

*Appledore Parish Magazine December 2020 /  
January 2021*



**MERRY CHRISTMAS APPLIEDORE!**



**AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**VILLAGE DIARY**  
**DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021**

At the time of writing we are still in the second lockdown so there is nothing in the diary at the moment. This may of course change in January.

All editorial matter for publication in the **FEBRUARY** magazine should be sent to: The Editor, Oak House, 74 The Street, Appledore, TN26 2AE, tel. no 01233 758249, email: appledoremagazine@hotmail.com, **NOT LATER THAN THE TWENTIETH OF JANUARY**. Please provide copy to our email address, preferably as a Word file attachment.

The Appledore Parish Magazine is produced, printed, collated and delivered by a number of villagers who kindly volunteer to take on these tasks. It is delivered free to every household in the village. This is unusual; the majority of village magazines carry a cover price of 30p or so. It is supported financially by advertisers and by one or two organisations, such as the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council, which contribute towards the space that they regularly occupy. But it could not continue to exist without donations from private householders who, over the years and on a regular basis, have given us money to keep going. Donations should be sent to: The Editor, Oak House, 74 The Street, Appledore, TN26 2AE. Cheques should be made payable to Appledore Parish Magazine.

***Thank you to Ray, Tricia and Brian for the wonderful photographs of Appledore on the front cover.***

**Advertising:      Brian Knight 01233 758319**  
**email: appledoremagazine@hotmail.com**

**A year's advertising (11 magazines) is £25 per 1/6th page. The magazine is delivered to 400 houses and is available to visitors via the Village Shop and church.**

***Thank you for all the kind donations towards our new printer even in such difficult times. The cheques continue to come in and we finally have our new printer!***

WISHING A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR TIRELESS VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP DELIVER THIS MAGAZINE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, INCLUDING THOSE EXTRA VOLUNTEERS WHO WERE PREPARED TO GIVE UP THEIR TIME DURING LOCKDOWN. A very big **THANK YOU**



Dear All,

This time last year I was looking forward to Christmas here in Appledore with my two little grandsons who live in the US. I never would have dreamed on January 2<sup>nd</sup> when we saw them off at Heathrow that that would be the last time we would see them and my son and daughter-in-law in 2020.

What an awful year it has been – loved ones have been lost and many trials endured but the spirit of Appledore has lived on. I remember with fondness our VE Day celebrations for example, and the many, many acts of kindness and support given to those in need.

At the time of writing, there is hope of a vaccine on the horizon and though Christmas will be different this year, hopefully we can look forward to a happier and healthier 2021. With that in mind, I have ended this bumper edition with a piece by Dr Colledge entitled “A Time for Optimism” about the vaccine and its possibilities. Also included to lift our spirits is Dippy Dora’s poem on page 35 where she concludes:

*Altho' we stand a little gappy  
Yet we can be a wee bit happy  
As greetings 'cross the airwaves fly  
To wish good things will soon come by.*

Looking still further ahead, on page 17 Helen Hennig asks us all to start to think about the extra Bank Holiday in 2022 to celebrate the Queen’s 70<sup>th</sup> year on the throne!

Finally, my thoughts go to my “wingmen”, Brian and Tessa Knight who have, for most of the year, single-handedly printed and collated our magazine. Thank you both so much.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

**Maureen**

**STOP PRESS: CHRISTMAS REFUSE  
COLLECTION DETAILS PAGE 38**

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Appledore: Friday 10.00 – 12.00

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## It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Well, we're still in this extraordinary period of things being far from normal; but we're now in Advent and looking forward to celebrating Christmas.

At Christmas, we often remember times past, Christmases in our memory, things that were special, when there were people with us, who we no longer see, or won't be able to this year. We can't help being a bit nostalgic, especially when things are looking so very different.

In church we very often address God as: "*Almighty God*" out of reverence and respect. But is that the only and best way to think of God?

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas and the birth of Jesus, we see God in a very different light. There is very little that is "*almighty*" about a new-born baby! A new-born baby even at the best of times is *vulnerable, delicate and fragile* as was the baby Jesus. And even more so because Jesus's mother gave birth a long way from home, without the support of family and friends and in the equivalent of a shed round the back. Jesus was little, weak and helpless!

So rather than addressing God as "*Almighty*" might we instead say, "Vulnerable God" and perhaps continue: you risked everything by emptying yourself to become a human being. You come to us as a fragile child to share in our weakness and struggle. You grew up and lived in a country surrounded by turmoil and uncertainty. Thank you, Vulnerable God, that you are "God with us"—not judging and condemning from on high but understanding and sharing our humanity in the here and now of everyday life. You know what it's like to grow up in an earthly family with all the hassles and tensions, the joys and the sorrows. You know what it's like to do hard physical work for small wages. You know what it's like to lose family members and friends who you've loved. You know what it is to suffer injustice and unfairness. Thank you, Vulnerable God, that YOU know and understand and care and want to help.

When we address God as "*Almighty*" we can easily think of God as 'Out there' – a long way away – remote and uncaring. When we address God as "*Vulnerable*" we are recognising that God is right here and alongside us – in the thick of it – in the messiness of life as it is today – in the daily struggle.

This is our *vulnerable God* who we celebrate and worship.

We do hope that you will join us in celebrating the birth of our vulnerable God this Christmas. There's something so special about being in your local parish church at this seasonal time of year although this year is going to be a little different. Please see elsewhere in the magazine the services that are planned in our churches. We will, of course, be keeping a close eye on Government guidelines and will do our very best to bring joy and peace to you all.

May we wish you a Happy Christmas and New Year.

God Bless.

Tricia and Alison

**St Peter and St Paul, Appledore**  
**December Services**  
**2020**



**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

10.30am, Advent Morning Prayer on Zoom  
 6pm, Advent Evensong, Stone-in Oxney

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

10.30am, Holy Communion, Appledore  
 4.30pm, Short Service of Light, Appledore

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

2-4pm, Live Nativity Tableau, Les Ramsden's Field, Old Way

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

10am, Carol Service St Peter and St Paul - please book a seat  
 3pm, Carols by Candlelight, Stone-in Oxney - please book a seat

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**Christmas Eve**

3pm, Crib Service, Stone-in Oxney - please book a seat

6pm, Crib Service

**(EVERYONE)** please dress as an angel

or a shepherd at home and join us on Zoom

11.15pm, Midnight Mass, Appledore



**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**Christmas Day**

9am, Family Communion, Stone-in-Oxney

10.30am, Family Service, Appledore

**Midweek Services**

**Holy Communion, 9<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December**  
**at 9.30am St Peter & St Paul, Appledore**

All services details may have to change depending on Government advice. Any changes can be found on the Village and Church Facebook pages.

Please email [patricia.fogden@btinternet.com](mailto:patricia.fogden@btinternet.com) to book seats

or to obtain Zoom login details.

Wishing you God's Blessing this Christmas

**St Mary the Virgin, Stone-in-Oxney  
St Peter & St Paul, Appledore**



**January 2021 Services**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, Epiphany**

**10.30am, Anglican/Methodist Worship, Appledore**

**6pm, Evensong, Stone-in-Oxney**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

**10.30am, Morning Prayer on Zoom**



Fig. 18.—Ploughmen.—Fac-simile of a Miniature in a very ancient Anglo-Saxon Manuscript published by Shaw, with legend "God Spede ye Plough, and send us Korne enow."

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January**

**10.30am, Plough Sunday Family Service,**

**Stone-in-Oxney**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

**10.30am, Holy Communion, Appledore**

**Midweek Services**

Wednesday services of Holy Communion in Appledore

will restart on Ash Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February





Come and enjoy a live Nativity Tableau  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2pm to 4pm  
Les Ramsden's Field, Old Way

Donations collected in aid of The Salvation Army

## **COME AND SEE!**

Have you looked in the church porch recently? There you will find an exclusive and reasonably priced range of original handmade gifts and cards produced here in Appledore. Hurry while stocks last!

Thank you for continuing to bring your unwanted jam jars and may we add to that a request for any sized plant pots you want to offload. They will be reused for plants to sell in the porch later in the growing season.

The porch is open seven days a week from 9.00 until dusk.

J.C.



**Christmas lights & tributes in aid of the Salvation Army**  
**Short service of light at 4.30pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Due to the cancellation of the popular Carol Service led by the Salvation Army in late December, Appledore PCC have decided to support them by offering an alternative celebration.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> December there will be laminated labels and a collection bucket available in the church porch for anyone who would like to write a prayer or tribute to a loved one. The large tree on the left just inside the gates of the church will be strung with lights and the trunk tied with wire for you to attach your labels.

There will also be a short service of light (compliant to any future Government guidelines) led by Revd Tricia Fogden on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30pm when the tree will be lit for the first time (and remain so for the Christmas period).

All money collected will be in aid of the Salvation Army and the amazing work they do for the homeless at Christmas time.

Thank You

Any queries, please ring Donna on 01233 758256  
 or Philippa on 01233 758225



**COMMUNITY MASK TREE**

**Adult and children's Christmas masks are now on the tree**

The Mask Tree is situated on the hedge of the Vicarage Garden in Old Way. This scheme is based on trust! All we ask is for a donation in return for a face covering. Please only take what you need and do not resell at a higher price – people have given their skill and time for free to make these.

Please pop donations in the plastic envelope and put through the Vicarage letterbox or place in the jar on the doorstep. Please leave the peg on the tree. Thank you.

All money raised from the Tree in November was for The Royal British Legion. December's donations will be sent to The Salvation Army.

If you have any donations for the Tenterden Foodbank, these can be left on the doorstep or through the side door of the Vicarage.

Thank you very much  
 Tricia XXX



## Appledore Local History Society



### Remembrance Day

The Appledore Beacon was erected to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the cessation of hostilities in the Great War (WW1) and stands as the only single memorial in the village. There are two other memorial plaques, one in the Church of St Peter and St Paul, and one in the Methodist Hall, but neither has all the names of those lost from the village.

When the Beacon was erected, the aim was to ensure that all those who perished had a single memorial place, hence the plaques with the names of the fallen you can see in situ.

As a mark of respect, our Chairman placed the wreath you can see in the picture to commemorate Remembrance Sunday 2020, and it is the intention of the History Society to do so, each year, in remembrance of all those that Appledore has lost in every conflict.

### Court Lodge Road Excavations

The Archaeological dig at the Court Lodge Car Park site is underway, and we gather that Roman pots and other artefacts have been discovered. We have asked to be kept in the loop, and hope to bring you a list and perhaps photographs of the finds once the dig is complete.

### Museum Update

Over the coming months we hope to be able to start putting together our small museum in the Methodist Chapel. If you have any photographs or other items relating to the history of Appledore which you think would be of interest we'd love to hear from you.

### Merry Christmas!

As a very difficult 2020 draws to a close, we would like to extend our very best wishes to each and every resident in Appledore for a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

**As we think of our traditional Over 60s Christmas Lunch and the hoops Jenny and Linda and their crew of helpers are having to go through this year, we thought it might be interesting to see what was going on in Appledore in the 1940s!!**

### **A Women's Institute report from the past**

"Children's Party 1944

The Children's Party was held in the Parish Hall on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> tea being given by the members, all Children of the village were invited. 68 Children sat down to an excellent Tea organized by the Old & New Committees.

After tea there were games & competitions. Before leaving each Child was presented with a Toy or Present from an illuminated Christmas Tree by the President of the W.I. Mrs Martin Cock.

Social

The following Day Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> The members held their Xmas Social each member invited a guest. Mrs Cock welcomed members & friends to the hall then handed over to Mr Monty Bates who kindly acted as M.C.

Carols were sung by the Choir & Solo's by Miss Clarice Bourne, Miss Starbuck at the piano and Charlie Dunster and his accordion.

A Sketch was given by Mrs Elwiss & Stillwell and a mimed Play by the Brookland W.I. members. After refreshments, games & dancing to Mr Marshall's Band, brought the evening to a close.

A special thank you to Mrs Ovenden for helping decorate the hall & I would like to thank Mr & Mrs Bourne who lit fires, decorated the hall etc. for all the work they put in and Mr Monty Bates. Also all the members who helped clean the hall."

## **Volunteer to help find the vaccine for COVID-19**

Join the national effort and sign up for the [NHS COVID-19 vaccine research registry](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/research/coronavirus-vaccine-research/). Be part of the fightback against the virus by volunteering to be contacted by researchers to take part in COVID-19 vaccine research.

There are a number of vaccines being identified, but only large-scale studies can give researchers the information needed about how effective they are.

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is working with the NHS and aims to recruit as many people as possible onto the registry, which will allow people to be put in touch with the vaccine studies in the coming months.

Researchers are looking for people from all backgrounds, ages and parts of the UK - including both people with or without existing health conditions - to take part in vaccine studies, to make sure that any vaccines developed will work for everyone.

The service is available to anyone aged 18 or over, living in the UK. There is no obligation to join in any study, if you are contacted. But by taking part, you could help researchers find vaccines to protect us all more quickly - which in turn could help the NHS and save lives.

[Sign up today!](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/research/coronavirus-vaccine-research/)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/research/coronavirus-vaccine-research/>

if you would like information about vaccines, visit our website

<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/vaccine-studies/>



## Tyre Winter Check

Motorists in Kent are being reminded to check their tyres as part of a national campaign which highlights the dangers of defective tyres.

Motorists are advised to use an accurate tyre pressure gauge to check pressures. To find out what the correct pressure should be check the car's owner's manual or fuel filler cap. Additionally lumps and bumps in a tyre could indicate internal damage and increase the risk of failure. Motorists who find lumps, cracks or cuts in their tyres are urged to seek professional advice.

It is also important motorists check the tread depth on their tyre. If a gauge is not available a 20p coin can be used. Insert the 20p into the main tread grooves of the tyre, if the outer border is hidden the tyre is above the legal limit.

Chief Inspect Rhiannan Pepper said: 'It is important that motorists get into the habit of checking their vehicle for defects. Performing a quick safety check on your car could prevent you from being involved in a collision or facing a fine if stopped.'

Motorcyclists should also take particular care to ensure their vehicles are safe for use as good tyres will offer additional safety when accelerating, braking and cornering.

Paying the care and attention your tyres need will help you stay safe and potentially save you money in vehicle maintenance in the long term.'

Failure to ensure that tyres meet the minimum legal standards means a motorist could face a fine of up to £2,500 and three penalty points for each illegal tyre.

PCSO Katherine Richards

### Ashford Citizens Advice Bureau

#### ***Whenever you need advice, we're here***

Ashford Advice will continue to remain **open during lockdown and will continue to do so if it is extended.**

People come to us with all sorts of issues. Ashford Advice will always give you free, confidential and impartial advice. We have specialist advisers in Housing, Debt, Employment and Welfare Benefits plus many subject areas who can assist with tribunal and court cases.

We have access to pro-bono solicitors for family and immigration matters.

#### **Legal Aid in Housing**

Ashford Borough Citizens Advice has been awarded a contract by the Legal Aid Agency to offer free, confidential and independent legal advice in matters relating to housing i.e. homelessness, disrepair, possession, judicial review, loss of home.

#### **Email & Telephone Advice Service**

Tel. no: 01233 626185, Email: [ashfordadvice@gmail.com](mailto:ashfordadvice@gmail.com)

#### **Opening Times**

**Monday – Friday 9.00 am – 4 pm**

**Closed Christmas Day, 25th December, Bank Holiday Monday, 28th December & Friday, 1st January 2021**

Seabrooke House, Church Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1RD Website: [ashfordadvice.org](http://ashfordadvice.org)

## Appledore Bell Ringers

I think after eight months of silent Sundays and Friday evenings and many people asking why is there no bell ringing at Appledore, I feel I should try and explain.

Appledore bell ringers belong to the KCACR, Kent County Association of Change Ringers, basically for help and insurance for the ringers. The KCACR also belongs to the CCCBR, The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, who are really the governing body of all the ringers and ringing in the country. When the Coronavirus started back in March, the CCCBR sent out an edit of what they advised which the KCACR passed on. They had not stopped ringing entirely but made the rules rather difficult, or should I say virtually impossible to ring the bells. You know all about some rules, sanitising, social distancing, wearing masks etc. As a matter of fact some of the ropes in the ringing chamber are less than a metre apart. They also insisted that ringing should be for only 15 minutes, which is something I can't understand. Can someone explain to me the difference between meeting people for 15 mins and 30 minutes? When the ringers leave the tower, they make sure the bells are left mouth down for safety reasons and, when ringing, the bells are 'raised' so the mouth is in the up position. Basically the bells are resting upside down with only a piece of wood (the stay) preventing them from coming back down. If the bells were left up and someone, for example, decided to pull the rope to see what happened, you could have 12cwt/600 kilos of bell swinging uncontrollably until it came to rest, plus the fact the floor below has a rope flailing around very dangerously. Now you see why the bells are always left down.

Now it would take ten of the allocated fifteen minutes to raise and lower the bells irrespective of whether or not you are ringing four or eight bells as it is the weight that is the governing factor. If you take social distancing into account there would only be three bells that could be rung and those three would not sound very harmonic. You could ring four if there was a 'bubble' ringing two of the bells, which would sound better, but I personally, and some of the ringers agree, would rather wait until the restrictions are lifted a bit so as we can ring longer than fifteen minutes and make the sound that Appledore is used to. I did have hope that we could have done something for Armistice, but Boris said no and by the way things are going I think Christmas will be a no go too.

I hope I have put some light on why the bells are not ringing and I can assure you that we will be back as soon as we can. We miss ringing as I know some of you miss the sound. I do miss practice on a Friday and my Friday pint!

Frank Wenham, Ringing Master.

## **THE DOGGY OLYMPICS**

If you haven't seen me out on one of my walks, you may not appreciate just how fast I can run. When we are walking by the canal, I practise running as fast as I can without bumping into anyone or, worse still, knocking someone over. I just take off and can't stop, round and round I go sometimes getting quite dizzy. I suppose I've just got so much energy. Then when we get home, I'm totally worn out and the rest of the day is spent sleeping on my bed, only moving when it's tea-time or there is a treat being handed out.

But, of course, any strangers approaching the house will soon hear from me. A couple of good barks will see them off. It's my job and I let whoever it is know who's really in charge round here.

I can easily sniff out my friends to give them a warm welcome lick and cuddle up to them on the sofa, just on the off-chance of a biscuit or a treat. No point in wasting an opportunity.

I've developed a fine art of getting my breakfast delivered on time. I run upstairs with a shoe or a slipper, jump up on the bed and give her a few nudges, i.e. wake up, it's morning. Then I know she'll be up like a rocket to let me out into the garden while she makes her tea. When I come in, I just sit and look sorry for myself and it's "Oh Brodie, are you hungry? I won't be a minute." She's got the message and breakfast arrives pronto. Works like a charm!

In the evening I have my own routine. I make a tour of the house, that doesn't take long! Then I go and sit by the back door waiting to be let into the garden, a quick turn round and indoors and sit for my evening biscuit before settling down for the night. As soon as it's all quiet I creep upstairs very quietly and jump onto the bed. Sometimes it's "downstairs and on your bed" and sometimes I get away with it and snuggle down for the night. It's a dog's life and I have to say not a bad one!



**BRODIE**



**APPLEDORE CELEBRATING THE  
QUEEN'S 70<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ON THE THRONE**

*I am sure you have all heard the exciting  
news that we will have another bank  
holiday  
in 2022*

*The Late May bank Holiday has been  
moved to Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and an extra  
bank holiday added on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>!*

*A 4-day Bank Holiday and I think an  
amazing opportunity for us all to come  
together and celebrate as a village.*

*Hopefully we can get a working party  
together early next year and get our  
thinking caps on.*

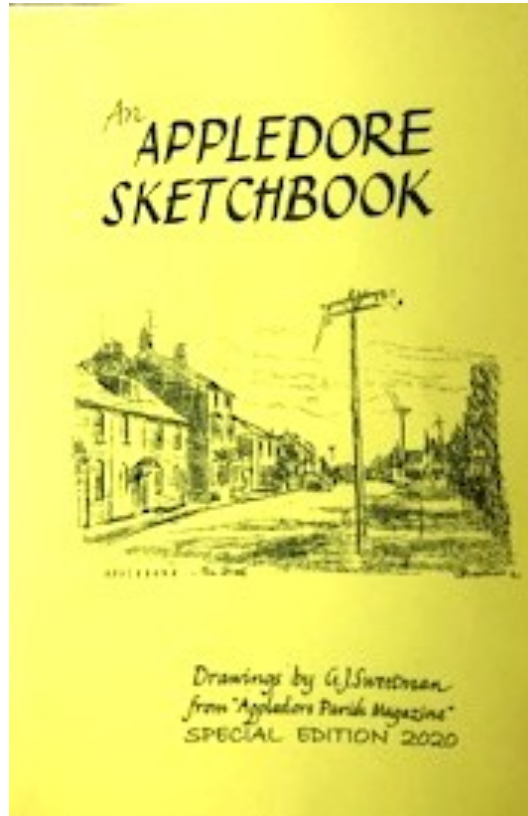
*Contact me if you are interested and able  
to help in any way.*

*Helen Hennig*

*758 436 / [helen.hennig@btinternet.com](mailto:helen.hennig@btinternet.com)*



# FOR SALE!



As part of our 60th birthday celebrations we have put together a sketchbook of Appledore. These are drawings done in the 1960s by the first Editor of the Parish Magazine, Mr Sweetman. It is a fascinating glimpse into the history of Appledore and what the village looked like then. Mr Sweetman travelled all around the village sketching what he saw. Many of you will recognise your homes as they looked then. You might also see what the land looked like before your house was built!

Some of the individual buildings named include: the Methodist Chapel; the Forstal; Horne's Place Chapel; Oxney House; Swan House; the cottages on Court Lodge Road; primary school; Victoria Terrace and Griffin Cottages; Hawthorn Cottages; many views of the Church - inside and out - as well as country views along the Military Canal and Gusbourne.

If you would like to purchase a copy - the cost is £5 - please contact either the Editor on 01233 758249 or Brian Knight on 01233 758319.

## Photocopying & Printing

The Parish Magazine provides a Photocopying & Printing Service. Prices are - Black & White 6p per page, Colour 15p per page. We can print single or double sided.

For further information or to place an order please contact Brian Knight  
Tel: 01233 758319 or email [thrknq@aol.com](mailto:thrknq@aol.com).

## Use of Proceeds from the Sale of the Village Field

The campaign continues to encourage our Parish Council to 'Stop and Rethink' use of the proceeds on pet projects that do not benefit a very high percentage of the local community, as demonstrated by the response to our Questionnaire.

A leaflet has been delivered to our homes by the Parish Council. A rebuttal pamphlet has been distributed by our 'Group of Concerned Parishioners'.

There has been a lively flow of comments on this subject, being shared on Facebook (*Appledore Village Community*), which currently has 593 Members, so why not join in and express your views.....

Terry Blaney, ([terry@twdblaney.com](mailto:terry@twdblaney.com))

On behalf of a Group of Concerned Parishioners

## Poppy Appeal

**A very big thank you to everyone that kindly donated money to The Royal British Legion by purchasing a wooden cross to be displayed in front of the notice board outside church for the Armistice Service on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. We raised £140 which was a great result!**

**Donna x**





## **STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF APPLEDORE PARISH COUNCIL**

Dear Fellow Appledore Residents,

I am writing this statement on behalf of the Parish Council in response to the questionnaire recently circulated in the village.

We are concerned that the questionnaire provided an incomplete picture of the facts.

The sum of £437,000 for the refurbishment & extension of the village hall also includes the completion and resurfacing of the village hall car park.

The price we are paying for the house is significantly lower than the market value. The house will be reserved for an Appledore family in housing need. The Parish Council will earn approximately £8000 per year from the house, to be spent on facilities and services for residents. This income represents a return on our investment of 3.2%, significantly higher than anything available elsewhere.

We remain committed to a new Pedestrian Crossing near the Public Toilets. There is no 'cash for yet to be identified projects', the £40,000 is currently allocated for road safety improvements. Any remaining money will be spent on projects in the village to be agreed in consultation with residents.

The proposals to build a Community Centre and buy No1 The Street have been publicly discussed at Parish Council meetings and public consultations. Neither is affordable or viable, the same applies to the idea of buying the Black Lion.

We cannot 'Save money for the longer term', it is against the law. We have to spend the money from selling the field on capital investment projects within Appledore.

The Parish Council has for many years supported the idea of creating an outdoor exercise area.

### **The Parish Council obligations and our commitment to Appledore**

After public consultations starting in March 2018 the Parish Council entered into a contract for the sale of the Council Field to Martello Developments Ltd in February 2019.

The Parish Council is legally committed to the contract. We are obliged to use our best endeavours to bring the contract to a successful conclusion. The Parish Council must work within the law. We cannot legally pause or renegotiate the contract.



It has been suggested that COVID-19 creates a basis on which to renegotiate. This is not correct.

The terms we have negotiated deliver an exceptional level of benefits for Appledore and the £8000 per year income from the house will allow future Parish Councils to continue investing in the Village.

With regards to the Village Hall, we developed the plans for the refurbishment in consultation with, and with the full support of the Hall Committee. The amount of money we are investing is substantial, but it needs to be, the fabric of the building is failing and the electrical, heating and plumbing services are coming to the end of their life. A wider range of spaces is needed to meet the variety of uses Appledore residents require.

We want the hall to continue as the social centre of the village, a place where we can come together for events, meetings, clubs and classes and to attract enough users to ensure it remains self-funding. To do so we have to make it fit for purpose, which is why we are renewing it now, to serve future generations.

**Together with the rest of the Parish Council I am committed to delivering the best for Appledore and want everyone to know their voice will always be heard.**

**I will happily discuss any concerns with residents. Please call me on 07789 916132 or 01233 758107, or email me at [apc.jperkins@gmail.com](mailto:apc.jperkins@gmail.com).**

James Perkins  
Chairman  
Appledore Parish Council

**TO KEEP APPLIEDORE SAFE PLEASE  
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE IN THE  
VILLAGE STORES AND WEAR A  
MASK!**

## APPLEDORE HIGHWAYS UPDATE

I have recently met with our contact from KCC and received an apology for works not completed from our Phase 1. A reminder of what they are:

- Removal of the Roundels saying 40/30 just before Tenterden Junction and road repairs after removal
- The replacement of a missing "Welcome to Appledore" sign
- Replacement of the National Speed limit sign on the Woodchurch Road
- A small repeater 30mph sign near Heathside.

The above should be completed in the next few weeks.

Thank you Charles for all your efforts chasing the above before resigning - they have paid off. I have only got us to the finishing line.

### **Small "repeater" 30mph signs through the village:**

We have asked for these only to be told repeatedly that we cannot have them as we have streetlights. I have driven around other villages and taken photographs, particularly in Biddenden, but the request for these was again met with a negative.

**However, I have achieved an agreement to put 30/30 roundels through the Street to Fourwents. Number and spacing to be decided.**

### **Priority Sign at the Narrows:**

We have been consistent and persevered in our request for the above. I raised this again and the answer has not changed and is still unfortunately a "NO" due to distance/visibility.

### **Signs to Appledore Station requested by FOAS:**

These were approved and will be incorporated in the new rationalised directional signs. It was also agreed that we could have a sign to Appledore and the Romney Marsh at the Station.

We discussed Phase 2 works which were presented at our Open Day. I will put more information regarding these works in the February magazine.

### **Faults/concerns reported:**

Unfortunately, the warden for our area has been away for some time so there is a backlog, but I will keep on the case! As I do not wander around much at night, I might not be aware of any streetlights that are not working!

**Speed Watch:** This can only start after the above works have been completed and of course Covid allows it.

**Anyone can report a fault so please support me and contact:**

[www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults).

**AGAIN, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ME WITH ANY CONCERNS.**

**CLLR. HELEN HENNIG: 758 436; [apc.hennig@gmail.com](mailto:apc.hennig@gmail.com)**



## Surviving Winter Campaign



### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

**Volunteer for one of the many fantastic voluntary organisations in Kent and Medway**

**Simply knock on a door to show a familiar face**

**Knock on the door to give a Christmas card instead of just posting through the letter box**



**Offer to pick up shopping or deliver a frozen meal**

**Pass on magazines or books**

**Bake a cake or make up an extra plate of food**

**Pop a note through their door with your contact number or details of other local support activities and helplines**

To find out more about how you can take part, visit [www.kentcf.org.uk/knockandcheck](http://www.kentcf.org.uk/knockandcheck).

Remember to follow Government guidelines on social distancing to keep communities safe from COVID-19.

Keep a 2m distance, staying outdoors at all times.  
Wash your hands before and after a visit.  
Wear a face mask.

## Monthly PCSO Newsletter November 2020

I am your local Police Community Support Officer for your area. For those of you that don't know me, my name is PCSO Katherine Richards, but most people call me Kate.

This is my report for this month, which I put out at the beginning of the month, so you are all aware of what I have been up to in and around your areas and what crimes have been happening. My report goes out to the Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch coordinators, and any other members of the community who may be interested in receiving it. This can also be shared on your parish websites and your social media sites. **Please share.**

I would just like to let you know that I will be your point of contact for your town and parishes.

The areas that I cover are **Tenterden, St. Michaels, Rolvenden, Newenden, Weald South and Isle of Oxney areas.**

We have had various items of machinery stolen in the rural areas over the last few weeks and months. It has been great to be able to reunite one of the victims with their property which we located while out on patrol, from a member of the public making us aware. We work closely with the Rural taskings team, who again have shown what an amazing tool their Farm Watch group is. This has helped relocate property with owners, as well as making the rural community aware of what's going on, from stolen items to poaching and suspicious events.

### Home Security

Lock all windows and doors before you go out or go to bed, making sure you know where your keys are in case of an emergency.

Fit security measures such as intruder alarms, door chains and locks.

Avoid labelling house keys in case you lose them and they fall into the wrong hands.

Don't leave keys (including car keys) or valuables on display near doors or windows.

Make sure fences, hedges and gates are in good condition.

Consider installing external security lights, but make sure they do not affect your neighbours.

Avoid leaving side gates open and put away ladders, tools or garden equipment that could be stolen or used to break into your home.

Keep garages and sheds locked and alarmed where possible.

Store bins carefully so they cannot be used as climbing aids.

### **Equipment and tool security**

Equipment and tool security can be a particular issue for rural businesses and farms.

To keep your belongings safe:

lock equipment away in a secure building or part of a building when not in use;

invest in a secure storage toolbox;

install a burglar alarm on buildings where equipment is kept;

always lock vehicles when left outside and keep the keys in your possession;

- keep expensive items and vehicles out of sight when not in use;
- consider using hitch locks, wheel clamps or ground anchors;
- mark your tools and equipment and register them;
- keep a record of all valuable items;
- consider fitting outside security lights.

**For further information on securing your belongings and how to mark your equipment, [visit our burglary advice pages](#).**

### **Estate and building security**

A good standard of building security is very important in rural areas, especially for outbuildings that may not be visited for weeks at a time.

Farmhouses and other rural properties are the same as any other home, so general home security advice still applies. However, because of the remote location, additional security measures may be beneficial.

To protect your rural home or business:

- keep the boundaries of your land and property well-maintained and secure;
- keep all doors and windows shut and locked when not in use;
- install a visible burglar alarm;
- make sure windows and door frames are secure and in good repair;
- fit strong locks to sheds, garages and outbuildings;
- fit good quality window locks;
- consider security bars and grilles for vulnerable windows and openings;
- make sure gates cannot be lifted off or have their fixing bolts removed;
- check security equipment regularly to ensure it works properly;
- use locking posts or temporary obstructions to control wide access points to yards.

### **For additional security you could also:**

- install automatic security lights that come on at dusk and turn off at dawn;
- install CCTV cameras to watch over the most vulnerable areas of the property;
- install a monitored intruder alarm system;
- install an entry control system infrared, intercom or keypad;
- establish a single gated entrance and exit, removing all private access points that are not in use.

**Kate Richards**



## Appledore Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Councillors' phone numbers are usually available on the noticeboard. However, from time to time the boards are very full. For full contact details, go to <http://www.appledorepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/our-team/>. Please make use of any answer machine services available.

James Perkins (Chair)	01233 758107, mobile 07789 916132 email <a href="mailto:apc.jperkins@gmail.com">apc.jperkins@gmail.com</a>
Chris Vane (Vice-Chair)	01233 758198, mobile 07816 672919 email <a href="mailto:apc.cvane@gmail.com">apc.cvane@gmail.com</a>
Charles Wilkinson	01233 758316, mobile 07562 302809 email <a href="mailto:apc.cwilkinson@gmail.com">apc.cwilkinson@gmail.com</a>
Helen Hennig (Highways issues)	01233 758436, mobile 07759 006324 email <a href="mailto:apc.hhennig@gmail.com">apc.hhennig@gmail.com</a>
Roger Hiskey	01233 758097 email <a href="mailto:apc.rhiskey@gmail.com">apc.rhiskey@gmail.com</a>
Derek Winter	01233 758570 email <a href="mailto:apc.dwinter@gmail.com">apc.dwinter@gmail.com</a>
Lyndsey Jenkins	07795 220909 email <a href="mailto:apc.ljenkins@gmail.com">apc.ljenkins@gmail.com</a>
Parish Clerk – Mary Philo	01797 270790 email <a href="mailto:apc.mphilo@gmail.com">apc.mphilo@gmail.com</a>



# Season's Greetings

Appledore Parish Council



*FROM*  
*GRAPEVINE*

We reported last month on the sad passing of Peter Monk-Smith and would like to share with you a tribute from the Chairman of the Gardeners' Society of which Peter was a member:

"It's been a sad time for the Gardeners' Society. First Kenneth Parker, then less than a month after the loss of our beloved former Chairman, Andrew, we had to report the death of Peter Monk-Smith.

An outdoor man, and like his wife Jill, a keen golfer, he was also a very practical man. He worked for some time as Clerk of Works for a firm of architects, and Jill comments that he would sometimes criticise the way things are built nowadays !

Not that he was a critical sort of person. I remember him as easy-going and sociable. Good company, and the sort of man you would want to lighten and enliven any gathering. He was a good host, and I remember with pleasure being asked, with a few of my musical friends, to play wind quintets in his garden for his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party, a happy occasion.

Peter, you will be sadly missed, and we extend our sympathy to Jill and the family."

Paul also included the following in his December Newsletter to the Gardeners:

**"October's Weather**

No doubt you, like me, are missing Ken Girkin's wonderful contributions to the Parish Magazine. I can't compete with his terrific monthly summaries, and comparisons with previous years, but you may be interested in a brief update on this October's weather.

Ken and I used to compare our readings, taken using similar equipment.

Although less than 1.5 miles apart as the crow flies, at his station at Appledore Heath, Ken consistently recorded at least 20% more rainfall than I did. This has to be a genuine effect, as both he and I have more than one gauge. I think it has to do with topography. Appledore Heath is not exactly in the mountains, but orographic "lift" of airflow from most directions accounts for the difference. This year I recorded 127.5mm, which is well over twice the monthly average. Rain fell on 24 of the 31 days. Last year's rainfall was 82mm, again wet, and repeating a trend towards wet autumns following dry summers.

You may have suffered a power cut on the morning of October 25<sup>th</sup>. In most cases this was due to the power being shut off while repairs to the network were being made. At 22.30 on the 24<sup>th</sup> I recorded a maximum wind speed of 77.2kph, well above gale force.”

Dippy Dora’s thoughts on the weather seem appropriate here!

*Brrr!*

*It seems to me a little nippy  
And under foot it's very slippy  
And now that bitter East wind blows  
It freezes icicles on my nose.*

With Jacky (Purser) now settled in her new surroundings the magazine was left with a vacancy for the delivery round carried out for so many years by Jacky. Grapevine can confirm that Liz Owen has kindly offered to take this on, and early February will see her initial ‘run’ - let’s hope that this will not be hampered by 6’ of snow !!

We have recently heard that Nigel and Laura Peck are on the move and we wish them both every good wish in their new surroundings. We should not let Nigel go without mentioning the Car Rally. This has been one of the major events in the Appledore calendar and under the splendid management of Nigel and his Team, grew and grew into the much anticipated and well attended annual event. Nigel was also highly instrumental in the activities of the Recreation Ground, Play Area and Sports Pavilion, and we thank him for his tremendous contribution over the years.

With the December issue of the magazine also covering January, we take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas, and never more so than in the current situation we find ourselves in, do we send fervent hopes that the New Year will see us all returning to some form of normality after the past difficult months.

We will be back in February 2021 when we look forward to receiving your news and views as the new year develops.



**Support for Appledore Parish Council (APC). Sale of the parish field and disbursement of monies**

As a trustee of the village hall I have an interest. My wife, Lyndsey, is a trustee and parish councillor.

The position of the village hall trustees is simple and unanimous. We have, through luck not skill, been offered the opportunity to pass on the village hall to the next generation in a better condition than we received it. We would be failing in our duty as trustees if we declined.

As an individual, and one who is leaving the village, I am a disinterested party. However, calls to stop the sale of the parish field, so long after exchange of contracts are naive. It would involve the council acting unlawfully and could lead to expensive legal proceedings.

The money must be spent on capital projects that benefit the village. It cannot be kept for a "rainy day". Even if this were so, it is difficult to conceive of a wetter day, for the public purse, than today. Projects include; a house that will provide income yet remain an asset, refurbishment of toilets, improvement to highways and community sports facilities and landscaping within the village. These are prudent APC outcomes, designed to benefit a wide a range of residents. They were obtained through difficult and protracted negotiations, by volunteers acting on our behalf.

The largest project is the refurbishment of the village hall. Community spaces have always been important to village life. It is argued that Coronavirus has changed this. I disagree. There was probably a community space when the Danes wintered their fleet at Appledore in 892, during the Black Death and the Great Plague. The village hall needs serious attention if it is to survive. Simply refurbishing the heating, plumbing and electrics will cost significant sums, be disruptive and won't leave the hall fit for the future. It is arrogance on our behalf to seek to deny a viable community space to future generations.

The results of the recent questionnaire, conducted by "a selection of concerned residents", say there is opposition to this. We should be careful before accepting these findings. Was the questionnaire fair? Certainly, the anonymous correspondent in the November village magazine felt "the information is completely distorted". Some of the terms such as "makeover" to describe the complete refurbishment of the hall and car park could mislead. Perhaps there was unconscious bias in drawing up the questions. I cannot comment on the questions, neither Lyndsey nor I have ever seen the questionnaire or had the opportunity to complete it. However, were I to propose in a questionnaire that the money be spent on paying lawyers' fees or forfeited because it was not spent, I can safely predict the answers.

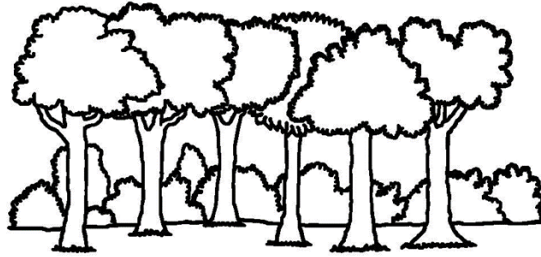
Two final points. Firstly no one has suggested credible costed alternatives. Some suggestions such as a new community centre with a school, new housing and drainage are clearly in the realms of fantasy. Others such as the purchase of a village public house mean that issues of financial, managerial and regulatory governance would fall upon the parish councillors which, I believe, they would be unwilling to assume.

Secondly, transparency. We know who are our parish councillors. They are elected, have public meetings and declare their interests. We do not know who are the (carefully?) "selected concerned residents". They are not elected. Their meetings are not public. They have not declared any interests. We hope that the motives of each one is wholly altruistic. However, our own knowledge of human nature tells us, sadly, that this may not be the case.

I would urge you to support your local councillors.

Huw Jenkins

Chair Appledore Village Hall Trustees



There is still time to cut back trees and hedges encroaching on roads and pavements before the nesting season starts again in spring.

**Census March 2021**  
(will provide a snapshot of modern society)

Households across Ashford Borough Council will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

**It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.**

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

“This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

**Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.**

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

**Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.**

For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk).

**Leigh Poppy - Census Engagement Manager for South East Kent**

**Residents that need help to complete the online survey will be able to seek assistance at community facilities such as libraries and over the phone.**

## Kent Fraud Alert

### HMRC scam

Detective Sergeant Alec Wood of the Volume Fraud Team said: 'These fraudsters prey on vulnerable individuals and use scare tactics, like the threat of arrest, to rush people into making rash decisions and parting with large sums of money. They are good at what they do and always have a convincing reason why money has to be received a certain way. In addition to a direct bank transfer they also encourage people to purchase gift cards or download money transfer apps to make a payment.

Not content with stealing from a person once, it is not uncommon they will persistently target someone over a period of time, in some instances lump sums have been paid on three or four occasions. It is important we all stay alert to these fraudsters and speak to anyone who may be vulnerable to ensure they are aware of steps they can take to keep themselves and their money safe.

There are several variations of this particular scam. They sometimes use an automated phone call, or tell you that you're entitled to a tax refund and ask you to call them. Avoid engaging with these people, make a note of the numbers they are using and report them to HMRC.

Take a moment to stop and think before paying out any money or giving information, if you have the slightest doubt the caller is legitimate challenge them - only a criminal will try and rush you into making a payment. It's fine to refuse, ignore and reject calls if you don't know the caller, however if you have given out financial details, contact your bank immediately as they may be able to stop a transaction.

If you do become a victim of this crime, contact Action Fraud. Often people are embarrassed to come forward but these are professional fraudsters and people should not feel ashamed to seek help. It may also prevent someone else from becoming a victim.'

### Crime prevention advice

If you get a call from someone claiming to be from HMRC and you feel you need to engage with them, ask the caller to put the demand in writing to you. If they then ask to confirm your address – do not - as HMRC already have that information.

Be mindful that any legitimate demand for tax will be in writing.

HMRC will never ask anybody to pay a fine by purchasing gift cards, if you get a call like this, then hang up immediately.

You can report HMRC phishing emails to [phishing@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gov.uk). Please include:

- your number;
- date of the call;
- phone number used;
- content of the call.

You can forward HMRC scam text messages to 60599 (you'll be charged at your network rate).

Article by PCSO Katherine Richards

### County Councillor Hill November Report

Following the government announcement on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October regarding additional lockdown measures, the County Council have been working to review and fully understand the implications for the work and services we provide. The importance of our services has been recognised and the guidance allows for public sector employees working in essential services to continue to go into work. Further guidance from government on the impact of some aspects the new restrictions is still to be received. Below is an update on some of the Council's services:

- Social care for children and adults will continue as before.
- KCC will continue to support schools to remain open to pupils all the while Government says it is safe for them to do so.
- Household Waste Recycling Centres will remain open for socially distanced use (the booking website can be found on [Visiting a Household Waste Recycling Centre during coronavirus - Kent County Council](#)).
- Bus services will continue to run and are being provided in accordance with Government guidance.
- Community Warden Service will remain fully operational.
- Registration Services
  - Death Registration will continue to be delivered over the phone – Certificate Centre stays operational.
  - Register Offices stay open and will continue to deliver face-to-face appointments in a COVID secure way.
  - Birth Registration from libraries will continue to deliver face-to-face appointments in a COVID secure way to ensure we do not build-up a backlog.
  - Ceremonies - only emergency ceremonies for end of life people will be possible.

#### • Libraries

A Select and Collect and public PC/Wi-fi offer will be offered from Thursday at the 13 COVID secure libraries listed below. PC use can be booked and customers can use the computers for 1 hour. All other libraries will be closed to the public.

#### Sites for Select and Collect

Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope (Sevenoaks)  
 Dartford Library (Dartford)  
 Sittingbourne Library (Swale)  
 Gravesend Library (Gravesend)  
 Broadstairs Library (Thanet)  
 Herne Bay Library (Canterbury)  
 Deal Library (Dover)



Ashford Gateway (Ashford)  
 Tonbridge Library (Tonbridge)  
 Kent History and Library Centre (Maidstone)  
 Southborough Library (Tonbridge Wells)  
 Folkestone Library (Folkestone & Hythe)  
 Sandgate Library (Folkestone & Hythe)

We hope to roll out the Select and Collect/PC/Wi-fi offer to a further 14 libraries across the county.

All books due back during the November lockdown period will be renewed. No one needs to be concerned about any overdue items for the lockdown period. If customers do want to return books, they can bring back to an open library.

Home Library Service will continue with door stop delivery. We will also reinstate our befriending phone calls.

Mobile service will continue on a Select and Collect basis.

Postal Loan service will continue for the blind and partially sighted.

Also continuing will be our excellent virtual offers/digital forms of service. This will include all our e-books, magazines, newspapers as well as the digital forms of our events and activities.

Ask a Kent Librarian, our remote enquiry service, continues.

- Archives - the Archive Search Room will be closed and November bookings cancelled. All the virtual forms of the service will be available as well as remote enquiries and back office collection work at the Kent History and Library Centre.
- The local Public Health England team has been local contact tracing, working with Kent County Council Public Health since the pandemic started.
- The KCC Public Health officers are working together with officers from other directorates in the Council to implement a local track and trace system. This will continue to be an element of the national Test and Trace system and will utilise the experience of the Kent Together helpline, using call handlers who will contact people that the Government Track and Trace system has not been able to contact. Once contacted, the advisors will be able to give advice on isolation and testing, establish close contacts, upload details to the National Contact Tracing system, and signpost to assistance available. Support services are available at [www.oneyoukent.org.uk](http://www.oneyoukent.org.uk) and [www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeing](http://www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeing).
- There is also a specific site to help families with children or young people who might be experiencing difficulties at [www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeingfamilies](http://www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeingfamilies).
- For information on how the national lockdown may be affecting other health services, go to [Service updates - Kent County Council](#).
- Kent Together is available for those who are vulnerable and need urgent support that cannot be met through existing support networks. Details can be found at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether> or call 03000 419292.
- For the latest updates to services in Kent, visit [www.kent.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.kent.gov.uk/coronavirus).



## Big changes to broadband – with your help

Mike Rivers

The internet is part of our daily lives. It's become an essential service for shopping, banking, booking holidays (remember them?), watching TV and movies, keeping in touch with loved ones, working from home, remote learning, just about everything.

Unfortunately, in Appledore our broadband often isn't up to the task.

We are trying to organise the village to come together and make a massive improvement in our broadband. An upgrade would mean an **END TO INTERNET PERFORMANCE FRUSTRATIONS** such as unusable video calls, painful internet browsing, Netflix, iPlayer etc. constantly buffering or delivering low picture quality, unstable online games and even worse if multiple users are on at once.

BT Openreach **DO NOT HAVE FUNDING AND PLANS TO UPGRADE BROADBAND IN APPLIEDORE.** BT Openreach are responsible for the network of "green boxes" we see on the street, the cables under our roads and overhead on poles – regardless of which internet service provider each house uses such as Sky, EE, Plusnet etc.

As a rural community, there are government and KCC voucher schemes in place to fund broadband upgrades. **WITH YOUR HELP THE VILLAGE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE CAN BE UPGRADED** to full fibre optic – not just to the green boxes on the street, but directly into our houses. Full fibre broadband can achieve speeds of 1000 Mbps and is radically different from the existing services available in the village, which provide a tiny fraction of the performance of full fibre.

**THE REQUIRED UPGRADE CAN BE FULLY FUNDED BY THE AVAILABLE SCHEMES BUT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT.** In a recent, similar scheme in Stone, the upgrade cost was funded by these vouchers and BT have initiated the upgrade process.

What is the catch? Each property signing up to the scheme must commit to talking an internet service with at least double the existing speed for at least 12 months. As an example, the current cost difference from a 36Mb basic service to a 145Mb fibre service would be £13 per month.

The scheme's funds and availability period are short, so we need to move quickly.

We will be collecting the details of all the residents and businesses that would like to take part in the scheme and are comfortable with upgrading. Please look out for a flyer that we'll be distributing with more information and a few simple questions for you to answer.



December

*The festive season will soon be here  
But what a very varied year!  
So many suffered from the bug  
It would be nice to have a hug!*

*So many sadnesses, it's true  
Tho' sky will once again be blue.  
We have to hold our memories near  
And remember those we all hold dear.*

*But life is still a wondrous thing  
Its compensations soon will bring  
And once again the sun will shine  
The weather, too, may soon be fine!*

*Another year hoves into view  
It holds our hopes once more anew  
So lift your glass and quaff that gin  
And soon you'll wear that silly grin.*

*Altho' we stand a little gappy  
Yet we can be a wee bit happy  
As greetings 'cross the airwaves fly  
To wish good things will soon come by.*

*Dippy Dora*

## Light Pollution - an important issue

### Statutory Nuisance and Lighting

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 has amended the Statutory Nuisance Provisions to include artificial lighting from domestic premises.

Light pollution can be characterised in several forms. It can keep you awake at night if it is shining through your bedroom window. It can also obscure your view of the night sky.

### Forms of light pollution

**Glowing Sky** – Mainly caused by the amount of light emitted from towns, motorways and cities.

**Light Trespass** – Usually emitted from a neighbouring property which spills over from their boundary into yours, e.g. security lighting on a neighbour's property at the end of your garden may shine directly into your bedroom window.

**Glare** – very bright light when viewed against a dark background e.g. the night sky.

### What do I do if my neighbour's light is causing me a problem?

Try talking to them about it initially. They may be completely unaware of the problem it is causing you. Ask the neighbour politely to redirect the light to reduce glare onto your property.

### What can I do to reduce the problems of light pollution?

- Switch off lights when not in use
- Direct security lights downwards to illuminate the target and reduce glare
- Use lighting equipment designed specifically to reduce spread of light
- Do not over-light your property, keep lighting to a minimum
- Restrict glare by ensuring the main beam angle is directed towards the observer and is kept below 70°
- The higher you mount the light the lower the main angle beam will need to be.

### Domestic and Security Lighting

- Use low brightness light for all night use to illuminate porches
- Energy efficient light bulbs reduce the amount of electricity used
- Avoid using 350/500W lamps, instead use infra red detectors or 150W halogen bulbs for security.

## A Time for Optimism

We can rejoice, effective safe vaccines for Covid19 will become available over the next few months. However, to quote Professor Sir John Bell, immunologist at Oxford University: "Covid 19 will not go away." We need to continue to remain safe as per NHS and Government guidelines.

There continue to be many uncertainties about Covid and our immune responses. We need to achieve approximately 70% herd immunity to protect most of the population. Like all viruses, Covid 19 is a virus which mutates. As yet, we do not know whether we will need regular vaccinations as for influenza.

So, when invited for vaccinations including flu and Covid, please accept all vaccines offered. They are safe. With this pandemic more money has been invested, more international scientific collaboration and research has been undertaken, and more trials conducted than for any other infectious illness known to man. The trials have been rigorously conducted with effectiveness and safety central to the research. Interestingly, those of us who have had the MMR vaccine have less severe symptoms if we catch Covid. It seems that the IgG (immunoglobulin) for mumps confers some protection.

I am immensely excited by the innovative science involved in the new vaccines. I believe that it will re-invigorate vaccine research. Sadly, many people do not realise how many millions of lives are saved by vaccines every year. So many infections can cause catastrophic illness and long-term disabilities. MMR is a good example of an immensely valuable vaccine. It prevents deaths, disabilities and fetal abnormalities.

Sadly, nonsensical ideas and fear are nurtured by conspiracy theorists. Covid has nothing to do with 5G networks and mRNA vaccines cannot alter your DNA! These and other scare stories have no scientific foundations!

Please keep safe and hopefully we can all have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

With best wishes

Julian Colledge

## **CHRISTMAS RECYCLING AND REFUSE COLLECTIONS**

### **2020/21**

During the festive period your refuse and recycling collection days may be altered. Check out the 2020/2021 calendar below for any changes!

### **Please ensure bins are presented prior to 6am**

WEEK	NORMAL COLLECTION DAY	REVISED COLLECTION DAY
Recycling	Mon 21 Dec	No Change
	Tues 22 Dec	No Change
	Wed 23 Dec	No Change
	Thurs 24 Dec	No Change
	Fri 25 Dec	Mon 28 Dec
Refuse	Mon 28 Dec	Tues 29 Dec
	Tues 29 Dec	Wed 30 Dec
	Wed 30 Dec	Thurs 31 Dec
	Thurs 31 Dec	Sat 2 Jan
	Fri 1 Jan	Mon 4 Jan
Recycling	Mon 4 Jan	Tues 5 Jan
	Tues 5 Jan	Wed 6 Jan
	Wed 6 Jan	Thurs 7 Jan
	Thurs 7 Jan	Fri 8 Jan
	Fri 8 Jan	Sat 9 Jan
Normal service will resume Monday 11 January 2021		

**Garden waste collections** will stop on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December and resume on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 with Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December collections being made on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December.

**Clinical collections** will remain the same except collections due on Monday 28/12/20 being moved to Tuesday 29/12/20.

### **Which bin do I put my Christmas Items into?**

<b>Recycling (Green Bin)</b>	<b>Refuse (Grey Bin)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas cards</li> <li>• Tin foil &amp; foil serving trays</li> <li>• Champagne, wine &amp; beer bottles</li> <li>• Non-foil wrapping paper</li> <li>• Cardboard boxes</li> <li>• Sweet/chocolate tins</li> <li>• Mince pie foil cases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tinsel</li> <li>• Broken decorations</li> <li>• Bubble wrap &amp; soft plastic packaging like cellophane</li> <li>• Foil/shiny wrapping paper</li> <li>• Champagne &amp; wine corks</li> <li>• Polystyrene</li> </ul>

## Top 5 Tips to make this Christmas the greenest one yet!

1 It's true that most wrapping paper can actually be recycled...but only if it's not the shiny and glittery type. If you want to know if the wrapping paper can be recycled or not, use the **scrunch test**:

*Scrunch up the paper in your hands and then let it go. If the paper stays scrunched up then it can be recycled but, if it unfolds by its own accord, then it likely contains non-recyclable materials.*

You can always opt for plain brown paper or gift bags as these can be used more than once.

2. Make your own Christmas decorations. Foraging for pine cones and holly is the perfect excuse to enjoy the great outdoors and keep kids busy.

3. A staggering 1.5 billion Christmas cards are thrown away by UK households each year. Why not try giving people a call to wish them good will instead of sending a card. If a card is needed, try to find ones made from recycled materials and not containing too much shiny glitter.

4. When it comes to selecting gifts, why not opt for making your own presents. Whether you love baking, sewing or painting, why not get creative this season. Best of all, the receiver will find joy in the gift long after the decorations have come down.

5. Use the annual gastronomic extravaganza as an opportunity to show your support for some brilliant local producers. Sourcing your meats and vegetables locally is a good place to start: you'll use fewer food miles, less packaging and you can feel confident that you have supported local small businesses.

**Tip:** Eat the food in your freezer in the run-up to the main event, leaving plenty of room for leftovers. Surplus turkey and ham can be sliced, then wrapped in parchment and frozen. You can even freeze leftover Stilton and save it to use in a warming winter soup.

























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