



HERNHILL NEWS

OCTOBER 2023

PARISH COUNCIL

Planning: An extraordinary meeting was held on the 11th of September, attended by five councillors, concerning the revised details for the creation of a new vehicular access to Mount Ephraim Bungalow, Staplestreet (23/503330). Councillors agreeing to add the following to their previous comments of objection noted that the revised design should reduce the road safety risk if implemented as shown. Asking that a condition could therefore be made that the parking area is completed before vehicles use the entrance and that the new surface, other than KCC requirements, should be permeable to aid drainage. There were concerns that a septic tank could be in the area of the new hardstanding. Since this meeting, SBC Planning have decided to refuse the application.

A council meeting was held on Wednesday 27th September attended by four Parish Councillors, Ward Councillor Alastair Gould, and two members of the public.

Planning Application: The council discussed the Battery Safety Plan for discharge of condition 3 - Battery Safety, Phase 2 for the Cleve Hill Solar Farm (23/503812/SUB). The council voted to object on the basis that there was not sufficient information in relation to an emergency response strategy. This was a concern given the size and scale of the battery needed for such a large farm and could have serious implications if anything should go wrong.

Neighbourhood Plan: The next meeting is at the Red Lion on the 4th October at 7.15pm. All welcome. Area discussed

will be finalising the questionnaire and presentation ahead of the open meeting at the village hall on Friday the 13th October at 6pm.

Village Speeding Project: The council is currently in negotiations with KCC Highways with regards to cost of signage for the project which is expected to be around £6/£7k. The Council is grateful to KCC and SBC Councillor Rich Lehmann for grant contributions towards the costs of £432 and £250 respectively and also the SBC Alastair Gould for a SBC grant contribution of £200.

Vacancy for Editor of the Hernhill News: Alan Taylor is stepping down and the Parish Council thank him for his long service. Alan's last issue is in December with a new editor required for the February Edition. If anyone is interested and would like to know more about the role, to please contact the Clerk.

Police and Crime Commissioner - Annual Survey: The priorities to making Kent safer are shaped by what the residents and businesses of Kent tell him what matters most to them. This is why this survey is so important. If you have a spare few minutes, please complete the survey to make your views known smartsurvey.co.uk/s/KentPolicingSurvey2023

Rural Swale Small Business Grant: Swale Borough Council are launching the Rural Swale Small Business Grants. A scheme to support small rural businesses by making small capital investments in support of growth and carbon reduction measures or to support capital projects which help develop the local visitor economy. All applications must

Chairman: Cllr Barbara Heller
Clerk: Rebecca Parr 07876 221580

be received no later than Friday 13th October. For more information please email prosperityfund@swale.gov.uk

Small & Medium size business opportunities with SBC: A meeting is being held on Tuesday 10th October at Swale House. For details and to book a place see

eventbrite.co.uk/e/working-with-swale-borough-council-tickets-690031943117?aff=oddtcreator

Road Closures: A2 Brenley to Bridge resurfacing. The A2 eastbound will be closed between Brenley Corner and Bridge weeknights, 8pm to 6am, from Monday 18 to Friday 29 September, and on Thursday 2 and Friday 3 November. The A2 westbound will then be closed between Bridge and Brenley Corner weeknights, 8pm to 6am, from Monday 2 October to Wednesday 1 November. M2 junction 5 improvement scheme – A249 northbound full closure. There will be a full closure of the A249 northbound (towards Sheppey) between M20 junction 7 and Stockbury roundabout from

9pm Friday 22 September to 5am Monday 25 September.

Crematorium Staplestreet: Following concerns raised by the Parish Council, SBC Planning Enforcement are now currently investigating the drainage proposals which are required to be discharged ahead of the opening of the crematorium (22/505852/SUB) and the impact caused by the proposals on the pond adjacent to the site.

The next full meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the village hall on Wednesday 25th of October at 7.30pm at the village hall. 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.

KCC REPORT

After a hectic few months after being elected to Swale Borough Council in May, I was hoping for a quiet August, when the number of meetings at both Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council reduce and councillors aren't needed 'in the office' quite so much.

However, this wasn't to be the case. There were still plenty of meetings to attend, with the first meetings of the Steering Groups for both the Oare Gunpowder Works and Perry Woods (two fantastic natural sites we are lucky to have in our area), various meetings with KCC Highways to talk about future projects and improvements, and other casework-related meetings and calls.

I'm also currently a member of two groups which are primarily run by Faversham Town Council on two very

different issues which affect both the town and the communities I represent across Swale East. The first is a working group set up to oppose KCC's proposed closure of Faversham's Household Waste Recycling Centre – which I have written about in the past two or three of these pieces. The second is a group working to bring a community bus service linking Faversham with some of the nearby villages which have been cut off since last year's KCC bus subsidy cuts. The Community Bus plans are not finalised yet, but the current intention is for the bus to link up the villages of Newnham, Doddington and Lynsted (all of which have no regular bus service currently) with the town, and also to provide a way for those living in town to reach venues that the current buses don't go to, such as the Aldi supermarket near the motorway junction. It will accept

passengers using bus passes and will make use of existing bus stops across the area (which thankfully KCC have still left in place, even in areas which haven't had a bus since the start of the year). Despite a grant from KCC to fund the costs of getting the project off the ground, it's still going to be an expensive project to set up and to run. One of the things that will make it financially viable will be a reliance on volunteer drivers. We've had a fair amount of interest from local residents in volunteering to help, but the more volunteers, the easier it will be to keep the service regular and reliable. If you are interested in finding out more about what volunteering would in-

volve, please get in touch with Louise at Faversham Town Council on 01795 503286, or by email at

Louise.bareham

@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk.

Going back to the tip; the current position is that KCC have put their consultation on hold while they gather further evidence. They haven't been able to give any kind of indication of when the consultation will open, but I suspect it will be at some point this Autumn. I will continue to provide updates while this issue is ongoing.

Rich Lehmann

rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk

SWALE REPORT

Rich and I attended the Climate and Ecological Emergency working group meeting in August. Its title may be a bit of a mouthful, but it was really encouraging to see the work being done across so many departments in Swale. Highlights are:

- Trees: more than 300 to be planted across Swale in the coming season on council land
- Electric charging: 18 new charge points
- Solar panels: continuing work on getting these on council buildings
- Car clubs: successful schemes in Faversham and Sittingbourne, with plans for an electric car to be added to the hybrids in Sittingbourne (there is already one in Faversham)

●Walking and cycling: developing a Swale-wide infrastructure plan, so we have projects ready to go as and when funding becomes available

●Recycling: looking at ways to improve recycling rates from bin collections

●Climate literacy: this may not be an obvious topic to focus on, but is arguably the most important. It is about improving the understanding amongst staff and members of the council of the issues around the climate and ecological emergency that we are facing, helping people to see that everything can and should be looked at with the impact on the planet in mind: something all of us need to do.

Alastair Gould

alastairGould@swale.gov.uk

HERNHILL SCHOOL

Term has started well for all the children and staff at school. We have had 30 children join us in Reception and they have settled in well, enjoying their first taste of Opal playtimes, making Hernhill friends and trying school dinners!

Our first big event of the year has been our September fete which was held a few weeks into the term. The PTAF did

an amazing job, planning and organising a brilliant fete. The sun shone and the school grounds were packed with families and friends who came along to sample the food and drink, watch the children perform and try their hands at numerous games and stalls. A wonderful afternoon was had by all and much needed funds were raised for the school in the process. We are extremely grate-

ful to all the parents and volunteers who gave so much of their time for the school. Our Eco Refill team are looking forward to running their Eco Refill shop again during the autumn term. This will take place between 3.00 & 4.00pm on the first Tuesday of each month (3rd October, 7th November and 5th December). Do come along - bring your own bottles

to refill or you can have one of ours to use for refilling each month. We look forward to seeing you there. Product and price list can be found on our website.

hernhill.kent.sch.uk/Children/Our-Eco-Council

Mrs S Alexander
Headteacher

OCTOBER CHURCH SERVICES

After 8th October all the services will be lead by our new priest, Rev'd Cathrine Ngangira

Sunday 1st October

10.00am Hernhill, Harvest Festival. Sung Communion Rev'd Ros Parrett
Donations of dry and tinned food will be gratefully received for Catching Lives in Canterbury.

Sunday, 8th October

4.00pm Boughton Parish Church. Licensing and Installation of Reverend Cathrine Ngangira by The Bishop of Dover and the Archdeacon of Maidstone

Wednesday, 11th October

10.30am St Barnabas, Boughton.

Wednesday Worship. A short service, followed by refreshments.

Sunday, 15th October

10.00am Boughton Benefice Harvest Festival. Sung Communion. Rev'd Cathrine's 1st service in the benefice.

Sunday, 22nd October

10.30am Graveney Benefice Holy Communion. Patronal Service for All Saints.

Sunday, 29th October

10.00am Hernhill, Sung Communion. Rev'd Cathrine's 1st service in Hernhill
4.30pm St Barnabas, Boughton. "A Time to Remember". A service of prayer and thanksgiving to remember the departed.

All are welcome to our services.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

The church flower festival on 8th-10th September was a great success, raising over £3,000 for church funds. The floral displays were imaginative, beautiful and spectacular, each one representing events past and present in our village. A big thank you to Vicki Hodgkiss for organising the displays with Joy Pritchard, Jane Foreman and twelve other very talented ladies. Thanks to Jill Geliot for kindly loaning us her wonderful gar-

den and home for refreshments, and for all the volunteers who worked so hard over the three very hot days to help Jill. It was good that so many people from the village were willing to help, making it more of a community event, fitting in with the "Our Village" theme of the festival. To all the many other people who helped and supported in different ways to ensure its success, Thank you!

Peter Willcock
Churchwarden

RINGLEMERE ENSEMBLE CONCERT

St Michael's Church

Wednesday 18 October 7.30-9.00pm

The picturesque church of St Michael's is at the centre of our village both literally and metaphorically. The iconic building overlooking the village green has been standing since the 15th century, with a

church on the site since the 12th century. The building has seen multiple weddings, funerals and baptisms over many centuries of Hernhill village life; for many of us it holds significant memories of our common history and of important life events in addition to being a site of worship. Like all ancient buildings it is in need of constant maintenance. The

Friends of Hernhill Church are therefore delighted to announce that the Ringlemere Ensemble of professional musicians have agreed to play a concert at the church to help raise funds for building repairs.

The string concert will include works by Bach, Finzi, Beethoven and Mascagni – it is a beautiful programme. So please

come along and support us. You won't need the complimentary glass of wine included in the reasonable ticket price of £10 pp to enjoy yourselves!

Please contact for ticket sales.

trhernhillpcc@gmail.com

or phone 07942 342454284

Hope to see lots of you there,

Jane Ingram and Chris Page

Hernhill Gardening Club GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

14th October 2023 @ 2.30pm Hernhill Village Hall

£3 per person (paid on the day)

Teams up to 6. but individuals welcome & can be teamed on the day.

Coffee, tea & cake included. Also bring your own drink, nibbles & money for raffle

Email jill@geliot.plus.com to book or for more information

REV. CATHRINE NGANGIRA

The first thing to realise about Cathrine Ngangira is that her whole life is an example of witness to the power of faith. Consider...

She was born in Zimbabwe and, before she was two years old, her father was dead. Her mother brought her up, along with her three year old sister Karen, but at 13 she, too, had died. "Yet my mother had lived long enough to give me the guidelines of life, to set my standards" says Cathrine. "Her Christian faith was deeply held and my sister and I were supported by a wide and vibrant Christian 'family'. The Mother's Union, for instance, took us under their wing and I became active as a youth secretary in our diocese." Life was not easy in those early days for a variety of reasons. "We were not surrounded by riches, yet it was a formational period in my life, I learned so much that would inspire me to be educated and have a career. I formed important friendships in those early years." By the age of 16, Cathrine was actively involved in the diocesan youth structures where she served as a secretary and president. In 2016, she became President of the Zimbabwe Anglican Youth Association. As President, she

travelled the country and across the border to Zambia. It was around that time that folk began to ask whether or not she had considered ordination. "I would say: we don't do that sort of thing here." She wasn't being modest. The Province of Central Africa did not ordain women, and still doesn't. Cathrine attended Chinhoyi University in Zimbabwe from 2010 until 2014 and then found a job as a cashier in Pick 'n' Pay supermarkets. In 2016, she was chosen to pursue the continued exploration of her faith in the Community of St Anselm at Lambeth Palace in London, an order of young people from all over the world devoted to prayer, study and service to the poor. Most of the students went back to their homeland at the end of 10 months. Cathrine did not. She had been working in and with a church in London and, again, her friends asked if she had considered being a priest. She went before a national selection panel, this girl now in her twenties, far from home in a strange land of rain and red buses. "I knew they wouldn't recommend me..." But they did..

"It gave me a new conviction, a new strength. I could see God's hand in all this. I knew I had been operating in a protected bubble. But perhaps this was

what I had been born to do..” In the five years from 2017 to 2022, Cathrine was a member of the Lambeth Conference Design Group, arranging and delivering the gathering of Anglicans world-wide in Britain in 2022.

She began training for ordination. Her choice of theological college was Cranmer Hall in Durham (‘so, so cold’) or Ridley Hall, Cambridge (‘too comfortable’) She chose Durham and put on an extra sweater.

“Durham was good for me. It took me out of my comfort zone, my bubble. I was face-to-face with the challenges of the job I was going to do. The fact that I knew, from my childhood, what it is like to be surrounded by poverty, was a great help. I was meeting people outside my comfort zone. This was not London. This was a genuine learning experience, particularly when I was working in often deprived parishes with people worried about where the next meal was coming from.’

Cathrine became assistant curate at Holy Cross, Bearsted, near Maidstone in Kent in July 2020. Britain was in the grip of the covid pandemic. The first lockdown had begun in March. It would be difficult to imagine any situation less normal than that in which she now found herself. She discovered that she was working in a parish which was addressing the challenge of differing types of worship – the traditional and the contem-

porary, High Church and Pentecostal – in a novel way. There were two congregations in the parish, with a service to cater for each. “It was a system that had been in place for 11 years and it seemed to work very well’ says Cathrine. There was a joint service once a month – but the main task at that time, of course, was to help our people through covid, through disruption, sorrow, isolation and loss.

It was a testing time. “Sometimes I find it difficult to pray. There are distractions. That’s when I find that the structure, the rhythms of the familiar words in the Prayer Book are a comfort. And then there is the joy that we can explore through the contemporary, in music and in the different forms of worship.” She is looking forward to her ministry in Boughton, Dunkirk, Hernhill and Graveney. “I liked what I saw in the benefice, I liked the mission strap-line on the literature you publish: ‘To know Jesus and to make him known’ I know Jesus but I want to know him better.”

She pauses. ‘It’s a complex and wonderful job. I make mistakes. I know that. But my faith has given me something the rest of the world cannot give. I shall tell my story and I shall listen... I’m in this place to learn as well as to offer God’s word. ‘As I see it, I am here for all the people of this benefice, not just those who choose to go to church.’

Peter Williams

CHURCH LETTER

The African proverb “It takes a village to raise a child” is true of many African communities. When a child is born, the whole community celebrates in recognition of the shared responsibility in their upbringing. While it is a myth for others, it is a lived fact in my life. I hope part of my story captured in the previous article will shed more light on this fact. In this article, I will share with you some reflections and learning from my training

years in Bearsted.

Despite spending three years in a Theological College, none of my modules had fully prepared me for ministry in a global pandemic. The first months were slow and hard as we all learned to cope with the different lockdown rules. What seemed like a rocky start was brightened by a community of learners that I never expected would make such a huge impact in my life. The community in question is Thurnham Infant School

and its pupils. Weekly, I had the privilege of leading Thurnham's collective worship. In many ways than I can count, I learned more from the pupils and teachers than I think that I taught them. Other than leading worship, we taught each other songs including a few Shona songs. Most importantly, they taught me the importance of learning from others and attitudes of a good learner.

Church is a learning community. Commenting about the Church of Christ as a learning community, Neville Emslie (Canterbury Diocese Director of Mission) once said, "We learn in community because left to ourselves we find we think and reflect in certain ways according to our upbringing, what we have been taught and our temperament. But when we learn with others, we have new perspectives, we 'see' from a different angle". Reflecting on these words, I cannot find any better words to describe my learning experience in Bearsted. Had it been left for the church congregation to teach me, I would have an incomplete view to matters of faith, prayer, culture and diversity just to mention a few. Thurnham pupils practically taught me how listening, thinking and asking questions are in parish ministry.

In her talk in July 2009 called, "The danger of a single story", the author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie speaks about why stories matter. She believes stories have the power to make or break communities. However, too often people draw conclusions from hearing one perspective of a story. This is problematic because a single perspective can be misleading and incomplete. Such stories can either break or repair the dignity of people.

Adichie is not the only one who knows the importance of different perspectives. Those who compiled the Bible also did. I think that is why the story of Jesus' life and mission is told from 4 different perspectives – the gospels of Matthew,

Mark, Luke and John. It takes one's willingness to listen to these perspectives to learn something more about Jesus. Yet making sense of Jesus' identity, purpose and relevance in our lives today is not complete without asking questions. One day I was asked to talk to the reception years about harvest. At the end, we had a short question and answer. One boy raised his hand and asked a question that caught me off guard, "So, why did Jesus' die". Although it was out of context, it was a very good question. I did not answer it then but promised to talk about it at Easter time.

Questions are very scary especially for most priests. In trying to live up to people's expectations of having all the answers to most situations or defend themselves for making certain decisions, it is easy to avoid or where possible silence any questioning voices. But that only affects the learning experience of any community. In his ministry, Jesus asked more questions than probably the answers he gave in depth.

I grew up in a context where questioning about faith or God was not encouraged. It was interpreted as a sign of doubt or loss of faith. It was during my formational years at theological college and in Bearsted that I realised asking questions was part of a searching for something tangible. As a person of faith, it was a way of making sense of why I believed in God. I don't have all the answers to my questions, but something in me grew as part of that questioning. Drawing from these experiences, I have been reflecting on what this means for me as the Priest in Charge of the three parishes in my care. How do I authentically and faithfully embody my role as a teacher and as a learner.

I look forward to listening to the different perspectives of our villages' stories. I hope I will be able to learn and appreciate the diversity that makes each village unique. I hope I will engage in conversa-

tions with so many people in this village. I may not have all the answers, but I hope we can be open to ask each other questions to grow.

Lastly, I hope we will think seriously together on topics about community

and a lot more. My first name is Fungai. It's a Shona name which means think or to think. I look forward to learning from all of you. Thank you for your warm welcome and support to date.

Cathrine Ngangira

BITS AND PIECES

As soon as the school holidays were over, we decided to join all the other oldies and go on holiday. Despite the appalling weather that the West Country had been having, Joyce and I chose to risk it and drive to Cornwall for two weeks. Our initial drive went well. Even the M25 was not too bad. Our problems started not long after Bodmin. We were unaware, and Google didn't tell us, that there are major road works on the A30. As a result of them, progress is largely at walking pace for a number of miles. Foolishly we thought that once we reached the end of the road works everything would be OK. We thought that, providing we avoided the A30 in future, thereafter things would be fine.

How naive can you get? There were too many cars on too many narrow roads. In addition, every place of interest was crowded with ancients like us. Car parking was a nightmare and queuing for a cup of coffee or the loo was standard.

To add to the 'fun' the Cornish authorities have introduced some new games for the entertainment of motorists. We

have never seen so many road works. Many of them are for very short stretches of road and frequently without a worker in sight. However, they are all furnished with automatic traffic lights. These are timed to cause maximum delay and long queues in both directions. Supplementary to the 'Road Repair' game is the 'Road Closed' game. The closure signs are only found after you have navigated a long, narrow country lane. Now the entertainment begins. There is no indication here as to an alternative route. You are committed to turning, if you can, or reversing back until you come to another road which may, or may not, get you to where you want to go. To add to all this 'entertainment', the satellite signal is unreliable in many parts of the county. So, if you should decide to go to Cornwall, make sure that you have an up-to-date, large-scale, old fashioned, paper map.

Despite all our initial fears, the weather turned out to be fine and Cornwall is a very lovely county, but we will not be going again.

ADT

BIN COLLECTIONS	October	3	Tuesday	Blue Bin
		10	Tuesday	Green Bin
		11	Wednesday	Brown bin
		17	Tuesday	Blue Bin
		24	Tuesday	Green Bin
		25	Wednesday	Brown bin
		31	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	November	7	Tuesday	Green Bin
		8	Wednesday	Brown bin
		14	Tuesday	Blue Bin
		21	Tuesday	Green Bin
		22	Wednesday	Brown bin
		28	Tuesday	Blue Bin