

*APPLEDORE PARISH
MAGAZINE
DECEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022*

Happy
Christmas



Dear Appledore,

What a bumper edition this double magazine has grown into! It is packed with interesting articles and photographs submitted by you – the folks of Appledore.

I spent two happy hours with members of the team deciding on the winners of the Design the Front Cover competition for the children of the village. Congratulations go to Liam Smith aged 4 who designed the front cover and Mia Warren aged 11 whose snowman wishes everyone a Happy New Year on the back cover! The other runners-up did such a great job that we decided to print them in the magazine too on pages 28-29. A very big thank you to all the children for taking the time to design a picture for us.

I was delighted to spend some time with Tricia, our vicar, who is retiring. Her interview can be found on pages 32-36. We wish her all the very best for the future.

We celebrated our first Scarecrow Festival last month – thank you very much to Linda Hiskey for organising it. We had a fabulous number of scarecrows dotted around the village. Hopefully we have photographed all of them in a centre spread on pages 18-19.

There will be more to celebrate on New Year's Eve down at the Black Lion. Ray and Sandra have worked their magic once more and Elvis will be entering the building! Details on page 23. Book early to make sure of your place! The Black Lion Christmas menu is on page 21.

The magazine is bursting with articles, some serious, some celebratory, but all printed, collated and delivered by our team of volunteers led by my wingmen, Brian and Tessa Knight, without whom there would be no Appledore Parish Magazine. Thank you so, so much.

The next edition won't be until February, so I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, healthy and Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years!

Maureen

WISHING A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO OUR VOLUNTEER HELPERS WHO HELP PRODUCE AND DELIVER THE MAGAZINE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

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WHO TO ASK

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	Mr Chris Self	01233 758078
Bells: Captain	Mr F. Wenham, Lindon Stone	01233 758362
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Steeple Keeper	Mr Aston Calladine	01233 758105
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Refreshments	Mrs D. Clifton	01233 758256
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Chair	Mrs Sue Hutcheson	07795 957488
APPLEDORE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SERVICE		
Free transport for housebound villagers		01233 758478
APPLEDORE VILLAGE STORES		
	51/53 The Street	01233 758320
ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR		
	Mr Michael Burgess	01233 628387
ASHFORD BOROUGH CITIZENS ADVICE email: ashfordadvice@gmail.com		
ART CLUB		
	Denise Stephens, email: georginajack@icloud.com	01233 758952
BRITISH RED CROSS		
Tenterden & Cranbrook	For general enquiries	01580 763359
	For medical loans specifically	01233 620356
CARM:		
	Helen Mattock	01233 758122
CHILD HEALTH CLINIC		
	Hamstreet: Wednesday 10.30 – 12.00	
	Appledore: Friday 10.00 – 12.00	
COMMUNITY RURAL WARDEN Joanna Vos, email: joanna.vos@kent.gov.uk		
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU Town Hall, Tenterden		
	Monday 10.00-16.00, Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 10.00 -13.00	01580 762371
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY Ashford		
DOCTORS		
	Appledore/Hamstreet	01233 730190
	Tenterden – Surgery	01580 763666
	Woodchurch	01233 860236
ELECTRICITY		
	Failure of supply UK Power Networks	105
APPLEDORE FOOTBALL CLUB		
	Seniors: Kenny Beale	07899 030276
	Juniors: Richard Baker	07403075961
	Veterans: Paul Shilling	07487728191
FRIENDS OF APPLEDORE CHURCH		
Chair	Mrs F Smith, email: fmks33@gmail.com	
Vice-Chair	Miss A Hill, Church House	01233 758203
FRIENDS OF APPLEDORE STATION		
	Chair: T W D Blaney	01233 758628
	The Wish House, Kenardington Road, Appledore TN26 2BS	07710 637962

APPLEDORE GARDENERS' SOCIETY			
Chair	Paul Ripley, 2 Station Villas		01233 758410
Secretary	Tessa Knight, Heathland House, Woodchurch Rd		01233 758319
HOSPITALS			
	Buckland (Dover)		01304 201624
	William Harvey (Ashford)		01233 633331
	Kent and Canterbury (Canterbury)		01227 766877
	Benenden		01580 240333
	West View (Tenterden)		01580 261500
KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR			
	Mike Hill email: Michael.hill@kent.gov.uk		01580 766075
KENTISH EXPRESS			
Correspondent	Ruth Smith email: ruthasmith@sky.com		01233 758564
APPLEDORE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY			
	Chair: Brian Knight Sec.: Jo Killick, email: secalhs@gmail.com		01233 758319
MEETING POINT			
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PCSO:			
	Katherine Richards, email: katherine.richards@kent.pnn.police.uk		
RECREATION GROUND BOOKINGS			
			07770 947067
REFUSE COLLECTION			
	Bulky items, e.g. fridges, cookers etc. collected for £24 fee (for 4 items)		01233 331111
SAMARITANS			
	Ashford		01233 610000
TAXI			
	Tenterden Cars		01580 762444
TENTERDEN & DISTRICT DAY CENTRE			
	Church Road, Tenterden		01580 762882
TENTERDEN COMMUNITY HUB			
	e-mail: tenterdencommunityhub@gmail.com		01580 389941
TRAINS			
	Enquiries		08457 484950
VETS			
	Cinque Ports Veterinary Group www.cinqueportsvets.co.uk Tenterden		01580 763309
	Pierson Stewart & Partners www.pspvets.co.uk Rye		01797 222265
			01580 765244
			01580 713381
VILLAGE HALL			
	Committee Chair Bookings email: villagehallappledore@gmail.com		01233 758152 01233 758586
WATER COMPANY			
South East Water	Office Hours 24 hour emergency service		08458 506060 0333 0000365
WITTERSHAM CEP SCHOOL			
	www.wittersham.kent.sch.uk		01797 270329

**St Peter and St Paul, Appledore ~ St Mary the Virgin, Stone
~ Appledore Methodist Chapel**

December Services

2021



Sunday 5th December

10.30am, Joint Anglican/Methodist All-Age Worship, Parish Church

6pm, Advent Evensong, Stone-in Oxney

Sunday 12th December

10.30am, Holy Communion, Appledore

10.30am, Methodist Worship, Chapel

Thursday 16th December

7.30pm, Salvation Army Carols outside The Black Lion

Sunday 19th December

10.30am, Joint Anglican and Methodist Carol Service in
Appledore Methodist Chapel

3pm Carols by Candlelight Stone-in Oxney

Friday 24th December

Christmas Eve

3pm, Crib Service, Stone-in Oxney

6pm, Crib Service, Appledore

(EVERYONE) please dress as an angel

or a shepherd

Saturday 25th December

Christmas Day

10.30am, Family Worship on Christmas Morning

Appledore

Wishing you God's Blessing this Christmas

**For further details and for Baptisms, Weddings and Banns or for
any pastoral concerns which you would like to discuss,**

please contact

The Rev'd Canon Lindsay Hammond

01580 761591 tentvic@gmail.com



St Peter and St Paul, Appledore

January Services 2022

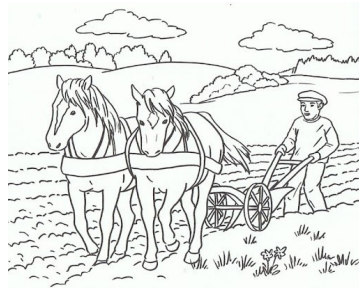
Sunday 2nd January

10.30am, Joint Anglican and Methodist All-Age Worship

Sunday 9th January

10.30am, Holy Communion

Sunday 16th January



10.30am, Joint All Age Service
for Plough Sunday
in St Mary the Virgin Church, Stone

Sunday 23rd January

10.30am, Holy Communion

**For further details and for Baptisms, Weddings and Banns or for
any pastoral concerns which you would like to discuss,**

please contact

The Rev'd Canon Lindsay Hammond

01580 761591 tentvic@gmail.com

A Letter from the Ministry Team at St Peter & St Paul Church, Appledore

Dear Friends,

As December begins, Christmas is 'standing in the wings' and we begin to anticipate its many delights. Not the least of these, is the opportunity to spend time with family and friends. This time last year, the hopes of those living in South-East England were dashed, when it was decided that Covid restrictions could not, after all, be relaxed over the Christmas period, and many were devastated. But 2021 has been a year of hope, as the introduction of vaccines have made us feel more secure. We are, therefore, looking forward with much greater confidence to an indulgence of festive food, crackling log fires, a slump of undemanding television programmes and, most importantly, joyous family gatherings.

A TV series which I find quite addictive is called 'Saving Lives at Sea'. It focuses on rescues carried out by Britain's lifeboats, using footage from cameras worn by the lifeboat crew themselves. They are so brave, and so selfless! An enormous variety of rescues have featured, but one in particular has stayed with me. Recently, the Eastbourne lifeboat was called to attend a heavily laden, ill-equipped dinghy, carrying about 30 refugees. Having lost all power, and taking on water, its occupants were wet, bitterly cold and some unwell. Among them were several women, and four children. The youngest of these was only 3 years old. How grateful and relieved must their anxious parents have been as they were lifted gently onto the lifeboat, receiving a 'thumbs up', and warm blankets from the crew. The programme brought home to me, with alarming force, the desperation which causes such people to leave homes and families behind and set off upon such a dangerous journey. Such folk will have little hope of family reunions this Christmas – or perhaps ever.

When Mary and Joseph, with their baby son, fled to Egypt, following King Herod's dastardly threat to kill all little boys under the age of two years, the Holy Family became refugees and asylum seekers. Fearful of returning under his regime, they remained in Egypt until Herod died. I hope that they were kindly treated. I don't suppose they were welcomed by everybody. But I hope that they were offered warmth and hospitality, and made good friends – the sort of comfort which we all crave, whether at Christmas or at any other time.

May you, this Christmas, and always, be blessed by the presence of your nearest and dearest, and may you hold a welcome in your hearts for those who are far from home.

A Happy Christmas to you all! Alison

The Bishop's Justice Appeal raises money to support the work of refugee officers in our diocese who help and guide those who have no home and nowhere to return. If you'd like to donate, write a cheque made payable to Canterbury DBF, with "Bishop's Justice Appeal" on the back and send to Bishop's Justice Appeal, Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury, CT1 1NQ, or search online for Bishop's Justice Appeal.

December Church Rota 2021

	<u>Service</u>	<u>Sides person</u>	<u>Reader/ prayers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>
5 th December	Family Service	Tom	Michael/Brenda	Fay/ Brenda
Sat 11 th December	Advent Breakfast Service	Donna	N/A	Tom/ Donna
12 th December	Holy Communion	Philippa	Philippa/ Frances	Jane
19 th December	Methodist Carol Service	N/A	Readers pre-arranged	N/A
24 th December	Crib Service	Donna	NA/ Philippa	N/A
25 th December	Christmas Day	Clive	Hannah/ Alison	N/A

January Church Rota 2022

	<u>Service</u>	<u>Sides person</u>	<u>Reader/ prayers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>
2 nd January	Family Service	Tom	Jane/ Brenda	Donna
9 th January	Holy Communion	Judith	Tony/ Chris	Tom
16 th January	Plough Sunday Stone	N/A	NA/ Alison	N/A
23 rd January	Holy Communion	Donna	Michael/ Donna	Fay
30 th January	NO SERVICE	IN ST PETER & ST	PAUL	Service in Methodist Church

Methodist and combined Anglican-Methodist services for December

December Services

Sunday 5th December
10.30, United family service at the Parish Church



Sunday 12th December
10.30, Methodist Worship, Appledore Methodist Church

Sunday 19th December
10.30 United carol service at the Methodist Church

Wednesday 22nd December
Methodist Holy Communion at the Methodist Church

Sunday 26th December
No service in the Methodist Church on Boxing Day.

CHURCH MATTERS

As you will be aware, our resident Vicar in Appledore has retired. The church community continues, however. We are part of the Benefice of Tenterden, Rother and Oxney with The Revd Canon Lindsay Hammond in overall charge of the nine parishes which are a part of it. We shall all have to learn to work together through the inevitable changes necessary. Please be assured that everyone is working hard to provide Appledore with what is most needed. If you have questions, please would you kindly avoid asking individual members of the congregation, who may not know the answers, and instead refer them as follows:

For enquiries about church offices (weddings, baptisms, funerals) or pastoral matters, please contact

Reverend Canon Lindsay Hammond

Email : tentvic@gmail.com

Tel : 01580 761591

Mob : 07805 840493

For practical matters regarding the church, contact one of our two Church Wardens

Mrs Frances Smith

Email : fmks33@gmail.com

Tel: 01233 758201

Mr Chris Self

Email : chris.self45@gmail.com

Tel: 01233 758078

Knitting wool & old greetings cards wanted

If anyone has any knitting wool (any colour) that they no longer require and would like to give it a good home, please leave it in a bag under the stairs in church. Two very kind ladies from Appledore & beyond make knitted gifts & treats which we sell in the porch.

I also make recycled greetings cards (any occasion but particularly male birthday & Christmas) so if you have any that you are happy to part with, please cut off the back and leave them in a bag with my name on in church. I will hopefully bring them up and create a new card to sell in the porch.

Christmas Eve Crib Service



Friday 24th December at 6pm

Calling all adults and children in Appledore & beyond.....

Please join us at our annual Christmas eve crib service dressed as a shepherd, Inn-keeper, wise man, angel, or stable animal.

This is a service for everyone (not just children) and, un-rehearsed is usually a great deal of fun! The more that dress up, the merrier! If you are a budding thespian and would like a scripted part, please contact me on the number below.



Thank you,

Donna x

01233 758256



Mince Pies Wanted



The Salvation Army will be leading us in their traditional Carol Service outside 'The Black Lion' on Thursday 16th December at 7.30pm.

If you are able to donate some home-made or shop-bought mince pies to be served with the mulled wine in the church after this service, it would be much appreciated. Richard the Bandmaster (joke teller extraordinaire) has asked me to pass on a special request for some iced ones if at all possible!

Please leave your contributions on the table inside the church at any time during the day.

If you haven't been to this service before or are new to the village, please join us..... It's a magical evening!

December 2021 and January 2022 Church Flower Rota

	ALTAR	WEST END
Dec. 25 th	Linda Hiskey	Denise Stephens
Jan. 9 th	Lynn Marston	Vicki Sargent
Jan. 23 rd	Judith Clifton	Sally Linington
Feb. 6 th	Wendy Selmes	Julie Wooding

HORNE CHAPEL: Judith Clifton

There will be no flowers in church during the season of Advent. If you are unable to take your turn, please telephone J.C. on 758285 or text 07840 356681 – and the same numbers if you are unable to crack the code for the kitchen / Glory Hole for oasis etc.

For the period between Christmas and Lent please ensure that your arrangement is tended and watered for two weeks.

We shall be decorating church for Christmas from 10.00 am onwards on Wednesday 22nd December. Please come along with helping hands and make our beautiful old building even more lovely for the festive season. Just half an hour of your precious time will make such a difference.

PRODUCE IN THE PORCH

Thanks to everyone who leaves used jam jars, flowerpots and plastic trays in the church porch. We gratefully use them all and hope you will please continue in this way. During December, in addition to our usual range of preserves and plants, we have a Christmas gift table with exclusive stocking fillers and original presents on offer at most reasonable prices and all produced in the village. Our well-established cake-bake days will continue on alternative Saturdays, the next ones being on 4th December and 18th December, 8th January and 22nd January. As well as the regular tasty delights there will also be traditional offerings such as mincemeat, Christmas puddings etc. Don't miss out – first come, first served! As always every item (and ingredient) for sale is donated and all proceeds go directly towards the upkeep of our beautiful church. Thank you for your support.

J.C.



FROM GRAPEVINE

Having only just met the new occupants of No1A Court Lodge Road, we are sorry to be so late in welcoming Bev and Kev MacKellow to the village. Bev and Kev moved from Bidborough in July with their dog Derek. They tell us they have three children and six grandchildren. We hope they are now well settled and enjoying life in Appledore.

Another family on the move this month has been David Ball and his wife from Half Timbers – Station Road. We send them our best wishes, and extend a warm welcome to the new residents.

Sadly we heard recently of the death of Gwen Sweetman. Her son Michael has requested that we place a notice in the parish magazine for those who remember Gwen, and of course her husband Gerald, a much loved Head Master at Appledore School, and of course the artist who produced the beautiful sketches around the village. Many of these were generated as front covers of past magazines, and of which a complete copy is available by kind permission of Michael.

We send Michael and family our sincerest condolences on the loss of both his mother and father.

What a delight to walk round the village and come across so many wonderfully modelled scarecrows! Well done Linda for organising the event and we cannot wait to see next year's creations.

As we rapidly approach Christmas, Grapevine would like to wish all of you a very happy and peaceful festive season. We are taking a short break, and will be back in February. We look forward to receiving your many snippets of general interest to share - **Please !!**

Childhood Memories of A Life in Appledore **December and a time for carol singing !!**

In the 1950s an organised group of singers would spend several evenings working their way through the village singing carols. The group would consist of adults and young people, but always needed two men, or strong lads, to carry the organ. It was a portable organ about 3 feet/1 metre long with a handle at each end, and at the bottom were two 'paddles' that the organist had to pump with their feet to produce the air for the notes as they played.

The group would set up outside a group of houses. The organ being placed on firm ground along with the stool for the organist, and carol singing would commence.

After 2 or 3 carols, one or two of the group, with collection tins at the ready, would knock at the doors hoping for donations. Sometimes a householder would give out mince pies as well. The group would then move along to another set of houses and the process repeated all over again.

I believe one of the charities supported was the National Children's Homes, but I could be wrong.

I suppose today we would be singing to carols being played on our mobile 'phones!

Merry Christmas !!



Items for insertion should be sent by the 17th of each month to: applegrapevine@aol.com

100th Year Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Appledore

We would like to thank our local businesses for having the Poppy Boxes
and raising over £800 towards the appeal!

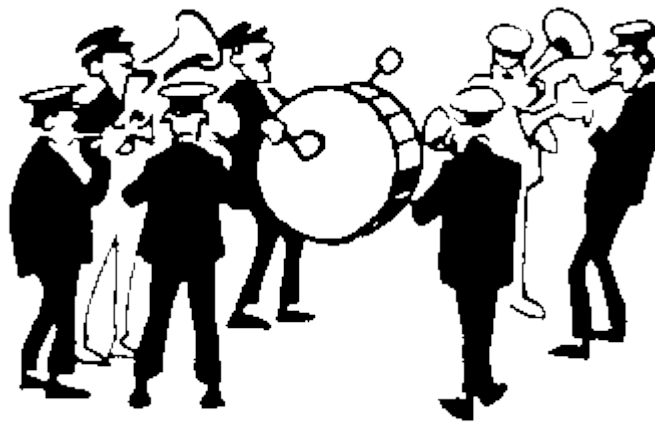
Thanks to:

Appledore Post Office
Appledore Church
Blush Hair Salon
CPL Haulage
Miss Mollett's Tea Rooms
The Black Lion
Tenterden Garden Centre
Scotland & Bates Coaches

www.britishlegion.org.uk

Salvation Army Carols

Thursday 16th December



Singing to commence at 7.30pm
outside the Black Lion in
Appledore

Followed by mulled wine & mince
pies in the church

Join us for this wonderful festive
evening!



Appledore Local History Society

Appledore Local History Society held an Open Day, jointly with Appledore Parish Magazine, in the Methodist Chapel from 10am until 4pm on Saturday 30th October

We were very pleased with the level of attendance, which was very encouraging. We greatly appreciate the kind donations made on the day, as they will contribute to helping us cover our ongoing costs, which have been adversely impacted by the pandemic, having prevented us from organising any fund-raising events during the last 20+ months.



For the day, we created the Appledore Heritage Collection, helped by a small grant, courtesy of Michael Hill of KCC. Paddy Moseley donated display cabinets, which complimented our own display units. In addition to items from our own collection, interesting artefacts were kindly lent and/or donated by Parishioners, including our Chair, Brian Knight, and a past Chair and Honorary Member, Liz Owen.

We had numerous items on display enabling visitors to browse through them, eg photo albums from Appledore School (closed in 1991). We also received some helpful information from visitors that will be built into our archive/database.



There was also a small display put together by the Appledore Methodist community regarding its current plight. Without an increase in the congregation and other revenue opportunities, the Methodist Chapel might be closed and possibly sold, resulting in the small congregation needing to travel elsewhere for their services. Also adversely impacted will be the weekly coffee mornings and the loss of a home for the ALHS stored archives and the Heritage Collection.

As this is the last Parish Magazine issue for 2021, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In the February 2022 issue we will share with you the story of a former Appledore Curate who led a very interesting, secret life...



OUR FIRST SCARECROW FESTIVAL IN APPLEDORE!





CHRISTMAS MENU 2021

STARTER

Cream of Chestnut Soup with warm bread

Mexican Prawn Cocktail

King Prawns with avocado, tomato, lime and Tabasco, on a bed of lettuce with nachos

Sweet and Sour Chicken with stir fry vegetables

Tomato and Mozzarella Salad

MAIN COURSE

Traditional Roast Turkey

with roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding and accompaniments

Roast Beef

with roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding and accompaniments

Half a Roast Boneless Duck

with plum and ginger sauce, sauté potatoes and fresh vegetables

Cod Dijon

Chunky cod fillet topped and baked with a Dijon sauce, served on a bed of mashed potato and spinach, with cherry vine tomatoes

Mushroom, Tomato and Spinach Lasagne

with salad and warm bread

DESSERT

Christmas Pudding with custard, cream or ice cream

Lemon Syllabub

Chocolate Brownie with cream or ice cream

Raspberry and Mango Cheesecake with cream or ice cream

Cheese and Biscuits £2 supplement

Coffee and Mints

Three Courses £25.00

Two Courses plus coffee & mints £20.00

For all bookings we will require a non-refundable deposit of £10 per person at the time of booking.

Bookings: 01233 758 206



Platinum Jubilee 2nd June. 2022.

This may be a little premature but some of us may still recall Her Majesty's ascension in 1952 (the coronation actually took place in 1953). To officially celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, the village plans to hold a "1952"-themed "Street Party" on the Recreation Ground on Thursday 2nd June, scheduled to be a Public Holiday, so please mark your diaries..

The entertainment will last from morning to night with 1950s music and dance provided by several local bands including The Rockitmen, Hart and Harper, and the Cinque Lindy Hoppers. We'll have food stalls providing food and ice-creams for those who'd prefer to buy, but you're also welcome to bring your own picnic. Gusbourne Estate will have a gazebo selling wines, The Grapevine from Rye selling Champagnes and cocktails, plus a Pimms wagon. Several local artisans will be selling produce and there will be a display of classic vehicles from the period also. We'd encourage party goers to dress in period dress and Katie and Jade from Blush will be offering 1950s hair-do's for those inclined (sadly no longer an option for this writer).

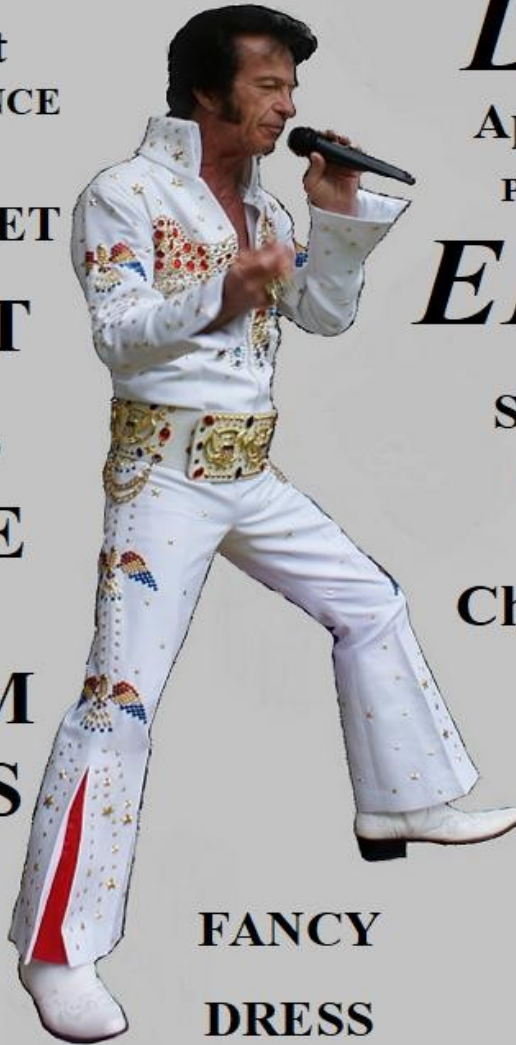
All clubs and organisations from the village are welcome to participate. St Peter and St Paul Church is planning to join the celebrations, along with the Village Hall, and the Appledore Local History Society. We'll have a Jubilee tree-planting, and the day's celebration will crescendo with the lighting of the beacon on Horne's Place viewed from the Recreation Ground to the voluminous accompaniment of Millie Scott playing the bagpipes. The beacon lighting will happen across the United Kingdom and overseas territories at 9:15pm on the order of HRH's Pageant Master, to a specially written piece by Stuart Liddell: "*Diu Regnare*". In the true spirit of a national celebration, please mark the date and welcome everyone in Appledore to participate in this magnificent occasion. For further information or participation, please contact: apc.gkinsley@gmail.com



NEW YEARS EVE

£10/ Ticket
PAID IN ADVANCE
includes
FREE BUFFET

**CHART
 HITS,
 MOVIE
 and
 ALBUM
 SONGS
 of the
 50's
 60's
 &70's**



**FANCY
 DRESS
 (OPTIONAL)**

The
***Black
 Lion***

Appledore
 PRESENTS

ELVIS

Show starts
 8.30 P.M.

Chris Quigley

*In The
 Shadow
 of*

THE KING

15 The Street, Appledore TN26 2BU 01233 758206

Please note:

***Tickets for New Year are advanced
 bookings only and will not be
 available on the night.***

Save The Black Lion!

You may have heard that the proposed sale of The Black Lion is likely to fall through. A great disappointment for Ray and Sandra, after all their hard work in difficult times and after their huge contribution to the village.

The future of our village pub is in the balance. One way to safeguard the future of our pub is for the pub to be owned by us - the villagers - ourselves. Do you agree?

To introduce myself, I am Simon Honnor, an Appledore villager. My career included work as a chartered surveyor – originally and briefly valuing public houses and later in property banking and working on other projects. I am asking people in Appledore to come forward and have their say about the future of The Black Lion. This is not just a questionnaire. I am asking what you want for the future of our pub and what you may be prepared to do, so that we can make a good outcome happen, together. For example:-

Do you want to keep the pub as it is after Ray and Sandra have started a well-earned retirement?

How important is it to you that the pub does not close?

Would you like to see some changes to the pub which may provide more benefits for the village and would you help to make this happen?

Would you be prepared to help with putting up money to fund the pub purchase for the village?

Do you want to be part of a team trying to secure the pub for the village?

At this stage I am asking for your feedback in order to chart the way forward. My wife Andrea and I shall collate your feedback. Information given in confidence will be treated appropriately. Hopefully most can be shared. This is an opportunity for the village to save our pub and we are asking the village which direction it wishes to take, in an open and transparent way. We need to see what resources are available, in terms of money, people and skills. We have already done some research into charity-type funding. If required we may then arrange for a business plan with funding options to be prepared. Again, we shall be guided by your feedback.

Please send your feedback to this email: tn26pub@outlook.com or call me, Simon, on 07484 734973.

Please make contact with your feedback no later than 20th December. But preferably as soon as possible. If we can, it would be great for everyone to know that the future for the pub looks more positive soon, without more time suffering uncertainty.

Lastly, we all know that Ray and his staff are doing a great job keeping The Black Lion going. These have been challenging months for Ray, Sandra and everyone in their team. Let's make this an opportunity to do something great for the village.

Disclaimer. This notice is presented on a 'not for profit' basis by volunteers, possibly to secure The Black Lion as a community asset for the village of Appledore. This is not an offer of finance nor an investment promotion.



Parish Council Update December 2021 (<https://www.appledorekent.org>)

Court Lodge Road Car Park

The completion of the car park depends on the progress made building the homes on the site. It is a condition of the planning permission that the car park is completed and up and running well before the properties are sold. It is currently looking like the car park will be finished in April 2022.

My Community Voice – Kent Police

My Community Voice is a messaging service that helps Kent and Medway residents, businesses, and community groups to keep in touch with their local policing teams. The service sends updates about your local area directly from the police officers themselves.

My Community Voice is more than just a messaging service; it allows you to reply to the alerts the Police send you, share information and tell them about the issues affecting you.

Kent Police are committed to engaging with communities to increase trust and confidence and to help protect people from harm. Police, partners and the public working together can build resilient and safe communities, and both reduce and prevent crime.

You will be able to play an active part in police appeals as well as keeping updated in what is happening in your local area.

To sign up, go to <https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/>

Next Council Meeting – Monday 6th December 7.30pm at St Peter and St Paul

The Council politely requests that all who attend continue to wear facemasks unless they are speaking. Sanitiser will still be available for those who wish and please show consideration for others who may wish to have some space.

Season's Greetings





Village Hall Extension and Refurbishment

Work on the project is progressing well with completion scheduled for early next year.

Hall interior

All of the windows and doors have been installed. The kitchen and toilets have been tiled and the floors in the 'small hall' and other areas prepared for their final finish.

Exterior

Larch timber cladding is being fitted to the new part of the building and the older section is being rendered. The entrance steps and front wall are under construction.

Car Park

A sustainable drainage system has been installed at the far end of the car park to take rainwater from the Hall, with the drainage ditch in the land beyond re-profiled to safely take away any overflow caused by heavy rainfall.

Next steps

Once finished the exterior render will be painted. Flooring to be fitted to the small hall, loft area, meeting room and hallway. The kitchen units, toilet cubicles and sanitary ware will be delivered over the next few weeks.

Rear view of the hall showing the new back entrance door, window in the loft conversion and larch timber cladding



BRODIE

Mystery of the Missing Shoe

Hello, here we are again, the weeks are flying by and I'm still enjoying lots of lovely walks in the countryside.

However, there was a small incident in the house recently which was not entirely my fault. I was all ready for my walk, harness in place with my lead attached and sitting as still as I could, trying to contain my excitement. Then she started, "Brodie where's my other shoe? We can't go out until I find my shoe. Is it in your bed? Where is it, have you hidden it?" Well, I don't wear shoes, but it's true I like playing with them and carting them round the house and even sometimes take them in the garden. There do seem to be plenty in the house, so I was not quite sure what all the fuss was about. Surely one shoe is much like another! But no, it was a particular shoe that was missing, and it was my job to find it. Right, I thought, I will clear out my dog bed, but no luck there. So upstairs I go and look in the wardrobe, plenty of shoes in here so I thought it was an opportunity to have a good rummage around. It was all getting a bit ridiculous with so many boots and shoes when I heard her shout that she had found it. Great I thought, not my fault after all. Silly me - it was in the shed along with some of my toys. Maybe I had put it there, but I don't remember. Now it's found all is well, but I got the feeling that I was slightly not all that popular!

Anyway, we had a great walk down by the lake and saw the swans. I played with my ball and soon all was forgotten, and we returned home best of friends. Must make a mental note not to hide shoes in the shed.

Enjoy your walks and don't get too muddy. Until the next time,

Much love,

Brodie



Appledore veterans continue winning start!

Appledore Old Boys Veterans' team is now operating with a squad of 20 players since being formed last summer. Former player Paul Shilling is delighted with the progress the team has made in a short space of time.

Following wins over Burton Grove and Medway, the Smugglers registered a fantastic 4-1 away win at Whitstable Town. Goals by Aren Slann(2), Lewis Morgan and Paul Paddock did the trick!

There are 3 games left before the Old Boys have their Christmas break:

Nov 27th Folkestone Town away 3.15pm ko

Dec 4th Eltham Town home 2pm ko.

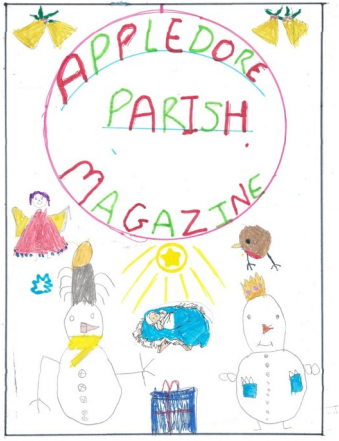
Dec 11th Castle Colts away 2 pm ko.

Any enquiries from old players or potential match day sponsors to manager Paul Shilling on 07487728191.

The Runners-Up in the children's Design the Cover competition

Many congratulations to all these wonderful children. There were two categories - under and over-10s. Below is the work of Gabriella age 15. We thought this was so good that IT MERITED ITS OWN FULL PAGE!

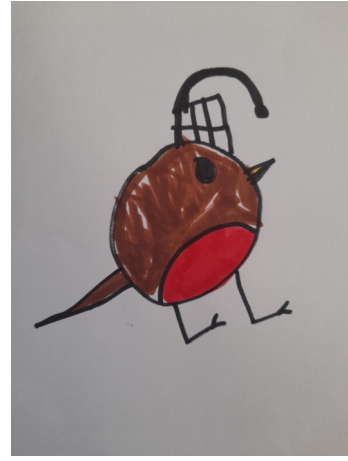




Lottie age 5



James age 8



Jensen age 4



Jack age 6



Isabelle age 4

Felix age 7



ROAD CLOSURES AT NO 1 THE STREET

The problems caused by the road closure beside the houses under construction in 'the narrows' before the Appledore Flower Show in August will still be in many people's minds. I'd like to thank the Parish Council for their support in holding the Southeast Water and their subcontractors to account for what we all would agree was a less than satisfactory performance. Martello must maintain a constructive relationship with utility providers generally, but I want to assure the community that the incidents were reported to OFWAT in a lengthy interview in September.

Many also may wonder why it was necessary for a further part closure in October. A blocked sewage pipe caused the partial closure. This pipe is owned and maintained by Southern Water, who were alerted after Martello's contractors faced a rather messy discovery of the blockage as they made a sewerage connection. Southern Water sent urgent teams to inspect the blockage, drain the overflow and later sent a repair team, which necessitated the single vehicle pass-way near No 1 The Street.

Whilst it caused more inconvenience to pedestrians and road users, the discovery turned out to be slightly fortuitous, namely the finding of a clog that would have affected several neighbouring properties, along with the new properties at Canal View. The consequences later could have been very much worse.

Thanks for your patience with road closure and other traffic interruptions during the construction of the Canal View development.

Patrick Poletti

Projects & Media Coordinator

Martello Developments Ltd.

CHRISTMAS 2021 WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS*

During the festive period your refuse and recycling collection days may be altered. Check out the 2021/2022 calendar below for any changes!

You will be pleased to know that during the festive period, recycling and refuse collections will not need to change this year due to Christmas falling on a weekend. Here's everything you need to know about this year's Christmas collection schedule.

Bulky / large item waste collections will be suspended from Monday 27 December 2021 to Monday 10 January 2022.

Garden waste collections will also be suspended for the two week festive period and resume as usual on Monday 10 January 2022.

Weekly Monday clinical collections will be as normal on Monday 21 December and Monday 28 December 2021 and also on Monday 3 January 2022

Week	Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Recycling	Mon 20 Dec	No change
	Tues 21 Dec	No change
	Wed 22 Dec	No change
	Thurs 23 Dec	No change
	Fri 24 Dec	No change
Refuse	Mon 27 Dec	No change
	Tues 28 Dec	No change
	Wed 29 Dec	No change
	Thurs 30 Dec	No change
	Fri 31 Dec	No change
Recycling	Mon 3 Jan	No change
	Tues 4 Jan	No change
	Wed 5 Jan	No change
	Thurs 6 Jan	No change
	Fri 7 Jan	No change

Tree recycling

This special fundraising campaign is celebrating its 10th anniversary. In that time, more than £125,000 has been raised for local hospice care. The campaign offers real Christmas tree collections from homes across the Ashford borough.

Ashford residents can register their real Christmas tree for collection. Pilgrims volunteer elves will collect the tree from your home and take it for recycling. In 2020 a record breaking 1,350 real Christmas trees were collected by the charity, raising more than £21,000 for vital end-of-life care.

Ashford Borough Council is proud to support our local hospice and we're hoping even more people will register and donate to have their tree collected and recycled. Register your real tree for collection by midnight on 6 January 2022 by visiting www.pilgrimshospices.org/treerecycling

Pilgrims Hospices team of volunteer elves will safely collect your tree to be recycled from Saturday 15 – Tuesday 18 January 2022.

Missed bin collections can continue to be reported via the usual Report It channel:
www.ashford.gov.uk/wastecollections/reportmissedbin/

You can also follow the Council on Facebook (@AshfordBoroughCouncil) and Twitter (@AshfordCouncil) for regular information updates over the Christmas period.

* Please ensure bins are presented prior to 6am

Interview with Patricia Fogden – Vicar of Appledore who has just retired.

I was lucky recently to catch our Vicar while she was packing up for a new adventure after retiring from Appledore Church after ten years of service here. All of us at the Parish Magazine would like to wish Tricia and her husband all the very best for the future and thank her for her service to us all.

I'd like to take you back to where it all began – when did you enter the Ministry?

In 1994 I was turned down for training as Reader in Portsmouth. At the time I was a senior Nurse Manager in theatres in Southampton. At my interview for the training, they said that because my job was so demanding, they thought I wouldn't have time to train as a reader. I disagreed as I found my job at the time a doddle. But as usual, God knows best, and six months later, I was asked to also take on the training of the operating theatre assistants, so sure enough, the reader training would have to have taken a backseat.

Then eight years later, we moved here to Snave and one day I was in Ruckinge Church during an interregnum and as we were going through all the paperwork from the diocese, I saw a document saying, "This is your last chance – apply for Reader training now"! So, I applied but because we were in interregnum, I would have to wait for my new vicar to come as he had to put me forward. Then the goalposts changed again and two weeks later the area Dean said he would put my name forward. So, I went to the University of Kent for three years' training as a Reader. Then, towards the end of my training we had a weekend on the work of a Reader with the Bishop of Maidstone. As the weekend went on, I kept thinking, "I don't want to be a Reader, so I spoke to him, and he told me to I pray with a couple of friends..."

When you said you didn't want to be a Reader, what did you mean? That you wanted more?

I felt that wasn't what God was calling me to do – it was more.

So my friends and I prayed. One of my friends offered to pray for my husband which nobody had offered to do before! When I got home and my husband asked how the weekend had gone – I said fine and he said, "Well, I don't think you should go for Reader, I think you should go for Ordained Ministry." There was my answer! So, I applied for Ordained Ministry and the rest is history! I was ordained at Canterbury Cathedral on 28th June 2003.

So, by 2000 were there fewer objections to women vicars by then?

Yes, the first women were ordained in 1994.

So, you've never experienced any kind of resistance?

Well, there were two people in my group of churches that I knew were anti women; one was a Church Warden and the day that I was accepted for my training, I was going up to the church and he was coming out and I thought, "Ur..." and he threw his arms around me and said, "You'll make a wonderful priest," and that was "One down, one to go!"

And the other chap said to me. "You know I love you dearly, but I just don't believe in women priests."

I said, "That's not a problem at all," and I would ring him up before Communion to tell him I was taking the service that day, so he didn't have to come.

Anyway, after a while he was very ill, and I hadn't rung up as I'd got out of the habit of doing so and then one Sunday he came, and it was me taking the service and I touched his wife on the shoulder and said, "I'm sorry it's me taking Communion today."

When it came to Communion, they got up and I thought, "This is going to be embarrassing," as I thought they were going to walk out, and they came up for Communion! And I couldn't get the words out, I really couldn't! Even thinking about it now, I fill up with tears. He just winked at me!

And afterwards, he said that when he was so very ill, his wife had said to him, “Do you want me to get you the Rector?” and he said, “NO, I can’t stand that man!” Her answer was, “I don’t understand you; you will take Communion from a man you don’t like, and you like Tricia but won’t take it from her!” He realised that she was right, but he had to have the last word by saying to me, “But you won’t be a bishop will you!” (laughter)

How long have you been in Appledore and where were you before?

I was ordained into the parishes of Orlestone with Snave, Ruckinge, Warehorne, Kenardington and Hamstreet. I have been in Appledore 10 years.

Wow – so you get so many churches at a time?

Well, unfortunately the benefices are getting bigger and bigger with fewer and fewer priests.

I also received the Bishop’s Licence in Europe as well as Canterbury. That means I can take services in Europe, which I still do on occasion. I have held services in Germany, Tenerife and Holland so far. I’m hoping to do more now that I am retired.

Has your Licence to preach in Europe been affected by Brexit at all?

No, as far as the Church of England is concerned because I go as a locum – I’m not paid – it is voluntary.

How did you end up in Appledore? Was it natural progression?

Part of my training was in Appledore for 6 months under Lindsay Hammond and then I was contacted by the vicar after Lindsay - Neville Gallagher - and he contacted me to say he was going to retire soon and was I interested. When the post came up it was advertised as House for Duty and I didn’t want to do that.

What does that mean?

Well, it means you are given the house but have to pay all the bills, you are not paid anything apart from expenses so it is quite an expensive undertaking. At the last minute, I decided I would apply. I came for an interview and was offered the post! A couple of years later the post was changed to a part time paid position.

So, you have been here since 2011 – how do you feel about leaving?

Extremely sad!

Do you have to go?

Yes, well technically the retirement age is 70 but I had hoped I might stay here a little longer! But things have changed so much, and our hours would go towards making a full-time post. So, the benefice will now have just 2 full-time priests and a full-time curate, and they will cover Tenterden, St. Michael’s, Smallhythe and Wittersham, Ebony, Rolvenden, Newenden, Appledore and Stone.

Wow! Whereas before you were just Appledore and Stone?

Yes, but I was part of the whole Benefice of nine – I covered some services there but my main focus was here.

What will you remember most about Appledore?

Oh, the people! I have been so lucky to have had such a wonderful band of people and not just church people – that’s the beauty of it! Yes, I have my church council and the people who come to church regularly but it’s also the people who don’t come to church regularly! And when you look at things like our Flower Festival – the whole village comes together and it’s wonderful, and that’s what I like about this village. When push comes to shove everybody comes together

We’ve just seen that with the scarecrows! 21 scarecrows we had!

I was so upset because I was going to do a scarecrow vicar, but I was up at my mum’s that week – she’s 93 – I went up for her birthday.

What changes have you seen in Appledore since 2011 – in the past ten years?

Well, er... there's been quite a bit of new housing.

What about the new people coming in?

A lot more holiday people – a lot more of the houses are holiday lets and you don't always know. I think there are a couple of people not far from the vicarage that I've met once in ten years!

I wonder if that phenomenon will grow after Covid with people wanting to escape to the country?

Hmm, maybe.

Next question – your husband – has he followed you with your job?

No, we own a boarding cattery in Snave. He has had to stay there as part of the licence is that somebody is there all the time, so he is there and I run between the two! I tend to do my Sunday services and then go home because my day off is a Monday, so I stay and come back on a Tuesday.

So what will you do now? What's next?

Yes... good question! (laughter)

For six months I'm not allowed to do anything as far as the church is concerned and then I can apply for a "Permission to Officiate Licence" from the Bishop. The beauty of them not replacing me here is that I can return to assist with services on this Ministry team because normally you aren't allowed to come back to the last place you have been. This is so that you don't get under the feet of the new incumbent, but because I'm not being replaced I can come back! That's the one good thing from my point of view! So, I've not gone for ever!

Can you say how many marriages and baptisms you have officiated at in Appledore?

Yes (after checking and telephone call back)!

55 weddings with 3 more booked for next year and 36 baptisms!

What have been your most memorable occasions in Appledore? I'm going to come on to the Christmas Services because I think they are the best thing! (lots of laughter!) ***I love them so much!***

They are certainly different!

But other memorable times?

The Queen's Jubilee - that was another occasion with the village coming together. We did a service in a marquee on the Recreation ground and that was really good and also a concert in the church – we had mostly local people performing. I sang Rule Britannia dressed in a Union Jack dress!

On the day of the Jubilee celebrations, Kito and I walked up through the village with our Union Jacks and we had our Jubilee Queen and her three princesses – young women – they drove up to the Pavilion on the back of a car!

Of course, I will always remember the Flower Festivals – they are out of this world... because everybody comes together to make it a success.

Strange as it sounds, but I am also thankful for the privilege of sitting with those who were dying. Firstly, as I felt blessed to be asked and secondly to just be there with them.

Seeing as this is the Christmas Edition of the magazine – I have to ask – what was your best Christmas Service?

Oh gosh

I've written in my notes – all memorable! (laughter)

It's difficult because every year they are so different! (laughter)

You never know what's going to happen!

No, you don't! Probably one of the most memorable was when George the donkey – God rest his soul because he's just died – pooped going down the aisle and the children thought this was hysterical!

But probably my most memorable was when we took the theme of the film Frozen and we turned the church into an ice palace with blue lights, lit up white trees and a clip from the film (I did ask permission). I got everyone singing "Let it Go".

That's lovely!***This year where and how will you spend Christmas Day?***

Well, that's a good question! I don't know! Our normal Christmas for my husband and me – because Christmas is so full on – I normally go home after the Christmas services, and we have toad in the hole because that is Peter's favourite meal. Then our surrogate family who took us on when we were building our house and I was living in Hamstreet normally come for a Christmas dinner on Boxing Day.

So, this year we haven't discussed Christmas! I'll have to find somewhere to go to church on Christmas morning, but I don't know where yet.

Do you know what will be happening here?

No, there will be services here but I haven't seen the December rota yet but there will be one!

The problem with Christmas is that everyone wants a service at the same time on the same day!

Here we tend to do a non-Communion service on Christmas morning, that is easier to cover because it doesn't have to be a priest.

One thing I have been thinking about – these small villages – there are fewer and fewer priests coming into the Ministry – well that's my interpretation...

No – there are actually more and more coming forward for training!

So why is this happening?

Well, we are getting to that stage – I'm of the Baby Boomer generation - where there are a lot of us retiring, which doesn't help.

Expenses is it?

Yes, at the end of the day it does also come down to money.

And what would they need - more people coming to the services?

Well, more money coming into the church – either by more people coming into the services or things like people leaving a legacy in their wills to the church. But even that isn't enough at the end of the day. Each church needs to be totally self-sufficient.

You don't get any money from the Government?

No, a lot of people think we do but that's not the case. The church has to pay its own way. I mean here in Appledore I think we pay £17-18,000 to the Diocese each year. This goes towards paying my stipend (salary), maintenance of the Vicarage, training new clergy, Safe guarding and the support of Diocesan House and Officers. These are all required to help run the church.

Is the Appledore Church in good nick?

Yes, we are very fortunate, we have the Friends of Appledore Church who look after most of any fabric requirements. It is in pretty good nick compared to a lot of churches.

So, what are you going to do next?

A few more cruises! (laughter)

That was my next question! (laughter)

We have two cruises booked for next year - in Feb. to the USA and Caribbean, in July we are going to Oberammergau – for the Passion play that was postponed last year.

And then in September we are going to Canada which is a cruise again postponed from last year. AND just this morning we booked two cruises for the summer of 2023!

Wow, two?

Yes, back-to-back. One is to the Canary Islands and the other is to Spain and Portugal.

Why cruises?

I love the sea as does my husband was an officer in the Royal Navy. He never wanted to go on a cruise because he said it would be a busman's holiday. But he promised me that for my 60th birthday we would go on a cruise! So, we did and two days into the cruise as we were crossing the Atlantic, I have a photograph of him, Kindle in one hand, bag of crisps in the other and he said, "I don't know why we didn't do this sooner!" I could have hit him! He is now as enthusiastic as I am about cruising.

Is there anything you'd like to add or a message for Appledore?

I will miss everyone and the village.

A huge thank you because I've had so much support – from everyone! Including of course the Methodist Church – as I am also the Methodist minister for Appledore - and that has been a delight and privilege as well.

Do you think our church is in a healthy position?

Yes, I think it is. One of the reasons is probably because I have tended to do fairly long cruises which has enabled the lay people to step up and take services. The Benefice Clergy will keep it going and there is strong lay support. Appledore Church has a core of very loyal people whom I certainly couldn't have been without.

Personally I will miss the people and the village. I'm going to miss opening my garage door and driving my buggy up through the village and seeing the life of Appledore stretch out in front of me!

On behalf of all the team who work on the Parish Magazine, I would like to wish Tricia and her husband all the very best for their next adventure!



Appledore Local History Society



Established in 1989 by a group of enthusiastic residents, the Appledore Local History Society, (ALHS), has become the centre for the gathering, recording, and maintaining of knowledge, in various formats, of life in and around the village of Appledore, Kent.

Members of ALHS meet at The Methodist Hall, our current base, on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Formalities are minimal, leaving the remainder of the time for group reviews of documents, photographs and artefacts that have been gathered over the years and which continue to be deposited or loaned to us for recording, further research where necessary and for preservation.

Acquisition of our digital archival system was a significant turning point in the data recording process, which has allowed us to digitise much of the historic data that has been collected. The work continues as we seek to include all information collected so far and that which we continue to receive, thereby widening the knowledge we have of Appledore through the ages.

ALHS arrange for visiting speakers to deliver talks on matters of historic interest, specifically as relates to Appledore and the surrounding area, as well as arranging for group visits to sites of historic interest. Monies raised from such events are deployed exclusively for the benefit of the village.

Members of ALHS engage in specific local events, for example in repairs and tending to the graves of those who died in service for our country and are buried in the old cemetery of the village church of St Peter and St Paul.

Aims, Objectives & Obligations of ALHS

We have a very clear vision of our responsibilities as the Local History Society:

- Provide a focal point for the regular gathering of residents interested in the history of the village and surrounding areas
- Facilitate the collection, collation and sharing of information and artefacts and to provide a repository for the benefit of future generations
- Build an extensive archive that might one day be developed into a local Heritage Centre
- Welcome and inform new residents of the history of the village and surrounding areas
- Provide visitors to Appledore some basic facts that will enhance their knowledge of the village
- Establish heritage trails that will enrich the enjoyment of visitors to the village

Expanding the Database

We are interested in receiving contributions, or the loan of relevant:

- Photographs of People and Places
- Postcards with Pictures of Village Scenes
- Estate Agents Particulars of Appledore Properties
- Newspaper and Magazine Cuttings
- Diaries and Family Records
- Memorabilia
- Artefacts
- Memories and Anecdotes

If you have Items that you feel would be of interest and are prepared to give or loan these to us, we would be pleased to discuss how they could be recorded onto the growing ALHS database and how you might have copies made to share with your family and friends.

Associate Membership Category

Full Membership of ALHS is £15.00 per annum. We are however introducing a new Associate Membership category at £5.00 per annum, which allows for:

Attendance at a selection of monthly meetings

Reduced rate participation in trips and tours to places of historic interest

Reduced rate participation in talks and organised events

Reduced rates for the professional copying and digitising of family photographs, documents etc

Provision of a copy of the Appledore 'A Walk Down The Street' booklet

Information available on your family history as relates to Appledore

Periodic updates on information of historic interest regarding Appledore

Ongoing work of ALHS is undertaken by a group of enthusiastic fellow residents, who are intent on creating and leaving a readily accessible legacy for future generations in order that they might have an appreciation of our village through the ages.

ALHS operates with total transparency and publishes its financial records. All monies raised by whatever means is used to fund projects undertaken on behalf of the village. Your support by way of Associate Membership will ensure that our work on behalf of the village continues.

Brian Knight - Chair

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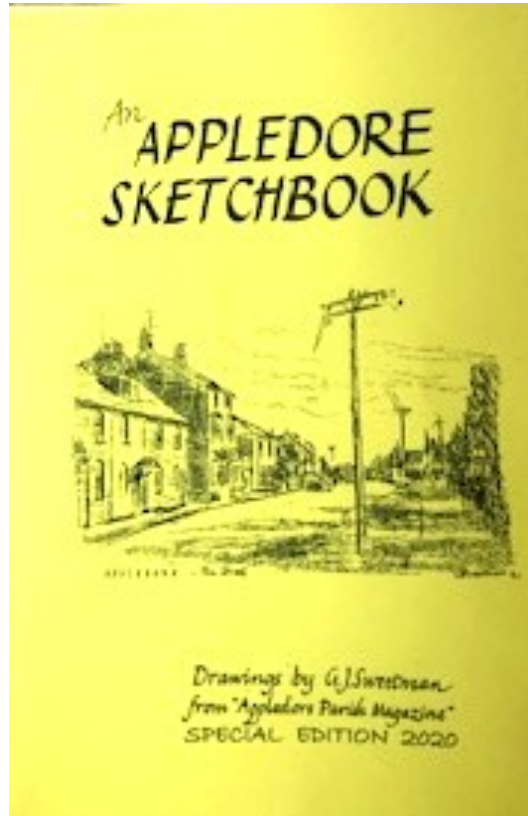


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Website www.appledorekent.org.uk

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; the 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 thrknng@aol.com.



BOOK CLUB UPDATE

Since the end of the lockdowns, we have had a cautious restart to our book club and have held a couple of meetings at The Black Lion.

We are interjecting a new format for our reading and, alongside the chosen monthly book, we will revisit some of the classics or old favourites, which we intend to discuss every two to three months. The first chosen book is *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, which we will review in January.


Our first read was *The Hunting Party* by Lucy Foley, which produced some lively and interesting discussions. Ultimately, the opinion was that, whilst we read the book avidly to discover who the victim and murderer were, we were not overly impressed with the complexity of the characters. Overall, a one-star rating.

For our next read we discussed three books from different genres; Mystery - *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman, Historical - *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles and Romance - *In Five Years* by Rebecca Serle. Romance won!! So, our next read was *In Five Years*; we were looking for it to be an uplifting read, and it to be just as original as it is purported to be.

Although this was billed as a romance novel, to most of us this didn't really follow through with the characters. The true love story was between the two best friends, not the main couple. The premise of the book was based around one of the main characters, Dannie, and her dream. To us, the dream seemed unbelievable and lead us to think in the wrong direction, concentrating on the potential fallout from the dream rather than the close friendship between Dannie and Bella. We all thought that it was rather disappointing that the book ended on an unnecessary red herring. Therefore, we rated the book as a good holiday read, but not much more, so three stars.

Further books were discussed, from *The Midnight Library*, (noted as an excellent read but already read by some) to a historical novel, *A Beautiful Spy* and the chosen book, a thriller, *The Last House on Needless Street*. This novel makes the reader believe that they know what's inside the last house on Needless Street. The story sounds familiar. That's where you're proven wrong, it's not what you think. We're looking forward to hearing everyone's comments on this intriguing thriller.

All are welcome to join us; our next meeting is Wednesday 12th January, 7.30pm, at The Black Lion.

Christmas wishes to All – Philippa 

Thank you to Roger Parrott for this quiz! Answers in the February edition!

Cross-Quote ©

The aim of Cross-Quote is to discover the text of the quotation in the grid below where the words are separated only by black squares and punctuation is ignored. To do this, solve the clues on the left and enter the answers in that grid. The letters should also be entered in the correspondingly numbered squares in the grid below. The more the quotation is revealed, the more help you will get in solving the clues ...

VERTIGO	A	31	1	114	115	83	104	13	91	111
ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS LEADER	B	87	20	7	139					
COVID SYMPTOM	C	105	44	21	119	97				
(Whole) LOT, BUNCH, GROUP	D	28	K 98	A 129	B 61	O 70	O 54	D 141	L 80	E
CALCULATE ROUGHLY	E	113	22	40	116	55	106	67	101	
WANDERING TRIBESMAN	F	2	93	107	29	48				
APPEARED	G	102	49	108	94	122	76			
WAS IN STORE FOR	H	56	32	95	23	77	142	81		
(Hands) MANACLED TOGETHER	J	24	128	8	71	33	57			
HEDGING PLANT	K	41	124	117	92	100	120	14	30	
UNSTEADY, RAMSHACKLE	L	62	9	3	84	42	126	47		
IMPARTS A DISEASE	M	72	34	88	58	63	131	50		
MISER	N	138	51	103	121	112	43	118	133	35
MELTS	O	89	64	4	15	127				
(from the French) CURSED	P	109	M 52	A 36	U 10	D 16	I 134	T		
WAIT ON, BE PRESENT AT	Q	59	17	73	65	53	11			
MATTER, MATERIAL, GIST	R	66	78	25	125	46	74	60	96	85
ORIENTAL PLANE TREE	S	99	C 18	H 135	I 75	N 132	A 68	R		
UNITS OF ELECTRICAL CURRENT	T	19	5	37	130					
FIXED ALLOWANCE OR PORTION	U	110	69	38	140	26	79			
ENTRAILS	V	27	86	45	136	12				
ATTRACTIVE, NICE	W	82	39	123	6	137	90			

The first column of the grid above gives the surname of the author and the title of the work from which this extract was taken.

A1	F2		L3	O4	T5	W6		B7		J8	L9	P10	D	Q11	V12		
A13	K14		O15	P16	J	Q17	S18	H		T19	B20	C21	E22	H23	J24		
	R25	U26	V27	D28	K		F29	K30	A31		H32	J33	M34	N35			
P36	U	T37		U38	W39		E40	K41	L42		N43	C44	V45	R46	L47		
	F48	G49	M50	N51		P52	A	Q53	D54	D		E55	H56	J57	M58		
Q59	R60		D61	O	L62	M63	O64	Q65	R66	E67	S68	R	U69		D70	O	J71
	M72	Q73		R74	S75	N	G76		H77	R78	U79	D80	E	H81		W82	
A83	L84	R85		V86	B87	M88	O89	W90		A91	K92	F93	G94	H95			
R96	C97		D98	A	S99	C	K100	E101	G102		N103	A104		C105	E106	F107	
G108		P109	M	U110	A111		N112	E113	A114	A115	E116	K117	N118	C119			
K120	N121	G122		W123	K124	R125	L126		O127	J128	D129	B	T130	M131	S132	A	
N133	P134	T	S135	I	V136	W137		N138	B139	U140	D141	L	H142				



THE JOYS OF WINTER

By Dippy Dora

It's Winter and I go all torpid
 I wouldn't say that I was morbid
 But my 'juices' are all slow
 And my body just won't 'go'
 My brain's the same
 It too plays that game
 (And I think the squirrel's got a very good idea)

Out comes the knitted vest
 It really is the best
 And Grandma did a really cracking job
 The knee-length drawers come too
 No matter they're not new
 (But red wool keeps you very, very snug)

I've heard that passion dies
 When these are viewed with some surprise
 But my Jock, he really doesn't care
 And when I saw his combinations
 I wasn't filled with great elation
 (So I guess we make a rather jolly pair)





Happy New Year!