



Hougham Herald

N E W S L E T T E R

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

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Stayin' alive: Two events took place in the Village Hall during September to increase awareness of health and safety. Following the installation of a defibrillator at the Village Hall paramedics showed an audience how to use it (above). The training was provided by Defibs of Dover and anyone who missed the training and would like to attend a future session can contact Tim at defibsfordover@gmail.com. Later in the month, Paul Martin, a firefighter with the Kent fire brigade for 30 years, gave a fire safety talk (below) following a fire in a house in West Hougham. He showed how a fire develops after an ignition and drew attention to some fire risks in our homes. Both events were free and well attended.



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Nature Trail

by Tony Rawlins



The Red Admiral butterfly, 'the Aristocrat' of all butterflies.

Today is the 12th October, and at long last the warm and dry weather that we have enjoyed for several weeks is breaking up and a more autumnal system is imposing itself. Whilst the warm and dry weather was very welcome, it was also - I found - a trifle worrying. The bizarre weather events occurring globally now make the existence of global warming undeniable, but the causes are the subject of some debate; is it still the tail end of the passing of the Ice Age when most of Britain was under a sheet of ice? Or is it the result of man's abuse of the Earth's resources and burning of fossil fuels, etc.? This we may never know, but it is probably a good idea to reduce our dependency on oil and all the other products we use and give ourselves a much cleaner and healthier climate - even if warmer.

Reverting to the recent spell of unseasonably warm weather, at Woodside Cottage we noted that some birds seem to be acting as it were Springtime in our garden. We had two robins together. Normally robins keep themselves to themselves except when mating and nesting. Also, our son has had a partridge laying eggs in a nest in his garden in sight of a fairly busy road. Most unusual.

It is now only a week to 17th October when in 1987 we suffered a huge storm usually referred to as 'the hurricane' when much damage was visited upon the country. A storm such as this was very difficult to forecast - as was demonstrated when a well-known BBC weather forecaster was castigated for failing to correctly forecast it when the French media had in fact done so. Sometime a little later - when our British media forecast a not too dissimilar storm which hit France causing massive damage through the country - it was the French media who had not forecast it. Tit for tat!

Our summer this year has been instrumental in producing masses of produce. The hawthorns are quite red with their loads of haws. The blackberries produced an absolute glut, now very much diminished. Vegetation generally, too, has had spectacular growth and this has guaranteed that the lawn mowers were kept busy. All our fruit trees have benefited from this and have also been producing in top gear - sadly more than we can deal with. Rhubarb came early on, followed by plums, pears and apples. We have a few jars of pickled walnuts which we can look forward to enjoy at Christmas. Whilst the growth was there, the hay crop proved difficult for farmers as the rain that we had at harvest time made life difficult for it to be dry enough to safely pack as hay.

Nature governs most of what happens on Earth. One result that we do not find quite so welcoming are the boatloads of refugees/immigrants arriving on our shores and they do so in their thousands giving the authorities a massive problem in trying to cope with them. It is of little comfort to know that most European countries have a similar problem, but one must have a certain sympathy for those who are escaping from war torn countries and following their natural instincts to try to find a better place. We are all governed by Nature, either our own or that of a third party, some of which is not always very welcome.

Village Hall AGM and elections take place

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Hougham Village Hall Trust CIO took place on Saturday 14th October at the Village Hall.

Two members of the Committee, Vice Chairman Steve Oxenham and Trustee Richard Turner stood down for personal reasons. Both had served since the setting up of the CIO in 2018, Steve as Vice-Chairman and Richard as a Trustee. The Chair thanked them on behalf of the Management Committee. Both will continue to support the Hall behind the scenes. Steve has offered to continue running Facebook Communications on behalf of the Village Hall Committee and Richard has offered to continue running the Hougham Village Hall website.

Trustee Colin Care, who had completed his term of office, stood again for a 3-year term and was re-elected. Carole Haines, who was previously co-opted as a Trustee onto the Committee, stood for a 3-year term and was elected. At the next meeting of the Management Committee the roles of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and all post holders will be elected.

During a presentation at the AGM, HVHT CIO Chair Alison Barker reported on the Trust's activities and achievements and Treasurer Dianne Oxenham presented a Financial Report for the year 01 July 2022-30 June 2023. The Trustees Annual Report was approved prior to the AGM by the Trustees and the Financial Report was approved at the meeting by a show of hands.

Amongst the year's achievements were the raising of £2,773.26 in grants from Dover District Council, of which £1,033.33 was for the new awning on the rear of the Village Hall and £1,033.33 of which is for new tables, which will be bought in due course.

The Treasurer reported that the income from hiring the Village Hall increased by 17.38% on the previous year. The range of bookings include weddings, baby showers, parties for both adults and children and christenings. Regular fitness classes took place. £1,033.00 was raised via the Dover District Lottery and those who support the Hall through the Lottery or through donations were thanked.

Hall costs were kept low by fixing rates on gas and electricity and through good management, the cost of running the hall reduced to £14.93 per day compared to £17.97 per day in 2021-22.

At the end of the financial year, there was £1,061.53 in the current account and £4,870.13 in the deposit account.

Thanks were given to the many volunteers who gave their own time during the year, either through professional or other services, or through running fundraising events. This helped the Village Hall to continue to be self-funding, with the revenue coming into the Hall being sufficient to pay all Hall costs.

The Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report, which the CIO is required to submit to the Charities Commission, are intended to also be of interest to parishioners, funders and others who support the Village Hall. A copy of the Trustees Annual Report will be available on the website in due course www.westhoughamvillagehall.co.uk. A copy of the financial report is available on request from the Treasurer Dianne Oxenham.

The AGM is open to the public and Hougham Village Hall Trust CIO hopes everyone will join us at next year's AGM.

“Around the Parish”

News from Hougham Without Parish Council

Firstly, many thanks to all the parishioners who attended the open day to meet the new Parish Council on Saturday 2nd Sept at the Hougham Village Hall. The day, part of an approach to try to include parishioners in matters that are affecting them and their community, was well attended. This generated a long list of concerns ranging from familiar topics such as pot holes, dog fouling, improving the broad band speeds, to other areas such as speed limits in the village, number of heavy goods vehicles using the village and the maintenance of the play area.

The council are trying to collate the list of concerns into groups that they might be able to tackle and of course need parishioners to join them in any campaigning they embark upon with relevant authorities such as DDC or KCC. With this in mind, the recent vandalization of play equipment at the amenity space is a concern and a potential cost for the council (see swing pictures below) The council would encourage all parishioners to report any such acts of vandalism to either 999 or e-mail our allocated police officer for the village:-

James.Chenery@kent.police.uk

As some parishioners may have seen, we have recent erected more signage on the amenity space, courtesy of Stuart Rayner, DDC dog warden, to deter dog fouling and encourage owners to clear up after their dogs (see picture below). Again, please will parishioners who own dogs please be courteous and respectful for other users of the space and clear up their dogs fouling. Bags are provided free of charge and bins are provided. Stuart can be contacted at-

envcrime@dover.gov.uk



HOUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL RECREATION AREA WORKING PARTY

Following the recent open meeting at the village hall where a number of issues were raised concerning 'issues' in Hougham, the Parish Council has been working behind the scenes to address each one.

One of the subjects which repeatedly came up concerned the Recreation Area (village green).



A number of suggestions were made ranging from increasing the number of children's play apparatus, fencing that area off, resurfacing the pathway behind Forge Field, erecting a goal area, attending to dog fouling and several more.

The Parish Council have formed a 3-person working party to address all matters appertaining to the Recreation area. The first meeting took place this week and it was decided and agreed that they would like 3 other members of the village to join them in creating an ongoing future plan.

What is involved? An ideas exchange, a wish list, a discussion on exactly what is needed and what is desirable and much more. How much time will it take? Meetings will only ever be a maximum of one hour and should take place once monthly or bi-monthly. In between communications can be shared by email or possibly a Whatsapp group or whatever is decided by the 6-person working party.

If you feel you have something to offer or would like to become involved in spearheading the soon to be revamped Recreation Area then please contact Kevin Piggott, Peter Robinson or Steve Oxenham. Thank you!

Lastly you will note that at the bottom of the page is a list of contacts for your local MP and Councillors for both KCC and DDC respectively. We have recently contacted your local MP Natalie Elphicke, who has offered to visit the Village Hall to meet parishioners, date to be confirmed.

Dover Councillor Martin Hibbert Tel 07796 444860

Cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk

Kent County Councillor David Beaney Tel 07818 024487

David.Beaney@kent.gov.uk

Natalie Elphicke MP Tel 01304 379669

Natalie.elphicke.mp@parliament.uk

History of Hougham's Annual Meetings

by Andrew Finnis

As it's been a while since my last article and - by way of an explanation for those readers who've not seen my articles before - they are a series of summaries from the notes taken at the annual Hougham Village meetings since they were started back in 1895. *(If you'd like to read the earlier ones, they are on the Parish Council's website.)*

The last article had got to 1976 and having left a "cliff hanger comment" at the end I wonder if anyone guessed what the subjects may have been that required the village to call a second Parish Meeting at the end of 1976?

This extra meeting on 20th December, was called firstly because the East Kent Road Car Company (the then main bus company) was going to withdraw the village bus service, and secondly there were to be changes to the village library service, and so there was plenty of interested from villagers.

38 people were present at the start which later increased to 44, and included in this number was a delegation of 3 members of the Transport and General Workers Union (T&GWU), employed by East Kent Bus Co.

Now before we get into the meeting, I've often thought that although these summaries give a snapshot of what has been important to villagers for that particular period of time, we are not usually aware of what the "normal" life for villagers has been at that time? Over the years these meetings have taken place, the "normal life" for villages has changed dramatically. For example by 1976 the supply of mains water, electricity, gas, mains drainage, telephones had all, by then, become part of "normal life". What's not been mentioned very much is the village bus service which of course, given our rural location, will have been a very important part of village life for many years, similarly the library service. (They have not been mentioned in past summaries so does anyone know when either or both started in Hougham)?

Back to the extra meeting. The chairman outlined the events leading up to the withdrawal of the bus service which was to take effect from 21st December *(yes, the day after this meeting was taking place!)*. Cllr Souton summarised a proposal that a mini bus be substituted for the normal service bus, but he considered this would probably mean a subsidy would need to be paid by the parish council. The matter was discussed in general and an alternative of taxis was considered. Mr Souter explained that it would be quite in order for the parish council to subsidise a service if it was considered in the interest of the parish.

The representatives of the T&GWU explained their own position and said they welcomed the continuation of the service. After a general discussion the following points were accepted that:

- a) The village wished to keep the present East Kent bus service
- b) The village also wanted an improved service
- c) The hiring of taxis was for individual arrangements
- d) The minibus service was to be considered only if the East Kent service was withdrawn

A resolution was proposed by Mr Brown and seconded by Mrs Franklin that the Parish Council should do everything in its powers to persuade the East Kent Bus Co., to continue its present service. The resolution was carried unanimously.

The T&G members asked that their members be allowed to attend any future meetings on the matter.

A second motion was proposed by Mrs Cox and seconded by Mr Baker that the mini bus scheme be adopted if the East Kent service is withdrawn. The motion was carried by 13 to 7 with many abstentions.

Mr Brown enquired as to the amount of any subsidy and Mr Souton stated that the amount was likely to be £156 per annum.

It was proposed by Mrs Wright and seconded by Mrs Franklin that the parish council be asked to write to other organisations concerned with bus services: - the traffic commissioners ; community health centre ; Kent County Council ; the local MP and Dover District Council. The resolution was carried unanimously. Mrs Wright would provide all the relevant addresses. The chairman thanked the union reps for attending the meeting. The meeting asked that the parish council report back to the parishioners before agreeing with any alteration of the bus service.

The Library Service:- the chairman read out the proposed change which was that the service was to be via a mobile van on a regular basis. A general discussion covered the advantages and disadvantages (*but no details are recoded*) but the meeting agreed two points to be promoted, (a) the van should stop at the Village Hall in West Hougham and (b) the van should call at 2pm and not 1pm as proposed.

The chairman thanked all attendees and the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

(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 Parish Council web site is :- houghamwithoutpc.co.uk

From the vicarage

At my other job as a supply teacher one afternoon, I worked with some students who were soon to sit their Maths GCSE exam. As they finished coursework and practiced past exam papers, one looked up: “*Ere Sir – are you a vicar?*”. They thought I sounded like one, apparently – and my cover was blown. Fascinated at having a supply teacher who doubled as a vicar, questions began to flow.

“*Don’t Christians say that God’s everywhere?*” one girl asked. I replied that they do. She turned pale. “*So, whatever you’re doing, God knows about it...*”. The idea bothered her – but she was right.

‘*O Lord, you have searched me and known me...*’ says Psalm 139. ‘*You know when I sit down and when I rise up... Where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there... if I make my bed in the grave, you are there....*’ Yes, Christians do believe that God’s everywhere.

November begins with All Saints’ Day. While others are preoccupied with ghoulies, ghosties and four-legged posties, Christians celebrate the lives of saints. I used to serve in a church that was shared with a Greek Orthodox congregation. Like other Orthodox churches it was decorated with pictures of the saints. We were in their company; their eyes seemed to follow you around, and if that felt unnerving it nevertheless held out the comforting thought that whatever life brings, we never journey through it alone. The saints are everywhere, too.

A last word from St John of the Cross, a Spanish Carmelite monk. He once spoke with a nun who was frantic with worry about what God thought of her life. “*Don’t worry,*” he said. “*At the Judgement, you will be judged by someone who loves you.*”



Whither shall I go from thy spirit?
or whither shall I flee from thy presence?
If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there:
If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there:
If I take the wings of the morning,
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;
Even there shall thy hand lead me,
and thy right hand shall hold me.

Psalms 139:7-10

Brian

CHURCH SERVICES, November 2023			
Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th ALL SAINTS SUNDAY	Evening Prayer 5.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist (said) 11.00 am
Saturday 11th <i>Activities and stories at Messy Church, followed by tea.</i>		 3.00 – 5.00 pm	
Sunday 12th  REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	Remembrance Service 10.15 am	Remembrance Service 10.15 am	Remembrance Service 10.15 am
Sunday 19th 2nd Sunday before Advent	Worshipping Together 9.30 am	Eucharist (said) 9.30 am	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 26th FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING	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			



(Left)
Remembrance Day 2022 at the war where those who fell in the war were remembered by name.
Remembrance Day 2023 is Sunday 12th November.

What's On at Hougham Village Hall

NOV-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/>

Saturday 18th November 2023	Murder Mystery evening. Details on the website and in the HH nearer the time.
Saturday 16th December 2023	Children's Christmas Party.
Village Christmas Dinner	Please let Dianne know if you'd like to come.
Sunday 31st 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.	



Ska Night with Chris Stephens

Left: A night of Ska music at Hougham Village Hall on 20 October had folks up and dancing to Madness, UB40, Specials and lots of the greats. The performer was Chris Stephens, not just a talented musician who tours with his Ska band, but one of the Hougham Village Hall Trust CIO's Trustees no less! Chris performed free of charge, all proceeds to the Village Hall. Many thanks Chris!

YOGA FOR BEGINNERS

Yoga classes for beginners will be starting soon on Wednesday evenings 6.30-7.45pm at the Village Hall. If you'd like to join the class please contact Carole Haines at carolehaines94@yahoo.co.uk.



The winner of the October 100 Club Prize draw in September was Viv Hardy.