



Graveney with Goodnestone Village Newsletter Spring 2023

A note from the editors

Welcome back to the Parish newsletter. Having taken on the task of relaunching this valuable community publication we have quickly learnt how much work the previous editors put in and salute their efforts.

This is coming to you a little later than planned and is not quite the finished article as we still need to grow our contact list and look forward to welcoming more contributions from individuals and community groups as we go on. We will soon have a dedicated email address for all submissions but in the meantime please send submissions to one of our Parish Councillors or to info@swataarchaeology.co.uk. Please let us hear from you.

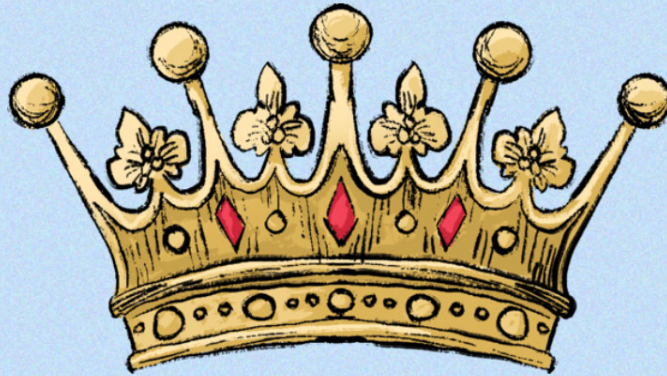
To begin with we are proposing to publish four editions a year but hope to increase this in due course. We are starting with a large print run in the hope that we reach as many villagers as possible but if you are happy to receive a pdf version in place of a paper copy, please let us know at the above email address.

As some of you will be aware, one of your new editors is by profession an archaeologist so please forgive a little self-indulgence in our Editor's Musings section at the end of this edition.

We look forward to working with you.

Mobile: 07885700112

Paul & Catherine Wilkinson



As part of the Coronation Celebrations the
beacon will be lit at 8pm at the village
hall on Saturday 6th May 2023
Drinks and nibbles available



All welcome!



Village Fair

At Graveney Village Hall
Sunday 7th May 1 - 4pm

Raffle Tombola Cream Teas
And much more!

Contact Teresa 07966 299648 or Clare
07912038891 if able to help in any way

In order to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III please join us at these village events.

On Coronation Day the beacon will be lit at the village hall at 8pm. There will be drinks and nibbles.

This will be followed up with a village fair at the village hall on Sunday from 1 - 4 pm. If anyone wishes to have a stall let us know. Anyone wishing to help with preparations or on the day let us know! Donations for the raffle and tombola much appreciated.

For further details please contact Teresa on 07966 299648 or Clare on 07912038891

All Saints' Church

All Saints' Church is open every Sunday to light a candle and pray or just come and visit.

Current service times are displayed below.

Sat 1 Apr	9.30 am Zoom	Benefice Prayers
Sun 2 Apr	10.00 am Hernhill Church	Holy Communion
<i>(Palm Sunday)</i>	10.30 am Graveney Church	Morning Worship
Fri 7 Apr	10.00 am Seek & Wonder	St Barnabas, Boughton
<i>(Good Friday)</i>	2.00 pm Hernhill Church	Watch of Prayer
Sun 9 Apr	10.00 am Boughton Church	Benefice Holy Communion
<i>(Easter Sunday)</i>	10.30 am Graveney Church	Morning Worship
Wed 12 Apr	10.30 am St Barnabas	Wednesday Worship
Sun 16 Apr	10.30 am Graveney Church	Holy Communion
Mon 17 Apr	2.30 pm St Barnabas	Bible Study
Sun 23 Apr	10.00 am Hernhill Church	Holy Communion & Annual Parish Meeting
Wed 26 Apr	10am - noon St Barnabas	Coffee Morning
Sun 30 Apr	10.30 am Graveney Church	Morning Worship
	4.30 pm St Barnabas	Afternoon Worship & Annual Parish Meeting
Sat 6 Apr	9.30 am Zoom	Benefice Prayers
Sun 7 May	10.00 am Boughton Church	Coronation Service and
	Holy Communion	
	10.30 am Graveney Church	Morning Worship

KORI – a Charity supporting Women and girls in Sierra Leone

For several years All Saints Church in Graveney has supported KORl, a charity based in the village of Taiama in rural Sierra Leone. There are a variety of ongoing projects including schools, a clinic, a women's market place, farming and a sewing room. One way in which you may like to be involved is by knitting. During the rainy season Taiama is cold damp and dark. We always need new knitted baby clothes, jumpers for children, knitted blankets (any size from knee to double bed size) knitted squares which can be sewn into blankets, and hats for older people. You can leave these at the church or please contact Brenda Tumber on bktumbermbe123@icloud.com, who can collect. Thank you.

Parish Council News



Graveney with Goodnestone Parish Council

Clerk of the Parish Council Lisa Stiffell

clerkggpc@gmail.com 07403216849

www.graveneywithgoodnestone-pc.gov.uk

Useful information including agendas and minutes of PC meetings is on above website

Parish Councillors

Clare Boggia, Alan Stewart, Lesley Lound, Catherine Wilkinson, Tom King, Mike Newman
& Teresa Bowles

If anyone wishes to put a poster on the parish boards, please ring 07912038891

Your Parish Council provides the community with a democratic voice and a structure for taking community action.

There are 10 scheduled meetings of the Parish Council every year, on the second Monday of every month, except for February and August. Additional extraordinary meetings take place from time to time. All meetings are advertised on the Parish notice boards and on the Parish Council website (<https://www.graveneywithgoodnestone-pc.gov.uk>). Members of the public are welcome, and encouraged, to attend meetings.

For future editions of this newsletter we will publish additional details of matters discussed at past meetings but in the meantime minutes are published in full on our website as given above.

DEFIBRILLATOR NEWS!



THE DEFIBRILLATOR WILL SOON BE INSTALLED ON THE EXTERIOR WALL OF THE FOUR HORSE SHOES PUB

This could save your life or someone you know.

We are looking for volunteers to check the defibrillator once a month – nothing technical, training given, so that it is always ready and fit to use.

If you are interested, please do contact the Parish Clerk.

60,000	80%	50%	270
Out of Hospital deaths from Sudden Cardiac Arrests each year in the UK.	Of cardiac arrests occur outside of a hospital environment.	Percent increase in surviving a Sudden Cardiac Arrest with an AED and CPR.	Children die every year of a Sudden Cardiac Arrest at School in the UK.

TRAINING FOR THE DEFIBRILLATOR

Do it today – it could save a life

Training is free from this company on-line – simple, easy courses. Just go to their website and click

<https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/education-hub/>

AEDdonate

Placing defibrillators in **YOUR** community

Four Horseshoes Pub

Well, our **Carvery** every Sunday after nearly 5 years is as popular as ever, and booking is now essential.

We have **Karaoke** every fortnight on a Saturday.

Good Friday starts our ever popular **tribute act profile season**, with Simply Red kicking things off for us.

Next up is the return of **The Legends and Laughter Show on Friday 5th May**, with the one and only Neil J Duncan, this show always sells out so book early to avoid disappointment tickets from the pub £20 includes a basket meal.

Then on **Friday 2nd June, we have Abbagirls the Duo** just the girls from Abba playing all your favourite songs same again £20 a ticket includes a basket meal.

We've got our **Ladies Night** returning on 19th August, by popular demand with the hilarious Miss Dot Com and Four Hunky Male Strippers £20 a ticket includes a basket meal.

All tickets available from the pub or through our website www.fourhorseshoespub.com or call 01795 538143 to reserve your tickets, card payment over the phone is possible.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Steve
The Four Horseshoes

News from GREAT - Graveney Rural Environment Action Team

We have set out some of the current issues regarding the **Cleve Hill Solar Park** scheme.

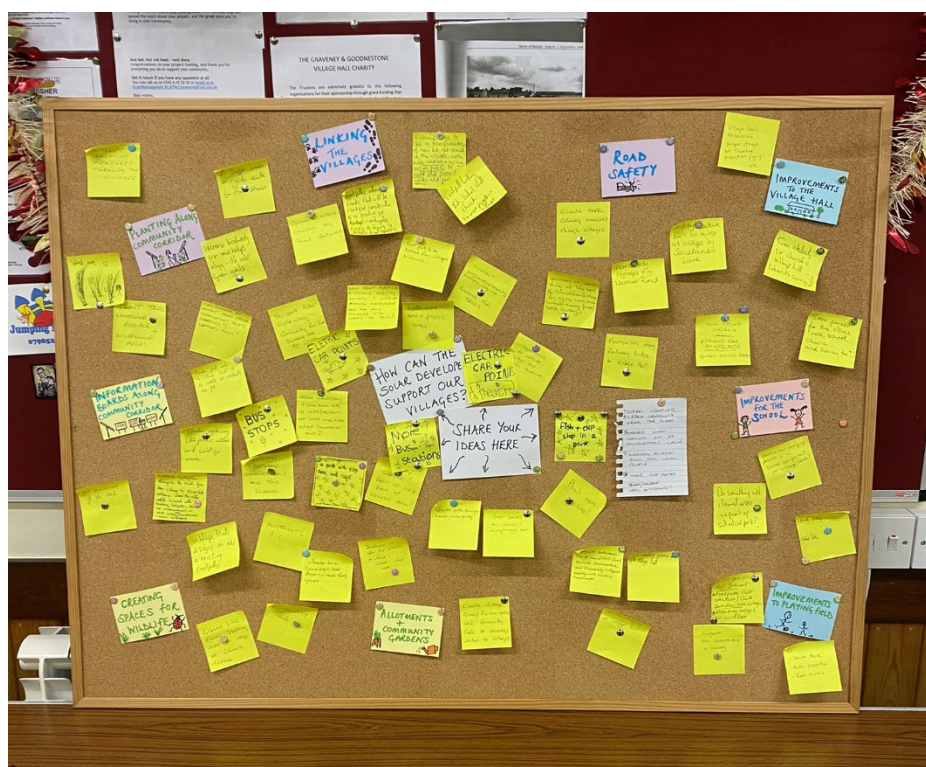
- **Development Consent Order (DCO)**
 - The only outstanding condition for Swale Borough Council to discharge is the Battery Storage Safety Management Plan.
 - The draft plan has not yet been published by the developers and no firm deadline has been provided. We will notify you via the Village and GREAT Facebook pages when the draft is available and you will then have 21 days to submit your comments to Swale Borough Council.
 - GREAT is working with The Faversham Society and three very eminent scientists who are the most knowledgeable about battery storage facilities and their input regarding the draft plan will enable us to provide a comprehensive response to the developer's proposals. A meeting with the senior alternative energy officer at Kent Fire & Rescue has been arranged for late May to raise our concerns on the health and safety aspects of having such a large battery storage facility so close to Graveney and Goodnestone and the surrounding areas.
- **Marshalling Area for HGVs**
 - This needs planning permission and is currently scheduled to be considered by the Planning Committee at Swale Borough Council in mid April.
 - If approved, Cleve Hill Solar Park are expected to have this operational by mid May.
 - Currently, all HGVs have to be accompanied by an escort vehicle when travelling through the villages.
 - Please see the GREAT website and Village Facebook page for details on how to identify HGVs associated with the development and how to report those who you believe to be breaching agreed speeds / timings.
- **Solar Campaign Alliance Group**
 - GREAT is a member of this joint venture between resident-driven action groups opposing the rapidly growing issue of large-scale solar developments, particularly on UK farmland.
 - We continue to keep in touch with the group to share new information on other developments across the UK and, in particular, battery storage news.
- **Traffic Management Group**
 - We continue to attend and comment at the fortnightly meetings hosted by Cleve Hill Solar Park.
- **Parish Council**
 - We continue to provide a report to the Parish Council each month.
 - Any new notices or information will be posted on the GREAT and Parish Council websites.

If you want any further information , please contact Lut Stewart on 07484 262264.

Community Voice



Community Voice are a group of Goodnestone and Graveney residents who have been talking to fellow villagers and the parish council about how Quinbrook, the developer of the solar park, could support our local community. In January the group held a drop-in event at the village hall, where close to a hundred visitors shared their ideas.



Since then the group have created a document which summarises these ideas and gives suggestions for how they might be realised. Five significant themes emerged: connecting the villages for walking and cycling, making the roads safer, increasing biodiversity, enhancing the village hall and increasing the use of renewable energy.

Community Voice members and the Parish Council are now researching and discussing the ideas in readiness for conversations with Quinbrook. If you have any thoughts on the suggestions in the document, you can write to the Parish Council (clerkggpc@gmail.com) or to the Community Voice (communityvoice2023@gmail.com).

Graveney and District Women's Institute



Our group meets on the second Wednesday in the month, usually at the village hall. In May this year we will be celebrating our 35 year anniversary since the group was set up with two original members still active in the group!

In previous years we have held our January and February meetings elsewhere due to cold conditions, however thanks to the work undertaken by the village hall trustees the hall has been lovely and warm for our meetings so far this year.

We usually have a speaker at our main meeting and try to have diverse topics to cater for all tastes. In February our friendly postman Johnny Burke gave a most interesting talk about Graveney Church and in March Len Howell delivered a rather technical but interesting talk about how the government tried to plan for nuclear war during the cold war.

We also have an informal meeting on the third Wednesday in the month and we met up for a meal out at the Prince of India in Faversham in February and in March enjoyed tenpin bowling in Whitstable.

We are organising a quiz night, April 21st (details elsewhere in the magazine) – people can come along as individuals or a team – always a fun evening out!

Our next three meeting dates are listed below and if anyone wishes to pop along you are more than welcome, we charge a nominal fee of £2.50 and provide tea and cakes! Further details please contact either Teresa Bowles on 07966299648 or Clare on 07912038891. We can arrange a lift to the hall if needed.

Wednesday April 12th Melanie Barton who makes a welcome return, this time speaking about the late Queen Elizabeth in a talk called from Princess to Queen (delayed from last year's jubilee)

Wednesday April 19th Walk in Thornden Woods

Wednesday May 10th Dean Heckley speaking about Drag Queens which should be fun!

Wednesday May 18th Meet at 6pm at Reculver Towers for a walk followed by meal at King Ethelbert

Wednesday June 8th Outing to Ightam Mote. Leave Graveney at 09:30

Wednesday June 15th Visit to Mad Cat Brewery at Brogdale

QUIZ NIGHT!

WHEN

Friday 21st April 2023
7pm for 7.30 start

WHERE

Graveney Village Hall
Sandbanks Lane, Graveney

HOSTED BY GRAVENEY W I

CONTACT AILLEN MEYER
07729375407 BY TEXT

TICKETS

£6

Tables of 6 or 8

If you cannot
make up a table,
just come along
anyway!

Bring your own
food and drink and
we will provide
you will an
entertaining
evening!

There will be our
usual excellent
raffle!

Village Hall Update

It has been several years since any Village Hall reports and sadly we start by announcing the sad loss of Trish Tims in 2022. Not only was Trish a hard working Trustee for the community but was a great friend to many who will miss her.

During the covid pandemic the village hall was closed for almost two years resulting in the loss of all income. Supported by local and national Government the village hall survived and since through a number of grant sponsors much has been achieved.

Improvements have been carried out to both the building and field/play area that include new toilets, lights, building repair works, car park improvements, children's play area, adult exercise equipment and a new inclusive footpath.

The Trustees are indebted to the following sponsors: Edward Vinson's Charity, Rochester Bridge Trust, National Lottery Community Fund, Kent Community Foundation, RAFA, Swale Borough Council, Kent County Council, OVO energy plus private donations that have made all these improvements possible.

The Trustees continue to welcome new hirers and look forward to continued success.

Enquiries can be made on: 07922461543 or via graveney.villagehall@btinternet

Thank you.

Joan Howard - On behalf of the Graveney & Goodnestone Trustees

Update from your Footpath Warden

What a lot of changes have happened in and around the parish, and further afield over the last few years, since the loss of the previous parish newsletter.

2022 was the warmest year on record, despite the 2-week cold snap we had in December, and of course the drought and hosepipe ban means I can't wash my car, well; that's my excuse anyway!

It was really good to see snow drops out, as I walked through All Saints church yard in mid-January, the seemingly very early tap-tap-tapping of woodpeckers nearby, and daffodils popping up here and there; ah spring is nearly here.

Unfortunately, any hope of having the stiles replaced with kissing gates on the footpath from the village hall to Goodnestone, that crosses the Faversham to Whitstable rail line, seem to have faded, as at the time of writing (March 2023), KCC hadn't had any reply from Network Rail to the previous KCCs footpaths officers letter in mid 2022, fortunately the Faversham Footpath Group are also willing to assist as well in pushing for the rectification work to be carried out. I have been in contact with the KCCs new footpaths officer for East Kent who has promised to write again to Network Rail, this footpath obviously links Goodnestone with Graveney, and is popular with all manner of walkers and families, some with children and/or dogs, the two stiles create quite a barrier to enjoyable walking; so the sooner the stiles can be replaced by kissing gates the better for all footpath users.

If any of you are out walking and find a problem with the footpath, let KCC know via their website, www.kent.gov.uk and follow the links from the Environment, Planning and Waste section, which brings up a map of Kent and then you can select the area and defect, or in an emergency give KCC a ring on 03000-41-71-71.

A broken gate is not really classed as an emergency/danger to users, but if you find, for example a bridge, of which there are a total of 4 (all wooden) in our parish, has slats missing or similar, that's the number to ring as bridges with missing slats are classed as an emergency repair for obvious reasons. A year or so ago I reported that one of the two wooden bridges that cross over the stream near Wey Street farm had slats missing, I took a few photographs and contacted KCC; we now have a brand-new wooden bridge. In Broom Street there is a kissing gate with a broken locking mechanism, that I reported to KCC in early 2022, but as it's not an emergency; KCCs limited staff level and budgets mean a delay in rectification.

During Autumn 2022, the map board near All Saints Church, along Odin's path which leads from Seasalter Road to Broom Street, was mindlessly vandalised, which means that the whole parish, and any walkers who are unfamiliar with the area from further afield have been deprived; the parish council now have to spend upwards of £700 to replace it.

For the last few years, Natural England have been busy creating a coastal footpath, around the coast of England, by incorporating existing paths and creating new ones, which when completed, will be over 2,700 miles long around the entire coastline of England, and be the longest managed coastal footpath in the world. This path now incorporates some of the parish's footpaths, those that run from The Sportsman pub, around Nagden Fen, then along the creek to Faversham, and then going out of the parish onwards to Iwade, some 29 miles; so, as the weather improves there's surely no excuse for not getting out and about. Now some 173 miles, about half of Kents coastline, is incorporated into the national coastal path, so look out for the yellow/orange circular signs.



I have been out several times before and since the New Year, walking the paths and tending to the vegetation and undergrowth etc, and to say it's a bit muddy in places is somewhat of an understatement, however one has to bear in mind that now it's March time the birds are nesting; so any more hedge maintenance needs to be carried out minimally and very carefully.

If anyone wishes to help me with footpath maintenance, I'd be most grateful, and I can be contacted via the parish clerk.

Happy walking.

Graveney with Goodnestone Parish Council footpaths warden

Update from your Borough and County Councillors

In view of the imminent local elections the editors have taken the decision not to publish any reports on this occasion but look out for our Councillors' updates in the summer edition of this newsletter.

Editor's Musings

The Roman Religious Sanctuary at 'Blacklands', School Farm, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent

If you are walking into Faversham along the footpath that runs behind (to the north) of School Farm you may notice that on your right there is a wide, theatre-like dip in the field overlooking the spring waters and lake at the bottom of the shallow valley.

In 2007 and 2008 the Kent Archaeological Field School (KAFS) carried out a campaign of investigation by trial trenching and limited open area excavation of this site, which is traditionally called 'Blacklands'. The site had been found by field-walking as part of the Swale Archaeological Survey conducted by the writer in 1995-1999 (Wilkinson, P. 2000).

The results of the KAFS archaeological investigation were spectacular with two buildings and a Roman rural sanctuary theatre investigated out of a potential of ten buildings which had been mapped by a geophysical survey carried out by English Heritage in March 1997.



The two Roman buildings excavated were substantial stone-built structures, both with hypocaust heating, one being embellished with fine pictorial wall plaster and full colour pictorial mosaics. This building overlooked a large depression excavated out of the chalk hillside which on investigation has been identified as a Roman cockpit theatre of a type usually found on rural sanctuary sites in north-west Europe rather than Britain.



The theatre overlooked the large fresh-water springs from which a number of votive offerings have been retrieved; others were retrieved from field-walking on site.

The site also produced evidence of Neolithic use, Bronze and Iron Age occupation. The Roman site seems to have been established in the late 1st century AD and the theatre seems to have gone out of use in the mid 4th century. In the post-Roman period it appears that a large timber hall was built on top of the mosaic floor of the main building and dated by pottery to the late 5th century AD. Anglo-Saxon activity from the 7th century is attested by two burials inserted into the fabric of Building 1. In the 12th and 13th centuries most of the fabric of the Roman buildings was removed, and some of the material used to construct kilns in the field to the north of the Roman site.

The site is considered to be of national importance as it is the only known example in Britain of a Roman rural religious sanctuary with a theatre actually built into the hillside.

And finally.....

Thank you for reading our first newsletter and we hope you have enjoyed it. We aim to publish the Summer edition toward the end of June so will be pleased to receive any contributions in the first couple of weeks of that month.