



Non-profit & delivered free to the Parish of Hougham Without

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A 'Meet Your Parish Councillors' coffee morning at the Village Hall run by Cllr Peter Robinson proved popular with villagers who were able to raise a range of concerns about local issues.

The informal coffee morning, which took place on Saturday 2 September, was attended by 32 parishioners and 6 councillors. It provided an opportunity to discuss the issues which are most affecting the area, such as how to use the two new defibrillators installed in the Parish, the fly-tipping menace, inadequate broadband infrastructure provision, potholes, dog mess and the need for new children's play area equipment, to name a few.

Parish Council Chairman, Jodie Lamb, explained that the precept, the fund raised through a charge to households in the Parish, is £10,500 in the current year, but after essential costs £3-£4,000 is left to spend on Parish projects. This year the precept funded, amongst other things, the new defibrillators, one of which is installed on the front of the Village Hall and the other in Church Hougham.

In response to a question about when defibrillator training would be provided, Cllr Kevin Piggott explained that training, by a paramedic, would be provided in due course by Defibs of Dover, the contractor which installed the defibrillators.

On other matters, Parish Council Vice-Chairman, Steve Green, said attempts are being made, including new signage to deter would-be fly-tippers, as this has been a worsening problem. Also, Cllr Christine Peel urged those affected by deep potholes in the roads to report them on the KCC website, providing photos as evidence if possible. Cllr Steve Oxenham reported that KCC had mended a drainage issue causing road flooding, so it had been worth making a series of reports to KCC on this.

There was a call for wobbly and difficult-to-climb styles to be replaced by gates, particularly as walkers are being deterred from using a public footpath out of the village as a result of not being able to easily or safely use the styles. In addition, there

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was a request for more play equipment in the West Hougham children's play area. Some of the equipment is old now and needs replacing.

Regarding dog mess, it was suggested that dogs might be prevented from going onto the Village Field, or restricted to only part of the field, as owners are being irresponsible by not clearing up after their dogs. Wider problems are also occurring as a result of dog owners not disposing of dog waste appropriately. One attendee at the meeting asked whether the Parish Council could act to prevent speeding in the Village. Others asked why broadband infrastructure is not being provided in parts of the parish. There was a call for the Dover MP, Natalie Elphicke to be asked to attend a meeting at the Village Hall so that concerns such as these can be raised directly with her.

Overall a successful event, enjoyed by those who attended – and were able to take advantage of the delicious cakes on offer!

Summing up at the end, Cllr Peter Robinson said: 'Two-way communication between the electorate and the parish councillors is vital. We, the PC, will work on improving our communication and the parish can help in this by using our website and by attending Parish Council meetings which are transparent and open to all'.



A defibrillator has been installed on the front outside wall of the Village Hall by Hougham Without Parish Council and Defibs of Dover. A second has also been installed in Church Hougham. Training, organised by Defibs of Dover, will be provided by a paramedic. This will take place on Thursday 21 September 6-8pm at the Village Hall.

HOUGHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUST CIO

AGM

Saturday 14 October 2023

11.00am

(free refreshments from 10.30am)

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Hougham Village Hall Trust Charitable Incorporated Organisation will be held on Saturday 14 October 2023 at 11.00am in the Village Hall.

A formal agenda will be issued shortly and will cover such items as a management committee report, finance report and election of committee members. Although most of the committee are prepared to stand again nominations are invited for election to the committee. Anyone over 18 in the catchment area can apply. Applications should be made to the Chair alisonrbarker@gmail.com.

Details will be available on the Village Hall website and notice boards. Members can also raise resolutions at the meeting.

The Management Committee do hope you can join us to hear how we've managed the hall over the past 12 months and, if nothing else, enjoy a free bacon sandwich and hot drink whilst chatting to the Trustees.

Alison Barker,

Chair, Hougham Village Hall Trust CIO

The winner of the 100 Club prize draw in July was Dan Codrea, who donated his prize back to the Hall. The winner of the August prize draw was Max Vankerckhove.

**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**



**SCARY
CUPCAKES!**



CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY

SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2023
3.30PM to 6.30PM HOUGHAM VILLAGE HALL

£5 PER CHILD, FOOD AND DRINK INCLUDED.

GAMES



SWEETS



DECORATIONS



**HOT DOGS,
BURGERS,
PIZZAS**



DRESS TO SCARE IF YOU DARE!

Nature Trail

by Tony Rawlins



“Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness!” So sayeth John Keats on 19th September 1819, and here we are again enjoying beautifully warm weather and a bountiful harvest of fruit, berries and nuts and a summer of prodigious growth amongst the plants. The farmers unfortunately struggled somewhat with the hay and grain crops as their efforts were thwarted by untimely rains and some of the wheat crops were looking decidedly poorly before they were finally harvested.

Once again the poor school children have been frustrated following a somewhat wet August and now as they troop back to school the sun comes out and we get some of the hottest days this year.

Soon the leaves on the trees will be changing their colours from green to a variety of Autumnal shades ranging from yellows through reds and golds, their poignant farewells before they fall from their trees leaving their bare branches to face the winter. For the young, and also the not so young there is the thrill of finding “conkers” under the horse chestnut trees and enjoying the pleasure of finding the beautiful rich brown nut inside it’s prickly casing.

As the Earth spins it’s way through space around the Sun the nights gradually get longer and thus the daylight hours shorter and soon we will arrive at the Equinox after which we have majority of dark over light until the next Equinox when the Sun climbs back higher in our skies and the balance in favour of day light is back with us.

You may have read recently a propos the last full moon earlier this month as being a blue moon - now we all know this to be nonsense and know that the real truth is that the moon is made of green cheese and is called Akin Drum. There are some truths that are unarguable!

To the right is a photograph taken recently of towering cumulonimbus clouds. This is where thunderstorms are made. The clouds can reach 35,000 to 40,000 feet. As and when the tops get into the jet stream the cloud forms what is called an anvil and the top blows off the top of the cloud in the direction of the jet stream.





HALLOWEEN GHOST WALK

SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2023 7.30-9PM

Sinister tales and unexplained mysteries from Hougham, one of Kent's most haunted villages. Ghoulish true stories of tragedy, misfortune and unexplained events guaranteed to send a shiver down your spine.....

Are you scared.....do you feel brave enough

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The walk is over a mile long in duration. It partly covers muddy fields, wooded areas and climbing 2 stiles (waist height) in the dark. Participants need to be physically fit enough to complete this walk unaided. No children under the age of 12 due the nature and content of the walk. Children 12 and over are permitted with a responsible adult. Participants will need to bring their own torch and wear a high visibility vest (provided). They will also need outdoor footwear and suitable outdoor winter clothing. This event is strictly an advance ticket only event (only 25 places available) Please see contact details for ticket purchase on the Hougham Village Hall website <https://www.westhoughamvillagehall.co.uk/>. Tickets £8 person.

The walk will start and end at Hougham Village Hall where refreshments are available. The tour is not suitable for anyone of a nervous disposition or suffering from any other associated health condition. Participants must follow the direction and instruction of the walk guide and staff at all times to ensure their health and safety. Participants may encounter unexplained noises, confusing images and unexpected events during the walk. All participants will be asked to sign a liability waiver before departure, and take part entirely at their own risk.



Event arranged and supported with the help of the Hougham Village Hall Committee

From the vicarage



'I told you I was ill!' Veteran comedian Spike Milligan's epitaph on his tombstone in St Michael's Churchyard, Winchelsea, was voted the nation's favourite in a 2012 poll. For the parish priest, it would have been a headache.

The Churchyard Regulations are the Law of the Land, not just what vicars make up when they find graves festooned with plastic gnomes. They are to churchyards what the Road Traffic Act is to motorways – and like speed cameras, they can catch out the unwary.

For instance, how many know that stone chippings and kerbs around graves are ruled out on safety grounds? Or that you can plant bulbs or border plants on graves, but not rose bushes, shrubs, or trees? Thinking of planting some bulbs in the Memorial Garden? Please don't. As cremated remains are buried only about a foot deep, digging anywhere near them risks the inevitable. That's why the Regulations allow only wreaths and fresh flowers to be left there.

How many realise that you need a faculty – a kind of legal permission – before you can put a bench, or even a flower container, in a churchyard - or that tombstones and their inscriptions must meet certain conditions? As petty as this might seem, the Regulations do aim to be fair while maintaining churchyards as *Christian* burial grounds in which the departed are laid to rest in hope of Heaven. In fact, Spike Milligan's quirky epitaph was at first considered inappropriate for a churchyard. Eventually, a compromise was reached: it was carved in Gaelic.

Fancy your own quirky epitaph? Maybe first ask yourself whether something like *Up The Reds* or *Long Live Rock 'n Roll* on your tombstone will mean anything to anyone reading it two centuries or more from now. Especially if it's carved in Gaelic...

Brian

What's On at Hougham Village Hall

SEPT-DEC 2023

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/>

Thursday 21 st September 6-8pm	Defibrillator training at the Village Hall organised by Hougham Without Parish Council and Defibs Dover.
Thursday 28 th September 7-8.30pm	Fire Safety Talk at the Village Hall by Paul Martin
Friday 13 th October 2023 7.30 – 9.00pm	Quiz Night at the Village Hall. £5.00 per head. Bring own drink and nibbles. Teams of up to 8 people.
Friday 20 th October 2023 Bar open from 7pm.	Ska Reggae and 2-tone across the decades. Call Chris Stephens 07710 195331
Saturday 28 th October 2023 7.30 – 9.00pm	Ghost Walk. See details page 6 of this edition of the Hougham Herald for details. £8 per person.
Sunday 29 th October 3.30 – 6.30pm	Children's Halloween Party. £5 Food and drink included.
Saturday 18 th November 2023	Murder Mystery evening. Details on the website and in the HH nearer the time.
Saturday 16 th December 2023	Children's Christmas Party.
Village Christmas Dinner	Please let Di know if you'd like to come.
Sunday 31 st December 2023	New Year's Eve Party. Disco Dave will get the party rocking.
Pop up pub takes place last Friday of every month. Fish and chips sold by Streetz to Streetz van from 5pm.	

CHURCH SERVICES, September 2023

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 24 th 16 th Sunday after Trinity	Eucharist (said) 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am
There is usually a Eucharist at St Radigund's, Capel at 11.00 on Thursday mornings.			
Visit us online at: www.church-alkham-capel-hougham.org.uk and on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH			

SOLO **CHRIS STEPHENS** **Skatist**

**Ska Reggae & 2 Tone from across
the decades**



Hougham Village Hall - Friday 20th October
bar open from 7.00 pm

Tickets £10 call 07710 195331 to book
facebook.com/chrisstephenssoloskatist

Kent Police Emergencies 999

- A serious offence is in progress
- Someone is in immediate danger or risk of harm
- Property is in danger of being damaged
- A serious disruption to the public is likely

Kent Police 101

Report online:

Report a crime | Kent Police

www.kent.police.uk

- Non-emergency incidents where the crime has already happened and there is no risk of immediate harm



- Anti social behaviour (ASB) that is occurring now but is low level and no one is at risk of harm



Dover District Council

www.dover.gov.uk/report

- For ASB issues relating to DDC Council tenants or DDC properties



- For Noise complaints within a property



- For general anti-social behaviour that don't relate to noise from a property or a DDC tenant that is a repeated nuisance activity that doesn't require a police or immediate authority response



Reporting Crime or Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)



CrimeStoppers	0800 555 111	www.crimestoppers-uk.org
• To report crime anonymously		
Porchlight	0800 567 7699	www.porchlight.org.uk
• Kent Homeless Support		
Dover Outreach Centre	01304 339022	168-170 Snargate Street, Dover
• Dover based charity and social enterprise to support people out of homelessness		
Citizens Advice	0800 1448 848	www.citizensadvice.org.uk
• Advice on many subjects from benefits, debt, law, consumer, work and health		
Stonewall	020 7593 1850	www.stonewall.org.uk
• Standing up for LGBTQ+ rights of all individuals and communities, organisations and schools		
Samaritans	116 123 (free)	www.samaritans.org
• 24/365 service for any one having suicidal thoughts or struggling to cope		
Stop Hate UK	0113 293 5100	www.stophateuk.org
• National organisation working to challenge all forms of Hate Crime		

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE HALL!

BUY A LOTTERY TICKET FROM DOVER DISTRICT LOTTO

<https://www.doverlotto.com/support/hougham-village-hall-trust>

Dover Lotto is run by a private company for Dover DC. It's a weekly on-line lottery which costs £1 per week (£4 per month). 60% or 60p of that price goes to good causes and if you nominate the hall 50p comes to us and 10p to Dover Community Fund, 20p goes towards prizes and the remaining 20p is for running costs and VAT.



Win a £1500 IKEA gift card

In our first big Super Draw, you'll have the chance to win a whopping £1,500 IKEA gift card when you support your favourite good cause this September! Give your home an autumn makeover with this fantastic prize – and with new and flexible ways to play, there's an option to suit everyone. Sign up for our weekly draw, or top-up with Super Draw-only tickets!

Get your tickets before Saturday 30th September to be in with a chance to WIN!