



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

or request an email copy from alisonbarker@gmail.com

Editorial: Alison Barker alisonbarker@gmail.com

Advertising: Christine Care carechristine5@gmail.com



Party in the Park: Hougham Village Hall's top summer event, a party on the Village Green, West Hougham, took place on Saturday 13th July, with live music, food and a chance for all to celebrate the summer (which arrived the following weekend, incidentally!). Full report pages 6 and 7.

VILLAGE HALL AGM 2024

The Hougham Village Hall Trust CIO, the charity which runs the Hougham Village Hall, will be holding it's AGM on Thursday 17th October at 7.30pm and everyone is invited to come along and find out more about the Hall's organisation and activities.

The focus of the AGM this year will be a conversation between the Trustees and those attending so that the Trustees can find out what you think about the Village Hall and any suggestions you have for how the Hall could do better. The formal business of electing new Trustees will take place at the beginning of the meeting and any members of the public are invited to observe this process or to raise resolutions. There will also be a presentation shown on the large TV which will update the public on the Hall's successes and challenges during 2024.

The Hall's Management Committee welcomes those interested in serving their communities by helping to run the Hall, so this is an opportunity to find out more about becoming a Trustee if you're interested. However it's also a chance to socialise, and there will be food and drink available.

The Notice, with full details, is on page 5.

“Around the Parish”

News from Hougham Without Parish Council

Hello parishioners, I hope you are finally enjoying the summer sun, now that summer has finally arrived as we write this August!

Since the last *Around the Parish*, Hougham Without Parish Council has held its Annual AGM and annual public consultation meeting in May. Unfortunately, only 4 members of the public attended. The usual topics were raised, around the state of the roads in and around Hougham, fly tipping, the village Green, and heavy lorries using the village.

The Parish Council has supported the Hougham Action Group with their campaign to address the poor state of the roads in and around Hougham and some good has come about from this. Re-surfacing work at Eight Acres/ Broadsole Lane and patching in Crooks Court Lane/Gravel Hill and recently Satmar Lane. However, the Parish Council would ask everyone to report potholes, flooding (yes Autumn is barely 1 month away) to either KCC pothole reporting, your KCC Cllr David Beaney, or the newly elected MP for Dover and Deal Mike Tapp. We can get movement and improvements on this issue if we all report problems and lobby our elected members at KCC and National level on a consistent basis. Look what we have done so far!

The Parish Council would also remind landowners that keeping hedges that border your land/property trimmed is a legal requirement and can be enforceable by KCC. You may be aware that the PC owns the Village Green and amenity area and is responsible for its maintenance and safety of equipment and users. Recently a Working Party (WP) was set up comprising 3 councillors and 6 volunteers from the parish “to examine the feasibility of the village green and its facilities in the light of recent comments from users and make recommendations for future provision” (terms of reference).

After several productive meetings including 3 interesting presentations from specialist playground and equipment suppliers the WP have firmed up on a brief for the future and are in the process of drawing up a full specification with which to invite tenders for the changes. Once these are returned and the proposed scheme is priced attention will turn to the necessary funding. The WP hope to raise most if not all the funds required via grants from charitable bodies but inevitably this will take some time and realistically, we are not looking for the work to start for some 12 months.

In the meantime, the WP have just submitted a bid to the Woodland Trust for over 400 trees and shrubs with which to form a border (bundling) on the western side of the green. If this is successful, we will need your and especially your children’s help (because it is a special Woodland Trust project and free) with the planting. The plants will not arrive until November so please keep your eyes peeled for an invite to join the planting group.

If you have any ideas about how to secure extra funding for improvements to the village green space, or what you would like to see improved in the space please contact the Hougham Parish Council directly, or alternatively attend one of our regular open mtgs held at Hougham Village Hall, see our website for dates or contacts –

Phone Numbers – Hougham Without Parish Council (houghamwithoutpc.co.uk)

Unfortunately fly tipping persists in and around the village on a regular basis, see attached recent incidents since our last post. We have a good relationship with Dover Council Environmental Crime, namely Mitchell Sanderson and we regular report these incidents . Could you do the same as a local resident? Details of Mitchell's e-mail below, please help us help you keeping Hougham a clean and beautiful place in this protected AONB location.

envcrime@dover.gov.uk



The increase of lorries using the waste transfer site in Eight Acres in West Hougham has been noted by several parishioners over the last 12 months and the Parish Council in conjunction with DDC Cllr Martin Hibbert are making enqs as to why this is happening and the associated risks to pedestrians and traffic. If residents have any concerns, pictures please forward these to the Parish Council at the website above or attend a Parish Council mtg in person (these are always open for members of the Parish to attend).

Lastly as summer moves into full swing, so does operation Brock and inevitable delays in and out of Dover due to traffic congestion. Remember this is likely to be exacerbated in Oct when the new border checks with France come into full force (finger printing/facial recognition checks at the port). The Kent and Medway Resilience Forum have written to local Parish Councils, and District Councils about measures they decided to take this summer to alleviate traffic delays in and around the port. Of significance to West and Church Hougham is the use of the Court Wood junction slip road, both off and on to the A20 as a permit checkpoint for lorries involved in operation Brock. The Parish Council are strongly against this proposal and if this has affected you please make representations to your KCC elected Cllr David Beaney, MP Mike Tapp or the Kent Resilience Forum at –

Simon Jones strategic lead for Kent and Medway Resilience Forum
Kent Rescue HQ
Straw Mill Hill
Tovil, Maidstone, ME15 6XB

Please support your villages, we (Hougham Without Parish Council) try our very best to represent your interests at all levels , so everything you do can to help us help you, benefits everyone! Have fun whilst the sun lasts, Autumn is just around the corner!

Hougham Parish Council

Contacts

Hougham Without Parish Council
Clerk – Cathy Finnis
Cathy.finnis@googlemail.com
07849800242

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

MP Mike Tapp
Email: mike.tapp.mp@parliament.uk

THE 100 CLUB

The Village Hall runs a 100 Club. The winning ticket number each month is £25 and is drawn at the Pop Up Pub on the last Friday of the month by a member of the public. For the Christmas Draw in December, the prize is £50.

Belonging to the 100 Club will cost you £12 per year and you will be making a contribution to ensuring the Hall stays open. Please buy your tickets from Chris Care carechristine5@gmail.com.



- Tickets from just £1 a week
- Chance to win up to £25,000
- Play weekly, or just play the Super Draw!
- The world is literally at your feet!

BUY TICKETS



GambleAware



See website for Terms & conditions. Enter by 31/08/24.

DOVER LOTTO

A great way to support Hougham Village Hall is to buy a Dover Lotto ticket. Enter by 31st August for a chance to win the Super Draw (above) or look out for the September prize draw.



The section of broken wall outside the Village Hall has been removed and efforts are continuing to raise grant for the refurbishment of the Hall driveway.

Don Taylor kindly used his digger to take away the damaged section of wall at no charge to the Hall and remedial works are already underway thanks to a generous donation from Helen Scopes.

The Village Hall Management Committee would like to thank both Don and Helen for their acts of generosity.

HOUGHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUST CIO

AGM

Thursday 17 October 2024

7.30pm

(free refreshments)

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Hougham Village Hall Trust Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) will be held on Thursday 17 October 2024 at 7.30pm 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 refreshments whilst chatting to the Trustees.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Alison Barker,

Chair, Hougham Village Hall Trust CIO

DANCING IN THE MOONLIGHT

A fine time was had by everyone at the Village Hall's Party in the Park, supported by more than 100 people and brilliantly organised by Dianne Oxenham, who worked incredibly hard to make it all happen. Thanks Di!

There was also a large team of helpers and a kind donation from Relyon of a van (and a man!) to drive all the equipment from the Hall to the Village Green. Thanks also go to Hougham Without Parish Council for letting the Village Hall use the Village Green for the event. Many other people gave their time to help set up, such as Aidan Lowry, who assembled the large marquee, Mark Hughes, who cooked the hog roast and Dan Codrea who served on the hog roast stand. Braving the rain (and also the cold!) were Mary Pressnell and Chris Care who took ticket money on the door, and Chris also ran the raffle. Colin Care and Steve Green erected the fencing and there were many more people, including Peter Robinson and Sue Green, loading and unloading furniture and assisting with putting up the marquees (in the rain!). Great teamwork and thanks to everyone! Sorry if I didn't mention you personally.

At 5pm, as the event was getting underway, it poured with rain, so some decided to stay indoors but the hardy ones who turned out were not disappointed. Fred Clark played his set to open the evening's entertainment, with partygoers huddling under the marquee to avoid the rain, but by the time Ratzkins performed, the weather had brightened up and there was dancing in the moonlight.

For anyone who missed the event, there was a hog roast provided by Mark Hughes, the Ratshack vegetarian food stall and the Horsebox bar. The amount raised to support the Village Hall was £665, most of which came from the raffle, which raised £680.

There were 110 tickets sold and some people supported the event by buying tickets , even though they weren't able to attend on the night. A big, big thank you to everyone who supported the event, and we do hope you'll enjoy the next one! (after Di's had a jolly good lie down!)





Pictures: These are just a few of the images of the Party in the Park 2024 and many more were shared on Facebook. Many happy memories were made and – just to remind everyone – these events can be enjoyed by anyone. Details of upcoming events are on the Hougham Village Hall website <https://www.houghamvillagehall.co.uk/>

Also, you can print the What's On page which appears at the end of every issue of the Hougham Herald which gives details of all the Village Hall's events and activities.



FISH & CHIP VAN/POP UP PUB IN SEPTEMBER

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 27th September**, 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

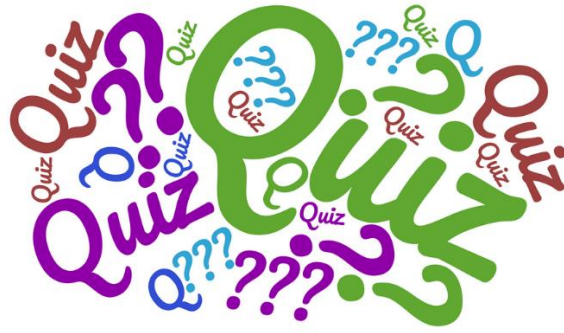
Half page - £10 per issue/£110 per year

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



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

Nature Trail

by Tony Rawlins

The Summer turned out to be something of a mixed bag this year. The winter seemed to drag on well past it's sell by date and the warm weather didn't kick in until we were well into the Summer months.

There have been some noticeable aspects these last few weeks that many people have remarked upon. There's a lack of the usual summer visitors such as swallows and swifts and, of course, the cuckoo which hasn't been heard of very much in recent years in our corner of Kent. Also, somewhat less obviously, there is the shortage of insects, some of which can, admittedly, be somewhat troublesome but the absence of honey bees is a trifle worrying. Much of the pollen collecting appears to have been down to bumble bees. There's also a lack of wasps.

Our son, who lives in France, tells us that there is no shortage of such insects and birds due to the rules concerning the usage of insecticides in France, and indeed most European countries are somewhat tighter than here in Britain, with the most noticeable affects on our wildlife. We can only hope that this destruction of our wildlife does not impinge similarly on our own survival which may or may not be the next phase to come.

Soon Autumn will be coming our way, with the nights slowly getting longer and the equinox in the middle of next month. One can only hope that next Winter will not prove to be as long lasting as the last (unless it's my age that makes the winter months drag out so much!). There's much to commend Autumn, the beautiful colours on the trees as their leaves change colour from green to reds and oranges before they fall from the trees. An early form of Solar Panel one might say, but with an added advantage in that when they fall from the tree on the ground they slowly decompose and make fertiliser to make the ground richer.

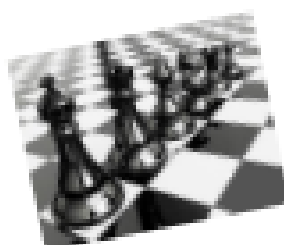
The fruit trees are at this time, all being well, are laden with their annual bounty, apples, plums, pears, walnuts etc. Even the humble bramble bush can produce a harvest of blackberries which are eagerly picked with minimal regard for the scratches occasioned. We have a mulberry tree in our garden which produces fruit with an exquisite taste and much staining juice.



One recent phenomenon was the occurrence of the Aurora Borealis which became visible as far south as Kent and was viewable by many - somewhat distantly - over our northern horizons. Even more recently we experienced meteor showers known as the Perseids. This occurs in August when the nights are shorter. If one wants to view the showers it is generally warmer than when the next belt of meteor showers, the Germinids, occur on 13 to 14 December. This is followed, just into the New Year on 3/4th January, by the Quadrantid meteor shower when it can be pretty chilly craning your neck to view the incoming meteors in the darkness. Sitting by a warm fire can possibly be a more attractive way of passing an evening.

St Radigunds Church, Capel

Games



Evening

Saturday 14th September

at 7pm



£5 per person

All welcome, bring your own food and drink.

Please bring any games you would like to share.

(There will be a few board & card games available too!)

Proceeds to Parish Funds

We look forward to seeing you there.



From the vicarage

In the Church's calendar, 29th September is the Feast of St Michael and All Angels. It's also the anniversary of the day when I became a 'Reverend'. I can still remember standing outside the West Door of Canterbury Cathedral, waiting in procession for the organ to signal the beginning of the service with the first notes of the hymn *Ye Holy Angels Bright*. One of my favourites, I'd like it at my funeral, which hopefully won't be for a while yet - although you never know.

Hymns have a certain something about them. Even today, BBC's *Songs of Praise*, first broadcast in 1961, still appears somewhere in the schedules most Sundays. Some folk were so upset when we were forbidden to sing hymns during the pandemic that they stopped coming to church completely – and in some cases, sadly, they've never been back.

But the good news is that a couple of Songs of Praise services in church recently brought in people who we either hadn't seen before, or at least not in a while. Just as on TV, people introduced what they had chosen to sing, and explained why.

Sydney Carter's *Lord of the Dance* reminded some of their school days - and even, in one case, of evenings spent in the pub playing with a folk band. Other hymns brought back fond memories of those no longer with us, and others we sang simply because people liked them.

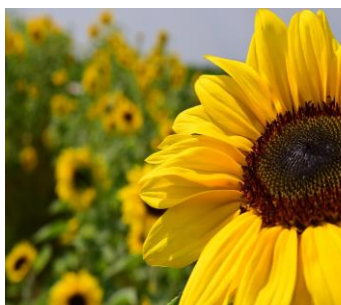
At the end there was still time for one more hymn. I happened to mention the offer that I'd made to the bellringers. And even though it wasn't Christmas, there was one hymn that just about everyone wanted to sing. And so it was that we finished with an enthusiastic rendition of *Ding! Dong! Merrily On High...*

Brian



Picture credit www.alamy.com

CHURCH SERVICES, September 2024			
Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st 14 th Sunday after Trinity	Evening Prayer 5.00 pm	PARISH FETE AT ST RADIGUND'S	Eucharist (said) 11.00 am
Sunday 8th 15 th Sunday after Trinity	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping Together 11.00 am	Worshipping Together 11.00 am
Saturday 14th <i>Fun, fellowship and food – all children accompanied by a responsible adult please – thank you!)</i>		 3.00 – 5.00 pm	
Sunday 15th 16 th Sunday after Trinity	Worshipping Together 11.00 am	Eucharist (Traditional) 9.30 am	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 22nd 17 th Sunday after Trinity	Eucharist (said) 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 29th St Michael and All Angels	St Mary's (Capel Old Church) United Parish Eucharist 10.00 a.m.		
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 SEPT-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/>

Saturday 14 th September	Quiz Night 7.30pm. £5 per head. Tables of 6 people. Contact alisonrbarker@gmail.com to book a table. See page 9.
Saturday 14 th September	Games Evening. 7pm. £5 per person. See page 10.
Friday 27 th September	Pop Up Pub. Fish and chip van open 5.30-6.45pm.
Saturday 5 th October 7pm for 7.30pm	Local musician Hannah Estelle Caldwell will be performing at Hougham Village Hall (including the Potholes Song)
Saturday 2 nd November	Comedy night with George Egg, details to follow in the next issue. Put the date in your diaries!
Saturday 7 th December	Christmas Quiz Night. Put the date in your diaries!

Regular classes

Pilates classes Mat Pilates every Tuesday morning 10-11am. Chair Pilates 11.15am to 12.15pm. 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