Graveney with Goodnestone Village Newsletter

February 2018



A note from the editor

With the Cleve Hill Solar development planned on our doorstep it is important that there is good communication in the village and hopefully this newsletter provides a medium to keep villagers updated on local activity.

We rely on volunteers for articles, the editing and distribution, so please get in touch to get involved. In particular volunteers to distribute along Graveney Road and in Graveney village (Culmers Terrace and Goosefields).

Email: graveney.goodnestone.news@gmail.com

Mobile: 07410 500 855

Chris Harding

All Saints' Church

Everyone is welcome to all our services and events

4 February ~ Sunday 10.30 am Holy Communion

6 February ~ Tuesday 2 pm Joe Hubble's funeral

Joe was dearly loved and a greatly respected member of our church and village and a legend in the Black Watch.

11 February ~ Sunday 10.30 am Morning Worship

14 February ~ Ash Wednesday @ St St Barnabas, The Street, Boughton:

10 am	Holy Communion
8 pm	Holy Communion

17 February ~ Saturday 3.30 pm Messy Church in St Barnabas, The Street, Boughton

Messy Church is for all the family to enjoy together

18 February ~ Sunday 10 am Benefice service ~ Holy Communion in St Michael's Church, Hernhill, please park in the Red Lion carpark

25 February ~ Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship	
4 March ~ Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion	
Vicar: The Revd Jean Burrows 01227 751410 - jeanburrows@jeanius.me.uk			
Curate: The Revd Paulette Stubbings (part time) 07713777487 - paulettejstubbings@gmail.com			

Learning and Changing – A Safer Church

Safeguarding is the term given to the action taken by the Church to promote a safer culture for the welfare of children, young people and adults – doing all that can be done to prevent abuse from occurring and to respond well to those that have been abused. The church also has a duty to support those who may themselves be a risk to others, while protecting others from that risk.

It is unlikely you have managed to read the above statement without feeling a sense of anger at the very real failure of the Church in the past to put that into practice properly. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have recognised this failure – and are mindful that the Church should answer for it, not only to people and to human justice, but also to God.

In 2013 they wrote "We cannot overestimate the importance of responding appropriately today. Sadly for many this comes far too late. History cannot be rewritten, but those who still suffer now as a result of abuse in the past deserve this at least, that we hear their voices and take action to ensure that today 's safeguarding policies and systems are as robust as they can be". In the meantime, there is much pain still being felt, and justice-seeking still being done.

In our group of churches; Boughton and Dunkirk, Goodnestone with Graveney and Hernhill, we have been working to ensure that our policies and procedures are clear, comprehensive and that they are properly implemented and reviewed. This means that we take great care when we recruit and train volunteers and that we make sure we know how to respond if anyone raised a concern or suspicion. From time to time there will always be people drawn to churches (as they are to other social organisations) who aim to conceal their dangerous intentions, but we are committed to continually working to ensure that it will be as difficult as possible for such individuals to find their way into positions of responsibility and influence over others.

The Diocese of Canterbury takes Safeguarding very seriously and is rolling out mandatory training for all those who hold positions in our churches. Anyone (whether part of the church or not) can register for the course (CO) Basic Awareness online at https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/ and if you are interested in finding out more about the Church's approach to safeguarding it contains useful information.

If you have any questions, please contact me on 01227 751410.

Revd Jean Burrows ~ Vicar

I also have 2 folding wheelchairs available for short term loan by anyone who needs one.

Human trafficking and modern day slavery - An information and discussion morning

10 February 9.30 for refreshments, 10 am - noon in the Vicarage, 101 The Street,

Human trafficking and modern slavery are thought to be amongst the most widespread crimes in the world, affecting millions of men, women and children each day and it is happening in our country, in our county. We can learn how to spot the signs of modern day slavery and also how to respond, many modern day slaves are in plain sight but feel powerless, they are totally under the control of their 'owners'. Anyone interested in learning more about this topic is very welcome to come along.

Lent lunches in Graveney Church

At 12.30 pm, in aid of Kori, a village we support in Sierra Leonne, and Graveney Church. Friday 23 February through to Friday 23 March inclusive. All are welcome to share a simple meal together.

#Live Lent ~ Let your light shine

This Lent we are following the Church of England's Lent course #Live Lent ~ Let your light shine based on John's gospel. Several groups are meeting within the benefice; the group in Graveney is on Friday mornings in Graveney Church, starting on Friday 23 February for 5 weeks, 10.30 am-noon, led by Jean Burrows. For details of the other groups please phone Jean (01227 751410). All are welcome to attend a Lent group; you don't have to be a worshipper in All Saints Church.

A Thank you

Peter and Gill Reed would like to thank everyone who came to our 'farewell dos', not one but TWO!

What a send-off, we were so touched, not only by the people who had gone to so much effort to arrange the gatherings but also for our wonderful gifts, cards and collection from the Park but also especially for the kindness we were shown. Memories, we will always treasure, along with the time we have spent in Graveney and the special people we have met, many who have become friends.

May God Bless you all, thank you for making our lives and time here so amazing.

Peter & Gill Reed

Parish Council Meeting - December

The following is an edited summary of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 11th December at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Attended by 6 councillors, the Clerk and 7 members of the public.

Declarations of interests:

Councillors requested and were granted dispensations to discuss and vote on the Cleve Hill Solar Park on the grounds that without dispensations the number of members prohibited from participating in the business would be so great a proportion of the council as to impede the transaction of the business. Dispensations will be in place for two years.

Matters Arising:

A letter to Kent County Council ("KCC") regarding traffic calming will be drafted by the clerk.

The contractor has been informed of further bus shelter work required.

Swale Borough Council ("SBC") are not able to get the dog bin any cheaper but have been informed of the location. The type of fixings required depends on what ground the bin is to be installed in.

An article was put in newsletter regarding KALC Community Awards.

A response was sent regarding SBC Statement of Community Involvement.

A letter to the housing association regarding parking at All Saints' view has not yet been sent. The clerk to send letter.

A letter to the school, suggesting it could put up signs to discourage parking outside has not been sent either. Councillor Lound has found some information about a useful website which can help with signs, monitoring and general parking problems. It was agreed to include details in the letter to the school. The clerk will write to the school.

Crime Report:

The crime report is still not available from the website but more crimes are being reported through Neighbourhood Watch.

Cleve Hill Solar Park:

Consultation meetings have taken place as part of Phase 1. Consultation forms have been distributed but the deadline for return is quite short. Impact studies will be done by groups such as the RSPB and Kent Wildlife Trust, and also SBC and KCC with involvement from the Parish Council ("PC"). The PC needs

to reflect public opinion. Emails received so far have been opposing the development, as are Helen Whately MP's views. The PC has issued a press release and created an information page on the website. The meeting adjourned for a public session for councillors to gauge public opinion before making a decision on a course of action. Members of the public raised questions over who owns the land, how much account is taken of the environmental impact, what traffic arrangements will be put in place, the motivation behind the scheme, the sea defences, the possible financial benefit to the community and the possibility of the energy generated being surplus to requirements. Councillors raised concerns over the lack of specific information, the sometimes conflicting information and the perception that the decision has already been made. It was noted that the PC is heavily regulated by statute and a working party would have more flexibility and power. It was agreed to do a land registry search for the title, plan and lease if necessary, at a maximum cost of £9. Councillor Wilkinson to do search. It was agreed that the current stance of the PC was one of opposition to the proposals as they stand at the moment, but that the PC wished to canvass further public opinion. It was agreed to write to all residents, using the newsletter distribution network, explaining the PC's stance and inviting those interested in forming a working party to contact the clerk. Clerk and Councillor Stewart to draft letter. circulate to councillors and organise distribution.

Low Bridge Sign:

It was agreed to install a low bridge sign at the junction of Whitstable Road and Head Hill Road at a cost of £369, but to write to Network Rail requesting funding.

Street Lighting:

The article was put in the newsletter and one email had been received in opposition to removing the lights. Councillor Lound had also spoken to several residents who wished to keep the lights. An email had been received from Streetlights detailing some difficulties in doing the required work. It was agreed to request advice from Streetlights. Clerk to contact Streetlights. It was agreed to keep all the lights in the village, on the understanding that the precept may need to be raised, but to request funding from the Graveney and Goodnestone Trust.

Village Sign:

Installation costs have been requested but not yet received.

Training:

It was agreed to pay for training for the clerk on the GDPR at a maximum cost of £20 plus VAT.

Insurance:

It was agreed to accept the recommended quote from AXA Inspire and to enter into a Long Term Agreement for three years, at 5% discount.

Kent Police Crime Commissioner Survey:

It was agreed that councillors would submit responses individually.

Correspondence:

An email had been received regarding vandalism.

PKF Littlejohn has been appointed as the external auditor.

Details of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy were requested.

An application to become a councillor had been received. It was agreed to ask the applicant to meet with Councillor Stewart and one other councillor first, to explain the commitment and requirements.

Finance:

The Financial Statement and Bank Reconciliation were provided to Councillors. A number of small payments were approved.

Planning:

Poplar Hall, Head Hill Road. Request to fell one horse chestnut tree in a conservation area. It was agreed to comment with no objection.

1 Langdon Court Cottages, Head Hill Road. Retrospective application to extend agricultural land for the purpose of vehicle parking, it was agreed to comment with no objection.

Graveney & Goodnestone Trust:

No meeting has been held in December. A beneficiary of the Trust wishes to speak at the next meeting.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Boggia: Rev. Gill Reed has retired from post and will be sorely missed. Residents have raised concerns about the future of the bus route but this is not yet out to consultation. Councillor Lound: The Neighbourhood Watch Warden would like to put up some CCTV signs in the village. A Neighbourhood Watch Warden sign is missing.

Any Other Business:

More information was requested on the potential lorry park in Graveney but no information was available.

Parish Council Meeting - January

The following is an edited summary of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 8th January at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Attended by 6 councillors, George Bobbin (Borough Councillor) the Clerk and 4 members of the public.

Matters Arising:

A letter to Kent County Council ("KCC") regarding traffic calming still needs to be sent.

The ground for the Nagden dog bin still needs to be checked.

Sign design for the low bridge sign is ongoing.

Trust funding for street lighting can be applied for but is not guaranteed.

Insurance has been renewed.

Details of the bus route consultation provided on village Facebook page.

A new Neighbourhood Watch sign has been requested.

Councillor Boggia has written to Helen Whately MP about the lorry park.

Crime Report:

There are still no details visible on the website. The police representative normally provides an update at the Faversham Engagement Forum.

Casual Vacancy:

The interested party was asked to contact Councillor Stewart for more details and an informal meeting, but has not done so. It was agreed to put posters advertising the vacancy on the noticeboard.

Cleve Hill Solar Park:

The letter inviting residents to form a working party was distributed, although a little later than intended. The land registry search identified the owner and that Hive Energy have an option to either buy or lease the land. The meeting adjourned for a public session for councillors to hear public opinion. Members of the public raised concerns over the tight deadline for the consultation and its fairness and transparency, the impact on the local population not being sufficiently considered, safety concerns, the lack of studies undertaken on projects of a similar size and the inevitability of the development. Councillors felt it important to achieve the best possible result for the village. A number of residents have expressed an interest in being part of the working party. It was agreed to email those interested and assist with arranging a meeting, which can then be publicised on the village Facebook page. It was also agreed to invite representatives from neighbouring parishes, including Seasalter, Hernhill, Dunkirk and Leysdown. Clerk to email interested parties and arrange meeting.

The current requirement is to respond regarding what nature the future consultation should take. A response to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the Scoping Report was agreed, covering the issues the Parish Council would like input into. Clerk to respond to Planning Inspectorate.

Furley Page Agreement:

Cllr Wilkinson left the room for this item. It was agreed to engage Furley Page solicitors for general advice, limited at present to the land registry search, with no further costs agreed.

Street Lighting:

The safety works on lanterns 2, 3 and 5 have been carried out and it was agreed to do the Category 1 safety works required on three other lanterns, at a cost of £1367. Two lanterns were thought to be redundant and it was agreed to investigate the cost of having them switched off and removed. Clerk to request works on three lanterns and ask regarding switch off and removal fees.

Village Sign:

The company has been on holiday so no update was available.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service Safety and Well-Being Plan Consultation:

It was agreed that Councillor Stewart would respond on behalf of the council.

Transparency Fund:

This is the last year the fund is available. It was agreed to apply for two extra staff hours per month for 2017-18.

Correspondence:

Councillor Stewart will attend the Rural Crime training and the coffee morning for Parish Councils

Councillor Boggia is unable to attend the Faversham and District Engagement Forum.

Councillor Stewart has responded to a survey about second homes.

Finance:

Councillor Stewart gave details of the proposed budget: The clerk's salary includes an extra two hours a month which will be funded by the Transparency Fund application; the lighting repairs are set at £5,000 for 2018/19 on the basis of replacing 10 lanterns plus gear over the next two years, at approximately £1000 per lantern; subscriptions include KALC and ACRK; training covers four courses; the increase in insurance is due to the new sign; S137 covers donations to the Kent Air Ambulance and the Citizens' Advice Bureau. The proposed budget of £12,630 was agreed. It was agreed to set the precept at £10,000, with the shortfall to be taken out of reserves, in order to minimise the increase in council tax for residents.

The Financial Statement and Bank Reconciliation were provided to Councillors. A number of small payments were approved.

Planning:

Land at Cleve Hill. Installation of a bird watching/monitoring hide, it was agreed to comment with no objection.

School Farm Oast, Graveney Road. Demolition of existing domestic shed and replace with a new outbuilding consisting of garage/garden store with hobby room/games room above. It was agreed to comment with no objection but with the proviso that the building should be for the sole use of the owner of School Farm Oast and it should not be separately rented or used for residential purposes.

Graveney & Goodnestone Trust:

Nothing to report

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Boggia: Suggested writing to the Village Hall committee about the lack of heating in the hall. Meetings regarding the bus service have taken place. The Freewheel will only be open from Thursdays to Sundays over the winter.

Councillor Lound: commented on the current road closure of Graveney Road.

Reports from Borough and County Councillors:

Cllr Bobbin suggested applying for further funding under the members' grant. It was agreed to apply for funding to cover the extra work required to the bus shelter.

Any Other Business:

The fire hydrant warden is conducting checks in accordance with guidance from KALC and KFRS.

Next Meeting:

There is no meeting in February. The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th March 2018 at 7.30pm.

Graveney Art Group

First and Third Monday of each month, 10:00am until 12:00 noon. Back at the Freewheel Pub, until further notice. Refreshments and good company. All for £4.00 per morning. If you wish to know more contact:

Val

07866 984 678

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Mobile: 07810351079

A Message from your County Councillor

Many of you will know the Christmas break started a week early for me this year as I went into hospital on the 14th December for knee replacement surgery. Despite increasing difficulty in walking the first half of December was as busy as My diary included both Cabinet and Full Council usual. meetings at Swale, Parish Council meetings at both Tunstall and Teynham and a meeting with Kent County Council Officers and Bredgar Parish Councillors to discuss reducing speed limits within the village of Bredgar. I also attended a presentation on the proposed Solar Park at Nagden and Cleve Marshes held in Graveney Village Hall. Following that presentation Helen Whately MP and I hosted a drop-in session with residents at the Free Wheel Public House to listen to their concerns on the Solar Park proposals and indeed on any other matters. This proved very popular and we had a chance to discuss these issues face to face with many residents.

I also chaired meetings concerning the Faversham Hop Festival and Sittingbourne Town Centre Regeneration. The day before going into Hospital I travelled to London for a meeting of the District Councils Network National Executive getting back to Sittingbourne just in time for Full Council.

Since coming out of Hospital, whilst not driving or attending meetings I have dealt with numerous local issues for both Parish Councils and individual residents by means of email and phone calls to Officers.

It has also given me time to reflect back on 2017 and forward to 2018. The last year has seen the vote in favour of "Brexit",

a resounding Conservative victory in the Kent County Council Elections and the unexpected General Election with its far from clear result leaving a Conservative Government without a clear majority. 2018 should be election free, fingers crossed, unless of course you are a resident of Maidstone Borough Council reading this which still elects its Borough Council by thirds.

Work will hopefully progress on seeing acceptable terms agreed to exit the European Union. If not achieved I believe we should just leave, no deal being better than accepting a poor deal. Locally the regeneration of Sittingbourne Town Centre will continue to move forward. I personally cannot wait to start attending the new Multi-Screen Cinema which should soon start to rise before our very eyes.

Just to prove a local politician's life is not an easy one I shall be grappling with two major local issues. I always describe myself as one who was an Environmentalist before I ever became a Party Politician. Green Energy to me should always be preferential to relying on Carbon Fuels or Nuclear. However, the scale of the development proposed at Cleve and Nagden Marshes, referred to above, in the village in which I grew up is stunning. Not surprisingly those who will live adjacent to the proposed Solar Park are prominent amongst those urging me to oppose but they are joined by many others who value the unique landscape. This decision will be made at Government level but I will seek to ensure all opinions are fully heard.

Since 1990 I have campaigned to secure another link between the A2 and M2 East of Sittingbourne and West of Faversham, initially to relieve congestion in Ospringe, Teynham, Lynsted,

Bapchild etc. This has become ever more critical as we more fully understand the life-threatening effects of air pollution often associated with motor vehicles. As readers will know a developer has put forward a proposal which will provide such a link roughly between Bapchild on the A2 and adjacent to Kent Science Park on the M2. The downside of these proposals is the figure of 11.000 houses to be constructed to fund the infrastructure, not just the road but also new Secondary and Primary Schools, etc. However, I believe we are already being asked to build too many houses. With the Government insisting on a review of our recently approved Local Plan by 2022, including the suggestion that the revised method of assessing housing need would result in a 36% increase in the number of houses to be built annually, all your local representatives will have to wrestle with the equation of either just saying no to Central Government and accepting the fact that they have the ability to take over our planning function and take these decisions centrally or to accept the extra housing and seek to ensure it is built in the place that will give local residents most advantage. Although we do not yet have a planning application we do have an Environmental Impact search. This means that the debate has already restarted. Not surprisingly I am being lobbied by residents of Rodmersham, Bredgar etc. opposed to the scheme in its entirety. I am also being contacted by residents of those villages along the A2 East of Sittingbourne and by residents of Sittingbourne itself who are broadly in favour of the scheme. As I say, a local Politicians life is never easy.

Andrew Bowles

A guide to recycling in Swale:

Below is a useful list of what can and can't be recycled under the Swale Borough Council Recycling scheme i.e. this is what can be placed in your BLUE Bin:

The plastics we can recycle are:

Plastic bottles: Drinks bottles including plastic milk bottles

Tetrapak: Fruit juice cartons, milk cartons, some soup cartons

Plastic food trays: Meat trays etc., including black plastic trays

Plastic cleaning bottles: Fabric conditioner bottles, Kitchen/bathroom cleaner bottles, Bleach bottles, shampoo and conditioner bottles, shower gel bottles

Plastic margarine tubs and yoghurt pots.

Plastic fruit punnets

Plastics we cannot recycle are:

Plastic film i.e. film over microwaveable plastic trays and film over fruit punnets

Carrier bags

Hard plastics i.e. toys

Plastic flower pots

Village Hall Events and Notices

Wednesday Club

Meet fortnightly on Wednesdays, 2:00pm at the Village Hall. Tea, cake, bingo and chat. Subs 50 pence

Contacts:

Penny Foster Trish Timms 01795 538732 07926 351628



Thought of the Month

LIFE is a journey, not a destination.

Happiness is not 'there' but here; not tomorrow, but today.

Sydney Greenberg

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Peter Chambers. 07837 809608 Pjchambers48@gmail.com

Woman's Institute

We meet in the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Visitors always very welcome to attend. For further information contact:

Teresa Bowles on 07966 299648 or e-mail teresa.bowles22@btinternet.com Or Sue Wraight on 01227 751361

Xmas Quiz

Well done to anyone who got all 10! Some were tricky.

- How many birds are in the 12 Days of Christmas carol?
 184 (Day 1 a partridge =1, Day 2 two turtle doves and a partridge =3 and so on)
- 2. Which one of Santa's reindeer is famous for spreading love and festive cheer? **Cupid**
- It is technically illegal to eat what festive food on Christmas day? Mince Pie, this dates back to when Oliver Cromwell tried to ban gluttony
- 4. In feet what is the tallest snowman ever built?
 a. 96ft, b.102ft, c.113ft or d. 121ft? c. 113ft, the largest snowwoman stands even taller at 122ft!
- 5. What is the most commonly eaten food on Christmas day in Japan? Kentucky Fried Chicken!
- 6. Which short film debuted on Boxing Day 1982? The Snowman
- Which country is St. Nicholas originally from? Born in Patara and then became Bishop of Myra both in Turkey
- 8. Douglas, Fraser and Noble are all types of what? Fir Tree
- 9. What is a baby reindeer called? Calf
- 10. In what book is it 'always winter but never Christmas'? The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe





Neighbourhood Watch

Please be safe:

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR HOME UNLOCKED WHILE YOU ARE AWAY OR AT NIGHT

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR WINDOWS OPEN WHILE YOU ARE AWAY OR AT NIGHT

DO NOT LEAVE OUTBUILDINGS UNLOCKED

DO NOT LEAVE TOOLS OR MACHINERY IN PLAIN SIGHT

REPORT ALL INSTANCES TO THE POLICE

Use 999 if it is urgent or 101 if it is after the fact

After you have reported it to the police, notify Neighbourhood Watch - Mr. Kevin Castle

Contact: 07749 736669 - kevincastle@btinternet.com

Fire Hydrant Warden

The parish now has a fire hydrant warden, whose duty is to inspect and ensure that all hydrants are clearly accessible and identified on the road by a yellow H and arrow; and to report to Kent Fire and Rescue (KFRS) any hydrants or access problems that might require any further attention.

All hydrants in the parish have been inspected in January 2018, with very few needing any kind of remedial action by KFRS.

Contacts of Local Representatives

Parish Councillors:

Clare Boggia, details to be updated.

Teresa Bowles

07966 299 648

Faversham without Ward Catherine Wilkinson

Roger Mitchell (Vice-Chairman)

Goodnestone Ward

Graveney Ward

Lesley Lound

01795 591 731

01795 532 372

01795 533 205 07933 350 999

Clerk to the Council: Bex Ratchford

Alan Stewart (Chairman)

clerkggpc@gmail.com

Parish Website:

www.graveneywithgoodnestonepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/

Borough and County Councillor: Andrew Bowles	01227 752 840
Borough Councillor: George Bobbin	01227 751 388
MP: Helen Whately	0207 219 6472

Village Notice Boards

We now have two sets of keys for the village notice boards. If you wish to put up a notice please contact:

Carol Mitchell

01795 532 372

Penny Foster

01795 538 732

Articles for this Newsletter

For any comments, corrections and contributions please email: graveney.goodnestone.news@gmail.com

Please ensure all submissions are made by the 20th of each month to ensure inclusion in the following months' edition.

Please also get in contact if you would also like to receive a pdf of the newsletter via email every month. Versions of current and prior editions are available on the Parish website:

www.graveneywithgoodnestonepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/

If you are missing a copy, please email, alternatively spare copies are available at All Saints Church, The Freewheel Pub and Mallards Farm Shop.

Adverts are welcome at a cost of £2 per half page. Please get in contact via the above email or on 07410 500 855, to discuss placing an ad.