



Download a copy at Hougham Village Hall website <https://www.houghamvillagehall.co.uk/>

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ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

BY PETER ROBINSON

Hougham Without Parish Council held its Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 30th May. The opportunity was taken to update the community (sadly only represented by 4 people on this occasion) on the action that had been taken to address the issues raised at the PC's open meeting held in September 2023.

For example, the problems with potholes and flooding had been addressed in conjunction with the Hougham Potholes Action Group, resulting in much safer roads - although the council were not complacent and recognised more could be done. Two-way communication with the community was an on going process but broadband unfortunately was still an issue. Many parishioners had solved the problem themselves in a variety of innovative ways and it was agreed the PC would collate this information and make it available on line for people to avail themselves of as they wished.

The opportunity was also taken to update the meeting on the progress of the Village Green working party. This group, comprising 3 councillors and 6 volunteers from the community had been privy to 3 presentations by play equipment suppliers, including our present suppliers, who had demonstrated from our specification what could be achieved by spending £50k, £80k or £120k. From this information the Working Party will be producing their own baseline and wishlist starting with the premise that although old, the existing equipment is still serviceable and adding such things as additional swings, a mound with tunnel and slide, seesaw, sensory equipment etc. What already appears essential is to ensure that rather than grass we have a solid and safe surface around all the equipment and the whole play area should be fenced off with 2 accessible gates.

Once the Working Party has firmed up their requirements, the 3 contractors will be invited to address a new specification and demonstrate what could be achieved.

The Working Party and Parish Council then have the task of raising the necessary funds. With a set of swings costing around £2,000 all avenues will need to be explored. With some councillors having had the experience of raising large sums through a variety of grants for the village hall, it is hoped to emulate this and raise funds through grants and donations. ■

POPULAR EVENINGS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

The Friday 31 May Pop Up Pub/Curry Night was very well attended and lots of people said they'd greatly enjoyed the event. Hats off to Dianne Oxenham, who provided a wonderful selection of dishes, assisted by Juliet Smith and Julie Delieu cleared and washed up. It was a lovely social occasion and it was great to see new faces coming along. The event raised £207 towards the upkeep of the Village Hall.

Quiz Night on Saturday 8th June was also very well attended as usual, raising £105 for the upkeep of the Village Hall. The next Quiz Night will be Saturday 14th September. There will also be a Christmas Quiz Night on December 7th.



DOVER LOTTO/HOUGHAM VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB/DONATIONS

If you're not already buying a Dover Lotto ticket to raise money for the Village Hall, don't forget that this is one of the best ways to give a boost to the Hall while being in for a chance of a prize. This month's prize is a £1,000 Amazon gift card.

Another way to support the Hall is by joining the 100 Club which has a prize if you're number is drawn at the Pop Up Pub on the last Friday of the month.

You may also donate by sending money to the Village Hall bank account Hougham Village Hall Sort Code 52-41-42 Account Number 56241631. Your support is very much appreciated.

Dover District Lotto

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

The Hougham Village Hall Trust 100 Club

You can sign up with Christine Care carechristine5@gmail.com

Or join at the Pop Up Pub last Friday of every month.

Winner of the May 100 Club Prize Draw was Ticket No. 71 Peter Ulyatt.



POP UP PUB IN JULY

The Streetz2Streetz Fish and Chip van will be at the Village Hall from 5.30-6.45pm on the last Friday of the month, **Friday 26th July**, when Pop up Pub takes place in the Village Hall. Grab your fish and chips for a night of TV at home or, better still, join in with the meet-up in the Village Hall where the 100 Club Prize Draw takes place.



ADVERTISING RATES

Quarter page - £5 per issue/£55 per year

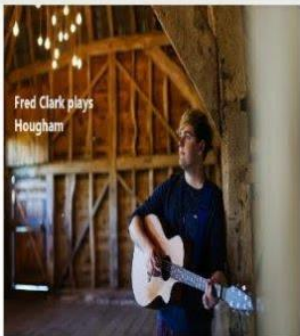
Half page - £10 per issue/£110 per year

Full page - £25 per issue

Listing £1.50 per issue/£11 per year

PLEASE CONSIDER ADVERTISING WITH THE HOUGHAM HERALD.

CONTACT: Christine Care carechristine5@gmail.com



Fred Clark plays Hougham

Live Music, Food and Drinks



The Horse Box Bar

Hougham Party In The Park 13th July 2024



THE RATZKINS



Entrance Tickets £15.00 per person, Children 5-16 £1.00 Under 5's go Free. Tickets to be purchased in advance. please call or text Dianne on 07710 195331. Tickets and wristbands will be issued.

Come and Enjoy a Great Night of Music

Hougham Party in the Park 13th July 2024
5pm-11pm Hougham Village Green, Satmar Lane, CT15 7BL.
Come and enjoy the music of Fred Clark and The Ratzkins. Buy your beer and drinks from the Horse Box Bar. Hog Roast also available to buy, Vegetarian Options will be available.

This event is being held to raise funds for the Village Hall.



HOG ROAST

MESSAGE FROM HOUGHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUST CIO CHAIR, ALISON BARKER

Dear All,

I hope you're having a good Summer.

You probably know by now that on Saturday 13th July, 5pm to 11pm, the 'Hougham Party in the Park' is taking place on the Village Green (details above).

This event, which will raise money for the upkeep of the Village Hall, is a great chance for everyone to enjoy music and food and we do hope that you'll be able to come. Please encourage relatives, friends and neighbours to come too. We want to make this a night to remember!

There has been considerable preparation and costs in advance of the event, so we would really appreciate your support. You can buy tickets online on the the Hougham Village Hall website (just type Hougham Village Hall into your browser) or type <https://www.houghamvillagehall.co.uk/>. If you prefer, contact Dianne using the details above to buy tickets. Even if you can't come, please consider buying tickets to support this event as a donation. We need to sell a minimum of 100 tickets to break even and, although we are well on the way, we'd like to reach – and exceed – this number of tickets sold – as soon as possible.

We'll be updating the website with more information nearer the time, but I'm sure Dianne will be able to answer any queries you may have.

Hope to see you there!

Alison



Columbine in the meadow

Nature Trail

by Tony Rawlins



Foxgloves on the bank

Now we are in high summer, but at time of writing it does not seem very much like it so far. So much for the old adage about the oak and the ash as a prediction. It has all the appearance of a typical English summer which is, of course, why so many of us take off for warmer climes further south.

Despite the cool weather the birds have by and large nested and produced their broods for the year, though some birds do have a second set in one season. Sadly not all the youngsters come through unscathed. Walking in the field I came across a number of scattered feathers, silent testimony to a minor massacre having taken place. Inspecting the feathers it looked as if two sets of victims were in fact Jays. It was a trifle surprising to see a Jay as a victim as the jay is not a small bird and quite capable of doing his own raiding of nests.

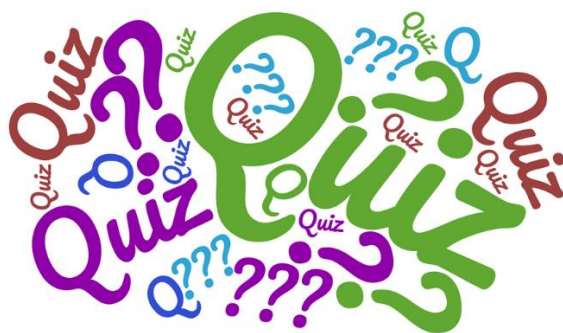
There were also sets of feathers showing the victims this time were Greater Spotted Woodpeckers, again a substantial bird. Who was the perpetrator then? Probably an even larger bird, perhaps a Goshawk, which we have frequently sighted in the vicinity. We do know that Wood Pigeons are a favourite target for Goshawks.

Until fairly recently predator birds have been very rare due largely to being victims themselves of gamekeepers shooting them. This is of course now a criminal offence and, whilst it still happens, it has reduced in intensity after a number of court cases where gamekeepers have been heavily fined for transgressions.

When we try to grow a few edibles on our patch, slugs are a major problem and we attempt to reduce their effects in as kindly a way as possible. One method is to plant out small containers with beer which are very effective as the slugs obviously are very attracted to the beer and fall in the container where they drown, drunk but happy! Beer however is grossly expensive, leaving us another ploy - to use cucumber slices put in a defensive line around your treasured plant. The slugs will go for the cucumber but - being a trifle choosy - will eat the centres out leaving the skin untouched. This leaves the slug well fed and back again thereafter but does give temporary reprieve to the plant. I am sure that many parishioners are similarly engaged in such warfare and we welcome suggestions from your experiences, successful or otherwise, in containing the hungry hordes of wee beasties (as Robbie Burns would have them).

Meanwhile, our Walnut trees have their nuts forming and growing, and - when the time is ripe, usually about second or third week in July and before the nuts cases harden - we pick the nuts and prepare them for pickling. Hazelnuts, too, are forming but these we leave to the local squirrel population who do tend to desecrate the trees in general having now successfully ousted the native red squirrel who was not known for such vandalism.

The flowers in the field are looking their loveliest, with vetch, dog daisies, pyramid orchids, wild roses, champions, fox gloves, columbine, rosy garlic, gerrymander speedwell, etc all blooming well. Fruit trees are developing their fruits everywhere and Kent has for years been known as the Garden Of England for it's bounty of fruit production, now too, in more recent times are also known as the home of the 40-ton Artic pounding up the motorways or parked in immense lines for ages awaiting clearance to proceed!



The Next

QUIZ NIGHT

AT HOUGHAM VILLAGE HALL

will be

Saturday 14th September 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 email alisonrbarker@gmail.com

From the vicarage

An election campaign is underway – you’ve probably noticed – and perhaps, like me, you have been watching the televised debates between the leaders of the political parties, each trying to persuade us that theirs is the best suited to form a government to serve the nation over the next few years. And while TV debates might seem to have been with us for ever, the first was broadcast as recently as 2010.

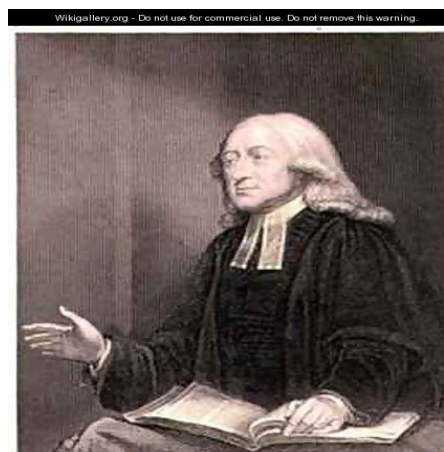
Turn the clock back even further, and we find that general elections were once very different. When elections were called, public meetings would be held in each town – hustings at which candidates would give speeches. These could be quite rowdy affairs, often attended by large crowds - but not everyone could vote. The rules around who could varied from one place to another. Women were excluded. Voting was by a show of hands - there was no secret ballot before 1872 – so the possibility of intimidation, especially if your employer was a candidate, was very real.

Back to 2024 and thinking of our upcoming election, here’s a quotation from John Wesley - travelling preacher, founder of the Methodist Church and, in his time, something of a celebrity. With the general election of October 1774 approaching, he spoke at a church meeting near Bristol. He later wrote in his Journal:

I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them (1) to vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy; (2) to speak no evil of the person they voted against; and (3) to take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.

Things have changed a lot since 1774. But such wisdom is timeless, and worth remembering.

Brian



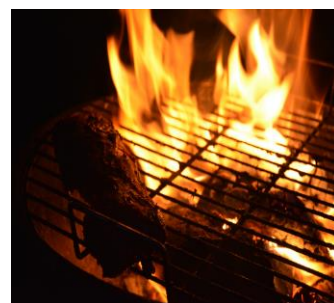
John Wesley

WikiGallery.Ora

CHURCH SERVICES, July 2024			
Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th 6 th Sunday after Trinity	Evening Prayer 5.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist (said) 11.00 am
Saturday 13th <i>Fun, fellowship and food – all children accompanied by a responsible adult please – thank you!)</i>		 3.00 – 5.00 pm	
Sunday 14th 7 th Sunday after Trinity	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping Together 11.00 am	Worshipping Together 11.00 am
Sunday 21st 8 th Sunday after Trinity	SONGS OF PRAISE 11.00 am	Eucharist (Traditional) 9.30 am	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 28th 9 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			



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



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

Thursday 4 th July	General Election. The Village Hall is the Polling Station, open 7am – 10pm.
Saturday 13 th July	Hougham Party in the Park, with live music and food. 5pm-11pm. Tickets £15, £1 for children. Under 5s free. Book tickets with Dianne 07710 195331 or book online on the website. Don't miss this one!
Friday 26 th June	Pop Up Pub. Fish and chip van open 5.30-6.45pm.
Saturday 14 th September	Quiz Night 7.30pm. £5 per head. Tables of 6 people. Prizes to be won!
Saturday 7 th December	Christmas Quiz Night. Put the date in your diaries!

Regular classes

Pilates classes every Tuesday morning 10-11am.

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

Dog training every Monday evening 6pm-7pm.

Contact Emma Lush 07583 947605

Dog training 2.15-3pm and Puppy training 3.15-4pm every Sunday afternoon.

Contact Emma Lush 07583 947605

Zumba classes every Saturday morning 9am-10am and every Wednesday evening 7-8pm:

Contact houghamvillagehallcontact@gmail.com