

Graveney with Goodnestone Village Newsletter

March 2018



A note from the editor

Volunteers needed! In this month and next month we include information about volunteering opportunities with local charities. There is also an update from GREAT (“Graveney rural environment action team”) the local action group in relation to the proposed Cleve Hill solar park.

Volunteers are also urgently needed for the distribution of the newsletter for; Four Horseshoes Park, Graveney Village and Faversham Without. If you can spare 30 minutes a month, please get in contact.

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 March ~ Sunday: 10.30am, Holy Communion

11 March ~ Sunday: 10.30am, Morning Worship

17 March ~ Saturday: 3.30pm, Messy Church in St Barnabas, The Street, Boughton. Messy Church is for all the family to enjoy together

18 March ~ Sunday: 10.30am, shortened Holy Communion followed by annual church meeting

Palm Sunday ~ 25 March: 10.30am, Holy Communion a benefice service with blessing of palms

Maundy Thursday ~ 29 March: 7.30pm, Holy Communion in St Michael's Church, Hernhill

Good Friday ~ 30 March:

2 –3pm, Last Hour of the Cross, a quiet reflective service
7.30pm, Good Friday music and reflections in Boughton Parish Church with the Boughton, Dunkirk and Hernhill Festival Choir and organ

Easter Day ~ 1 April:

6.15am, Dawn service with Holy Communion followed by breakfast

10 am, Easter Celebration Communion in St Michael's Church, Hernhill, a service for all ages

Wheelchairs available: There are 2 folding wheelchairs available for short term loan by anyone who needs one. Contact Revd. Jean Burrows

Vicar: The Revd Jean Burrows
01227 751410 - jeanburrows@jeanius.me.uk

Curate: The Revd Paulette Stubbings (part time)
07713777487 - paulettejstubbings@gmail.com

Update from Reverend Jean Burrows

I am not a morning person, if I have to finish a piece of work I would rather work late into the night than get up early to finish it. I sometimes have to get up in the early hours of the morning to catch a flight abroad but apart from that I prefer to stay in bed and sleep. Apart, that is, from Easter Day. This year I will set my alarm for about 5.15 am and while I can't promise I'll jump out of bed I will be looking forward to our dawn Easter service, this year being held in Graveney church at 6.15 am. The birth of Jesus takes place at night but the resurrection starts as a dawn story, 'Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.' (John 20:1).

The dawn service is one of the most special of the year. We gather before sunrise and sit in a dark church recalling the absolute grief and desperation of Jesus' friends following his death. Then we go into the churchyard to learn of Jesus resurrection and light the Easter fire, we may even see the sun rise. The Easter candle is lit from the fire and we return to church lighting candles and spreading light. We then celebrate Holy Communion together and stay for a simple breakfast.

They are the logistics of the dawn service but that's only part of it, those words and actions need to come alive, inspired by God, when that happens we are worshipping. Worship is an experience, not a performance, one that touches our senses and our spirit.

We have several other services in the week leading up to Easter Day that are visual and enable us to follow the events around Jesus' death and resurrection. Stripping the altar and surrounding area of all decoration on Maundy Thursday as Psalm 22 is read and the lights slowly extinguished is another very moving experience. On Good Friday we listen to readings and music and reflect quietly on Jesus' death, unless we do that we cannot truly celebrate his resurrection.

These services that we celebrate each Holy Week, as Christians throughout the world will celebrate and have done so since the earliest days of our faith, are not three separate events (although they can easily be seen that way), but rather they are three acts of the same dramatic play and they can only make sense when they are each seen as a part of the whole drama.

As we each continue our Lenten journey this March, and approach the events of Holy Week I invite you to become a part of that dramatic storytelling as we gather to commemorate the suffering, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. If you've never been to any of these services before, why not consider joining us if you are able to? To take part in the dramatic retelling of those events is for many a moving and spiritual experience. So much so that it can even get me up at

some unearthly hour on Easter Sunday morning and be joyful about it!

Lent Lunches

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

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 18 March in church after a shortened Holy Communion service and refreshments. It is a time to look back over the past year, look at the annual accounts, and elect churchwardens and PCC members for the coming year. The meeting should last no more than one hour so if you are on the church electoral roll please come along.

Parish Council

There was 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

A Message from your County Councillor

As I sit down to pen this in the first week of February, it is nice to be back driving and attending meetings following my knee surgery. Thank you for your many kind messages.

I would also like to thank you for your many responses to the items in my last report, this despite the fact that some Parish Newsletters have only been published this week. With regard to the Cleve Hill Solar Park almost all responses have been in opposition wherever the respondent may live. I have sought clarification and can confirm that, although any final decision will be made in Westminster, Swale Borough Council will be invited to comment as a consultee via its Planning Committee. I shall ensure your voices are heard. Can I though stress that no application has yet been submitted.

Slightly less responses to date on the suggestion of an A2 / M2 link road funded by the construction of more housing. Of the correspondence I have received I calculate a slight majority in favour, at least in principle. However, this is another proposal that has no planning application submitted as yet.

The third major item in my Inbox over the past month is on the subject of Bus Services. I hope you will remember that I reported these proposals in my November Newsletter to you all and stressed my annoyance at the abysmal way this was handled by Kent County Council. Residents on some routes where only one service per day or one service per week was to be subject to consultation on possible closure were unnecessarily worried that their whole service would disappear. Thankfully, the savings that had been identified

have now been almost totally removed from the current draft budget. The consultation has been abandoned and instead we will be having a “conversation” with communities and Parishes. I asked the Leader of KCC Paul Carter this week what this actually means and when these “conversations” will take place but apparently these decisions are yet to be made! I have written to the newly appointed Cabinet Member Mike Whiting seeking further details as a matter of urgency. I know several of you have copied Mr Whiting in on your letters of concern.

It was the 19th of January before I got the OK from my surgeon to drive short distances and attend a few meetings, preferably short ones. This was just in time for one of the annual high spots of my diary the Public Participation meeting where YOU, my residents, decide where my Kent County Council members grant will be spent this year. There was a good turnout of residents at Teynham Village Hall on Saturday 20th January, a wide spread of applications from both small local groups and larger groups which operate across the Swale East Division. Amongst local groups which were successful were the Friends of Milton School, Boughton Community Projects Group, Newnham Parish Council, Faversham Cricket Club, Tunstall Parish Council and Eastling Parish Council. All who attended will know that once again Swale Voluntary Services provided an excellent hot and cold buffet.

Another interesting meeting attended was the Rural Crime Training Seminar put on by Swale Borough Council in Faversham, with speakers from the Kent Police Rural Team and the National Farmers Union plus presentations on modern slavery particularly in rural areas and the country eye crime

reporting app. It was good to see a number of my Swale East Parish Councils represented, Dunkirk, Graveney, Selling, Newnham, Oare, Bredgar and Rodmersham, sorry if I missed anyone.

I attended and spoke at a Planning Appeal by the resident of the site known as The Retreat which although within Ospringle Parish is actually abutting Faversham Road through Syndale Valley. The Appeal hearing was held at the Swale Borough Council Offices in Sittingbourne. I attended in order to support the concerns of adjacent Parish Councils and local residents. It was good to also have representatives of Newnham and Dunkirk Parish Councils at the Appeal hearing. We now await the Inspectors judgement on this together with another appeal heard the day before by the same Inspector on another close by site. Two more Appeals for similar Gypsy and Traveller sites in Syndale Valleys still wait to be heard.

As I write this the country is celebrating 100 years of women gaining the right to vote. It is difficult for one of my generation to believe this could ever have not been the case. Although women make up approximately 50% of those registered to vote they do not provide anywhere near 50% of local Councillors. I mention this at this time partly due to the centenary but also because now is the time that Political Parties will be choosing their candidates for the May 2019 Swale Borough Elections. As an Association Chairman I do not care as to the gender, race, religion or even sexual orientation of candidates. I just want the best possible people to represent our local communities and tax payers. So please, consider putting your name forward NOW. If you require further details (particularly if you broadly support

Conservative principles) you should know where to contact me, but I will repeat my contact details at the end of this report.

Andrew Bowles

Email: abjs@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07778629879



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Solar Park working party update

The Graveney Rural Environment Action Team (GREAT) is opposed to the planned development of a massive solar park on our local countryside. The proposed solar farm would span 500 football fields



and is the same size as Faversham. The planning process is long and complex, so here's our guide to what's happening.

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

An infrastructure project above a certain size becomes a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' and planning decisions are taken at government level by the Secretary of State. For electricity anything above 50 megawatts is deemed large enough to be 'nationally significant'. Most solar parks in the UK are below 50 megawatts, but the proposed solar park at Cleve Hill is so enormous that it is seven times bigger than this at 350 megawatts.

The planning process is described in detail on the Planning Inspectorate's website. There are six stages and we are currently at stage 1: PRE-APPLICATION. This is what should be happening: "Look out for information in local media and in public places near the location of the proposed project, such as your library. The developer will be developing their proposals and will consult widely"

Phase one of consultation – COMPLETE

The first phase of consultation happened in December. The developer showed their initial plans and collected feedback via public and private meetings.

As this first phase finished, the developer submitted their *Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report* to the Planning Inspectorate on 11 December. This report, along with the feedback from the statutory consultees such as local councils, utilities, charities, societies, boards, trusts, has been reviewed by the Planning Inspectorate who have subsequently produced a *Scoping Opinion*. This presents the Planning Inspectorate's opinion "as to the scope, and level of detail, of the information to be provided in the environmental statement".

You can see all of these documents in the Planning Inspectorate's special project website for Cleve Hill, see <http://bit.ly/plan-docs>

Phase two of consultation – ONGOING

The developers are now starting the second round of consultation. On Thursday 22nd February they gave a presentation to elected officials in Graveney Village Hall, which we also attended. At one point the developers described the area as a "wonderful place to walk" – how true! A summary of our thoughts about this is on our website see <http://bit.ly/wonderful-place>

Next the developers will be meeting individually with 'near neighbours' over the next few weeks. If you have been deemed to be a near neighbour you should have had a letter. There will also be public meetings organised – expected to be

at the end of April. At some point soon we expect the developer's website will be updated to show more details.

Important – now is the time to act!

The Planning Inspectorate say: "Responding to the developer's pre-application consultation is the best time to influence a project, whether you agree with it, disagree with it or believe it could be improved."

We have loads more detail on the website. Find out how you can get involved:

<https://clevehillsolar.wordpress.com>

RAF 100th year service

The Royal Air Forces Association, Faversham and Whitstable Branches, are holding a special Service to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Force in on 1st April 1918.

The Service will be held at All Saints Church Graveney, on Sunday 25th March 2018 at 3.00pm.

Toby Dangerfield

Plumbing And Heating

Gas registered

Boiler changes, cylinder changes, power flushes,

Large leaks, small leaks. Gas pipe changes.

All small jobs

Contact number: 01795539781

Mobile: 07810351079

Thought of the Month

Sometimes it doesn't work out as you expect.
Sometimes even though you know the game is up,
even though you know the inevitable outcome,
even sometimes when you have given up yourself...
...it doesn't work out as you expect.

There are those days when the child, who has been running
away for years, every week, without fail, ...doesn't.

The day when the disabled child, is finally accepted for who
they are.

When the traveller, for so long the outsider,
suddenly becomes a friend.

There are those days when, in the face of despair,
for some unexpected and incomprehensible reason,
our long dead hopes are brought back to life.

There are those days we suddenly realise the stone has
been moved...
... and the tomb is empty.

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

01795 538732

Trish Timms

07926 351628

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.

March 14th - Sue Duckworth - Hopping in East Kent

April 11th - Designing a Garden for Wildlife

May 9th - Warmlake Dance Academy

June 13th - Car Treasure Hunt

For further information contact:

Teresa Bowles on 07966 299648 or e-mail
teresa.bowles22@btinternet.com

Or Sue Wraight on 01227 751361



At Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne we have friendly professional staff members together with a team of enthusiastic volunteers who give their time on a regular basis. It sounds a bit of a cliché but we really couldn't manage without our wonderful volunteers, their help enables the charity to offer the older people of Faversham, Sittingbourne and surrounding areas so much more.

Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne is an independent charity that is brand partners with Age UK. We are responsible for funding and delivering all our services in the local area. These include services provided at our centres and in the local community too. So in challenging times volunteers become increasingly more important.

Volunteers join us for a variety of reasons, including: meeting new people and making friends, learning new skills, giving something back to the local community, or a combination of all three. However, whatever the reason all volunteers agree that they have fun.

Currently we are looking for new volunteers to:

- ❖ Help in our day centre (Faversham, Sittingbourne, Teynham)
- ❖ Mini bus attendant or driver (Faversham, Sittingbourne, Teynham)

- ❖ Deliver hot meals at lunchtime (Faversham, Sittingbourne, Teynham)
- ❖ Assist with art and craft and other activities (Faversham, Sittingbourne, Teynham)
- ❖ Fill out Attendance Allowance forms (Faversham)
- ❖ Fill out Blue Badge forms (Sittingbourne)
- ❖ Help in our kitchen or coffee shop with food preparation and service (Faversham)
- ❖ Lunchtime food service helper (Sittingbourne)
- ❖ Assist at Cogs club (Cogs club is a structured day for people with mild dementia on Fridays in Sittingbourne)
- ❖ Trustee to assist with the strategic direction of the charity

To find out more about any of the above please contact Gill on 07735556811 or email agecorecruiter@btinternet.com

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Pjchambers48@gmail.com

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- Coach fare
- Entry to Woburn Abbey
- Entry to Abbey Gardens
- Via the Deer Park

p/up points:
8.15am opposite Freewheel Pub, Graveney
8.30am Jubilee Way, 8.40am Recreation Bus
stop, Faversham
return approx 6.30pm

£15.00 payable now, (refundable only if coach
trip is cancelled due to lack of interest)
£18.00 balance nearer the day

please contact Janet
01795 530854
janetipayne47@gmail.com



ABBAY UKULELE CLUBS

Meet as follows:

1st & 3rd each month on

MONDAYS

The Queen's Head, Boughton

7.30pm - 9.30pm

TUESDAYS

Sheerness East Working Mens Club

Isle of Sheppey

2pm - 4pm

Graveney Village Hall

WEDNESDAYS - Banjos

2pm - 4pm

fortnightly

&

1st & 3rd THURSDAYS each month

7pm - 9pm

ALSO

Uke Get-together at William Gibbs Court, Orchard
Place, Faversham - every Thursday 1pm - 2.45pm

Beginners & players all welcome

For more information please contact

JANET & KEITH 01795 530854

janetipayne47@gmail.com

<http://janetipayne.wix.com/abbeyukeplayers>



Contacts of Local Representatives

Parish Councillors:

Clare Boggia, details to be updated.

Teresa Bowles 07966 299 648

Faversham without Ward

Catherine Wilkinson 01795 591 731

Goodnestone Ward

Roger Mitchell (Vice-Chairman) 01795 532 372

Graveney Ward

Alan Stewart (Chairman) 01795 533 205

Lesley Lound 07933 350 999

Clerk to the Council:

Bex Ratchford 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.