



# HERNHILL NEWS

## APRIL 2024

### PARISH COUNCIL

The latest news from your Parish Council: Planning big new developments our end of Faversham and around Canterbury, setting up a Speedwatch group, litter picks and Neighbourhood Plan.

If you have a suggestion: You can contact the Parish Council Clerk on 07876221580 or [clerk@hernhill-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hernhill-pc.gov.uk)

Full copies of the approved minutes for meetings and updated news on planning and road closures are available on the Parish Council Website. [www.hernhill-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hernhill-pc.gov.uk) information is also shared on Facebook through the Parish Council page and Hernhill Village forum.

### MEETING 27 MARCH

The March meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 27th in the village hall. It was attended by the clerk, 7 parish councillors, Councillor Alistair Gould (SBC), 5 members of the public and PC Matt Ongley.

### Kent Speed Watch

Kent Speed watch team members Alan Watson and PC Jason Wright came to the meeting to support our setting up a village Speedwatch group. There are 100 groups across Kent who have recorded and uploaded thousands of speeding incidents onto the police database. This enables frequent offenders to be identified and subsequently dealt with. They noted this is primarily an education tool and no intervention is undertaken by the volunteers. In order to start a group we need at least 6 people to volunteer for training with minimum 2 doing a roadside stint in daylight at any time. Training is one hour online. Equipment is provided. Alan will locate and risk assess suitable sites in the village to undertake

observation before we begin. Anyone interested in taking part please contact Rebecca, the parish clerk, phone and email above.

### Police Report

Matt Ongley gave a report for PC Gary Morris of no recent activity in Hernhill but he has been involved in speed checks in Dunkirk.

### Neighbourhood Plan

A public presentation of the results of the recent survey and next steps was made in the village hall last week. 30 people attended. See full report from the working group next month. Next meeting 3rd April 7.15pm Red Lion.

### Planning

#### Application 23/505533:

Duchy of Cornwall plan to build 2,500 homes between M2 and A2 from Faversham to Brenley Corner in phased delivery. 370 documents are on the Swale planning portal supporting this huge development (good luck reading those!). Councillors began discussing this but soon decided that it was so massive that it needed considering at a separate meeting and some exploration of neighbouring parishes' views. There were strong feelings at the meeting that local infrastructure and services need considerable improvement before yet more houses are built.

An Extraordinary meeting will be held on 8th April 7pm in the church to consider this all welcome to share views and shape the PC response.

#### Application 24/50053

Retrospective application Waterham Cottages, Waterham Road. Change of use of land for a newly built outbuilding and parking

Chairman: Cllr Barbara Heller  
Clerk: Rebecca Parr 07876 221580

area for a chiropractic business. Hernhill Parish council unanimously voted to object to the application. There is insufficient detail provided on the biodiversity impact caused by the development as there is no information as to what vegetation there was before and subsequently cleared and removed, especially given the government legislation requiring 10% biodiversity net gain. The Council consider the application for this building is over development given the large size of the building, that it is out of keeping with neighbouring buildings and has an adverse impact on their character. The Council also has concerns regarding the increased potential for flooding for which Waterham is prone given the large area of concrete hardstanding for parking. Should the council be mindful to grant permission for the application, the Council would prefer to see a condition added "for any parking area to be permeable".

#### **Application 24/501007**

New plan after previous application withdrawn Fairbrook bungalow Staplestreet. Changes made in response to SBC officer's pre-application comments. Councillors agreed unanimously to support the application on the grounds agreed for the previous application.

#### **Application 24/500782**

Monkshill Bungalow, Monkshill Road. Variation of conditions for previously approved loft conversion etc (21/504588) to allow first floor walls to be clad in cream fibre cement cladding panels rather than brick. Linda attended the meeting to explain the need for this change and the Council unanimously agreed they had no adverse comments to make.

#### **Application 24/500714**

Honeysuckle Villa, Plumpudding Lane Dargate. New roof with roof lights over conservatory. Again the council agreed no adverse comments.

#### **Applications 24/500813 and 24/500814**

Land SE of A299 slip road, Highstreet Road. Drainage plans to fulfil conditions of original planning approval. Again council agreed no adverse comments.

#### **Decision 21/506622**

Land next to Thanet way Highstreet Road ecological mitigation plan approved.

#### **Planning Discussion**

Canterbury District Draft Local Plan 2045 Consultation

([https://mapping.canterbury.gov.uk/webapps/Major\\_Development\\_Sites/](https://mapping.canterbury.gov.uk/webapps/Major_Development_Sites/)).

Loads more massive housing estate building to look forward to around Canterbury. This long term planning document will be more fully discussed at the April meeting in order for the Council to make a detailed and considered response similar to that needed for planned developments around Faversham. We seem likely to become a small island in a sea of suburban concrete.

#### **Litter Pick**

Councillor Wakes has arranged three further dates for the Village Litter Picks in conjunction with other village organisations. These will be 1st June, 17th August and 2nd November. Once again refreshments will be served in the village hall for pickers. The council agreed to purchase some new picking sticks.

#### **Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)**

The long awaited speed limit signs will be erected by KCC between 22nd-26th April. Various road closures will be necessary between 9am and 3pm to allow work to proceed safely. The school has been warned. The council have a number of banners, posters and stickers to be distributed via a stall at the village fete on May 11th, with some information on the Speed Watch group too, hopefully.

The new HIP will focus on hazardous junctions, dangerous parking on slip roads and double yellow lines, speed issues, flooding, big trucks using rat runs or bringing illegal waste and accidents. Councillors will meet with their opposite numbers in Boughton and Dunkirk PCs on 17th April to share objectives. Continue to let us know of any traffic hot spots in your locale.

#### **Cleve Hill Solar Farm**

Councillor Waters has been attending meetings with the project management team to keep them up to date with infringements of their instructions for deliveries and truck movements which have been numerous. One more abnormal load will be delivered on 5th April.

**Swale Borough Council Planning Enforcement Strategy**

Consultation online at [www.swale.gov.uk/pes](http://www.swale.gov.uk/pes) until 24th April.

**Next Parish Council meeting 24th April 2024 7.30pm Village Hall. The Annual Parish meeting will take place on 24th April 7pm in the Village Hall, just before the Parish Council meeting.**

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Works schedule to allow signage works to be carried out 22-26 April 2024**

The scheduled dates may vary for these works

**Church Hill, Hernhill**

Church Hill will be closed in two parts: Part One will be closed between Butlers Hill and Kays Lane, to the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site. Part Two will be closed between Kays Lane and Staple Street, to the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site. The alternative route for vehicles is via Fostall, Kemsdale Road, Staple Street and Church Hill.

**Crockham Lane, Hernhill**

Crockham Lane will be closed between Thread Lane and Church Hill, to the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site. The alternative route for vehicles is via Church Hill, Butlers Hill, Crockham Road, Crockham Lane and vice versa.

**Kays Lane, Hernhill**

Kays Lane will be closed between Kemsdale Road and Church Hill, to the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site. The alternative route for vehicles is via Church Hill, Fostall, Kemsdale Road and vice versa.

**Staple Street, Hernhill**

Staple Street will be closed between the junctions of Bull Lane and Church Hill, to the extent

indicated by signs and barriers on site. The alternative route for vehicles is via Bull Lane, The Street, Staple Street Road, Staple Street and vice versa.

**Staple Street Road, Hernhill**

Staple Street Road will be closed between the junctions of Church Hill and Bounds Lane, to the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site. The alternative route for vehicles is via Staple Street, Bull Lane, The Street, Staple Street Road and vice versa.

Each road will be closed consecutively and pedestrian access will be maintained during the works. The closures are required for the safety of the public and workforce while signage works are undertaken by Kent County Council.

For information regarding these closures, please contact Kent County Council on 03000 418181, who will be able to assist with the scope of these works.

Simon Jones, Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport. Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ

**KCC NEWS**

I'm acutely aware that in the last couple of pieces I've written I've mainly been talking rubbish (and recycling, and food waste), so I'll change the record this month. The new waste collection contract will commence on Monday 25th March, and because of the widespread changes to collection days across the borough, there will likely be a lot of disruption and confusion in the first month or two, but hopefully the new dates will 'bed in' quickly.

**Budgets**

Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council have both now set their budgets for 2024/25. The current, widely publicised, financial pressures that councils up and down the country are facing have forced both councils into making difficult decisions relating to the cutting of services, and the increasing of charges for some of the

services they provide.

It was an interesting experience for me. I've now spent three years as an opposition councillor at KCC attacking and trying to reverse or prevent cuts made in their budget; but now as an administration councillor at Swale, I'm on the other side of the coin, having to decide (along with other administration councillors) which areas to make cuts in, and then having to defend those decisions. Neither role is easy, or pleasant, and I find the whole process pretty exhausting.

One small silver lining that came out of the KCC budget was that the Faversham Household Waste Recycling Centre, which was threatened with closure in 2023, has been given a stay of execution for the coming year. However tips are still earmarked as a potential area in which the council might look

to make cuts in 2025, along with libraries, school maintenance, the Kent Travel Saver (which would cost many families around £1000 without the KCC Subsidy), and “other community services”.

Swale have also made some tough decisions whilst attempting to balance their books. Although here it's often more a case of increased charges (such as those for car parking) which appear to be the cause of the greatest concern.

To add insult to injury for residents, the continued reductions in funding from central government mean that both councils are

effectively forced to raise their council tax rates by the maximum allowed amount (4.99% for KCC and 2.99% for Swale) just to avoid having to make those cuts even deeper.

I sincerely hope that changes are made in the coming years which mean that local government is given more funding to provide the services that our communities desperately need.

**Rich Lehmann**

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

**<http://kentgreencouncillors.news/>**

### **VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK CLOSURE - IMPORTANT**

The Village Hall car park will be closed for parking on Thursday 30th and Friday 31st May 2024 while it is being re-lined and additional pedestrian zones and no parking areas defined to improve safety for children, and everyone else, who use the car park.

This is of course subject to weather, but hopefully it will be dry in May!

This means access to use the Hall, DCA

buildings or All Weather Play area will only be available by walking to them during these two days. The Car Park should be back open from 5pm on Friday 31st May. We apologise to anyone this may cause a problem for but doing it in Half Term, we hope, minimises disruption for the majority.

Thank you

**Village Hall Committee**

### **HERNHILL GARDENING CLUB**

#### Spring Show

Despite the inclement weather we have had this winter there was a lovely array of daffodils and other spring flowers in the show. The show judges were very impressed by the number and standard of entries and it was pleasing to see a number of entries from new members. We could do with a few more flower arrangers but otherwise there was a good variety of entries. The afternoon viewing was well attended and there was a real buzz of chatter from people during the refreshments. Bidding was very keen in the auction of the flowers – all proceed going toward club funds. Altogether it was a very successful show. The following cups were presented by our new vice-president Henry Bryant;

Best bloom in show	Mark James
Best vegetable in show	Doris Thomas
Best floral art	Heather Bryant
Best indoor plant	Doris Thomas
Best home economics	Margaret Heathcote

Best photograph Heather Bryant

Most points in the daffodil classes

Tony Bentley

Our Summer Show is on June 15th. Do come along.

#### Coach Outing

Our summer coach outing will be to Ham House and Garden, Richmond. This is a 17th century house and garden situated on the bank of the River Thames with a fine collection of art and furniture in the house and both formal gardens and a woodland wilderness together with a walled kitchen garden. It is a National Trust Property so members will have free entry and if we get enough non-members we will be able to get a reduced rate for them. Full entrance fee is £15. The cost of the coach will be £26 for Garden Club members and £28 for non-members payable when you book your seat. This outing is open to all friends and neighbours. There has already been a lot of interest and some seats booked so hurry, phone Tricia Chapman on 07487258438.

**Jill Geliot**



## HERNHILL HERONS - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

It is with great sadness but with the utmost respect that we will wave farewell to the club's Fixtures Secretary next season. Jane Hodges has been a Goliath at Hernhill Herons, tirelessly arranging (and rearranging!) fixtures and dealing with the Saturday morning "Pitch Inspection" madness over many seasons. With this in mind, the club needs to now find a minimum of 2 volunteers to take on the growing workload, with a record number of teams and children now involved. If you're organised, a good communicator, can work a spreadsheet and could spare a couple of hours a week, the Herons would be deeply grateful for your support. Full training and the support of an engaged committee and coaching staff is guaranteed. Email [hernhillherons@gmail.com](mailto:hernhillherons@gmail.com) if you would like to find out more.

**Mark Woodcock, Chair, Hernhill Herons**



## No Mow May 2024

Last summer I noticed on my daily walks the impressive number of bees, butterflies and dragonflies in the fields and hedgerows around the village, there definitely seemed to be more than previous years and it was so heartening to see nature thriving. I thought "somebody must be doing something right" and I want to thank the farmers, the gardeners, the parish council and anyone else who is giving nature a chance by resisting the use of pesticides, leaving space for wild plants and keeping their mowers locked up in May.

Let's all do it again this year and give spring plants a chance to seed before the first cutting, making for healthier, more diverse lawns; give wild plants a chance to thrive, to feed bees, butterflies and other pollinators through the summer.

In 2023 one-third of the gardens at Chelsea Flower Show featured weeds, including bramble, thistle dandelions and knapweed in their gardens, seeing them simply as "resilient plants". Dandelions are a good source of nectar because they flower early in the year and are nice to look at. You are in the best company!

Research carried out by the Plantlife campaign has shown that mowing your lawn less frequently can provide enough sugar for ten times the amount of bees, butterflies, moths, beetles and other pollinators. Up to 250 species of plant can appear in grassed areas, if they are not cut down in the spring. So, please sit back, relax, enjoy your garden and give nature a chance this year!

**Miriam Layton**

## HERNHILL CHURCH

While on a visit to South Africa, I had the privilege of visiting Robben Island, a prison where Nelson Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years of imprisonment during apartheid. It was an insightful and thought-provoking experience. It was such a different experience to be in the place that I had learned so much about.

The tour guides team included former prisoners at Robben Island. We took part in a liturgy produced by St George's Cathedral in which it was said, 'this is a road of pain and suffering, but also one which represents a challenge to create hope'. This was soon to be a real experience as we listened to the stories from the guides and walked the paths of the prison. We stopped at different points to reflect on the pain of separation, censorship, hard labour, cold and hunger. Some of these conditions remain a reality for some people today – not only in Africa. Without going deeper into detail, the wounds, the pain and horrors of apartheid, and the negative impacts of this period on the South African people are still visible.

Yet, to my surprise, most of the people we spoke to, re-told their stories with so much hope. I was both inspired and challenged. How is it that they were able to speak with hope for a better South Africa when the dark memories of the past still haunt their homes and streets today?

The theme of hope is more than a small sentence at the beginning of an email, 'I hope this email finds you well; or I hope you had a lovely holiday'. The Christian understanding of hope is one that is rooted in the personhood of Jesus Christ. At Christmas we celebrate His birth. At Easter, the mood shifts. It's not all joyful. Before the praise are the gruesome events. The cross on which He died. Then the empty tomb, the good news that He is alive. For Christians, the resurrection of Christ is a reason for a future hope.

When we consider the sad events that took place in Boughton; a young life lost tragically

in death and a family left without a father and a husband. Then the memories are left with those who unwillingly witnessed this event. For our community to have such a shock that this event could be possible in our village, what is the way forward? How can we all continue to work together to be a safe, hopeful community?

Personally, I find encouragement in the words of the martyred Roman Catholic Archbishop Oscar Romero: It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything. This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realising that. This enables us to do something and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

In the Church calendar, we are still in Easter season. May peace and hope fill our homes and lives.

**Rev. Cathrine Ngangira**

## HERNHILL SCHOOL

This month, I have been reflecting on the sounds that I hear across our school on a daily basis. It was lovely to hear the purposeful buzz of conversation coming from the hall at our parents' evenings which we held in the middle of March.

Alongside parents' evenings, we have had exciting curriculum activities happening including forest school, badminton coaching, musical ensemble, swimming, sports competitions, choir practice, Eco Refill shop, football and netball matches, and of course, the re-creation of the "Great Fire of London" with Year 1 and 2 model houses. All of these events have produced squeals of joy,

laughter and excited chatter. How lucky we are to hear all this noise that celebrates the vibrancy of our school community. And how this contrasted with the school falling silent 4 years ago (20 March 2020) following the announcement of lockdown due to the covid pandemic. It certainly makes one grateful for the normalness of busy school life.

Of course, maybe the most memorable sound of the month was the ringing of the school phone as Ofsted called! We look forward to receiving the inspector's report after Easter.

**Sarah Alexander**  
**Headteacher**

## HISTORIC HERNHILL



The Old Post Office, in Plumpudding Lane, Dargate, just up the lane from The Dove, was the home of John Spratt, one of the 28 Bossenden Wood rioters (from a total of 44) who came from Hernhill. Four were killed and two transported, but Spratt, and his brothers William and Henry, and many others who were pardoned, stayed in the immediate area, and Dargate became a haven of sorts for the followers of Courtenay.

Tithe returns of 1840, and parish records from 1837 showed that John was renting the cottage.

He was receiving poor relief in the 1830s, at the time of the rebellion (or The Fray, as villagers were still calling it well into the 1860s). He died on June 3rd, 1844, but when his wife Sarah died in 1849, she left £200 worth of material possessions and cash, a significant sum.

The bailiff William Kay, who the rioters would have considered part of the enemy in 1838, acted as executor to Sarah's will. There had been considerable healing and forgiveness in just 11 years.

The post office closed in 1990 but the GR postbox is still there and today, the house is a holiday home. The picture is from about 1912, when A. Frear, presumably one of the men pictured, was licensed to sell tobacco. By the 1940s, it was run by Mr A. Howlett, who, according to a Faversham News report, was part of a scheme to offer agricultural workers subsidised meat pies from British Restaurants.

**Crispin Whiting**

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL 2024

### Sunday 7th 10am Hernhill

Sung Communion.

### Wednesday 10th 10:30am St Barnabas'

#### Boughton

Wednesday Worship

A short service followed by refreshments

### Sunday 14th 10am Boughton

Sung Communion.

### Sunday 21st 10am Hernhill

Morning Worship.

### 10:30am Graveney

Holy Communion

### Sunday 28th 10am Hernhill

Benefice Sung Communion

Followed by annual church meeting

### Sunday 5th May 10am Hernhill

Sung communion

**All are welcome to our services**

## Hernhill Churchyard Clean-up - Friday 5th May 10-12 noon

St Michael's Churchyard at the centre of the village is for many the resting place for departed loved ones. For others it is an area of beauty and tranquillity for walking through. To keep it maintained in good order for both locals and visitors, a small group of volunteers from the church organise clean-up sessions to weed, prune, sweep and generally tidy up.

Many hands make light work, so any volunteers on 5th April will be welcome. Refreshments available for the workers. Please bring own tools, if possible.

**Peter Willcock, Churchwarden**

## SMALL ADS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

### Faversham Audio - Minimum 10% discount on the Sonos range

The leading multi-room wireless speaker system that lets you listen to your music all around your home. Stream Spotify, Apple, Tidal, Amazon, and more. Even play your vinyl or CD collection. Local delivery, installation, and setup options available. For any enquiries or advice please contact Steve on 07876 475253 or [steve@nextmark.co.uk](mailto:steve@nextmark.co.uk) Unit 94 Waterham Business Park, Highstreet Road, Hernhill, ME13 9EJ (appointments only).

## BIN COLLECTIONS

April	3	Wednesday	Brown bin
	4	Thursday	Green bin
	10	Thursday	Blue bin
	17	Wednesday	Brown bin
	18	Thursday	Green bin
	25	Thursday	Blue bin
May	1	Wednesday	Brown bin

Published courtesy of Hernhill Parish Council