saw them wheeling overhead. Unfortunately they were too high to photograph but they were wonderful to watch. What was even more wonderful was the mass of wild flowers everywhere. The verges of every country lane had a masses of bluebells, ragged

robin and cow-parsley that brushed the wing mirrors of the car. The woods were thickly carpeted with bluebells that were almost purple in colour. There were other wild flowers too of every shade but I don't know what they were. The whole was a profusion of colour

We did learn something about the people in that area; they know how to put away food. We were recommended to have dinner in the local hotel. They said that the chef was very good and the prices were reasonable. What they didn't say was about the size of the helpings. No, not small. They were gigantic. We foolishly order a starter AND a main course. When it came, each starter alone would have fed four people. The same was true of the rest of the meal which was beautifully cooked and full of flavour. It took next day of starvation to recover.

And after that we came home to slim and, regrettably, to find that the grass was knee deep and the pump in the fishpond had failed. Back to the real world!

ADT

BIN COLLECTIONS

June			
	6	Tuesday	Green Bin
	7	Wednesday	Brown bin
	13	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	20	Tuesday	Green Bin
	21	Wednesday	Brown bin
	27	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	4	Tuesday	Green Bin
	5	Wednesday	Brown bin
	11	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	18	Tuesday	Green Bin
	19	Wednesday	Brown bin
	25	Tuesday	Blue Bin

Alan D. Taylor

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