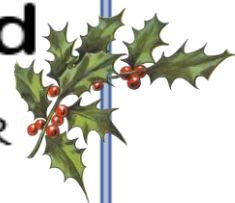




Hougham Herald

NEWSLETTER



Available free by email or online for the Parish of Hougham Without and beyond

<https://www.westhoughamvillagehall.co.uk/>

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XMAS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

As the Christmas season approaches, why not get into to a festive spirit by coming to a Village Hall event.

December kicks off with a Quiz Night on 1st December, always a popular occasion. Bring your festive tipples and nibbles and join in the fun. It can get quite competitive! Or take a break from your Christmas preparations and grab lunch at the Hall on December 6th.

A 'light lunch' of savouries followed by mince pies will be available. If you love that Christmassy feeling of singing carols, the Church is holding its Carol Service in the Hall on the 10th at the Village Hall.

For the young ones, there's a Children's Party on the 16th at the Village Hall where Santa will be paying a visit with his sack of gifts.

Further details are on the back page 'What's On' which you can print and attach to your fridge so you don't miss a thing!

***Happy Christmas
to you all!***



Calling all artists: Would you like an opportunity to exhibit your drawings, paintings and other creative projects in an exhibition in the Village Hall? Expressions of interest to alisonrbarker@gmail.com

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

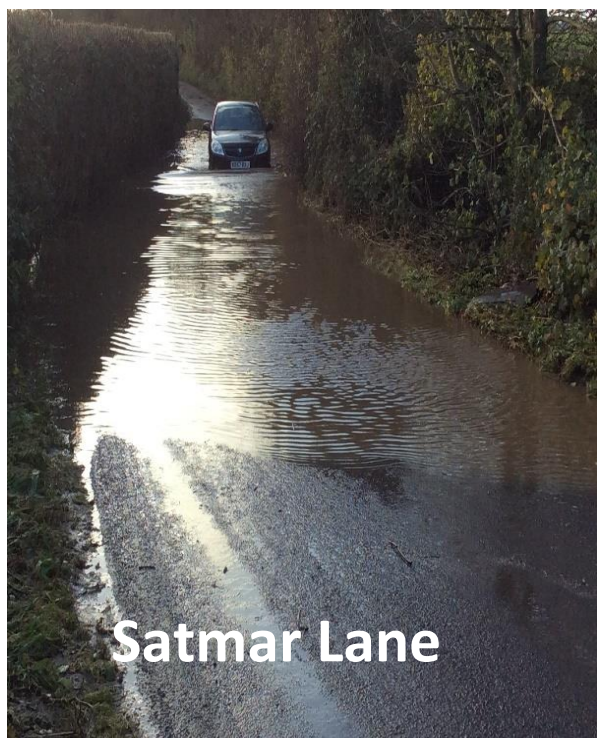
- ❖ 'Around the Parish' gives advice on what to do about storm damage, see pages 2-3
- ❖ Two Parish Council vacancies advertised pages 4 and 6
- ❖ 'Nature Trail' explains what happens to all that rain we had page 9
- ❖ 'From the Vicarage', a Christmas message from vicar Brian Williams (page 10) and details of December Christmas Services (page 11)

“Around the Parish”

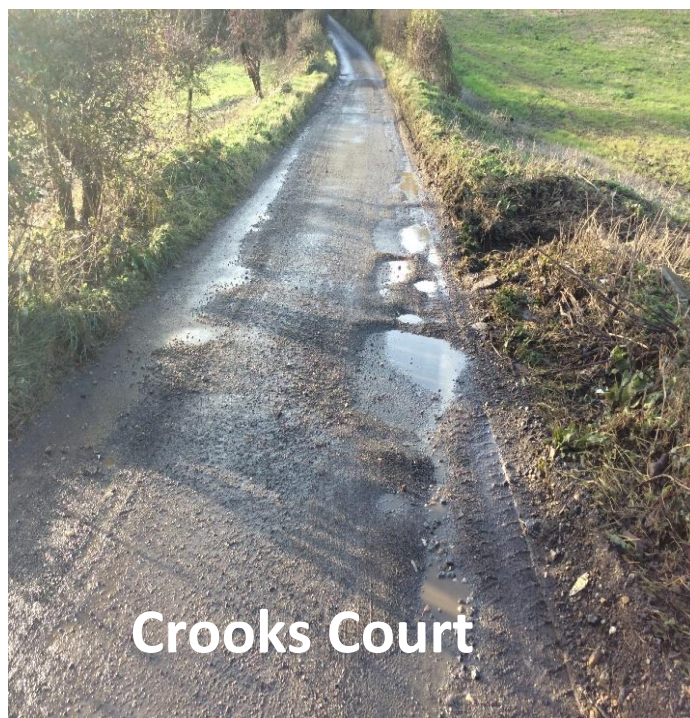
News from Hougham Without Parish Council

Hello and a warm welcome from all at the Parish Council, warm being the prominent word as autumn brings the first of the long dark and inclement nights. The recent onset of Autumn has brought several storms to our Parish. The most notable was Storm Ciaran which recorded gusts at Langdon Bay of 78mph and caused damage to several properties on the front at Capel Le Ferne.

Hougham didn't get away lightly either and we hope that you did not suffer any serious damage. Several of the roads in and out of West Hougham however were blocked or flooded and the legacy of this storm on Thurs 2nd November has left Satmar Lane flooded (again), Broadsole Lane closed, several trees down along Lowslip Rd and a large amount of road damage at the bottom of Crooks Court Lane (see pictures below).



Satmar Lane



Crooks Court

The Parish Council has been trying to resolve these issues via discussions with David Beaney, the KCC Councillor for Dover West (including Hougham Without Parish) and making representations to the KCC pothole/flood/fallen trees webpage.

However, it might be worth reminding all residents that it is easy to report fallen trees on roads to KCC by phone:

0300 0418181 Mon-Fri in work hours

0300 0419191 out of hours

These phone numbers are also relevant for flooding. For reporting potholes use the KCC web portal at [Potholes - Kent County Council](#) KCC has overall responsibility for maintaining safe highways in and out the village and KCC Cllr David Beaney can be contacted on- E-mail:

David.Beaney@kent.gov.uk Tel – 07818 024487

The Parish Council is trying hard to work on the priorities you gave us at our recent Open Day at the Village Hall, which included the general condition of our local roads. But everyone can play their part by reporting dangerous situations rather than believing someone else will do it. Every call or report online helps us all to be able to drive more safely on the roads around our village by putting pressure on KCC to maintain the highways satisfactorily. So, if you see any problems such as flooding, fallen trees or excessive rubble and stones on the highway, please report them as above.

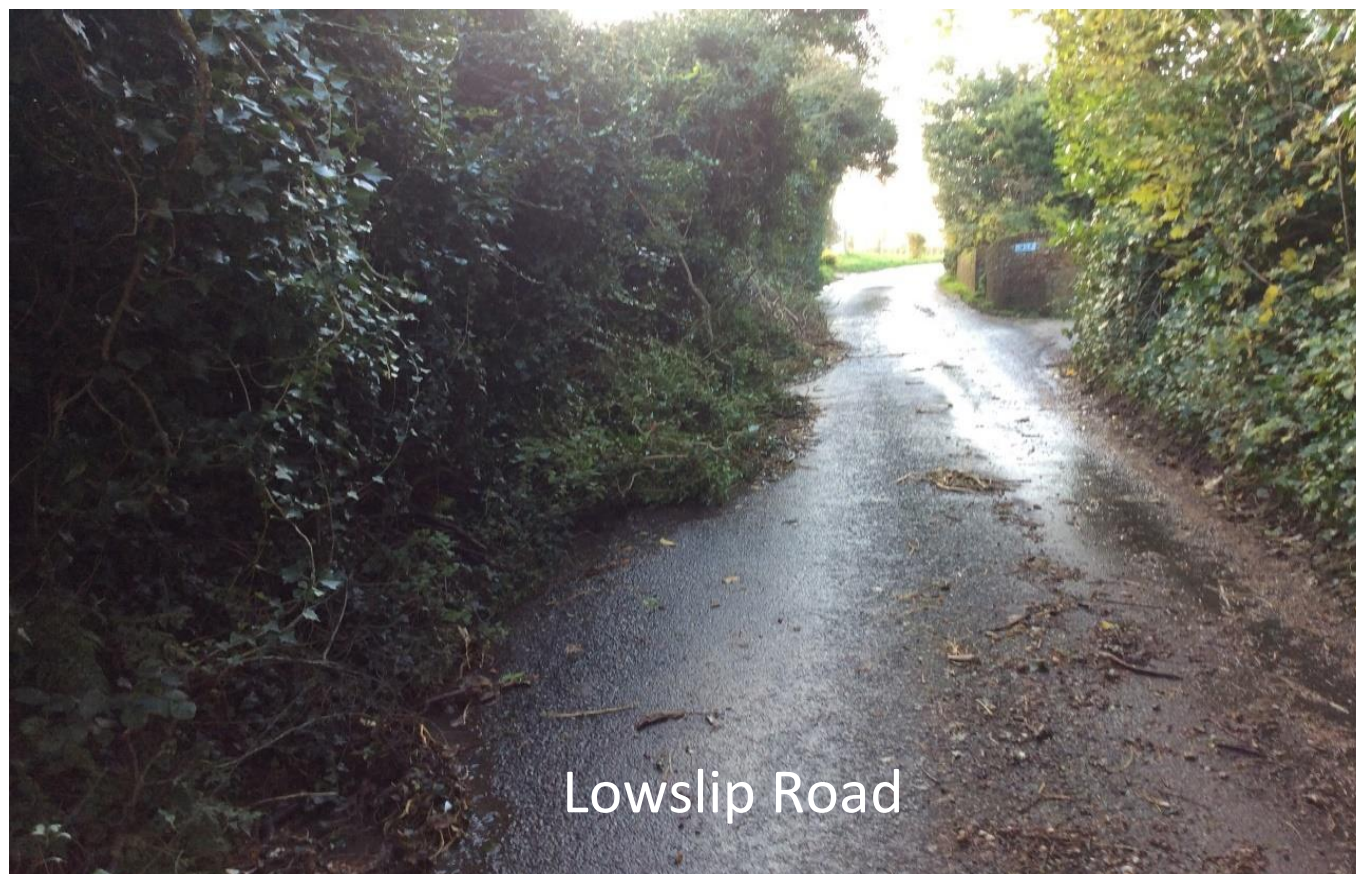
Lastly don't forget the Parish Council have regular meetings that are open to the public, these are usually held in person in the Village Hall. You can find upcoming meetings on the Hougham Without Parish Council website at:

[Hougham Without Parish Council – Kent, England \(houghamwithoutpc.co.uk\)](http://houghamwithoutpc.co.uk)

In the meantime, stay safe, keep warm and remember the winter solstice is on Friday 22nd Dec, after which everyday gets longer, and summer gets even closer!

Take Care,

Hougham Without Parish Council



100 Club Prize Draw

The 100 Club winner in November was a relative of Daphne Hastie. Attempts are being made to locate them and to ensure the prize money reaches them.

Hougham Parish Council

Would like to invite applications for a

Village Green Caretaker

Duties include: weekly checking and replacing of dog waste bags in the containers provided and collection of used waste bags for collection by DDC. A visual inspection of all play equipment. This will also be accompanied by completing a checklist form to send to the Parish Council Clerk to evidence observations/actions taken.

The salary

£15 per hour

Normal working hours would be 1 hour per week.

Position to start in Jan 2024

Applications **By 31 Dec 2023**. A statement not more than 1 page of A4 covering

- 1) Why you would want this position
- 2) What specific skills, qualities or attributes make you suitable for this position

Please be aware that any potential applicant may be subject to police checks as part of any offer of employment.

Applications via post to:

Cathy Finnis Parish Council Clerk

13, Victoria Rd,

Capel Le Ferne

CT18 7LR

Or electronically

cathy.finnis@googlemail.com

Please mark envelope or email **Village Green Caretaker**

HOUGHAM VILLAGE GREEN WORKING PARTY

Parish Council Sub Group

Update 23.11.2023

Following our article in the last edition of the Hougham Herald, the working group has now expanded to 9 members with the possibility of a 10th joining soon.

We have representation from The Street, Broadsole Lane, Queens Lea and Lady Garne Road.

We have also agreed in principle with some of the original team who spearheaded the initial project to create the village green in the first place, to be available to us on a consultancy basis.

The main items to be addressed are as follows:

1. Play area: more equipment/new equipment
2. Play area: new surface
3. Play area: fence/corrale with gates
4. Pathway: resurfacing
5. Pathway: extending into main area
6. Pathway: consider barriers to prevent cyclists gaining access
7. Car park: carry out original plans or modify them
8. Car park: install mesh base
9. Car park: provide adequate signage
10. Car park: examine suitability of main gate and proximity to pedestrian gate
11. Car park: provide 5 or 10mph signs
12. Maintenance: examine suitability of existing contract
13. General: more picnic tables
14. General: more park benches
15. General: examine implications and benefits for attaining village green status
16. General: consider replacing stile by childrens play area with a gate
17. General: Maintenance of existing bund.
18. General: Planting more trees along the boundary to make it more sheltered
19. General: Drainage to prevent flooding management
20. General: Consult with play equipment specialist
21. General: Explore funding routes
22. General: Explore Village Green status
23. General: Explore PSPO
24. General: CCTV
25. General: Review refuse collections
26. General: Employ Caretaker
27. General: Grounds maintenance

If anyone has any additional ideas as to what else should be considered for the village green, please feel free to let us know. Additionally, if anyone else is interested in joining the team, you would be very welcome.

Hougham Without Parish Council

Due to the recent resignation of a Parish Council Councillor, Hougham Without Parish Council would like to invite applications for a

Vacancy

for

Casual Parish Council Member/Councillor

Please submit a brief one-page overview of

- 1) Why you would like to be considered for a role as a Parish Councillor
- 2) What you feel you could offer the Parish Council and local Parishioners

Send to the Parish Council Clerk

Cathy Finnis at either cathy.finnis@googlemail.com

Or

Via post to

13 Victoria Rd, Capel Le Ferne, Folkestone, CT18 7LR

To arrive no later than 31 Dec 2023

If there is more than one applicant, all applicants will be invited to the next Parish Council Meeting at Hougham Village Hall on Jan 16th, 2024, at 7pm to meet the council, where a decision will be made.

History of Hougham's Annual Meetings

by Andrew Finnis

The events of the extra village meeting at the end of 1976, as reported last time, left the Parish Council's clerk with a long list of official bodies to write to trying to resolve the loss of the bus service. But a few months later at the 1977 meeting the chairman reported that the enquiries had not been necessary as the Crosskeys Coach company came up with a regular service to Dover, which had already started.

Other matters reported were questions about any progress towards a village "open space", which was still ongoing. The problems of car parking were discussed and the poor condition of the village roads in general with The Street being especially mentioned. The Queens Silver Jubilee celebrations due this year and various village groups had formed a joint committee to come up with a plan and Cllr Rawlings was to represent the PC. The Parish Council agreed to contribute £50 towards the celebrations.

Rubbish dumping was still a problem all around the area and the poor condition of footpaths and stiles raised. The chairman reported that he had talked to DDC about it and identified that there were 27 stiles within the parish requiring attention and the estimated cost of the work is on average £30 each of which £10 is materials.

The Hunt Meetings in the area had received complaints about indiscriminate parking of both cars and horse boxes and the clerk was asked to write to the police to ask if assistance could be obtained at future meetings?

The Village Hall committee has asked for help in their fund raising for improvements to the hall and after much discussion a grant of £150 was agreed with Cllr Conley agreeing to enquire from the committee the costs of future improvements during 1978.

The 1978 annual meeting attracted 11 parishioners, 4 councillors and Mr Doughty the parish clerk who was attending his last meeting and was thanked for all his work. A new clerk was introduced, Mrs L Ford. Correspondence had been received from the Village Hall committee thanking the PC for its grant and from the Hougham Wives Group and the Youth Club committees requesting that negotiations for an open space in the village be resumed. After much discussion the meeting requested the Council contact the Director of Recreation and Leisure to see what help might be available in the acquisition of an open space.

A footpath on Poulton Farm had been obstructed by a barbed wire fence and the clerk asked to write to DDC about it. Much discussion took place on the amount and terms of

funds available to the Village Hall committee from the Parish Council and the chairman suggested that in future they would consider a single annual payment.

The hazardous nature of the corner of the road between The Street and Queen Street was raised and DDC to be asked to erect a "Slow" sign at the junction.

The next annual meeting digs deep into the community's feelings for a village Open Space!

(if any reader has any first hand recollections of these events or would like to make a comment please let me know, my email is: andrew.finnis@gmail.com .The Parish Council's web site is :- houghamwithoutpc.co.uk



QUIZ NIGHT

AT HOUGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Friday 1st December 2023 7.30pm

£5 per head

Tables of 6 people

To book in advance, please message Alison 07976 623805,
Dianne 07710 195331 or Chris on 07533 689018

Nature Trail

by Tony Rawlins



So, the summer finally came to an end, and the weather has now become decidedly Autumnal. Whether one likes it or not, the Autumn rains are a very necessary part of our weather patterns. In even the wettest summers - and we've had a few of them - not much water actually soaks deep into the ground refilling the aquifers, due to vegetation taking up the moisture. Living as we do in a unique part of the world on high chalk downland, this large mass of chalk acts as an immense cistern capable of holding huge quantities of water. This water slowly permeates downwards through the chalk at approximately 100 feet per year; if one goes along the bottom of the cliffs below Capel there are channels in the concrete aprons which are continuously running with fresh water, this water has soaked down through the chalk and when it hits the impervious layer of blue gault at or just above sea level it then finds release by heading out into the sea.

The cliffs at Capel are about 500 feet plus high and the water exiting at the bottom is rain that has fallen about five years previously. The concrete aprons with the water channels were installed to relieve the hydraulic pressures distorting the railway line running along at the foot of the cliffs making the railway line between Folkestone and Dover about the most expensive length of line in the country to maintain. Adding to the problems caused by water pressure from underneath the rail line also had to cope with rock falls from above occasionally blocking the rail line - one can see the present fencing arrangements to withhold smaller rock falls and warn of larger rock incursions on the rail lines.

Dover Harbour too has had grave issues with hydraulic pressures with fresh water springs in the outer harbour and the old train ferry dock faced parallel problems with the concreted dock bottom frequently fragmenting due to the water pressures from underneath.

Whilst we are in this Autumnal period of series of low-pressure areas sweeping over the country generally from West to East it is to be appreciated that twixt the depressions there are dry sunny weather periods of albeit cooler weather, with the media forecasters predicting the next blasts on track to visit upon us.

Meanwhile the wildlife around are making what preparations they can to see them through the rigours of the winter to come. The birds can easily be seen feasting on the wide range of berries available, the migratory birds such as swallows and cuckoos (if one can remember when we had the last one visiting) plus many water birds, have headed southwards to warmer climes risking very hazardous journeys over hundreds of miles with plans to return in a few months' time following the Sun's northerly progression in Spring.

Lesser known animals such as our native snakes will have tucked themselves up in a quiet warm corner often in small groups also awaiting the advent of Spring. Squirrels, badgers, hedgehogs and rabbits are very much less active in winter but will come out of their hibernation occasionally on a warmer day to replenish their food stocks.

From the vicarage

If you want to know the true meaning of Christmas, we're told, be like the carrot in one of the cleverest TV commercials I've seen so far this year, based on Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Christmas is, apparently, about being good, unselfish, and prepared to share with others. At least that - along with encouragement to shop in a certain supermarket - seems to be the message of the advert.

It's easier to make sense of the advert if you know the original story. On holiday in Scotland years ago I came across a book called *The Story of Goliath and Wee Davie*. It is based on the Biblical story in which, against the odds, David the shepherd boy defeats Goliath the Philistine giant in battle. But according to Jimmie Macgregor's illustrated version, alcohol was the real reason for Goliath's downfall – but the humour only really works if you do know the original story.

I was at a clergy meeting not long ago where we were encouraged to have something available in our churches that might explain, in simple terms, what Christianity is about – because the days when it could be assumed that everyone would know the original story have gone.

Over the next few weeks there will be plenty of opportunities to hear the original Christmas story. I always look forward to December, and to catching up with those who come to our Carol Services, our Crib Services on Christmas Eve, and Midnight Mass - and I hope that we might see you there.

And we must remember that being good, unselfish, and prepared to share with others is for life, not just for Christmas. And not just for carrots, either.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas, and a Peaceful New Year.

Brian



CHURCH SERVICES, December 2023			
Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd ADVENT SUNDAY	Evening Prayer 5.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist (said) 11.00 am
Saturday 9th <i>Activities and stories at Messy Church, followed by tea.</i>		 3.00 – 5.00 pm	
Sunday 10th 2nd Sunday of Advent	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping Together 11.00 am	<i>Pick-your-own Carols at West Hougham Village Hall 11.00 am – Come and choose the carols that <u>you</u> want to sing!</i>
Saturday 16th		Carols by Candlelight <i>Followed by mince pies and mulled wine</i> 7.00 p.m.	
Sunday 17th 3rd Sunday of Advent	Nine Lessons and Carols 6.30 p.m.	Eucharist (said) 9.30 am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 24th 4th Sunday of Advent			United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am
Sunday 24th CHRISTMAS EVE	Crib service 4.30 pm; Midnight Mass 11.30 pm	Crib service 3.00 pm; Midnight Mass 11.30 pm	
CHRISTMAS DAY			Christmas Day Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 31st 1st Sunday of Christmas		United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am	
Visit us online at: www.church-alkham-capel-hougham.org.uk and on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH			



To book any of the events message Dianne on 07710 195331 or Chris on 07533 689018 or book online at <https://www.westhoughamvillagehall.co.uk/>

Friday 1 st December 7. 7.30pm	Quiz Night. £5 per head. Tables of 6. Contact alisonrbarker@gmail.com to book a place. Bring own drink and nibbles.
Wednesday 6 th December 12 noon.	Light Lunch. Buffet lunch followed by mince pies. £8 per head. A chance to unwind and have a meal with friends and neighbours.
Sunday 10 th December 11am	Carol Service at the Village Hall organised by the Church. Choose your favourite carol. Send requests to Rachel Hogben at rph-rmh@hotmail.com
Saturday 16 th December 12 noon - 2.30pm	Children's Christmas Party. £7 per child. Fun and games, food, refreshments. Santa arriving at 1.30pm with gifts for all.
Village Christmas Dinner	Please let Dianne know if you'd like to come.
Sunday 31 st December 8pm – 1am	New Year's Eve Party. Disco Dave will get the party rocking.
Pop up pub usually takes place last Friday of every month. Fish and chips sold by Streetz to Streetz van from 5pm. However, there will be no Pop Up pub on Friday 29 th December as there's a New Year's Eve Party on the 31 st .	

IF YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IS TO DO MORE YOGA.....how about joining a beginners' yoga class on Wednesday evenings 6.30-7.45pm at the Village Hall, please contact:

Carole Haines

carolehaines94@yahoo.co.uk.

