

APPLEDORE PARISH MAGAZINE

JUNE 2020

60 YEARS



VILLAGE DIARY**JUNE 2020**

Due to the Coronavirus, there are no bookings for Appledore Village Hall for June.

All editorial matter for publication in the **JULY** 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 JUNE**. 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.

Please note that the Parish Magazine is only being produced electronically during the current pandemic.

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.

We will get back to normal one day and your magazine will be printed and delivered as before!

APPLEDORE PARISH MAGAZINE IS 60 YEARS OLD!!!

It is amazing to think that this month we are celebrating 60 years of the Appledore Parish magazine. In 1960 the then Vicar of Appledore informed the Parochial Church Council that the Church could no longer afford to publish the Parish Magazine (it was printed by a professional company).

In May 1960 the Headmaster of Appledore School, Mr. Gerald Sweetman, suggested to the PCC that a magazine could be produced in the village by the village residents and delivered free to every property in the village.

There was a lot of interest and support and the first of the new magazine was produced in June 1960. 60 years on and the principle is still the same, a magazine produced in the village by the village and delivered free to every property (subject to Covid 19).

As a team, we had such plans to celebrate with all of you this month but the pandemic has put paid to that for the time being. We will have a party for this old lady when we can all get together again. One of our plans was to let you see a magazine being printed on our new printer and collated in the village hall, along with cake of course! For the time being we will have to be satisfied with our cover which is the original one from June 1960 drawn by Mr. Sweetman himself. I felt quite humbled following in Mr. Sweetman's footsteps as I traced over the fainter lines of his drawing of our church, made even more poignant when thinking of how easy it was for me to point and click for the photograph of the church on the cover last month. I was lucky enough to share some correspondence with Mr. Sweetman before he died. He would have been so proud of the magazine still going at 60!

One final point - please note that Ray and Sandra at the Black Lion are offering Sunday lunch! Please support our local pub if you can. See page 23 for details.

Enjoy the sunshine and stay safe.

Maureen

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WHO TO ASK**APPLEDORE ALLOTMENT CHARITY**

Clerk to the Trustees Mrs Mary Shaw, The Homestead 01233 758298

APPLEDORE PARISH CHURCH Vicar: Revd Tricia Fogden 01233 758250

Secretary Philippa Perkins, email: philippaperkins.appledorepcc.co.uk

Reader Mrs Alison Gilbert 01797 280243

Churchwardens Mrs Frances Smith 01233 758201

Bells: Captain Mr F. Wenham, Lindon Stone 01233 758362

Secretary Denise Stephens, Nonsuch Cottage 01233 758952

Steeple Keeper Mr Aston Calladine 01233 758105

Flowers/Brass Mrs J. Clifton, Priory Lands 01233 758285

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METHODIST CHURCH Revd Tricia Fogden 01233 758250

Secretary Mrs B. Fazzani, Oakhouse Farm 01233 758322

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APPLEDORE VILLAGE STORES

51/53 The Street

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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

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For medical loans specifically

01233 620356

CARM: Appledore Christian Centre

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01233 758122

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Hamstreet: Wednesday 10.30 – 12.00

Appledore: Friday 10.00 – 12.00

COMMUNITY RURAL WARDEN

Joanna Vos, email: joanna.vos@kent.gov.uk

07980 770578

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Town Hall, Tenterden

01580 762371

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105

APPLEDORE FOOTBALL CLUB

Seniors: Kenny Beale

07899 030276

Juniors: Terri Richards

07887 496048

FRIENDS OF APPLEDORE CHURCH

Chair

Mrs F Smith, email: fmks33@gmail.com

Vice-Chair

Miss A Hill, Church House

01233 758203

APPLEDORE GARDENING SOCIETY

Chair

Paul Ripley, 2 Station Villas

01233 758410

Secretary

Tessa Knight, Heathland House, Woodchurch Rd

01233 758319

HOSPITALS	Buckland (Dover) William Harvey (Ashford) Kent and Canterbury (Canterbury) Benenden West View (Tenterden)	01304 201624 01233 633331 01227 766877 01580 240333 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
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY	Chair: Brian Knight Sec.: Jo Killick, email: secalhs@gmail.com	01233 758319
MEETING POINT	Mrs V Beale, 9 Elmtree	01233 758548
PARISH COUNCIL	James Perkins, Cradlebridge, Moor Lane, Appledore, Kent, TN26 2BH email: apc.mphilo@gmail.com	01233 758107
PARISH MAGAZINE Accounts & Advertising	Editor: Maureen Catt, Oak House, 74 The Street Mr B Knight, Heathland House	01233 758249 01233 758319
POLICE Enquiries	Emergencies Non-Emergencies	999 101
PCSO:	Katherine Richards, email: katherine.richards@kent.pnn.police.uk	
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VILLAGE HALL	Committee Chair Bookings email: villagehallappledore@gmail.com	Huw Jenkins Marilyn Ray 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

From the Vicarage

Well, we are still here! Perhaps when you read this the schools will have gone back, and life might be getting back to a new kind of normal!

In the meantime, I came across this modern parable and thought that it spoke very much to our situation at the moment.

A boy and his dog

The rain had slowed to a soft drizzle, and a boy was draped in a pink-and-white beach towel, walking down the road. Obviously, he had drawn the short straw because he was out in the rain, on the other end of a dog lead, waiting for the family pet to . . . well you know. At that moment, the drizzle turned back into a full-blown shower. The boy and the dog went from damp to drenched in 3.8 seconds. At one point, the boy bent down and said something to the dog. The dog just looked up at him. Apparently, the dog's "schedule" wasn't in sync with the boy's, or, for that matter, the rain's. The look on the dog's face was a picture. Some things just can't be rushed, even in bad weather.

Meanwhile, a hundred yards away, eight wild geese were happily floating on the pond. They didn't care if it was raining; they were just happy to paddle around. There were plenty of other geese to keep them company, and they were all free to come and go as they pleased. In fact, they seemed to be enjoying the boy and his dog's show. Several were looking in that direction.

The news is filled these days with a lot of noisy, frustrated people from any and all sides of the lockdown.

Some want to work; others are afraid to return to work. Some think everyone should wear a mask while others shout about personal freedoms. Some think the government should send more money and others think the government should let them make some money. Some don't think there is any reason to stay home and others think home is the only place people belong.

Some people feel like they are that dog, on a lead, being forced into doing a "job." (Okay, forgive that illustration!) Others are like the geese: out in the rain but making the best of it.

How would you describe yourself? Are you more like the dog or the geese?

If reopening the country were an easy choice, we would pick the easy choice. But, there are no easy or perfect choices when it comes to the complex issue of opening our country. Everyone has different circumstances in the lockdown situation, and everyone would probably say they wish some things would change. People are going to be hurt if we don't reopen, and people are going to be hurt when we reopen. How do we make a right choice with no right answers?

Jesus set a great example for us.

The Pharisees, the most "religious" people of the day, had heard that Jesus had stumped the Sadducees, the most intellectual of the Jewish leaders. One of the Pharisees, a lawyer by trade, asked Jesus a question hoping to "test him." The man asked Jesus, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" (Matthew 22:36).

Pharisees believed in strict obedience to the letter of the Law, including adding hundreds of extra laws they thought people should obey. The question presented to Jesus was intended to test which side he was on. His answer baffled all of them. Jesus answered them saying, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:37–40). Basically, Jesus told both groups how to settle their disagreements and choose wisely.

The same pure wisdom he gave the Pharisees and Sadducees works today.

The reason it is so difficult to reopen the country is that people, on both sides, are right about some things—and wrong about others. The first step to finding answers is realising that no one side has it. Truth can be found in the perfect answer Jesus gave. Love God completely and walk in his perfect will, then solutions will be clearer.

Secondly, pay attention to the solutions that treat others the way you wish to be treated, or maybe the way you have chosen to treat yourself.

The dog was at the end of a lead, in the rain, because one of its masters had decided it was a good time to take it outside. The geese were stuck in the rain as well, but they were just fine.

Today, the sun is shining and the rain is just a memory. What is the lesson of the parable?

We are all in the rain, but some of the population is held by a lead while others are able to float freely, unbothered by the conditions. Some people just have things easier in this life while others adapt to things more easily. Either way, all can know that things will be different in the morning. We all have different circumstances and inclinations. There is one virus but a variety of possible harms. There are lockdown rules that apply to everyone, but the rules impact all of us differently.

If you are a dog on that lead, find joy in the fact that soon you will be home—warm, dry, and surrounded by people who love you. If you are a goose on the pond, find joy in the fact that you are already at home, even in the storms. If you find yourself in the middle of a debate over rights versus right, remember what Jesus said: our job is to love God and others. The right things to do will be whatever can be done rightly in God's eyes, for the good of others.

Some are dogs and some are geese in this world, but everyone has the right to be loved.

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8).

God Bless and stay safe. Tricia xxx

UPDATE FROM THE HARVEY

Ruth Smith

During the first week of lockdown, Thanet Covid calls dominated the screen. The second week, Canterbury Covid calls dominated the screen. So when I went to work the third week, I was expecting Ashford Covid calls to dominate the screen. But no, they weren't and they haven't dominated the screen any of the other weeks of the lockdown.

The statistics show that Ashford is a Covid hotspot, which I was rather expecting, yet Ashford's Covid calls to 111 and then onto me have not reflected that. I wonder why? Are Ashford residents listening and learning from the Government how to manage their Covid infections? Are they all waiting till the morning to call their own GPs? I don't know, but I will say thank you Ashford as you are making my life easier!

And now for a gem of a story! On Saturday night, about 8pm, a call came onto the screen. It was so urgent that it needed to be answered within 2 hours. Just to put that in perspective, Covid calls with breathlessness usually arrive with a 4 hour deadline.

The only information was 'toenail concern'. It was generally agreed amongst my co-workers, all of whom must be at least 30 years younger than me, that this was definitely a call for Ruth to sort out! So I rang this gentleman of 89 to find out what the problem was with his toenails. He told me the crisis was that he needed his toenails cutting and that they needed cutting NOW! Restraining myself considerably, I explained that the toenail cutting service was temporarily suspended, especially on a Saturday evening, and that no one would be cutting his nails for several more weeks. This did not go down well, as you can imagine.

However, my colleagues were right. This was a call that I was probably the only one who could advise on. I explained to this indignant man that I too had the same problem! I too had long toenails, which needed cutting, but which I can no longer cut myself, but that I had found an answer! Now he was all ears. Emery boards ++ and filing away at the nails for AGES is keeping my nails under control. So he left me with emery boards added to his next shopping list.

And that was more urgent than a breathless Covid patient!!

BRODIE

Hi everyone, I'm enjoying the sunshine and some lovely walks. We are settling down to a great routine, a good walk in the morning when I can run around off the lead like a demented duck then in the late afternoon it's just a shorter walk on the lead. There has been no mention of a further visit to the beach. I just get the feeling that there is something strange going on as we don't meet up with any friends for a dog walk, a shame as I love the company of other dogs and people.

I really love my 'mum' and I think I'm her best friend, she's definitely my best friend. We have lots of cuddles on the sofa whilst watching the doggy programmes.

It's my birthday next week, I'll be two years old. Of course, I feel a lot older than that as I am very obedient and behave in a very grown up way, mostly although we have had one or two hiccups. One day I chased a pheasant and ran so hard but just couldn't catch it. I heard her shouting at me, but I was so carried away with the chase I took no notice! On another occasion I jumped on the bed with muddy feet - oh dear, severe ticking off!

I've been feeling a bit off colour lately as it's that time of the year when the local male dogs seem to be taking a lot more interest in me. As a result, our walks have been curtailed and I can't wait for everything to get back to normal. So, no more news for now, next time we will have returned to our proper routine, proper walks, and most important visits to the beach!



Celia Burgess is one of our regular deliverers of the parish magazine. She recently lost her beloved dog Bonnie who was 17 years old. A huge loss for Celia. We wish her all the best at this sad time.



APPLEDORE VILLAGE SHOW 2020

The Show Committee has sadly come to the conclusion that, as social distancing is still going to be present in September, this year's show will have to be cancelled. So those of you with trophies will get to enjoy them for another year!

However, we have decided to run a mini virtual show instead. We will be having only 2 classes. Class 1 will be a photo of your garden, or window box/tub if you have no garden or a house plant if you have no outside space at all. Class 2 will be the tallest sunflower. The entry will be a photo of the plant with its grower next to it and a measurement done by the grower or their parent.

Both of these classes are for adults and children. If there are a lot of entries, we will subdivide the class into 1a Adults, 1b Children and 2a Adults and 2b Children.

Any person with any connection to Appledore can enter this year.

Both classes will be free as there are none of our big expenses – hire of the Hall, judges' fees, rosettes and engraving. We already have a photo judge lined up who will not charge for their services.

Obviously a level of honesty will be required. You cannot enter a photo of a house plant if you have a garden! If the height of your sunflower does not fit with the photos of your sunflower plant, then we reserve the right to re-measure your plant if necessary.

Remember - this is just a bit of fun with my homemade certificates as prizes!

So get growing your sunflowers. Start looking at your garden with a photographic eye. As for me, I don't have to grow runner beans, large onions, beetroots and shallots this year. Whoopee!!



60 YEARS OF APPLEDORE PARISH MAGAZINE!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

When the present Appledore Parish Magazine was started in 1960, Mr. Gerald Sweetman, Headmaster of the Village School, was one of the team producing the magazine.

Mr. Sweetman would sketch various views and scenes around the village for the magazine cover. At home he would then re-draw the picture using a stylus on a stencil sheet which could then be printed on a Gestetner Duplicator.

For all of the years he resided in Appledore his sketches were used for the magazine covers.

Some were reproduced in Sketch Books and sold in aid of the Parish Magazine. It is hoped that later this year we will reproduce a Sketch Book of these drawings, in memory of Mr. Sweetman, and to mark 60 years of this Parish Magazine.

When the magazine started, the Duplicator/Printer was housed in the Village School. Over the years it has had many varied homes such as people's outbuildings, the Sports Pavilion, in people's houses & garages. The collating (putting the pages together) was done by hand, by a group of volunteers, and still is today. Collating has taken place in the Village School, the Sports Pavilion, the Church Vestry and many people's houses and outbuildings.

In the days before computers, organisations and individuals would submit hand-written articles and reports to the editor for inclusion in the magazine. The editor would then work out which articles could fit where on the pages. A diagram of each page would then be drawn showing which article was to go where. The diagram and written articles were then taken to the typist who would type the various articles onto a stencil sheet for the relevant page of the magazine. These stencils were then taken to the person(s) who operated the duplicator/printer, who would then have to fix the stencil onto the drum of the duplicator/printer and print the relevant number of copies required. This was repeated for each page of the magazine.

Over the years the magazine has reported on Village events from Fetes, Car Rallies, Flower Festivals etc. to special events such as the opening of Hop Garden by the Princess Royal; the Village Millennium Celebrations; opening of the new Canal Bridge etc.; even individual people's achievements and news and regular reports from Village organisations.



Parish Council Update

Coronavirus

Should you need help in isolation please contact Lyndsey Jenkins on 07795 220909 or 01233 758152.

The latest information and health care advice can be found on the Government Website and NHS website. The advice will be regularly updated so you may need to check every few days.

Car Park for Court Lodge Road

The developer has already put in applications to complete requirements on the original planning application. They have also been in contact with the parish council and we will be working with them on car park related issues. At this stage it is envisaged that it will take around 6 months to work through the 33 conditions to protect habitats, trees, newts and other wildlife and make sure village life is disturbed as little as possible.

Residential Development Planning Application for the Council Field

The new planning officer appointed to deal with the application took some time to complete a review of the original documents submitted and the first set of documents making alterations as requested by the original planning officer. After much correspondence between this planning officer and Martello along with the parish council, a resolution has been found to this planning officer's further requirements. Of note the 3-bedroom dwelling that will be owned by the council will be included under planning law section 106 condition as affordable housing. The application is now moving forward again.

Highways

Although we are hopefully slowly still gaining increased freedom of movement under 'Stay Alert', work on highways will take some time before non-urgent issues can be dealt with.

Parish Council

The usual council work has continued during 'Stay Safe, Stay at Home' and will continue under 'Stay Alert' in the same way. Should you have any queries please contact the Clerk or any councillor.

Break-ins and Scams

Please remain vigilant and lock your sheds, garages outbuildings and agricultural buildings.

The number of scams is on the increase, so please take a moment to think before you respond to any emails/letters and telephone calls, especially do not give up any banking details, passwords or pin numbers.

Ashford Borough Council Update on Delivering Services

We continue to face a huge challenge from COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and its impact on our lives and work. We are committed to ensuring we continue to deliver services though we recognise that, in these challenging times, some of these will be affected as we follow government advice.

There's lots of information on our website including:

- updates on [how our services are being affected](#);
- how we're supporting vulnerable people through [Kent Together](#);
- advice and suggestions on how to [look after your mental health and wellbeing](#);
- what support is available for [local businesses](#);
- information on [the latest scams affecting Kent](#).

You can also follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

For the latest updates and information [join our mailing list](#) to receive Kent County Council news, updates and information by email.



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Appledore Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Councillors' phone numbers are usually available on the noticeboard. However, from time to time the boards are very full. Full contact details are on the website <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 apc.jperkins@gmail.com

Chris Vane (Vice-Chair) 01233 758198, mobile 07816 672919

email apc.cvane@gmail.com

Charles Wilkinson (Highways issues) 01233 758316, mobile 07562 302809

email apc.cwilkinson@gmail.com

Helen Hennig (Highways issues) 01233 758436, mobile 07759 006324

email apc.hhennig@gmail.com

Roger Hiskey 01233 758097

email apc.rhiskey@gmail.com

Derek Winter 01233 758570

email apc.dwinter@gmail.com

Lyndsey Jenkins 07795 220909

email apc.ljenkins@gmail.com

Parish Clerk – Mary Philo 01797 270790

email apc.mphilo@gmail.com

CAN YOU HELP YOUR PARISH MAGAZINE?

The Appledore Parish Magazine is delivered free of charge to every household in the village and we want to keep it that way. Most other parish magazines have a cover charge.

After 10 years our printer has given up the ghost and we have to buy a new one. This is very expensive! If you could give a small donation to help us with the purchase of the printer we would be most grateful. ***We would like to say a massive thank you to all those who have given a donation since we first put out this appeal. To date you have raised £505.***

Having our own printer (which should last for the next ten years) is vital for the future of a free parish magazine in Appledore.

Donations should be sent to: The Editor, Oak House, 74 The Street, Appledore, TN26 2AE. Cheques should be made payable to Appledore Parish Magazine.

**POETIC THOUGHTS IN LOCKDOWN BY APPLEDORE'S OWN POET LAUREATE
DIPPY DORA**

Future Perfect?

With Brexit gone, eh, what delight
Our shores are ours and beaming bright
But stay awhile, what cloud I see
Upon the brine it seems to be.
No friendly spirit come to call
But tentacles with dusty pall.

Insidiously it makes its way
Across the strand and on to stay
SARS, MERS and awful SWINE
And now we/re stuck with Covid 9!
(Or 19 if you're fussy
But it don't rhyme, see?)

The Blackbird

The blackbird's song is very sweet
He never seems to miss a beat
Sitting on his bench up high
All can hear as they pass by

His cheery song lifts the day
And brightens all along the way,
The weather here seems so much brighter
And our spirits that much lighter.

Mirror, mirror...!

Who's this old bag in the mirror I see,
Surely it can't really be me,
It's not what I remember at all you see,
Those bloodhound jowls that are hanging so low
Such a depressing way to go
And are these wrinkles really mine?
Oh wicked, cruel Father Time.
Yet here I am at 83, I can breathe and I can see
Oh lucky, lucky, lucky me!

Wonder

Sitting in my yard one day
A little beetle came my way
His golden wings with greenish sheen
Took him off to a place unseen

He has a secret life, I know,
I do just wonder where he'll go,
Underneath that rotten log
Or was he heading for the bog?

From Mother Nature's little ants
To the gentle elephants,
So many wonders we can see
Just think about the honey bee!



COVID-RESPONSE NEWSLETTER

Doors reopen 1 June!

Are your kids back to School in June? Will you be returning to the commute?

The upside of the lockdown has been that we have all, in one way or another, had time to reflect on our busy lives and many parents with young families are embracing spending more time together and getting involved like never before in their children's development. The legacy of this lockdown period surely must be the opportunity to create a better way of living all round as the old model was not serving us so well - particularly those who spent a great deal of time away from home commuting on cramped public transport.

9 weeks into lockdown and while many are benefitting from a slower pace of life, businesses are suffering terribly, with Chancellor Rishi Sunak warning of a deep and significant depression on the horizon. However, for some people working from home is not a long-term workable solution. Lack of space, distractions (sunshine, dogs, kids, housework) are productivity-blockers. It can be a challenge to separate work and home life when your office is also your kitchen/bedroom/living room and, furthermore, those without a family around them find social isolation has a negative affect on their mental wellbeing.

These are real problems that are not going to go away anytime soon. Having proven working remotely is possible, many employees will feel entitled to demand more flexibility and even look to cut out the commute altogether. How will companies support their employees back to the workplace? The good news is that professionally managed coworking spaces offer an attractive option - for both employers and their valued teams. For some WFH (Work From Home) will be replaced with WCTH (Work Close To Home) at a COVID-Secure workplace in their hometown.

Here at Space Coworking in Rye, (where small is beautiful!) we consider ourselves an independent 'boutique' operation and with space now at a premium because of physical distancing measures, we will be even more exclusive when we return on 1st June!

We've certainly seen an increase in enquiries since the easing of lockdown and like most other businesses, we've had to adapt our business model. We've made some important changes:

We have removed our communal lounge area and communal hotdesks.

Naturally, there are new rigorous cleaning regimes and we've introduced new health and safety protocols aligned with the latest [government guidelines](#).

To apply maximum social distancing we have reduced capacity by HALF in our bright and airy open plan space, so that each member now has a very generous workspace to themselves.

If you need just the odd day here and there, we have limited availability Coworking Day Passes and Day Offices on a casual basis without membership, bookable only in advance. Whilst events are of course suspended in line with government guidelines, our fully equipped (software and hardware) conference room will be available for meetings/Day Office and again will need to be booked in advance. If you are moving your business to a more sustainable online model, it's a great space to record professional workshops/webinars.

Virtual Office and Mail Handling demand is growing and we are in the process of adding a Digital Mail option to our service which includes scan and mail forwarding, ideal for those who are no longer travelling to their physical space or isolating. We'll still be accepting small parcels for our members, where we can quarantine in a locker ready for collection when you are ready.

To learn more, or to go onto the waiting list for a Dedicated Office, call Jane on 01797 222857 / email jane@spacecoworking.co.uk.

VE DAY IN APPLEDORE!

Our celebrations had to be different from what we had probably expected for VE Day but that didn't mean people didn't celebrate! There were many celebrations and certainly a carnival atmosphere in The Street with music, bunting and cream teas galore! I believe there were also celebrations and buntings on display along Heathside, Station Road and down towards Woodchurch that I witnessed or heard about. Below are some of the photographs I took on a trip down The Street in the afternoon sunshine! Then follows a piece from Jill Monk-Smith and her memories as a 7-year old on the first VE Day.





VE Day – 75 years on

Memories of a 7-year old

This was a very different experience on 8 May 2020 with social distancing. However with our neighbours in their gardens and some of us in the field behind we enjoyed our 'distance' party. We all brought our own tea and we had cake and jam tarts together with music.

I was 1 yrs old when the war started and lived in Riddlesdown near Purely, Surrey, situated on the hills between Kenley aerodrome and Croydon Airport. These were definitely aerial targets. On 5 November 1940 we were bombed out in the middle of the night and it was unsafe to stay in the house so we traipsed off to my Grandmother's. I was 2 ½ and my mother was pregnant with my sister.

My Dad was a keen vegetable gardener but had never had great success with carrots except this particular year. Unfortunately the bomb blew up the carrot clamp. He was most upset about this!

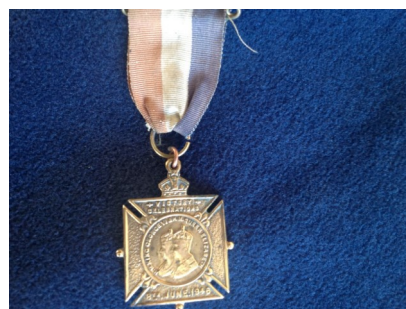
We went to a number of billets ending up in Suffolk to be near my father who was a radio operator in the RAF based at Mildenhall. It was probably not a very good move as the day we arrived at the rented house an incendiary bomb hit the roof. Not very surprising as we were near a number of airfields.

We eventually went back to Riddlesdown to a rented house and I used to watch the doodlebugs - V1s - go over the garden. They usually cut out somewhere over Croydon Airport.

By 1945 I had a sister and a brother. We all dressed up on VE day. I was dressed as a traffic light wearing blackout material with red, amber and green discs on the front. The feast consisted of paste sandwiches, jelly, jam tarts and cakes. These were made with the limited food rations. Women shared ingredients such as sugar, butter, lard and dried egg to make a great feast. I seem to remember that it was great fun having a big street party– what a treat!

Jill Monk-Smith Appledore

Photographs of the medal given to all school children in the County



Borough of Croydon on 8th June 1946 by Major J. Marshall JP on the day of the victory celebrations. Peter Monk-Smith



In the May issue of the Parish Magazine there was an extract of Miss Johnston's War Diary. One entry was as follows:-

May 9th – Wednesday. Attended a meeting at the Hall at 7.30, called by the Parish Council to draw up a scheme to welcome home the Appledore men and women. Mr. Pendrey was in the Chair. A committee was drawn up, including Miss Clement and myself; Major Shapland as secretary and Mrs. Cock as Assistant Secretary. Much divergence of opinion.

The card below was received by W (Bill) Moore who was in the RAF. I do not know the value of the cheque.

B. Knight



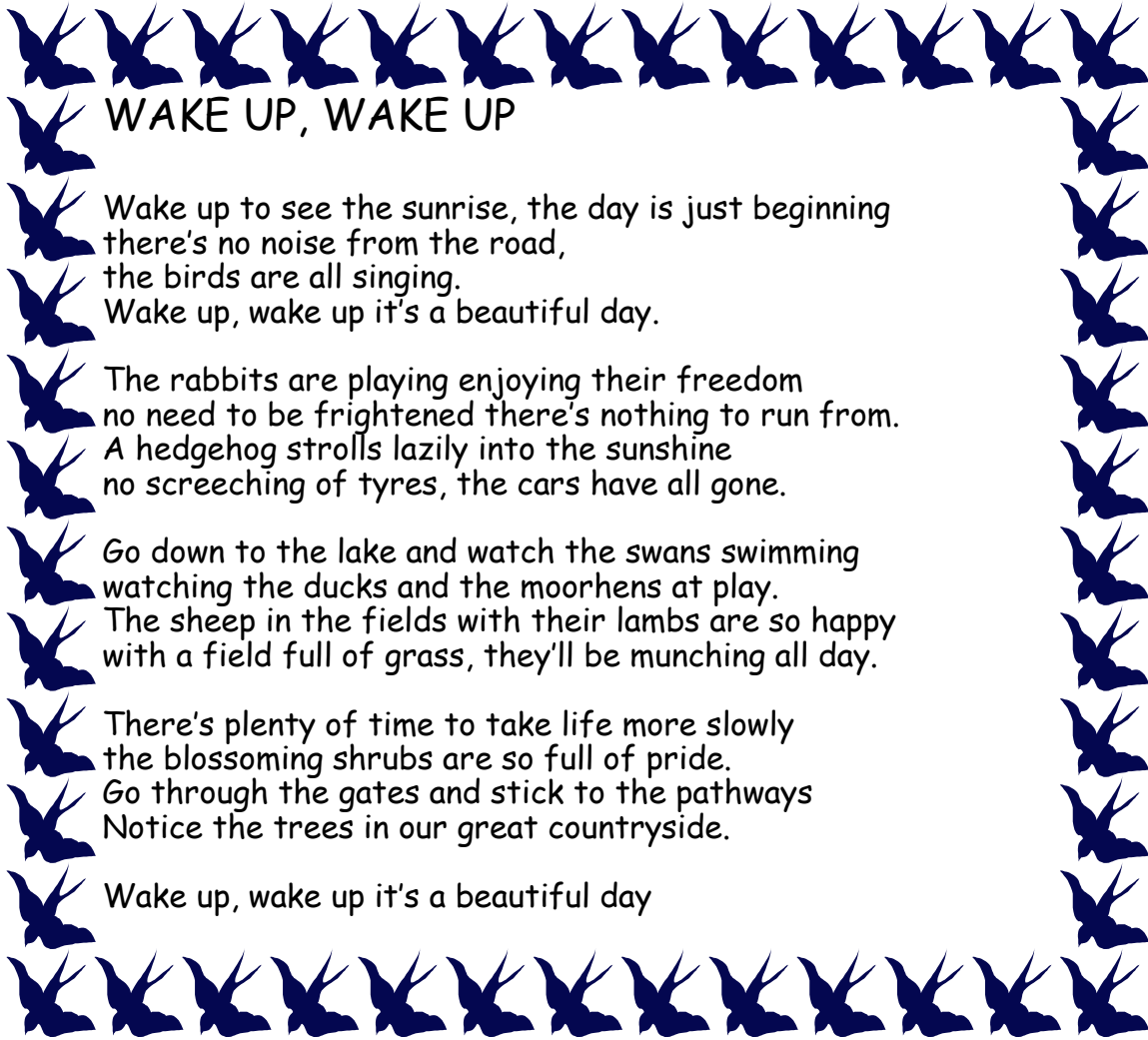
POETRY FROM THE ART CLUB!

Some of the members of the Art Club have done a piece of prose or poem depicting their view of the recent coronavirus - here are a couple of them for you to enjoy! Many thanks Art Club! Can we have some of your art work too?

The first is from Tracy Morgan and the second contributor wishes to remain anonymous!

COVID 19 ruling the world

<i>Corona virus killing us Wine consumption's frivolous</i>	<i>A global team Gathered on screen</i>
<i>Corona taking war time heroes Captain Tom onward he goes</i>	<i>Don't need your passport For that holiday you bought</i>
<i>Daily updates, stats we're told For the masses, jobs on hold</i>	<i>Day one of Liberty Where will you go?</i>
<i>Most patients will survive Home sewing bees will thrive</i>	<i>Thank you, China I don't think so</i>
<i>Back to basics for us all DIY haircuts, what a ball!</i>	<i>Empty streets, footsteps echo No change there, though, in the ghetto</i>
<i>Dusting off our Lego and jigsaw Kids ask, 'masks on', Mummy what for?</i>	<i>Time standing still For a Costa I'd kill</i>
<i>Skies are clearing Gladly we're hearing</i>	<i>When it's all over we will cheer Corona anyone, or a different beer?</i>
<i>Sprightly lambs without a care Country walking do you dare?</i>	<i>Words by Vera Lynn Now sound like a hymn</i>
<i>Toddlers ask where their friends have gone Parents wonder how long will this go on?</i>	<i>"We'll meet again, don't know where don't know when"</i>
<i>Hugs and kisses Everyone misses</i>	



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APPLEDORE'S OWN ROCK FOLLY!

Some of you may have seen an older lady playing the drums on Britain's Got Talent a few weeks ago. She was once in a band with our very own Jacky Purser and Jacky told me a bit about their history together when they were a little younger! The drummer's name is Crissy Lee and you can see Crissy on YouTube at the moment at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8Ak3LCw5cY>. She also appeared on ITV's This Morning last week where she showed photos of herself with the Beatles when she was on tour with them (she was in an all-girl band which was called The Beat Chicks at the time). Jacky was in the Ivy Benson band with Crissy in 1967 touring clubs up North. Crissy played the drums in the band. Jacky used to sit beneath her drums (you can see her in the photograph below with her guitar while Crissy was doing her drum solo!) Back to Jacky now – In 1969 she was in Girl Talk, an all-girl group touring American German bases for the GIs who had just come back from Vietnam. They appeared at one base with the legendary Carl Perkins (he came into their dressing room to borrow a hair dryer!!) They also played at the Marquee and Jeff Beck was in the audience. They played at the American Embassy in London (full of fruit machines) and worked at most of the American bases in England. In 1970 Jacky worked as a duo with Dave Sheriff who's written songs for Irish Country Music and Train Spotting 2. He now sings and tours the Line Dancing venues all over the country (he was at Camber a couple of years ago). The girls travelled and lived in an old J4 van and worked for the NAAFI playing the English bases. On weekends they travelled to Amsterdam and played the bars (they followed The Four Tops in one bar. They did Karaoke in those days). In 1976 Jacky joined Brandy, an all-girl group, who were on New Faces. In those days everything was live but prerecorded. They played and sang to a real audience in the Birmingham studios. Jacky tells me she was very nervous and had to start the song playing solo but it turned out ok and they came 2nd. At that time there was a programme on the TV called 'Rock Follies' about a fictitious all-girl group. The Daily Express followed Jacky's group Brandy and wrote a centre-page article calling them 'the real Rock Follies'! After that Jacky worked as a solo singer guitarist playing clubs and pubs around London. What a star! Jacky tells me she is learning to play rock guitar for her next episode!!!



A Year after the Election

It has been over a year since the Borough Elections, which now seem long ago; I am pleased to have seen most of the existing Parish Councillors who wished to, retain their seats. Just prior to the elections the Borough's Local Plan to 2030 was signed off by the National Planning Inspectorate and therefore became the guide/policies for the next 10 years or so, with updates regularly occurring. This plan, dealing mainly with Housing and Planning, had a little to say with regard to the Isle of Oxney Ward, but nothing compared to the urban area of the Borough. Policies within the Local Plan give guidance to how the Borough Council perceives the continued development of the Borough of Ashford.

As a Borough Councillor I am given a small annual allowance to award grants to the four parish communities with the Isle of Oxney Ward. I try to share this between the Parishes each year to give some support for their various organisations, as examples for Village Greens; Halls; Stations; Street furniture; parish magazines; Community Ventures; Commemorative events etc.

Housing in the ward is always a subject which causes much discussion, both private housing and community housing. If anyone wishes to discuss a particular subject please contact me, but currently bear in mind that most Government policies are considerably disrupted by Covid 19.

Currently most of the Borough Council Staff and many of the Councillors are working from home, which does not necessarily make life more difficult but certainly different. The Borough Council website www.ashford.gov.uk is a good source of information on many subjects to do with difficulties because of the pandemic. This website lists many useful voluntary and community groups in the Borough and also how various community groups and businesses can obtain government grants. The council website will also give an update on the meetings and which are continuing, postponed or cancelled. It is most unfortunate that the local film clubs and various pop-up pubs currently cannot operate; but I know that the effort put into these types of events is being spent within the communities to ensure that no one is suffering unnecessarily.

One interesting change caused by the current Covid situation is continuing to hold necessary committee meetings. These are being done by virtual meetings using various forms of software over broadband links. Occasionally it is necessary and legal to involve the public in such meetings, i.e. Planning Committee and Full Council; this can be done with the correct software and the Public can see and hear what is said at the meetings. A trial is being tried to allow the Public, with due notice, to be able to make a spoken statement at some meetings, while at other times their speeches will be read by an officer of the council. More information on this subject is usually published in the local press and on the website.

One casualty which never really managed as much progress as I had hoped for is the Improvement of the Royal Military Canal Footpath, which I see as a great recreational and leisure industry asset to the Borough and much further afield. I have spoken about this vision previously and obviously this has currently been put on hold, but I hope not forgotten.

Mick Burgess.
Ashford Borough Councillor for the Isle of Oxney Ward

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