



# HERNHILL NEWS

## MAY 2011

# HERNHILL



# VILLAGE FETE

Grand draw, many stalls  
and side shows  
Come & join the fun

**SATURDAY 7th MAY**  
**VILLAGE HALL**  
**from 2.00pm**

### PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council took place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

All Councillors were present.

County Member Andrew Bowles and Ward Councillor George Bobbin also attended.

Apologies were received from the Clerk Mr Terry Smart.

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

Mr Bowles reported that an Enforcement Notice regarding the gipsy encampment at Silver-Sands had been served on both the occupier and the owner of the property.

Mr Bowles reported that a Stop Notice had been served regarding the activities at Thirwell Farm.

Reports:

Mr Chapman reported that the wooden seats on the village green had been oiled.

Mr Morseman reported that there is a large pothole in Kemsdale

Chairman: Helen Figgis 01227 751149

e-mail [helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com](mailto:helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com)

Clerk: Terry Smart; phone 01227 274047

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 767423

and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

Road which is getting worse.  
Highways will be informed.

Finances:

As the Clerk was not present there was no financial report but the balance in the Bank was noted and accounts for expenses paid.

Planning:

No objections were raised to an application to build a conservatory at the rear of Plum Tree Cottage.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Thank you to everyone who donated to, or helped at the Hospice Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th April.

We have raised £540 for the worthy cause. Thank you all

Anne Butler  
01227 750864

### OPEN GARDENS



This year the gardens will be open on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Will all those who wish to take part please let Alison West know as a matter of urgency so that she can get the programmes printed. Opening times will be noon to 6.00pm. Please phone 07801 824867 or e-mail her at

[alison.west@kemsdale.plus.com](mailto:alison.west@kemsdale.plus.com)

### STAPLEGATE WI

We welcomed two previous members to our meeting this month. Pam Jacobs and Janet Gee. Janet had come to tell us about her visit to Oberammergau.

Before we settled down to listen to this we heard that there had been an encouraging response to Anne Butler's coffee morning in aid of the Pilgrims Hospice and a great time was had at the Beetle drive.

We were also reminded that the Village fete is on 7th May and any

contributions to the cake stall will be welcomed. All information for the National AGM in Liverpool will be available in June, including the resolutions to be decided. We are pleased with the refurbishment of the hall and agree that it looks bright and clean.

Then we anticipated Janet's talk. She had brought with her a digital photo laptop and several books and pamphlets to illustrate her journey and kept us wrapped up with her recollections of a long held desire to see the Passion

play in Oberammergau. This has been held every 10 years since 1633 as thanks to God for deliverance from 30 years of plagues and war and involves the whole village of 5000 people. It takes five months of over 102 performances to accommodate all the visitors who wish to see the play which lasts over five hours.

Janet said that although the play revisits all the stories of Jesus, his disciples, trial and crucifixion, with

which we are all familiar, it is produced with such belief and emotion it leaves the onlooker with a sense of wonder, faith and peace. We ended our meeting with sincere vote of thanks to Janet over refreshments.

Our meetings are at 7.45 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the village hall and we always welcome guests.

Liz Walton

Great Aunt Agatha hasn't communicated for some time because she has been under a super-injunction concerning a snake charmer. However, she tells me that she is now going to spend her time in front of the telly watching the wedding of Kate and William. We will also be joining the billions around the World watching the Royal occasion. Let



us hope that the weather holds; unlike at the Coronation. Then, Barbara and I stood in Regent Street, in the rain and watched the Queen of Tonga drive by in her open carriage, getting soaked but smiling and waving to everyone.

ADT

### **HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Outings: There will be an all day visit to Cambridge Botanic gardens on Thursday 23rd June 2011. The cost of the coach is £12 to Hernhill Horticultural Society Members and £15 to non members, full amount to be paid on booking. Entry to the gardens will be paid individually on arrival which is £4.00, concessions

£3.50. The coach will be leaving Mount Ephraim car park at 9.00am prompt. Please be there by 8.50am at the latest. The journey will take approximately 2 hours.

On Wednesday 25th May 2011 an evening visit has been arranged at Laurenden Forstal, Challock, TN25 4AU. We will be car sharing on this occasion. The admission

is £3.00 and tea, coffee and cake will be available. The owner Mrs M Cottrell will be welcoming us so please arrive by 6.30pm.

The outings secretary, Isabel Petifer on 01227 751128 will be taking bookings for the Cambridge trip, and also please let her know if you wish to visit Laurenden Forstal to enable her to let Mrs Cottrell have some idea of numbers for catering.

Dates for your Diary: Helen & Peter Bentley will be opening their garden on Sunday 26th June 1.00pm to 5.00pm. Admission, adults £4.00 and children £2.00 to include tea & homemade cake at 41 Clover Rise Whitstable CT5

3EY. All proceeds to Pilgrims Hospice & RNLI.

We have arranged an evening with Mathew Biggs from Gardeners Question Time and Gardeners World Magazine, for a talk and slide show on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Would members interested please contact me to reserve your place as admission is by ticket only. Price of ticket will be announced in next months 'News'. Places are limited to 80 people.

Peter Bentley  
01227 276032

A big THANK YOU to all who came to the Faversham Badger Group's wine and wisdom evening. We made a massive £468 profit and had a lot of fun doing it. Thanks again.

Beryl Chipperton



## RESTORATION FUND

St. Michael's, Hernhill, Kent

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 249972

There was very nearly a full house for the Beetle Drive. More than one player said that they had not been keen about coming but had been very pleased that they had made the effort. Certainly there was great enthusiasm shown in the vigorous throwing of the dice

and in the level of noise and laughter. It was a fun evening that raised nearly £370 for the Restoration Fund. My thanks to all who helped.

A giant chocolate Easter egg was raffled on Easter Day and raised

£67. My thanks to the Bisbrowns.

There is plenty more to come by way of fund raising events. As usual we will have a stall at the Fete selling 'nearly new' books at silly prices. We will also be selling the latest version of our popular calendar. As before, the calendar for 2012 features pictures by local artists, some of the artists for the first time.

Joy Pritchard will be providing teas and running a cake stall during the Open Gardens Sunday on the 12th June. In July we are hoping to run a cake stall in the Faversham market. We did this last year and it was a great success thanks to considerable support from the Village.

On Saturday 10th September we are re-introducing something that has not been done for many years. I think that the last time was to raise funds for the 'STOP' campaign against the dump. It is a B-B-Q Breakfast. This time it will

be at Crockham Farm Cottage.

Our book stall will again be present at the Flower Festival which is due to take place in the church on Friday 30th September, Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd October. Also in October we are having a brass band concert on Saturday 22nd. A different band this time, but promising a concert every bit as good as the last one.

Finally, this year we are hoping to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James's version of the bible. We are asking a wide range of people to take turns at reading it in the church. The church will be open for visitors to drop in and listen for a while. Starting on Monday 7th November and finishing on Saturday the 12th, we hope to have the whole of the bible read from beginning to end.

Alan Taylor  
Chairman

### **LOCAL PARENTS GROUP**

A group of local parents have recently embarked upon a new community venture. Our aim is to enrich the educational and social aspect of community life for our children and ourselves. We wish to do anything we can think of to bring the community together and give everyone an opportunity to make the most of village life and to access the skills and talents of

the people around them.

The Forum website: ([hernhillforum.wordpress.com](http://hernhillforum.wordpress.com)) is a means for parents/guardians and anyone involved with young people in the community to discuss issues and events concerning their education and enrichment opportunities for both children and adults. We encourage anyone to join the debate,

raise issues of their own, make suggestions for widening opportunities, communal events and ways in which we can assist each other and help the community to flourish.

#### The Exchange Cafe:

is a not-for-profit weekly event to encourage everyone who lives, works or is educated locally to come together as a community and, we hope, discuss ideas for community activities. Forthcoming events & workshops include: Singing Workshops for families & friends, an introduction to literacy teaching methods in primary schools, a guided walk of the Bat-

tle of Bossenden wood by David Shire, guided nature walks in and around Hernhill, a summer opera soiree. If you have any skills you would like to share or workshops you would like to offer, please contact us!

Please subscribe to the website if you would like to receive e-mail updates of all forthcoming events. If you are not an internet user, please phone me and leave your contact details and we will keep you updated, or leave your mobile telephone number to receive text updates.

Miriam Layton  
01227 752189

Grrrrrr!

Would the pet owner who persists in allowing their dog/dogs to foul the well kept grass area in front of Uplands Bungalow, Waterham please stop.

I will soon be unable to prevent my irate husband from tracking said person and returning the "deposits" one way or another!! Thank you.

Lesley Holmes  
01227 750380



#### JAMMY?

One of my more unusual invitations was to be a guest at the World Marmalade Festival in order to present the Fruiterer's, 'Best in Show Cup'. The Festival is held in the Lake District in early February and partly outdoors. Why would anyone choose to go up there at that time of year? Gor-

geous countryside and stunning when the sun is out but not much fun when you have to brave snow, sleet and rain: but people do go and it was actually a lot of fun and extremely individual.

One of our Fruiterers, Jane Hasell McCosh, started the Festival some six years ago to revive marmalade making and by sheer en-

thusiasm, excellent P.R. and good sponsorship has attracted an enormous amount of publicity. There are three main competitions - the Amateur Competition which includes classes ranging from Military, Peers and Political, Clergy and entries from countries such as The Virgin Islands, America, Japan, Norway, Spain and so on. The Bed and Breakfast and Hotel Competition has been established to raise the standard of marmalade to visitors not only in this country but also abroad. Then there is the Artisan Producers Competition for commercial marmalades made by small producers using the open pan method. There are apparently many of these businesses all over the country and in Europe using recipes which have been passed down through the family.

There are now well over 1100 entries and the Amateur Competition has grown from 60 jars in 2005 to 950 this year. Jane organises a group of friends, volunteers, the W.I., celebrities and politicians to help out. Her large home, Dalemain, a very fine but rambling building set in rolling countryside at the top end of Ullswater, is the venue and endless trestles are set up in the splendid formal rooms and visitors squeeze down the rambling corridors and get lost amongst all the entries. There is a tireless team working in the enormous kitchen

keeping judges and helpers fed all hours of the day and night. Lectures on marmalade making are given and the local Cumbrian Brownies, some 150 of them, were attempting to make the largest jar of marmalade ever.

There was a bizarre entry from Australia. 12 jars were packaged up (representing 11 cricketers and a twelfth man) with a note enclosed stating that as the 'Poms' had thrashed the Aussies at cricket perhaps the Aussies might do better sticking to marmalade making or words to that effect. The Festival organisers were asked to source 12 competitive English jars, find a truly independent judge and then ceremonially burn two wooden spoons and send the Ashes to the winners. My wife is Australian so she and I were both involved in tasting 24 jars (demanding in its own way) but were fortunately not responsible for the final verdict pronounced by our W.I. professional. The Aussies won. But what was extraordinary was that out of all of Australia, the entry came from a small town called Buninyong just five miles from my wife Lesley's home town Ballarat, and a place she knew very well as a child.

On the Sunday there was a special Marmalade Service held in the local church with a sermon given by the Vicar of St. Mary Le Bow (Oranges and Lemons fame!) The Festival commis-

sioned a marmalade song which was sung by the local primary school at the service and then again at the Awards which were presented that afternoon in the rain outside the formal Georgian frontage of Dalemain House. It was all very English and everyone was very stoical and jolly. For me it was very special because I knew that my family had originally come from the Ullswater area and I had been doing a bit of family history sleuthing while we were at the Festival. As I stood on the steps of Dalemain in the drizzle and presented the Best in Show Cup to Lord Henley, a local Cumbrian Peer, I could also let my mind wander back almost 300 years and think of a small vicarage and a few farm buildings just three miles away which were sold by my forebears in 1727 to the Hasells of Dalemain. Now there's another extraordinary coincidence.

The Festival somehow makes

this type of thing happen. It is truly quirky and does bring a wide mix of people together. Starting from such a small base it really is a success story. By highly successful use of the media there is a lot of positive publicity for both marmalade making and consumption in the bleak months of January and February.

Demand for Seville oranges goes up. There is a genuine revival of a fine British tradition, marmalade. The Festival has spearheaded an initiative in partnership with Robertson's by introducing an information pack for schools to help educate children in the making and history of marmalade. Proceeds from the Amateur Competition go to the Hospice movement and the event does provide a welcome boost to tourism in winter. Some 40% of visitors come from outside the County. It is also such Fun .

Sandys Dawes



Rumour has it that Helen Figgis, Parish Council Chairman, successfully completed her run in the London Marathon. I have not been able to extract from her how well she did or how much she raised for charity, but, well done anyway!

ADT

### FROM THE VICAR

I have had a very special Holy Week and Easter this year, it started with the three Narnia lectures in the Cathedral by Archbishop Rowan, Maundy Thursday

morning was an annual service in the Cathedral for the diocesan clergy to renew their ordination vows, the evening saw a special service in Hernhill Church ending with silence in the darkness, three



totally different experiences on Good Friday from the children's workshop to the Last Hour of the Cross to Faure's Requiem, then on Easter Day a dawn service (yes, lots of people came in case you're wondering) and a 10.00am celebration service for all ages.

On Easter Monday a group of us from Boughton, Dunkirk and Hernhill walked to Canterbury Cathedral for the Easter Monday Youth Pilgrimage. Hundreds of young, and not so young, people from all over the diocese converging on the Cathedral to worship God and have a great time together.

What made all these events add up to a lovely Easter for me? There's things like the variety of events and services, the opportunities for creativity in remembering Jesus' death and celebrating his resurrection, great contrasts of music, the different groups of people I was with and perhaps finally, the glorious weather.

But there is something more that is harder to explain because it's about 'experiencing' and 'feeling'

that touches me in a place that other experiences don't quite reach. It's similar to watching a beautiful sunset or flying over awe-inspiring snow covered mountains but it's more than that. It's about being in a place where I am, in some small way, open to God, to worship him and to receive from him. That sense of the presence of God is very special and can't be manufactured, bottled or sold.

The church celebrates Easter for forty days, that is thirty nine days longer than most children's Easter eggs last, but Christians' resurrection faith actually lasts all year, every Sunday is a celebration of Jesus' resurrection, the experiences and feelings that combined to make my Easter such a special one this year are, thank God, not confined to just one week in the year.

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed, alleluia!

Revd Jean Burrows

### **BITS AND PIECES**

Last month I looked back more than 30 years to see that, regretably, a number of groups that were active then are now defunct. This of course is only part of the story. Some of the original organisations are still with us and thriving. Some new ones were introduced since that time. Here

is a quick appreciation of some of those that are with us today (in alphabetical order to be suitably 'politically correct').

The Dawes CA provides, for example, sports facilities, a playgroup and their firework night attracts crowds from far and wide. The Fete Committee produces one of the best events of its type

in Kent. Hernhill Crafts Centre encourages a wide variety of craft skills from spinning to pottery and painting. The Horticultural Society provides judging of produce in their shows at the Village Hall and arranges visits to famous gardens. The Restoration Committee organises events as varied as beetle drives and brass band concerts. St Michael's Church will be having another flower festival later in the year. Staplegate WI has monthly meetings with guest speakers and arranges days out. Last but not least, the Village Hall Committee is responsible for the hall and playing field which are essential to the activities of the others.

It is worth recognising that all of these groups are Village charities run by volunteers who give of their time and energies free of charge. Of course I haven't mentioned all of the events in the Village. There is the Open Gardens scheme, the various coffee mornings, Mount Ephraim's special days, and the three pubs play their part too. Even this is not all. There is a great deal going on throughout the

year and to think, there are less than 700 men, women and children in the Village. Remarkable!

Remarkable too has been the weather recently with temperatures in the high 70's for several days. Recent weeks have also been remarkable for the blossom. I can't remember the trees being so laden. Cherry, almond, hawthorn, apple, pear and others have all looked wonderful. If the fruit sets there will be a bumper crop. And now the bluebell woods are in full bloom. With all the expected road, rail and air chaos for the wedding and the bank holidays we are glad to be staying at home to enjoy some peace and quiet.



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**COPY  
 DATE  
 Mon  
 23th  
 May**



<b>May 1 Sun</b>	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
	-----	Mount Ephraim	Pat-a-lamb day
Mon 2	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	-----	Mount Ephraim	Pat-a-lamb day
Tues 3	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 4	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sat 7	2.00pm	Village Hall	<b>VILLAGE FETE</b>
Sun 8	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Mon 9	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 10	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 11	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Resolutions
Sun 15	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All ages Service
Mon 16	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 17	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 22	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 24	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 25	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 29	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Said communion
Tues 31	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
<b>Jun 1 Wed</b>	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 5	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Mon 6	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 7	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 8	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Clive Medley, The environment
Sun 12	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
	Noon	-----	Open Gardens
Tues 14	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 19	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All ages Service
Mon 20	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 21	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 26	10.00am	Boughton Church	United Service
Tues 28	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 29	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council



**PUBLISHED BY  
COURTESY OF  
HERNHILL PARISH  
COUNCIL**