



# HERNHILL NEWS

## November 2022

### PARISH COUNCIL

All the latest news from your Parish Council is here for you to read! New Councillors, Planning, Allotments, Roads & Speeding! Always aiming to keep you informed. If you have a suggestion you can contact the Parish Council Clerk on 07876221580 or [hernhillclerk@gmail.com](mailto:hernhillclerk@gmail.com). Full copies of the approved minutes for meetings on the Parish Council Website at

[hernhillparishcouncil.org](http://hernhillparishcouncil.org)

The October meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 25th in the village hall. It was attended by five parish councillors, the clerk, and fifteen members of the public.

**Councillor vacancies:** At the last meeting Simon Edgington and Paul Couzens resigned from the council. They were thanked for their service particularly their expertise in planning matters. Following the usual procedures we were very pleased to receive applications to fill the vacancies. At the meeting Kim Wakes and Donna Waters were co-opted.

**Councillor Roles:** Councillor Chris Page was unanimously voted in as vice-chairman, Councillor Rumble took on responsibility for reporting fly tipping and Councillor Chipperton for public footpaths. All councillors agreed to undertake further training in planning and newly co-opted councillors 'an introduction to local government'. **Neighbourhood plans:** The process is reliant

upon local participation and volunteer leadership. Many local areas have formed groups to write a neighbourhood plan in attempts to gain legally binding control of and shape, growth and development in their communities, retaining green spaces and historical character. Inspired by the example of Boughton and Dunkirk, Hernhill Parish took the first steps in registering a proposal to produce our own plan. We now need a group of enthusiasts to get together and decide if and how to take this forward. Financial and professional support is available through the 'Locality Fund' and an enormous amount of guidance material has been gathered. If you are interested in influencing future planning decisions or contributing to a more simple village design statement please contact the clerk and we can arrange a meeting.

**Newsletter printing:** URGENT HELP REQUIRED Tony and Trish Chapman have indicated that they will be giving up printing and copying the Hernhill News. The PC thanked the couple for their devoted work over many years but now the search is on for someone to take on this task. If you feel you can give some time to this monthly job please contact the clerk for full details. Training will be provided and mileage and expenses paid.

**Planning:** Application 21/502972: A request has been made to Swale BC to name the development after a pudding

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-. "Shilling, Parkin or Malvern" The PC agreed that a more prosaic name would be appropriate for the industrial site but if puddings were to be used then a local Kentish dessert is preferable. Application 22/504625: Cairo Lodge Butlers Hill Dargate: Demolition of existing bungalow and shed. Extension of holiday let to provide accessible accommodation. Erection of three bay garage and new access gates. An explanatory letter from Mr and Mrs Waterman was circulated to the PC. Councillors voted by majority to object to the application. Application 22/504757: Yew Tree Cottage Staplestreet: Construction of two new houses each with three parking spaces, new splayed access from Dawes Road. Mr and Mrs Cantwell attended the meeting. Four members of the public from neighbouring properties also attended and gave their objections to the application on planning grounds. Councillors unanimously voted to object to the application on a number of planning grounds. Following concerns raised about excessive numbers of and speeding by heavy vehicles on Monkshill Road, it was agreed to enquire about the current planning status of developments at Monkshill Farm and also noted that a condition of planning for the solar farm development was to bar construction traffic from this road and limiting speeds along Seasalter Road.

However it is likely that as traffic has been re-routed, this is adding to traffic volumes.

Councillor Page gave an update on our village speed limits project. KCC highways have agreed to inspect the sites for proposed signage next week.

**Allotments:** Councillors agreed to order a new allotment gate from Quinneys.

**Kent Fire and Rescue Service:** 'Fire-Stopppers' KFRS is inviting local people to join the fight against arson by anonymously reporting incidents on 0800169558 or online [firestoppersreport.co.uk](http://firestoppersreport.co.uk)

**Green Doctors:** Support for energy saving initiatives Rich Lehmann has organised a drop in session at Boughton village hall 9th December 2.30-4.00pm to give tips and advice to residents.

Remembrance Sunday: 13th November Wreath laying at village War Memorial 10.50am

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30pm November 30th 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 3 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

### SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Problems with water supply during the hot weather this summer left residents of Courtenay Road, Dunkirk without water for five days. Tim saw reports of properties without water on social media after South East Water had reported to the Council that all supplies were back to normal. He visited Courtenay Road to speak to residents and find out exactly what the situation was. He then arranged for a bottled water station to be set up at May Tree Nursery on Cour-

tenay Road and moved a carload from Hernhill. The team from Howlands at Dunkirk kindly helped by moving a vanload of bottled water. Tim liaised with the emergency team at Swale Council who arranged for a water bottle station at Dunkirk Village Hall to be set up where residents could get access 24/7. Tim also liaised with South East Water to report exactly where the water was still off. The water supply was restored the following day.

An advertising van has been parked on

the motorway bridge on Selling Road since summer 2019. Several residents and both Selling Parish Council and Sheldwich Parish Council complained about the van. Initially the police declined to take action. It is possible to use planning enforcement, but the procedure is complicated, costly and slow. Painting double yellow lines on the bridge requires a costly traffic regulation order. After an exchange of e-mails with the police and using expert advice from Cllr Hobson of Selling Parish Council on section 137 of the Highways Act 1980, the police wrote to the registered owner who moved the van.

There have been two encouraging examples recently where pressure from residents has made a difference. A planning application was recently submitted to develop land north of the A299 Thanet Way at the junction with Plum Pudding Lane, Dargate. The proposal was for a drive-thru restaurant and several other businesses. Many residents objected due to the drive-thru, with worries about traffic and that it would be a "litter bomb" adding greatly to the debris in our lanes and hedgerows. There were also concerns about the industrialisation of the countryside. They organised a site meeting with planning officers which Alastair attended. Tim 'called-in' the application, meaning it will have to be considered by the planning committee, on the grounds of inappropriate site selection. The application has now been revised to remove the Drive Thru in response to residents' concerns, though there are still questions as to whether it is an appropriate site.

The Cave at Boughton Golf Course. This is the new name for the hotel here. Since July 2021 the hotel has hosted events with music being played outside late into the night and even frequent

firework displays. Many residents of Poplar View, Bushey Close, The Street, Stockers Hill, and South Street have complained about the nuisance caused by the noise. Fifty-two residents took the opportunity of an application for a new licence to raise their objections to the noise. Alastair and Tim, along with several residents, spoke at the hearing on 10<sup>th</sup> October. A new licence was granted, but the owners have agreed to measures to reduce the risk of noise nuisance. Outside music and films must cease by 11.00pm (previously 1.00am), live music must cease by 10.00pm (previously 1.00am), the number of firework displays must not exceed twelve a year including New Year and bonfire night (previously unlimited) and with the exception of New Year's Eve, fireworks may not be set off after 10.00pm. Finally, a noise limiter must be fitted to the PA equipment (currently no limiter is required). They have also promised to set up a dedicated "hot line" to the manager on duty so that action can be taken if there are problems with the number on their website. The music from The Cave should not cause a public nuisance at your home. If it does despite these measures, you can report it via the Swale Borough Council website (search "noise" from the homepage [swale.gov.uk](http://swale.gov.uk)).

It can be very tempting to feel that there is nothing we can do when our environment is under threat; be it locally from noise or litter, or more widely from air and water pollution, or the really big one of climate change. It is good to see even small steps in the right direction, brought about by people getting together and making their voices heard.

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## **KENT COUNT COUNCILLOR**

One of the biggest campaigns I've been focusing on this year has been trying to overturn KCC's proposed cuts to bus subsidies. If they go ahead these cuts will have a hugely damaging effect on mobility across large parts of Swale East. This is especially true of Newnham, Doddington, Lynsted, Rodmersham, Bredgar and Tunstall, who all face being left without any regular bus service. After my successful call to the KCC Scrutiny Committee, the issue will be debated for the final time at the full council meeting on the 20th October. Unfortunately at the time of 'going to press', that meeting is yet to take place, so I will provide a further update on the situation next month.

Another big issue facing many of us currently is the combined cost of living/winter fuel crisis. Over the past few weeks I have started talking to some of the local parish councils about responses to these crises. Some parishes are hoping to set up warm banks (or 'warm hubs') where people can go to stay warm during the day, and in some areas I have supported this with money from my members grant fund. I feel it's important to try and ensure that anyone visiting a warm hub or any other public space is aware that they should NOT turn their thermostat down too far while they are out. The BBC reported this week that doing so would increase the chances of damp and mould developing in homes which are allowed to get

too cold. This will in turn will lead to greater problems. My understanding is that keeping thermostats at a minimum of 16 degrees centigrade is ideal. This will also ensure that you can more easily bring the temperature back up when returning home.

In addition to warm hubs, I have arranged for an organisation called Green Doctors to visit some of the parishes across the area in early December. They will be holding five drop-in sessions to give advice and energy saving tips. They can also be booked for home visits to offer further, tailored support to residents on reducing energy bills and managing fuel debt. The sessions will take place at the following locations (I will provide a reminder next month).

Thursday 8th December

9.30am to midday at Newnham Village Hall

1.30pm to 3pm at Venue TBC

3.30pm to 5pm at Oare Village Hall

Friday 9th December

9.30am to midday at Teynham Community Hall

2.30pm to 4.30pm at Boughton Village Hall

More information on Green Doctor can be found at

[groundwork.org.uk/greendoctor](http://groundwork.org.uk/greendoctor)

I will also be available at all of these sessions, so please feel free to come along if you have any other local issues you'd like to talk to me about.

Rich Lehmann

[rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk](mailto:rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk)

## **OVER THE GARDEN WALL**

My husband's goddaughter has started at Hernhill School. Peter helped out with the harvest service at the church, which he said was wonderful. Can't wait for the nativity play and carols hopefully. We both had our flu jabs and I had my fourth covid booster this month. I never thought I would ever be so delighted to

have an injection. What a sign of the times!

I was surprised to find that the ladies of my book club didn't know they could take books to the church to be sold for funds to support St. Michael's. Nearly all of them had recently donated to charity shops. Talking of which, what do books wear on a rainy day? Rain

Quotes.

What on earth is going on at No.10? Liz Truss being compared to a lettuce, which incidentally did last longer. No. 10 being suggested as an Airbnb, ideal for short stays and the famous black

door to be replaced with revolving doors. Question for the clever among you, why is it 10 on the door and not 10? My sympathy is with Larry the cat.

Stay safe & God bless,  
Sandi.

### CHURCH LETTER

November is a month of remembrance: the social fun of gathering around bonfires on the fifth to remember Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot; and then the more sombre remembrance of wars past and present when we gather at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

The church calendar has two other days of remembrance in November right at the beginning of the month. November the first is All Saints' Day and the second is All Souls' Day (also known as the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed). Both of these days are occasions when we remember the people who have shaped the life of the Church (All Saints) and also those who have shaped our own personal lives (All Souls). They remind us that we are part of a community outside of time and space – a company of saints and souls that transcends death.

On All Saints' Day we celebrate those whose lives, over the centuries, have revealed the grace of God powerfully at work in the world. From well-known saints such as St Paul, St Francis and St Patrick to lesser-known figures with strange names such as Polycarp and Etheldreda, their stories remain an inspiration to us and continue to hold influence.

All Souls' Day commemorates the saints in a more local and intimate way. It allows us to remember with thanksgiving those whom we have known and loved more directly: those who gave us life or who nurtured us in faith. In our group of churches we usually mark this

with a Time to Remember service in St Barnabas Parish Centre. It's a service that acknowledges by name those we have loved and lost, and especially those who have died over the last two years, and there's an opportunity to light a candle in their memory. This year there's an added poignancy to this service as we remember not only the loss of those we have known personally but also the loss of a Queen who served our country so long and so faithfully and whose death has felt like the end of an era.

This year our Remembrance Sunday services are being held in the shadow of the war in Ukraine. As we remember the men and women who have served our country in the armed forces – and in particular read out the names of those who lost their lives in the two world wars - we also hold the plight of Ukraine in our prayers and the people who are dying as a result of invasion and war in that country. Each year in our act of remembrance we make a commitment to peace, and that pledge seems especially important this year when we are surrounded by so much that is uncertain and changing.

On Friday 11th November there will be a short act of remembrance at Boughton War Memorial at 10.50am when the roll of honour from both world wars will be read out and two minutes silence kept. On Sunday 13th November there will be a longer Act of Remembrance at Hernhill War Memorial. You are welcome to join us for either or both of these services.

**Remembrance Sunday Commitment to Peace**

Lord God, Father of all, we pledge ourselves to serve you and this neighbourhood, to bring relief to all who are in need, and comfort to the sad, lonely and distressed. Keep us ever mindful

of the struggles and achievements of former generations, and of this place where we make our home, now, and in the days to come.

Amen.

Pat Saunders

Reader, Hernhill Parish Church

**CHURCH SERVICES****Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

10.00am Holy Communion, Hernhill Rev'd Canon Struan Dunn

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November****Remembrance Sunday**

**10.50am** Service of remembrance at the war memorial followed by refreshments in the church.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

10.00am Morning Worship, Boughton

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November****First Sunday of Advent**

10.00am Benefice Holy Communion, Boughton

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

10.30am Wednesday Worship, St Barnabas, Boughton.

A short service, followed by refreshments

All are welcome to our services.

**REFUGEES AT HOME**

This is a UK charity which connects those with a spare room in their home to refugees and asylum seekers in need of somewhere to stay. There are still applications every day from desperate people: Ukrainians and other asylum-seekers and refugees who are homeless here or fleeing war and persecution.

If you can help or know someone who can, please e-mail

[refugeesathome.org](http://refugeesathome.org)

**GARDENER'S CORNER**

Harvest. What does that word conjure up in your mind? My parents had a large and productive garden. My Dad was the gardener growing lots of vegetables and we had a variety of fruit trees in the garden. My Mum was the picker and bottler. In those days fridges were rare and freezers non-existent. I can still see the big kilner jars of plums, greengages, apples, pears and various vegetables lined up in the cupboard ready for winter consumption. Our meals were geared to what was ready to be picked – parsnips, carrots, cabbage, sprouts and leeks in the winter – beans, peas and tomatoes in the summer. Onions were stored in the shed for all year use.

Harvest festival has always been my

favourite church service. I can remember how as a child I loved the gorgeous flowers and the smell of the apples and pears. We took a small gift of produce from our gardens and when all was put together it was a wonderful display. These were then distributed to vulnerable people in the community.

We had a lovely harvest festival in St Michael's last Sunday with the church beautifully decorated with local flowers and apples from the farm. We now take gifts of non-perishable goods – tins jars and pasta. This makes perfect sense both practically and economically in supporting local charities and ensures that food is not wasted. But a bit of me misses that close link with the natural growing seasons.

Jill Geliot

**CRAFT FAIR**  
**Saturday 12th November**  
**10.30am to 3.30pm**  
**St Michael's Church Hernhill**  
Refreshments served all day  
In aid of St Michael's Church

If you would like a stall please contact Shirley 01227 751782

**HERNHILL CE SCHOOL**

We are delighted to announce that we have earned an international accreditation, recognising the amazing work in making our school more environmentally friendly and raising eco-awareness in pupils. During last year, pupils collaborated with Mrs Thomas to conduct an environmental review and put an action plan into place. Following the assessment process for the Green Flag, which took place towards the end of the summer term, the school was issued with a report. Below is some of the fantastic feedback we received...

"Your inclusive and educational approach to the process demonstrates a reflective and considered approach to your Eco-Schools work - this is a great skill that we can all learn from! You've clearly taken great efforts to connect your Biodiversity, Marine and Litter projects happening across the school and embedding work into curriculum and everyday school life in a really impactful way. This is really inspiring and clever. You've also clearly looked both internally and externally and engaged with a range of different stakeholders, including that your Eco-Committee have worked with the RSPB - Big Garden Birdwatch, the WWF, the OPAL outdoor play and learning initiative and your local football club whereby members have helped with watering plants over the weekends. This kind of work is a good example of the collaborative approach we will all need to adopt to help protect and improve our environment - your application made us feel really positive for the future! Your achieve-

ments this year have been lovely to hear about."

Congratulations and well done go to everyone, but especially the Eco Committee and Mrs Thomas - fantastic work! We are very proud.

In addition to this, the autumn term has been equally busy with events. Many of us dressed in yellow on a day in October to highlight the importance of mental health and emotional wellbeing. Year 2 held their Macmillan coffee afternoon for parents, carers and friends and raised an incredible £451.36. We held our first rehearsal for the Young Voices concert at the O2 in January. The Family Trust visited us for the first time this year to lead our collective worship. We held three prospective parent tours of the school - if you have a child in your family who is due to start school in September 2023 and wish to have an official tour, please contact Mrs Sunley who will book you on one of the tours - places are being booked up quickly! Year 3 enjoyed forest school sessions, Year 2 visited Canterbury cathedral, had a guided tour and made stained glass windows, and our school football team held their first football match of the season - a win!

As in previous years, the school will be holding a special remembrance collective worship by our poppy memorial in the school car park. This will be held on Friday 11th November at 10.45am. Members of the community are most welcome to join us.

Sarah Alexander  
Headteacher

**THANKS**

Thank you very much for the recent donation of food and money which we received recently from Hernhill Church. Please pass on our thanks to all who helped with this donation.

All the money, food and other items we receive will be used in support of those who use our day centre in Station Road East, Canterbury where we provide breakfast and lunch (made mostly from donated food), showers, laundry facilities, donated clothing, footwear and sleeping bags. Catching Lives works towards getting those who are homeless safely housed in designated accommodation as soon as possible. Our aim is

to help them get back into society and towards a new beginning.

The dedicated team at the centre, some of whom themselves have experience of rough sleeping, are expert in dealing with the many serious issues which the visitors have or are still facing, whether alcohol, drug, domestic abuse, mental health issues or just a quick downward spiral in their lives.

Our thanks for your support which will make a vital difference to the people we care for and enable us to continue our work.

Tricia Bridgeford  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees  
Catching Lives

**BITS AND PIECES**

I am suspect that you will be pleased with me because I am not making any comment about the chaos in Parliament. As it is, you can be sure that something new will have ignited the news by the time you read this.

Most toothpastes contain about 30% sodium fluoride. An interesting experiment would be to tell the 'social influencers' that this substance is in short supply worldwide. Then persuade them that the manufacturers were trying to hide the fact. Supermarket shelves would be empty of toothpaste within the week. Remember loo-rolls? The watchword

used to be, 'Caveat emptor' (buyer beware). These days it needs to be, 'Beware of the news reporters'.

Over the years Peter Willcock has collected more than 200 items of royal memorabilia from Georgian times to the present day. He brought all of the cups, saucers, jugs and mugs to church on Friday evening and told us their fascinating stories. Peter gave us a right royal evening enhanced by the 'royal' refreshments produced by Joy Pritchard. If you missed it, you missed a treat. As a bonus, the evening raised £260 for the church.

ADT

**REFUSE COLLECTION**

Nov	1	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	8	Tuesday	Green Bin
	15	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	22	Tuesday	Green Bin
	29	Tuesday	Blue Bin
Dec	6	Tuesday	Green Bin
	13	Tuesday	Blue Bin
	20	Tuesday	Green Bin
	???	???	Blue Bin

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