



# HERNHILL NEWS

## OCTOBER 2017

### PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact the clerk for Parish Council business on 07740 706189 or [hernhillclerk@gmail.com](mailto:hernhillclerk@gmail.com) or [hernhillparishcouncil.org](http://hernhillparishcouncil.org). Copies of the approved minutes are available on the Parish Council website and the notice board.

The Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 27th September was attended by four Parish Councillors, one County Councillor and one member of the public.

Two planning applications were discussed at the meeting:

17/504394/FULL - Cairo Lodge, Butlers Hill and

17/504508/FULL - Oaklea, Lamberhurst Farm.

•The Parish Council wish to thank Councillor Matt Cooper for installing the new oak benches on the Village Green.

•BT have made a request to the Parish Council to install a new Fibre Broadband cabinet on the Village Green near the noticeboard. This will be an agenda item for discussion at the October meeting. Villagers are welcome to put forward their views on the proposed location of the cabinet. Members of the public are reminded that they can report highway matters such as potholes and vegetation obstructing the highway or footway either to the Parish Clerk or directly to Kent County Council at [kent.gov.uk](http://kent.gov.uk)

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 25th October at 8:00pm in the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend. If members of the public wish to speak on a subject at the meeting then please can they contact the Clerk prior to Wednesday 18th October so that relevant items can be placed on the agenda for discussion.

### YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Autumn seems to be upon us; misty mornings, heavy showers and a distinct nip in the air. I am hoping for an 'Indian summer' but who knows.

I reread my report written at the end of August last year and could really cheat and just reissue. A quieter month than most for meetings but a very large number of Home to School Transport Appeals.

Although we have not been away in August this year we have taken the opportunity to have days out with the grandchildren and other family members. Bedgebury Pinetum, Emmetts Garden and Leeds Castle to name a few destinations. I also spent one day with my eldest Grandson at Canterbury watching England's under 19's take on the Indian equivalents at Cricket.

The lesser number of Borough Council

Chairman: Tony Chapman 01227 750874

e-mail [tt.chapman@vfast.co.uk](mailto:tt.chapman@vfast.co.uk)

Clerk: Sarah Muteham phone 07740 706189

e-mail [hernhillclerk@gmail.com](mailto:hernhillclerk@gmail.com)

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 752840

and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

meetings has allowed me to visit more Parish Councils although not all meet in August. I have attended Selling, Tunstall, Newnham, Bredgar, Dunkirk and Hernhill. I was especially pleased to be able to get to Tunstall and Bredgar as these two Parishes are in the 'new' part of my County Division which I inherited this year due to the Boundary changes. For the second year running I was at all three days of the New Day Festival at Mount Ephraim, Hernhill. I felt this year the organisation was better and I was pleased to hear only good reports at Hernhill Parish Council a few days later. On the last day of August I had a very productive meeting with Kent's Chief Constable and some of his senior team. We discussed at length his Kent Police change programme, 'Project New Hori-

zon'. Despite declining funds and increasing population Mr Pughley is determined to maintain visible local policing. Modern technology such as body worn cameras are an essential element in keeping officers on the beat rather than in the office.

After the meeting above I attended a site meeting in Teynham with Kent County Council cabinet member for highways, Matthew Balfour together with Teynham & Lynsted borough councillors, Lloyd Bowen and Mike Whiting. I believe we have made great progress in getting County to see the seriousness of the highway issues in these two villages. We must now await the proposals that officers bring forward and then seek to secure funding.

Andrew Bowles

#### **CRAFTS FAIR**

The Crafts Fair in Hernhill Church will this year be held on Saturday 11th November. There will be lots of different stalls, light lunches and refreshments 10.00am to 4.00pm.

#### **FOUND**

Some money has been found. If it is not claimed, the money will be given to Hernhill Church.

Phone 07928 716959 between 7.00pm and 8.00pm on weekdays.

#### **FROM THE VICAR**

This year has been special for me in that I seem to have spent more time than usual worshipping God outdoors with others, what I'll call 'outdoor church.' I attended a workshop on outdoor worship in Wychling churchyard in June, we had our first ever pet blessing on Hernhill Village Green in July, our Messy Church at St Barnabas also in July all took place outside and at the end of August I was at Greenbelt (a Christian festival) worshipping outside in a Communion service with thousands of others (11,000 attended the festival). To that list I could have added our annual rogation service in May, always held outdoors, weather permitting, and this year held at Mt Ephraim for the first time, sadly I had to be else-

where on that day. We also had a temporary labyrinth painted on the grass in Hernhill churchyard during August which anyone could prayerfully walk.

I know any outdoor church is dependent on the weather and I'm not suggesting we knock down our church buildings but there's a lot to be said for outdoor worship. I conducted a very unscientific survey recently, it was small group of churchgoers and I asked them where they felt closest to God. About half said in a church building and the other half said outdoors in nature. It would be interesting to ask this question in a much larger group as I thought more people would say outdoors than indoors. The primary function of creation is to point to God, so it's no wonder that an amazingly clear night sky, a multi-

coloured and ever changing sunset, a majestic snow covered mountain or the vast expanse of the sea leaves many in awe of a creator God. It's not just the majestic and macro, it's the micro as well, watching ants transporting a stick to their nest, seeing the life in a patch of grass, rejoicing in a beautiful multi-coloured butterfly.

Our ancient churches are built deliberately to block out the outside world, high windows often filled with (beautiful) stained glass, there are no glass doors to enable us to see what's going on inside and I know it takes a lot of courage to walk into a church for the first time. We often bring nature into church through wonderful and creative flower arrangements but the overall image is

often of a place not connecting with the outside world. There are historic and spiritual reasons for that. For some people it helps to withdraw from the world to encounter God in a very sacred space, hallowed by centuries of prayer, this then enables them to return to everyday life reinvigorated. For others the great outdoors is as good as any cathedral. In the Old Testament mountains are a particular place to encounter God, Jesus spent most of his life outdoors, many monks and nuns withdrew to the desert to be closer to God. Perhaps the important thing is, whatever our preference, we are worshipping God in company with others, somewhere, whether indoors or out, both are equally valid.

Revd Jean Burrows

#### **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY 2017**

Money will shortly be sent to the Children's Society following our annual fund raising events. On Saturday 9th September, the Village Green Event with stalls raised £310.37. The money raised by the 21 box holders was £326.77. Therefore the grand total for 2017 amounted to £637.14.

My grateful thanks to all who supported this good cause which helps to trans-

form the lives of many disadvantaged children throughout the United Kingdom.

Please contact me if you would like to join the dedicated group of Box Holders. I will be pleased to supply the containers for all the small change that weighs down your purse throughout the year. Tel No. 01227 752309

Many thanks,

Doreen Jelfs

#### **BREATHING SPACE IS BACK!**

Back by popular demand we will be holding 'Breathing Space' through the Autumn and Winter until the evenings get lighter again. It's an antidote for some of the stresses and strains of life. What happens? The church is beautiful and peaceful inside, and it will be mainly in darkness with some candlelight. There will be some music playing, and some periods of silence during the hour. There will be no words, no instructions, no expectations and no need to say or do anything. Just turn up when you can (bring a torch, it will be dark out) find a seat and enjoy the atmosphere and peace. Have some

breathing space, and leave when you are ready. At the end of the hour, someone will say a short prayer to end the time.

St. Michael's Church Hernhill will be open from 7.30pm to 8.30pm on the following Fridays: 27th October, 24th November, 22nd December, 26th January, 23rd February, 23rd March.

All will be most warmly welcomed whether you are a regular churchgoer, or whether you have never set foot in a church in your life, whether you have a faith, no faith or are just curious. Oh, and nobody will make you talk to them or try and make you come back!

Rev Paulette Stubbings

The bell ringers at St Michael's Church will be ringing the bells on the centenary of the death of Private Edgar Stanley Coachworth who came from Hernhill and was killed in the First World War on 15th October 1917. Edgar lived in Forstal and was a farm labourer and a bell ringer at St Michael's. His name ap-



pears on the roll of honour in St Paul's Cathedral for bell ringers who lost their lives during the war.

As the 15th October is our Harvest Festival, the tenor bell will be tolled in memory of Edgar before the normal ringing.

Peter Willcock

## MICROPLASTICS

What are we unintentionally washing down our plugholes?

Microplastics include microbeads, microfibrils, nanoparticles. Microplastics are plastic particles smaller than 5mm. They are used in many cosmetic and personal care products and synthetic clothes. Other microplastics result from the breakup of larger plastic objects in the oceans.

Plastic is literally killing our planet. It does not biodegrade. It does not break-down but stays in the environment forever, gradually degrading into smaller and smaller pieces and emitting toxic chemicals into the soil, water, air, wildlife and into us! An estimated eight million tonnes of plastic goes into our seas every year.

Microbeads in household products including face scrubs, toothpastes and detergents are a part of this problem. One shower can send 100,000 plastic particles down the plughole! Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to filter out these tiny particles. Sea creatures absorb or eat them and then they are passed along the marine food chain. Since humans are ultimately at the top of this food chain, we are also absorbing microplastic from the food we eat.

Large pieces of plastic can strangle animals such as seals and seabirds, while smaller pieces are ingested by shellfish and fish and then fed up the food chain, all the way to humans (a plate of six

oysters can contain up to 50 particles of plastic). All our seas are affected but most of this rubbish accumulates in five large ocean gyres (circular currents) that churn up plastics in a set area. Each of the major oceans has plastic-filled gyres, including the well-known 'great Pacific garbage patch' that covers an area bigger than Texas. The areas have been described more accurately as "plastic soup" since much of it is hardly visible to the naked eye. Every minute, the equivalent of one full rubbish truck of plastic waste is dumped in the sea. That is eight million tonnes per year!

Probably even more pervasive than microbeads are microfibrils in synthetic materials which are poisoning our oceans on a massive scale. Studies have found that on average synthetic fleece jackets release 1.7grams of microfibrils each wash. Older clothes shed almost twice as many fibres as new ones. Like microbeads, the fibres' size also allows them to be readily consumed by fish and other wildlife. These plastic fibres have the potential to accumulate, concentrating toxins in the bodies of larger animals, including humans, higher up the food chain.

The Good News, Environmental groups have led a campaign to ban microbeads and other microplastics. The UK government recently announced the strongest ban on microbeads in the world to date. The ban also covers so-called "biodegrada-

ble" plastics (which need industrial scale composting facilities to get the plastic extremely hot and which don't biodegrade in the sea anyway) and that all personal care and cosmetic products containing microbeads will be off the shelves by 30th June 2018 - one day before the same happens in the US!

What else can we do? We can put pressure on the cosmetic companies which continue to use microplastics in their products. Keep an eye out for campaigns and petitions. Only buy products with the 'zero plastic inside' logo. Let our skin and hair breathe - simply use less products on them.

Stop buying (and washing) fleeces and other synthetic materials (even from recycled plastic) and stick to organic cotton, linen, hemp, bamboo and other ethical and cruelty-free materials. Mini-

mise the amount of plastic we consume; refuse or hand back plastic packaging from supermarkets, always take our re-useable bags shopping, buy toys made from natural materials rather than plastic, always re-use or recycle the plastic that we do use. Stop eating fish and shellfish, for the sake of our own health and to help reverse the depletion of marine life.

Useful links:

[www.plasticsoupfoundation.org/en](http://www.plasticsoupfoundation.org/en)

[www.greenpeace.org.uk/microbeads-we-won](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/microbeads-we-won)

[www.beatthemicrobead.org](http://www.beatthemicrobead.org)

[www.storyofstuff.org/plastic-microbeadsban-the-bead](http://www.storyofstuff.org/plastic-microbeadsban-the-bead)

[www.facebook.com/HandBackPlasticPackaging](http://www.facebook.com/HandBackPlasticPackaging)

Jo Kidd

[Jo.kidd@abbotsmillproject.co.uk](mailto:Jo.kidd@abbotsmillproject.co.uk)

## **SPOOKY STORIES IN THE CHURCHYARD**

Tuesday 31st October  
6.00pm Hernhill Church

The evening will last about an hour including time for refreshments.

Did you come along last year? We are again putting on a community family event that children and adults loved when we did it for the first time last year.

It is believed that Hallowe'en or All Hallows' Eve probably had its roots in a pagan festival that was Christianised by the early Church and used to remember the dead including saints (called Hallows), martyrs and the faithful departed. Of course, this idea of the religious vigil before All Saints' Day on the 1st November hasn't got much to do with the supermarket shelves groaning with Halloween stuff and the celebrating and trick-or-treating on 31st October we are familiar with today. Today, for most



people it's about the fun of dressing up, parties with spooky-themed decorations, and going door to door in the hope of a massive sweetie haul.

We aim to incorporate the fun side, with a bit of a spooky thrill and enjoy some treats together; but once we go inside from the churchyard we will celebrate the good news that Jesus came to give all scary and evil things their marching orders. God's light, love and welcome are infinitely more powerful than anything that we fear might go bump in the night.

The evening begins in the churchyard (if wet, in the church). Children; bring an adult, a jam-jar lantern or a torch and something waterproof to sit on. Dress up too (as spooky as you like). There will be scary stories followed by a procession into the church with hot chocolate and treats at the end.

We'd love to see you there.

The church family and friends.

### SHOEBOXES FOR CHRISTMAS

All Saints Church Graveney is collecting shoeboxes for needy families in Europe. These will be given to adults and children for Christmas. The boxes will contain items such as soap, combs, pencils, small toys, sweets etc.

Information sheets are available in each of the churches in the benefice.

In order for them to be delivered in time for Christmas the boxes should be at All Saints Church by Friday 3rd November.

More information can be obtained from Brenda Tumber, 01227 276227

### CHURCH BOOK STALL

I have, for the second time this year, handed over £100 to the Church Treasurer to help with the day-to-day up-keep of St. Michael's Church. This splendid total was raised by friends giving books in 'as-new' condition for sale at 50p and £1.00.

The church is open every day so please come in and buy. Support our own village book stall and so help to keep our lovely church building in good repair.



Barbara Taylor

### HERNHILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our Autumn show was held on Saturday 2nd September in the Village Hall. The prize winners were:

- Wade Cup - Jean James
- Greville Cup - Doreen Jelfs
- Dargate House Cup - Kath Stone

- Woods Cup - Violet Croll
- Ben Bones Memorial Cup - Violet Croll
- W.I Clarke Cup - Mark James

The Horticultural Society wishes to thank all it's members who supported the show, put in entries and won prizes.  
Violet Croll

### SCHOOL NEWS

On Saturday 16th September, we held our annual fete and it was a fabulous success! After much debate about the changing weather forecast during the week, it was decided to hold the fete both inside and outside the school building! There were tombola, toys, books and sweet stalls positioned in classrooms, along with face painting, treasure hunt and sand art activities. In the hall, hundreds of teas, coffees and cakes were served, with visitors being entertained by the Year 3 maypole dancing, the junior choir and the Year 6 'wake up and shake up' routine. Outside there were a number of inflatables enjoyed by all the children, our very popular BBQ and bar which both did a

roaring trade, and other fun activities including the coconut shy and Joe's Bows.

Huge thanks to our fabulous PTAFAs committee and their band of lovely helpers for organising and running such a fabulous fete. And thank you to all our families and friends for coming and supporting the fete. The PTAFAs have now done their calculations and worked out that we raised just short of £3400 for the fete - this is after all expenses have been taken out. This is the highest figure since 2011 so thank you everyone. We are still looking to expand our group of volunteers. Without the support of our current volunteers, many children wouldn't be heard to read, many art projects would take forever, our flower

beds would become overgrown and many of those 'extra things' just wouldn't happen. In other words, we could not manage without them! If you have a spare hour every week or fortnight or month and would like to get involved with the school, we would love

to have you. Whatever your skills or interests, I am sure we can find a way for you to be involved. Just pop in or phone (01227 751322) or email me [headteacher@hernhill.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@hernhill.kent.sch.uk) – I'd love to hear from you!

Headteacher Sarah Alexander

### **BITS AND PIECES**

Internationally, September seems to have been mainly memorable for the number of disasters caused by both natural and human agencies. At home there have been two horrific traffic accidents on motorways, acid attacks and a terrorist attack on the London Underground. Fortunately the explosive device did not work properly. But whereas with these events, albeit tragic, the casualties were light, natural disasters elsewhere have taken a heavy toll. The procession of hurricanes in the Bahamas has caused a number of injuries and deaths and left thousands destitute. Earthquakes in Mexico have caused hundreds of deaths and destroyed many buildings. If that were not enough, the army in what I know as Burma appears to have been the cause of hundreds of thousands fleeing to Bangladesh. This is to say nothing of the threats and counter threats between North Korea and the USA. Not a good month for the world at large, and even the weather at home was not of the best. Let us hope October will give us an Indian Summer. We can count our blessings that things in the Village have been of a gentler nature. There was a very successful event for the Children's Society on the Village Green. The Horticultural Society had its Autumn Show and the School had its annual fete. More of these elsewhere.

I was delighted to attend the opening of the new library at Hernhill School. No dreary place this with dark and dusty

shelves but a bright space that draws you in. The walls and ceiling are painted with a fun panorama of a country scene with just a touch of fairyland about it. In the middle of the room a tree has been constructed with fairy lights round the trunk and brightly coloured seats round the base. The floor is carpeted with artificial grass to complete the feeling of entering a magic land. I have no doubt that the children will be keen to go in and sample the many and varied books that have been gathered there. All concerned in the creation of this library are to be congratulated. The opening ceremony was conducted by the Headteacher, Sarah Alexander with the children crowded round outside. The cutting of the ribbon was performed by the author of many books for children, F. J. Beerling. She wrote a special poem for the occasion and presented the school with a selection of her books. The morning was rounded off with drinks for the guests and the cutting of a cake that was decorated with a representation of 'the tree'. A most enjoyable occasion.

The vicar has two folding wheelchairs available for temporary loan. If you break a leg or just would like to be pushed around for a change, the phone number is 01227 751410. Jean also collects old mobile phones for recycling. They realise a small contribution towards charities. You can leave them on the vicarage doorstep if there is no one at home.

ADT

<b>Sun 1 Oct</b>	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Patronal Festival
Tues 3	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sun 8	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 10	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sun 15	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Harvest Festival
Tues 17	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 21	3.30pm	St. Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 22	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 24	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Wed 25	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Fri 27	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Breathing Space
Sun 29	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Bible Sunday
Tues 31	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
	6.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Churchyard spooky stories
<b>Sun 5 Nov</b>	10.30am	Graveny Church	Patronal Festival
Tues 7	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sat 11	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Craft Fair
Sun 12	10.50am	St. Michael's Ch	Remembrance Sunday
Tues 14	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 18	3.30pm	St. Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 19	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 21	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Fri 24	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Breathing Space
Sun 26	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 28	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Wed 29	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting

To book the Village Hall go to [www.hernhill-bookings.net](http://www.hernhill-bookings.net)

A copy of the Hernhill News and other local information can be found on the Village website. [www.hernhill.net](http://www.hernhill.net)

Alan D. Taylor  
Yew Tree House, Dargate  
near Faversham, Kent ME13 9HG  
01227 751293  
e-mail [newsadt@gmail.com](mailto:newsadt@gmail.com)

Articles by  
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**OCT**

