



Hougham Herald

NEWSLETTER

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or request an email copy from alisonrbarker@gmail.com

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HOUGHAM 'PARTY IN THE PARK' FOR THE SUMMER OF 2024

The night of Saturday 13th July is set to be one to remember as a Party with live music, food and a bar takes place on the Village Green.

The event, organised by Hougham Village Hall, promises to be a great night of music, with band The Ratzkins and musician Fred Clark, booked as the live acts for the night.

The Ratzkins is a trio of musicians who have been a powerhouse in the local music scene for over 12 years. Their music crosses genres, mixing classic rock with modern hits to create a diverse and captivating musical experience. Even though they are three musicians, they create a full, rich sound. There are videos of their performances on <http://www.ratzkins.com>.

Fred Clark is an exciting acoustic singer/songwriter from Maidstone, Kent who performs with incredible energy and writes with an upbeat, vibrant style. Check out his website on <https://www.fredclark.co.uk>.

In addition to the live music, there will be a hog roast (with vegetarian options) and drinks can be bought from the Horse Box bar. Tickets are £15 per person, children 5-16 £1.00 and under 5s free. The event will run from 5pm to 11pm. Tickets must be bought in advance. Call or text Dianne on 07710 195331 to book. Wristbands will be issued. The money raised will go towards the upkeep of the Village Hall.

If you live in Hougham or the surrounding areas, this is one event in 2024 which you just can't miss.

Look forward to seeing you there!



VILLAGE HALL 2024 QUESTIONNAIRE

WE ASKED YOU WHAT YOU THOUGHT ABOUT VILLAGE HALL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES...AND THIS IS WHAT YOU TOLD US!

Background

- In February 2024, Hougham Village Hall Trust CIO created a questionnaire on its events and activities which was posted into letterboxes of 180 households in the parish of Hougham Without.
- The request was for information to help the Management Committee to plan future activities and events likely to have local appeal.
- The questionnaire was anonymous and people were asked to post them into the Hall's postbox. It became apparent that People from Church Hougham and Hougham might not go to the Hall so alternative arrangements needed to be made for collection of completed responses, which we did.

We gained a lot of knowledge about what local people want, but in future surveys we'd like a greater range of people to participate. We know that children's parties are always well attended, yet it seems as though we didn't have many parents completing the survey, which skewed the result. However, we hope you find the results interesting and that you'll support us again with your feedback in the future.

The results of the survey are on the following 2 pages.



The gift of a gate

Users of the Village Green in West Hougham may have noticed that the conventional stile has been replaced by a gate in consideration of those slightly less agile who want to use the public right of way across to St Mary's Church from the Village Green. This message is to thank our Mrs. Helen Scopes of this parish for donating this gate to the village at her own expense. Just one other point, other than when you are using it : PLEASE keep the gate closed at all times. Thank you.



HOUGHAM VILLAGE HALL QUESTIONNAIRE: EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES - FEB 2024

What do you like about Hougham Village Hall?

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Facility	53%	47%	0%	0%
Ease of Use	50%	50%	0%	0%
Range of events and activities	7%	40%	33%	20%
Fulfilling its mission as the hub of the community	13%	47%	27%	13%

Comments

The Committee has made huge improvements, so well done.

After refurbishment activities have fallen away.

Need to advertise events in social media and board, particularly weekly activities.

Do you attend events at the Hall?

0-5 times per year	58%
5-10 times per year	33%
10-15 times per year	0%
More than 15 times per year	8%

Comments

Not many. We're not as sociable as we used to be.

How much would you be willing to spend on events and activities at the Village Hall per year?

£0-£25	58%
£25-£50	33%
£50-£75	0%
£75 or more	8%

Comments

Not relevant. Depends on activity and number of events

What might increase your participation?

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
Cheaper ticket prices	63%	38%
More interesting activities	100%	0%

Comments

Need to attract different activities and advertise them. I know that there's yoga, etc but I do not know times, price or how to join.

Games morning one or twice a month on a Saturday for kids and teenagers. Soft futsal.

Cards and boardgames

Cash Tuck Shop where kids can volunteer

Pool table (investment)/Pop up pub pool league

Tesco delivery (sweets/pop)

Kids can vote 'gadgets allowed or not'.

Which types of activity are you or your family/friends most likely to attend?

	<i>Extremely likely</i>	<i>Very Likely</i>	<i>Likely</i>	<i>Never</i>
Music Nights	23%	54%	15%	8%
Fitness Classes	8%	15%	31%	46%
Arts and Crafts activities	9%	9%	45%	36%

Learning opportunities (e.g. computer group, cooking and baking)	8%	23%	46%	23%
Sales (boot sales, garage sales, book sales, cake sales etc.)	23%	23%	46%	8%
Competitions (e.g. Quiz Night)	31%	38%	8%	23%
Children's parties	0%	18%	9%	73%
Socialising eg. Lunches, coffee mornings, BBQs	0%	9%	64%	27%
Royal events	7%	29%	21%	43%
Christmas and New Year events	17%	25%	33%	25%
Clubs (book clubs, talks, mother and baby groups)	0%	7%	21%	71%
Sporting events (on big screen)	8%	15%	31%	46%
Amateur dramatics	0%	0%	18%	82%
Walks and outdoor events	0%	31%	46%	23%

Comments

Fire pit/BBQ available at front for socials?

Is there a reason why you don't go to Hall events that the Hall could change?

Communication. Not everyone does Facebook!

Events not advertised well enough. Not everybody is on Facebook.

Work commitments or do not know

We would like to join some events as advertised above but not necessarily social ones - these appear to be the only ones advertised.

Not enough time.

Not always my cup of tea.

Would you be willing to support the Hall in other ways than attending events?

Donations or Dover Lotto	60%
Volunteering	47%
Holding your own party/event/activity	33%

Any suggestions?

Need more events which bring the village together as a community. Very impressed with the recent Action Group activities.

Have done and will continue to do when we can. The Hall is great. Let's use it or lose it, just like the pub, post office etc.

Front of the Hall is drab. The garden is not very welcoming. Plant a Christmas tree and light it up at Christmas.

Have no young children. Age ranges of participants would be helpful.

Parish Council minutes

Village Hall Events Comms

Hougham Village Chat

Can there be one Facebook to share all news. We miss a lot of comms as 'too spread out'.

Monthly farmers market or similar

Reinstate afternoon tea for elderly residents, monthly with music or similar.

Total number of questionnaire responses received*:	15
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**POP UP PUB: CURRY LUNCH IN MAY**

The Streetz2Streetz Fish and Chip van normally comes to the Village Hall from 5.30-6.45pm on the last Friday of the month for Pop up Pub. However, on Friday 31st May it can't come so there will be a Curry Night at the Hall instead. Home made curry donations welcomed. £12 for a curry if you're not donating a dish for 6 people. Contact Chris on **07533 689018** to let us know if you'd like to come



The Next

QUIZ NIGHT

AT HOUGHAM VILLAGE HALL

will be

Saturday 8th June 2024

7.30pm

£5 per head

Tables of 6 people

Bring your own drinks and nibbles
Please book online on the website at

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

or message Alison 07976 623805, Dianne 07710 195331 or Chris
on 07533 689018

Nature Trail

by Tony Rawlins



Finally Winter has given way to Spring and now the flowers and blossoms are everywhere about us to delight the eye and give sustenance to the bees and small insects who perform these vital jobs of pollinating the flower, with a spin off to providing nourishment for themselves. The ravages of Winter are clearly seen in the number of fallen trees brought down by the strong winds and large amounts of rain we experienced. Now the ground is slowly drying out without the all too persistent rains which seem to have lost some of their potency at least for the time being, and hopefully we can look forward to some pleasant warm months and we move into Summer.

Last year proved to be a very bountiful year for fruit, and now the Plum trees are already in blossom. But it tends to be that one bountiful year is followed by a poorer one. The trees seem to need some recovery time after all that effort. We shall see!

Meanwhile we can delight in the magic carpets of bluebells and anemones in our local woods. Bluebell woods are a rather unique feature of the British Isles and to the best of my knowledge do not occur in such magnificence in Continental Europe - no, that is nothing to do with Brexit!

There is much fear that the Asian Hornets will be a pest again this coming Summer and if found should be treated with much caution as they punch a ferocious sting. Should you come across one there is much information on the Internet - if you just ask Uncle Google for Asian Hornet. Here you can find photographs and information on how to report them. Sightings have already been made this year, in the Channel Islands and in France, where they are mounting a massive campaign against them.

Asian Hornets are a major killer of Honey Bees and can reduce a hive to nothing very quickly. Word has it that in Japan, Honey Bees have developed an effective strategy against these little monsters by ganging up on an invasive Hornet and suffocating it by sheer weight of numbers - one wonders if this knowledge could be transmitted around the world to aid our own Bees when similarly victimised.



Above: Download the Asian Hornet Watch app if you'd like to report a sighting.

Nosh & Knowledge

Quiz Night

At St Radigunds
Church, Capel

Friday 10th May at 7pm

Tables of up to 6, £5 per head

All welcome, bring your own food and drink.

There will be prizes for the winning team and
the last team on the score board, plus a raffle.

Proceeds to parish funds

Please contact Audrey Goaten

on 07869574577 to book.

We look forward to seeing you there.

From the vicarage

Here's an opportunity – a Victorian property in Chester close to the cathedral, city centre and railway station. To the rear, spectacular views across the River Dee into North Wales. Yours for £100,000, but with a very leaky roof. Or if you want to stay closer to home, £500,000 secures a distinctive piece of 1960s architecture situated on the seafront at St Leonards.

A little-known corner of the Church of England website lists redundant churches for sale. Some are converted for commercial use, others become executive homes or flats - and therefore off limits to anyone wanting a trip down Memory Lane - while others, sadly, are demolished.

Fortunately others, like our own St Mary's, Capel le Ferne, will pass to the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) which acquires those that are of historical interest and opens them to the public.

Services are held at St Mary's about three times a year, weather permitting. The church is swept beforehand, and dead leaves, deceased insects and so on removed. Although the church might look neglected, it really isn't, it's just redundant – the CCT check it regularly, and their contractors deal with any repairs needed.

Someone recently expressed an interest on social media in forming a group who might like to help to clean the church. I contacted the CCTs Local Community Officer Nick Watts, who writes:

It would be fantastic if there are some locals who are willing to support the church, but I must stress that they are currently not permitted to do any repairs or heavy cleaning. This is of course a grade I listed structure, and the group would be in breach of Historic England's heritage listing status if they did anything without the CCTs consent.

Interested? Please contact Nick at nwatts@thecct.org.uk or on 07972 767010.

Brian

CHURCH SERVICES, May 2024			
Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th 6 th Sunday of Easter	Evening Prayer 5.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist (said) 11.00 am
Thursday 9th ASCENSION DAY	United Parish Eucharist 7.00 p.m.		
Saturday 11th <i>Fun, fellowship and food – all children accompanied by a responsible adult please – thank you!)</i>		 3.00 – 5.00 pm	
Sunday 12th 7 th Sunday of Easter	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping Together 11.00 am	Worshipping Together 11.00 am
Sunday 19th PENTECOST	Worshipping Together 11.00 am	Eucharist (Traditional) 9.30 am	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 26th TRINITY SUNDAY	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			

100 CLUB PRIZE DRAW WINNER

The winner of the April Hougham Village Hall 100 Club Prize Draw was Rachel Hogben.



What's On at Hougham Village Hall MAY-JUL 24



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 2 nd May	Village Hall is polling station for election of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent
Friday 31 st May	Pop Up Pub. No fish and chip van, so there will be a Curry Night instead. Home made curry donations welcome or £12 for a curry. Contact Christine to book.
Saturday 8 th June	Quiz Night 7.30pm. For details see page 6.
Saturday 13 th July	Hougham Party in the Park, with live music and food. See pages 1 and 4 for further details. Book tickets with Dianne 07710 195331.
Date to be confirmed	Hannah Estelle Caldwell, local musician and performer of the 'Potholes Song', will perform at a Village Hall Music Night in the summer. Details nearer the time.

Regular classes

Every Tuesday morning 10am-11am **Pilates class**.

Contact michelle@pillarpilates.co.uk or book at Pillar Pilates using the Facebook link.

Every Wednesday evening 6pm-7pm **Dog training**. Contact Emma Lush 07583 947605

Every Sunday afternoon 2.15pm-4.15pm **Dog training**. Contact Emma Lush 07583 947605

Every Saturday morning 9am-10am and every Wednesday evening 7-8pm: **Zumba class** Contact houghamvillagehallcontact@gmail.com