



Graveney with Goodnestone Village Newsletter Summer 2023

Welcome!

Welcome to the second edition of the re-launched Parish newsletter.

Following feedback, we have reduced the size of the printed version to A5, but we hope this will not detract from your enjoyment of the newsletter. Please do let us know if you are happy to access it online only so that we can continue to gauge (and hopefully reduce) the number of paper copies required. For now, please email info@swatarchaeology.co.uk to let us know but eventually we will be publishing a dedicated email address for the newsletter.

The **deadline for contributions to the autumn edition will be 3rd November 2023**. Please email all submissions to the above email address.

Since the publication of the previous edition the village has celebrated Coronation Day and it was wonderful to see about 75-80 villagers at the lighting of the beacon in celebration of the occasion. Drinks and light refreshments were provided by the Parish Council and were enjoyed by all. Stephen Wraight made the beacon for the village to celebrate the Queens platinum jubilee and little did we know we would be using it again so soon. Thanks to Ben Bowles and Stephen Wraight for setting it up for all to enjoy.





GRAVENEY
CORONATION
FETE
MAY 2023

The judges were
Gwen Bower,
Wendy Pryke, Ann
Jones and Marie
King



Thank you to all the children
who submitted some
wonderful paintings for the
judges to choose from. Book
vouchers were given to the
winners.

CHSP donated two wonderful
hampers to the raffle.
Jackie Peckham (L) was one
of the lucky recipients



All Saints' Church

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

We remain committed to offering services every week at 10:30 on Sundays, when everyone is welcome.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Is there anyone in Graveney and Goodnestone who would have a little time to volunteer to open the church and welcome visitors on Wednesdays or Saturdays through the summer, if you are interested, please call Teresa on: 07966 299 648.

Report from Janet Turner, Parish Secretary

I am happy to say that as a result of the wonderful support All Saints Church has received from the Goodnestone and Graveney Trust, The Friends of All Saints, and generous donors who wish to remain anonymous, we have been able to complete all the necessary work to the structure of the church. Our builders worked throughout the winter months, restoring the porch, repainting and restoring iron and stonework and securing the lychgate by replacing large oak timbers. They were able to save money by supporting the lychgate roof with props so that the tiles did not have to be removed. We have yet to receive the final bills, but we are optimistic that the building is now sound and secure and that all can be paid for! I would like to thank our builders, Colmans and Andrew Clague, a distinguished church architect, for their support throughout the project.

We have, however, encountered a separate problem. We have survived a winter, opening the church every week, without having any heating! Our gas boiler is deemed too old to be repaired and the Diocese of Canterbury has determined that we can only install green energy, the cost of which is going to be much higher than just replacing the boiler. It remains, of course, our intention to keep the church open as much as possible, not just for services but for events to which the whole community can be invited but I think it is fair to say that few would have wanted to share with us the shivering we have endured over the winter months! It is our hope that we may be able to reach out for advice, finance, and perhaps practical support from the developers of the solar farm. Grade 1 listed buildings such as All Saints Church normally have their surroundings protected and yet the solar farm is going to change the environs of both village and church significantly. We must endeavour to be a resource for the village that is both welcoming and warm - in reality as well as spirit.

It has been wonderful to engage with members of the wider community and I would like to offer special thanks to members of the WI who provided a stunning flower show last year. Their arrangements featured a diversity of places around the UK that had special resonance for their designers. The WI helped us, in addition, in many other ways, with Clare Boggia proving a stalwart at the tea counter. Together with the Friends of the Church, who worked tirelessly on this year's visit of the buses and some treasured older cars, we were helped to ensure that the church remains a lively part of the community. Our thanks also to members of the Parish Council who have worked tirelessly on our behalf.

We have very good news. After almost two years of searching, we have finally been able to appoint a new priest to the Benefice. She will again be responsible for the churches of Boughton, Hernhill and Graveney. She is a delightful young woman, with a smile that lights up a room, who has been working in the Maidstone area. Her name is Cathrine Ngangira and we are looking forward to her Licensing later in the summer. We are confident that she is going to become a much-loved member of the community and we look forward to inviting the village to join us in welcoming her to what will be her first post as Priest in Charge.



Image courtesy of Kent Archaeological Society

All Saints PCC activities

Thank you for the beautiful squares and knitted blankets sent for the village of Taiama in Sierra Leone. They will be loaded into a container, and shipped later this month. We are also sending chairs and tables for the new classroom.

I know this is a bit early! But All Saints works with a National Charity sending Christmas shoe boxes to Middle Europe and Africa. You are asked to cover the shoe box with Christmas paper. They are sent for babies, young children, teenagers, adults and the elderly. We receive leaflets later in the year with full instructions. Some people like to begin collecting items suitable for their chosen box early in the year. These include soap, flannel, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pencils, notebooks, toys, socks, pants, gloves, scarves, hats also small packets of dated sweets. No chocolate please. If you are not able to manage a box, we accept loose items which can be fitted into other boxes.

Thank you. Brenda Tumber: 01227 276227

Parish Council News

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



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

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

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

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.

Agendas and minutes of the Parish Council Meetings are published on the Parish Council website but there will always be a month's delay in publishing the minutes (two months in the case of our January and July meetings) as the minutes have to be approved at a formal meeting before they are signed off for publication. We summarise below the matters discussed at the two most recent meetings for which minutes have been published:

MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2023

Councillors Present: Cllr Mike Newman (Chair), Cllr Alan Stewart, Cllr Lesley Lound, Cllr Catherine Wilkinson, Cllr Teresa Bowles, Cllr Clare Boggia and Cllr Tom King. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Councillor Alistair Gould (SBC), Footpath Warden and Cllr Rich Lehmann (KCC and SBC). Eleven members of the public in attendance

Summary of matters discussed:

Planning

No applications received since the last meeting:

Village updates

Cleve Hill Solar Park development update.

Cllr Mike Newman informed the Parish Council that a meeting was held at 6:30pm on 12th June with a CHSP representative, Reece Monk. Material items were discussed, namely vibration and condition surveys.

Cllr Alan Stewart informed the parish council that Cleve Hill now have their planning permission for a marshall yard, with 20 conditions. Working hours are confirmed to be 7am to 5pm as well as an hour before and an hour after this time. Every lorry will have a tracker in place. Temporary consent will be for 5 years or less.

A meeting with Kent Fire Rescue is to be held on Wednesday also which Cllr Alan Stewart will attend with David Melville relating to the safety of the Battery Storage.

Faversham Waste Recycling Centre – Closure.

There has been a public meeting held which has resulted in the creation of a working group to oppose the closure. Cllr Rich Lehmann (KCC & SBC) and Anthony Hook suggested that a petition using change.org be generated which all would need to sign to assist the opposition of the closure. If closure takes place Sittingbourne and Canterbury tips will be the nearest available. Booking of appointments were used during Covid and believed that this will be kept in place to monitor usage however, it is believed many would not use because of this. Most other tips have removed the booking system. There are concerns that waste will go to different places and may reduce recycling. The closure will also encourage further travel increasing pollution along with the risk of further fly tipping.

Skylark Kent – Update and Discussion.

Cllr Mike Newman informed the Parish Council that there was a presentation held in Graveney Village Hall regarding the Skylark Kent Project. To date no proposal has been put forward however, the Parish Council will respond to the proposal when it has been passed. The meeting was then adjourned to allow discussion with members of the public.

Matters arising.

Cllr Clare Boggia confirmed that we wish to go ahead with a Speedwatch survey and highlighted that we need volunteers in order to make this viable.

Cllr Clare Boggia also informed the parish council that a skip lorry survey would need to take place again.

Any other business.

Cllr Teresa Bowles suggested to the parish council that a Summer Fete be held next year with some involvement from the School and Church, it was agreed that this would be desirable and further discussion was needed.

Finance

a. Financial Statement and bank reconciliation – Approved and signed by Cllr Mike Newman.

b. Payments:

i. SSE Footway Lighting June (for info only – paid by D/D)

ii. Clerk Salary payment (for info only – paid by D/D).,

iii. Clerk quarterly cheque for Standing Order difference - £113.28.

iv. KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils) – Invoice 6696030899 - £60 for Councillor Training.

v. KALC – Invoice 6705221749 - £48 for Councillor Training.

vi. Vision ICT – Invoice 16562 - £43.20.

MEETING HELD ON 15TH MAY 2023

Councillors Present: Cllr Clare Boggia (chair), Cllr Alan Stewart, Cllr Lesley Lound, Cllr Catherine Wilkinson, Cllr Teresa Bowles, Cllr Mike Newman, Cllr Tom King. **Apologies for Absence** received from Councillor Alistair Gould and Cllr Rich Lehmann. The clerk was unable to attend and agreed brief notes be taken by the Chairman. One member of the public in attendance.

Summary of matters discussed:

Planning

No applications received since the previous meeting.

Village Updates

Cleve Hill Solar Park development update.

Cllr Stewart read out a report on behalf of GREAT. Key points were that they would be actively monitoring lorry movements. There is a meeting on 14th June with Kent Fire and Rescue to discuss the ongoing issues of safe battery storage. It was already noted that as well as verges being pushed back significantly the state of the road at the top of Head Hill was poor. It was also noted that in an article in The Times newspaper that the Green party were continuing to express concern over versatile /best land being used for solar parks.

Update from Community/Voice Group.

Cllr Stewart reported that he had met with the group and discussed the various projects with them, looking at analysing and ranking potential projects and setting priorities.

Village Hall Update.

The council appreciated all the work put into various updates recently undertaken by voluntary individuals.

Crime Report/NHW Update.

Cllr Clare Boggia informed the Parish Council that figures were average and in comparison to other areas of Swale we have low crime rates.

Graveney and Goodnestone Trust.

Future meetings on 6th June, 5th September and 5th December. Mr Roger Mitchell still chair of the group

Finance

a. Financial Statement and bank reconciliation – this was approved and signed by the Chairman.

b. Payments:

ii. SSE Footway Lighting April (for info only – paid by D/D)

ii. Clerk Salary payment (for info only – paid by D/D)

iii. Street Lights Invoice 13635 – 1 of 4 - £153.14 .

iv. Graveney and Goodnestone Village Hall – Meeting hire fee of £261.

v. Clare Boggia – Village Enhancements £199 (previously paid for from Graveney and Goodnestone Trust Fund).

vi. Cheque made out after proposed by Cllr Stewart and seconded by Cllr Wilkinson to Teresa Bowles for £170.36 as payment for the coronation celebration (previously agreed at a Parish Council meeting up to £200).

DEFIBRILLATOR NEWS (bears repeating)!



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

News from GREAT - Graveney Rural Environment Action Team

Reflecting on GREAT's campaigning over the last five and a half years, we came across this reference in the National Planning Inspectorate Minutes, April 2018:

"GREAT was noted (by the Developers) to be opposed to the Proposed Development and the Applicant is continuing dialogue with this group. Some issues raised at these meetings include community benefits and enhanced rights of way. "

It is probable that we finish where we started!

Since May 2020, when the planning application was accepted and the Development Consent Order granted, things have moved on and seeing the Cleve Hill Solar Park being built, and community benefits still on the agenda with the developer, we are now focussing our efforts to ensure that the 700 MW battery storage facility (BESS) is the safest it can possibly be for our communities and the wider area. To this end, representatives from GREAT, the Parish Council and Sir David Melville met in June with Matt Deadman, Assistant Director of Kent Fire and Rescue Services (KFRS). He is responsible for the management and improvement of the service's operational performance to enable KFRS to deliver the best operational response.

Sir David represents the Faversham Society and is a nationally recognised expert on battery science and safety.

We had confirmation that Kent Fire & Rescue Service :

- Are familiar with the CHSP site and had already carried out an on-site visit.
- Are ready to engage with CHSP but have not been consulted yet. Swale Borough Council made it a requirement that CHSP discussed the BESS proposal at least 21 days prior to submitting their draft plan.
- Have wide ranging links with Government and other agencies.
- Have good access to relevant information both nationally and globally.
- Work with the Government Net Zero Department regarding BESS.
- Once the BESS facility is completed, will have emergency plans in place through the Local Resilience Forum, so they can react quickly along with other agencies if a problem arises.
- ***Most importantly, they were involved in the consultation for the draft of The National Fire Chiefs Council BESS Rescue Service Guidelines – which will hopefully be adopted soon.***
- KFRS will be looking at wide ranging issues, including the design, access, quality, water supply, etc...

In the meantime, planning permission for the HGV holding area on Staple Street Road was approved by Swale Borough Council on 5th June, subject to a number of pre-start and decommissioning conditions. Once the pre-start conditions have been satisfied, they estimate it will take 6 weeks to get the site operational. Once operational, there will be no further need

for HGVs to be escorted through the village as they will be fitted with individual trackers before leaving the holding area.

A temporary mandatory 30mph speed restriction is being introduced on the following roads from 10 July 2023:

- Whitstable Road – from the A299 slip road for approximately 390m
- Staple Street Road – from the Head Hill Road / Whitstable Road junction to the Staple Street Road junction
- Head Hill Road – from the Staple Street / Whitstable Road crossroads for approximately 135m to the existing 30mph sign

These restrictions will be in place for the duration of the holding area on Staple Street Road (or a maximum of 5 years), and ensures safety of other vehicles while HGVs are entering / exiting the area.

A decision has been made to use screw-piling over 85% of the site to install the solar panel structures. This is a much quieter method than driven piles.

We continue to attend the fortnightly Road Traffic Management Meetings with the Developer. A number of key issues were raised recently including:

- Concerns about the poor state of the road at the Head Hill Road / Graveney Road junction. This has been referred to Amey who will be responsible for making the necessary repairs.
- Damage to properties caused by the vibration of the HGVs, particularly when they are in convoy, has been highlighted several times. We are expecting an update shortly on the Developer's plans to address this.
- Highlighting reports of aggregate material being dropped on to the road by the HGVs. This has now been addressed.
- Highlighting that the requirement to suspend HGV traffic during school times (08:30 - 09:30 and 15:00 - 16:00) was consistently being breached. Following an investigation, it was identified that the HGVs were working to the new school times, even though they were not coming into force until September. This has now been addressed.
- Highlighting that the requirement for a maximum of 80 HGV movements per day had been breached on a number of occasions. This has been reviewed and addressed.

We ask all villagers to notify us if they believe there have been further breaches so they can be addressed by the Developer. You can do this via the GREAT Facebook, or email enquiries@savegraveneymarshes.org. Please include the date, time, vehicle number plate (if possible) and details of the perceived breach.

Graveney and District Women's Institute



GRAVENEY AND DISTRICT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

This group meets at the village hall on the second Wednesday in the month at 7pm in winter months (October – March) at 7.30pm in remainder of the year. Contact number 07966299648

President Teresa Bowles Treasurer Ailien Meyer Secretary Clare Boggia

All welcome!

The past few months have been busy and members enjoying various outings. As is usual for the June meeting we go on an outing and this year went to Igtham Mote, the weather was kind and members enjoyed going around the house and wonderful gardens. Some of the members posing in the sun!



Each year we have a fun car treasure hunt and this year was no exception with Sue Wraight and Jackie Peckham organising the route and cars all finishing at the Alma in Painters Forstal for supper.

Looking forward members have a mini garden party with strawberry tea on Wednesday August 16th in the afternoon. Anyone wishing to come please contact Teresa Bowles. Monies raised from this will go to charity.

The regular meetings resume in September at the hall and speakers for the next couple of months are listed below.

Wednesday September 13th

Meeting at 7.30pm at the village hall. Commonwealth War Graves Commission representative talking about the Architecture and Conservation of Commonwealth War Graves.

Tuesday September 19th



Tour is 1 -4pm. Afternoon Trip on boat on River Medway to include guided tour of Allington Castle (not open to the public) tea and cake. £35 (may be less if we get enough people)

Wednesday 11th October

Meeting at 7pm at the village hall. Vanessa Culliford giving a talk and demonstration with audience participation on Belly Dancing



If there is anyone in the village who is prepared to do a talk to the group about a hobby or interest, then please do let the secretary know as we are planning our programme for 2023 now.

Lastly advance notice, Graveney and District WI are hosting the Christmas bazaar, to be held at All Saints Church on Saturday 25th November, 10 – 3.30. We would be delighted to hear from anyone prepared to have a stall or help with providing cakes or savouries for the refreshment stall or help on the day. Please text or phone 07912038891 for further information. Money goes to local groups.



Village Hall Update

The Trustees are pleased to report that the village hall continues to be improved and has received many good compliments. Hirings have increased since these improvements that shows all the efforts have been worthwhile, not only of the trustee's time but the many sponsors that have financially supported the Village Hall charity.

The trustees are currently exploring ways to benefit from Gift aid tax relief on donations. This would allow an extra 25p per £1 on donated funds to be collected. If this is approved and any resident would like to make a donation, then please do make contact. The charity cannot continually ask sponsors for help without showing support from the residents.

Recent improvements have been the installation of fencing to the Eastern car park boundary and some distance beyond the field gate. The exercise equipment installed earlier this year has been well received and is helping those keen to exercise but with-out the fuss of joining a gym.

Two traditional park benches have been purchased with the help of the Kent Community Foundation which is the second time they have sponsored the village hall charity. The balance will be met by the Village Hall Charity. These will be installed very soon.

The grounds and car park are maintained as best as possible but the Trustees would appreciate help with these tasks. Please contact the Trustees if you feel able to help.

BINGO: The Trustees invite residents to a fortnightly bingo afternoon and provide teas, biscuits and good company. Please contact Elaine 07922461543 for more details.

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



Update from your Borough and County Councillors

In a break from tradition, I'm going to deviate from my usual county councillor column this month and write a single column as a combined borough and county councillor or 'twin hatter' (the description used in political circles). Normal service will be resumed next month.

First of all, I'd like to say a huge thank you to the residents of Boughton and Courtenay for putting your faith in me and electing me to represent you at Swale Borough Council for the next four years.

As you may be aware, shortly after the elections I was elected to be the Chair of Swale Borough Council's Environment Committee, a role which not only covers climate change and other 'green' issues, but also takes in everything from bin collections and churchyards to fly tipping and stray dogs, (and a great deal more).

After an intense first few weeks of getting to grips with the dual roles, my workload is finally beginning to settle into a routine and I'm looking forward to the coming years. I've found the culture at Swale Borough Council to be significantly more open and accessible than it is at Kent County Council. Senior officers are far easier to contact and more forthcoming with responses to questions and enquiries.

In the interest of balance, I should mention that there are a number of factors which may have contributed to this difference in culture. When I started at KCC in May 2021, we were only just coming out of the last Covid lockdown, masks were still commonplace and the induction day at County Hall still involved a fair amount of social distancing. The first two KCC full council meetings of the new council took place at Mote Park sports centre because the council chamber at County Hall was too small to allow councillors and staff to remain safely distanced from each other.

In addition to this, in May 2021 I was entirely new to politics. I think it's safe to say I've learned more over the past two years than at any point since my mid-teens, and although I still have plenty to learn, I now know how best to get the information I need to carry out my role effectively. I have some big plans for the coming years. The biggest challenge will be finding ways to carry them out whilst working with the exceptionally tight budgets we have available.

Faversham Household Waste Recycling Centre (Tip)

Kent County Council will be launching a consultation in mid-July to look at options relating to the Household Waste Recycling Centres across the county. Unfortunately for Faversham and Swale East, the Faversham site is currently lined up for closure in all of the very limited set of 'options' they have proposed. My colleague Mark Hood is on a working group at KCC which has been tasked with writing the consultation document. There is cross party consensus that a significant volume of additional information needs to be made public for the consultation to be meaningful. The cabinet member for Environment at KCC has said that she would be open to alternative suggestions, but the lack of information given currently means any alternatives put forward would be largely based on guesswork.

Rich Lehmann

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Editor's Musings

I planned to make redcurrant jelly a few weeks ago only to find the birds had taken most of them from one day to the next. But what can you expect when the currants are growing right next to the bird table? Then I realised that they had not spotted the white currants so, with a reasonable bowlful of those and a small handful of reds I managed to produce a couple of little jars. Not a great deal to show for the harvest but better than nothing and as the method is so simple it definitely felt worth it. The currants are over now but if you have a lot of lemon verbena in your garden try making cordial. I found a jelly bag and stand to be indispensable, but I was surprised at the simplicity of the recipe:

All you need is equal amounts of water and white sugar and a quarter of the volume of lemon verbena leaves. You can add other herb leaves to vary the flavour, for example some mint or thyme. I measured mine using a normal glass water tumbler – 4 tumblers of water, 4 of sugar and one of leaves (well pressed down). Heat the water with the sugar until the sugar has dissolved then take off the heat and add the leaves. Leave to steep for half an hour or so and then strain through the jelly bag. Delicious diluted with sparkling water or perhaps topped up with a glass of bubbly.



And finally...

Just a quick reminder that contributions for our next edition should be submitted by 3rd November. Thank you for reading.