APPLEDORE PARISH MAGAZINE JUNE 2021



"A hug," said Pooh,

"is always the

right size!"

VILLAGE DIARY JUNE 2021

Redevelopment of the Village Hall continues.

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.

Advertising: Brian Knight 01233 758319

email: ThrKng@aol.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.

Dear Appledore,

I hope some of you have managed to enjoy our new freedoms this month. I enjoyed a drink in a quiet pub in Brede last week and have had a couple of lovely hugs from my friends!

I still feel very cautious as we move forward, and I think many of us will feel the same for some time yet. However, as we move to sunnier days (I hope!) and longer evenings, we have much to look forward to. One of these things is the programme organised by the Appledore Gardening Society with trips planned to several beautiful gardens. The Society is keen for new members to join so check out the details on page 25! You don't have to have green fingers, just enjoy a day out with good grub, great locations and nice people!

Another is the fabulous Gig on the Green at the Black Lion on 26th June! NOT TO BE MISSED!!!

We can also feel very positive about and celebrate the achievements of our village. The refurbishment of the Village Hall is going ahead full steam. There is an update and photograph in the magazine on pages 14-15, and I hope to have regular updates in the months to come with photographs of the progress. We must also celebrate our mighty Junior Smugglers who have "done the double" winning the league and cup double for the first time in their history! I was lucky enough to interview their coach Richard Baker about their success – read about it on pages 26-30.

I am also pleased to see Miss Mollett's has reopened. I look forward to hearing from the new owners very soon.

Appledore will soon be asked to vote for a new Parish Councillor. So far, there are two candidates up for the post. At the time of writing, I have not heard of any other candidates, but there might be. You can read what Andrea Honnor and Gary Kinsley would like to do as your new Councillor on pages 18-19.

CONTENTS Cover Village Diary 2 **Editorial & Contents** 3 Who to Ask 4-5 **Church Services** 6 7 Letter from the Ministry June Church Rota 8 Flower Rota 8 9 Mask Tree Improving the Church grounds 9 Spring by Dippy Dora 10 Flower Festival 11 Pop-up Café and Info Hub 12 Vaccination survey 13 **Football Charity** 13 Village Hall 14-15 Parish Council 16 Keep Appledore Tidy 17 Parish Council nominees 18-19 **Brodie** 20 Gig on the Green 21 **Parish Councillors** 22 23 Appledore Sketchbook U3a Tenterden 24 Appledore Gardening Society 25 Junior Smugglers 26-30 Advertisements

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WHO TO ASK						
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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY Ashford 01233 208000						
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St Peter & St Paul, Appledore Appledore Methodist Chapel June Services

Sunday 6th June

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

Sunday 13th June

10.30am, Holy Communion, Parish Church

Sunday 20th June

10.30am, Joint All-Age Worship, Parish Church

Wednesday 23rd June

12md, Methodist Holy Communion
Appledore Chapel



Sunday 27th June

10.30am, Holy Communion, Parish Church

Midweek Services

Holy Communion every Wed at 9.30am
At St Peter & St Paul, Appledore

For further details and for Baptisms, Weddings and Banns or for any pastoral concerns that you would like to discuss, please contact

Rev'd Tricia Fogden on 758250

or patricia.fogden@btinternet.com

https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Peter-St-Paul-Appledore/166730610146481

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

Dear Friends,

Do you love your churchyard? If so, you are not alone! There are over 20,000 burial grounds in England and Wales, ranging from small, rural medieval churchyards to large, urban Victorian ones. Each in its own way provides a place of peace and sanctuary to those who choose to visit, for whatever reason. And those reasons may be many and varied. Some will come specifically to seek out the spot where family members, both recent and much further back, have been buried. Others simply crave for a sense of the holy which may seem to impregnate its very ground.

However, there is much more to be gleaned from these very special places. Burial grounds may be the only remnant of the landscape which once surrounded them, providing an important home for wild flowers, small mammals, birds and insects which have been squeezed out of city landscapes – or even pristine villages. Churchyards are also the living pages of the local history book. Read the ancient headstones, and you may discover tantalising snippets of people's lives from long ago. Some will make you smile, as an inscription which I read in a Sussex churchyard recently. 'He never did no harm to nobody', it read. Others tell of family or community tragedy, as with some of our local graves, recording deaths which came too early, as young men fell on the battlefield in time of war. Play 'I spy' and look for lychgates, churchyard crosses, sundials in the walls, and quirky stone faces winking at you from parapets, too.

Our own churchyard in Appledore, set in particularly beautiful surroundings, is a haven of tranquillity, with distant views across the Romney Marsh, and a wealth of wild things growing, not to mention an extensive history dating from the 13th century right up to the present day. If you haven't explored it yet, now is the time to start. Please remember, though, that this is intentionally a wild place, and be very careful on the uneven ground and vegetation.

'Caring for God's Acre' is a charitable organisation dedicated to doing just that. You can find out more about them at https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/. Between 5th and 13th June this year, they are promoting a special week to celebrate burial grounds everywhere, 'Love Your Burial Ground Week', when everyone is invited to spend some time enjoying their local churchyard, and perhaps recording what they find there. A beautifully produced booklet to help you is available from their website.

God Bless you as you respectfully explore this holy ground!

Alison

June Church Rota 2021

<u>Service</u> <u>Sides person</u> <u>Reader/ Prayers</u> <u>Cleaning</u> <u>Church</u>

6 th June	Family Service	Clive	Frances/Donna	Donna
13 th June	Holy Communion	Tom	Tony/Chris	Fay
20 th June	Joint all-age worship	Judith	Jane/Frances	Judith
27 th June	Holy Communion	Donna	Michael Alison	Fay
4 th July	Family Service	Tom	Jane/Donna	Donna

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

ALTAR WEST END

June 6th Donna Clifton Judy Hurran

June 13th Julie Wooding Helen Downing-Waite

June 20th Linda Hiskey Frances Smith

June 27th Sally Linington Lynn Marston

July 4th Judith Clifton Wendy Selmes

HORNE CHAPEL: Judith Clifton

If you are unable to take your turn, please telephone me on 758285 or text 07840 356681 – and the same numbers if you are unable to break into the kitchen/"Glory Hole" for oasis etc.

Judith Clifton

The Community Mask Tree

The tree continues on the hedge outside the Vicarage. There is an assortment including some navy blue with bees masks and grey masks . I have also been making some white Broderie Anglaise masks to order which will cost £5. They are all 3 layers and 3D. These are much better at not misting up your glasses. Some also have a removable metal nose bridge. Most of these masks can be seen on the Village Facebook page. If there is a particular pattern that you would like, please let me know. To date, £300 worth of food and toiletries have been delivered to the Tenterden Foodbank as well as donations to The Royal British Legion and The Salvation Army.

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who has bought a mask.

Tricia, 07885285636, patricia.fogden@btinternet.com

St. Peter and St. Paul, Appledore

Love Your Burial Ground and Churches Count on Nature

These two events are being combined this year between Saturday 5th June and Sunday 13th June.

Why not explore our churchyard with the aid of a guide and educational pack which can be downloaded here: https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/ resources/.

The Starter Guide is just one way in which the Beautiful Burial Ground Project will support absolute beginners to research and record the natural and social heritage of burial grounds.

The printed copies are beautifully illustrated and, with a spiral binding, are easy to take with you on a visit to our churchyard. They will help you to identify species and record your findings. If you would like to receive one of these free of charge, please email info@cfga.org.uk including your address. if you prefer, you can download a digital copy from the above link.

On Saturday 12th June we shall be tidying the churchyard from 10am to 2pm, why not come and join us? Please feel free to visit our churchyard at any time and don't forget to bring your Starter Guide.

SPRING: BY DIPPY DORA



The smell of the May

The buzz of the bees

The whisper of Zephyr

As he tickles the leaves

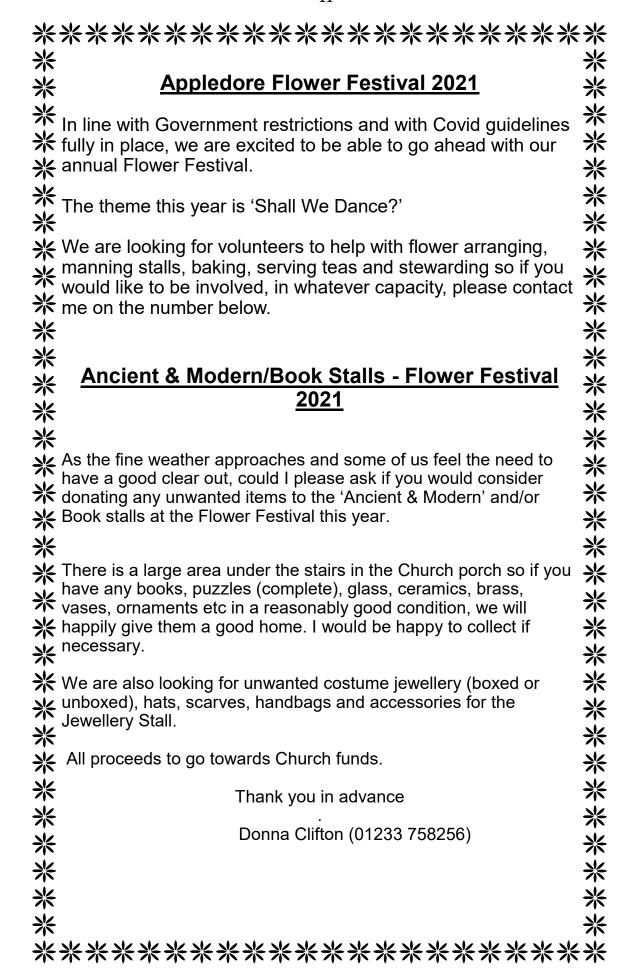
Queen Anne's lace

Graces our way

And the joy that is Spring

Dances over our day







Pop-Up Café and Information Hub

Coming to Appledore Recreation Ground Car Park Monday 7th June Monday 5th July Monday 2nd August Monday 27th September 10.30 – 12.30

Come and get together with old friends and new. Have a cuppa and a delicious slice of cake. We'll have all sorts of local information available or you can just come for a chat.

Please help us to spread the word. **Everyone welcome** ... see you soon!

We will be operating under Government Guidance to ensure Covid-19 measures are in place if necessary, to ensure that you are able to relax in a safe environment.





Charity Number: 212796

COVID-19 Vaccination Survey



As you know, the Covid-19 vaccination programme is currently being rolled out across the county. Overall, the vaccine programme has had good take-up, however there are numbers of groups where take-up is low or slower. Kent County Council and its partners are keen to understand further the reasons for this and have asked Activmob to speak to residents.

As part of this work, they have developed a survey to understand attitudes, barriers and motivations for the vaccine further.

Please take a moment to answer the survey:

KENT - COVID VACCINE INSIGHTS SHORT SURVEY

CHARITY GAINS FROM FOOTBALL SPECIALIST

Local resident and Football Manager Jim Kelly is on target to raise over £25,000 to benefit Ashford Football Club and charity in August.

Jim has booked out every Sunday in August at the Homelands Stadium, organising tournaments involving over 300 junior & adult teams, with over 4000 visitors expected.

Jim has put in hundreds of hours on the charity marathon and other fundraisers are being planned at the stadium, including a veterans game against Charlton Athletic, and an Ashford All Stars against West Ham.

If time permits, Jim may even organise another children's fund raising Tournament with Appledore Juniors' manager Richard Baker next Spring on the Recreation Ground.

Village Hall Extension and Refurbishment

Martello started work on the extension and refurbishment immediately after Easter. The project is progressing well and is on schedule.

Car Park

For safety reasons the village car park has been closed while the building work is carried out. The Recreation Ground Committee has offered the side of the ground as a temporary car park. Directional signs have been put in place.

Village Hall

The interior of the building has been stripped out. The kitchen units are being reused by another village hall and old appliances have been sold or recycled. The suspended ceiling in the main hall has been removed and the pitched roof area is being prepared for the additional insulation we are having installed.

Structural work

To the rear of the hall the foundations have been put in for the new extension, ready for construction to start on the new 'small hall', kitchen and car park entrance to the building.

Steel beams are being installed to strengthen the floor in the loft in preparation for it being converted to an additional usable space.

The flat roof above the toilets and kitchen has been removed and a replacement will be built with a number of rooflights to brighten the interior of the building.

Insulation and Heating

The Hall will have additional insulation to the walls and roof of the existing building to improve heat retention. The new windows will be triple-glazed.

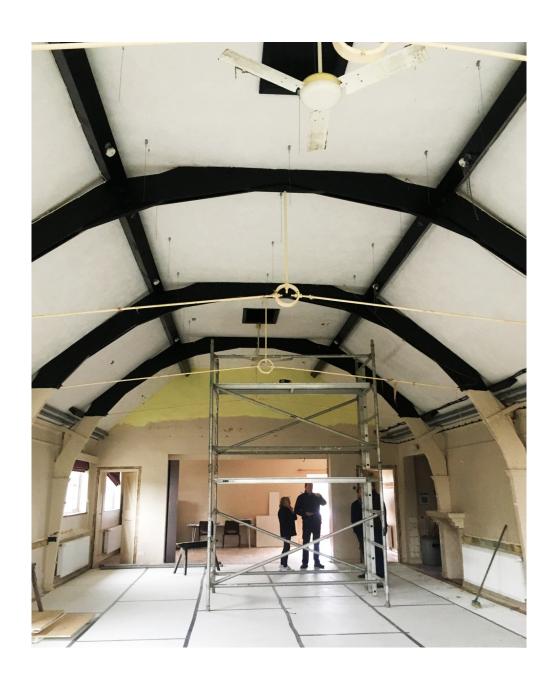
The Village Hall Trustees have agreed a proposal to change from heat pumps to all electric heating in the hall. When finished the building will have a number of areas which will require heating at different times, heat pumps are not efficient for this. Electric radiators will give better control and utilise the electricity generated from the rooftop solar panels. The Trustees will ensure that in future all bought-in electricity is from renewable sources only to give a better environmental performance.

Electrical

The final electrical requirements have been approved by the Hall Trustees and first fix is due to start in the coming weeks.

Next steps

Building work will start on the extension and the interior walls will be rebuilt to form the new kitchen serving area.



Linda Hiskey and Huw Jenkins looking at the refurbishments so far.



Parish Council Update, June 2021

Appledore 'Keep Britain Tidy' Friday May 28th - Friday 4th June

The aim is to clear up in and around Appledore safely and add to the efforts made across the country. The plan is for everyone to spend enough time cleaning up to cover a million miles which is equivalent to going to the moon and back twice! Plus go the extra mile by recycling what you collect if possible. Everyone is welcome: families, couples, friends or just you. If you wish to join in, contact **Gary Kinsley on 01233 758 172 or Tracy Morgan** on **01233 758 756**. They will be able to help you with equipment, litter disposal and advice or pair you up with someone else. If you do go out on the spur of the moment, don't forget to protect yourself with sturdy gloves, shoes and outerwear and be alert on the road. Let them know what you are up to so that your efforts are counted in the miles. If you can't make it this time, perhaps you could make the next one.

Parish Council By-Election

Unfortunately, we will only know, after the print deadline for the magazine, how many candidates will have been successfully nominated to stand for election. If there are two or more, then the by-election will be held on the 24th June.

Pop-Up Café and Information Hub, 7th June, 10.30 – 12.30, Recreation Ground

Everyone is welcome for a 'cuppa'. Tables will be outside next to the smart silver caravan. The Community Warden will be there too.

Residential Enabling Car Park

The main roadway and drainage for the houses is well underway which means that building the homes should start shortly. The completion is currently expected at the end of this year or by early spring next year.

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

At the last meeting, James Perkins was re-elected as Chairman and Roger Hiskey voted in as the new Vice-Chairman. Councillor's portfolios remained the same, which ensures good continuity and allows for schemes underway to be completed more easily.

Next Council Meeting - Monday 7th June, 7.30pm, in person at St. Peter and St. Paul

Remember – Hands Face Space

Wash your Hands, Cover your Face and Make Space



Great British Spring Clean 28 MAY - 13 JUNE 2021 #GBSpringClean

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ANDREA HONNOR - PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDATE

My name is Andrea Honnor and I am standing as a candidate for the Appledore Parish Council election. I was born and grew up in Kent. In March this year I married Simon and we each have adult families of our own.

Appledore is a very special village. It is easy to forget, with all the beautiful buildings and scenery, that a village is, most of all, a group of people who live in the same area. If elected as Councillor, my aim is to serve the village with a special focus on the following two key areas:

the facilities available to families in the village, the protection of the unique character of the village, including proposals for future developments

Facilities for Families

I have witnessed a lot of concern from people in the Heath, that the Heath does not get the attention which it deserves. I promise to promote a better balance here. I know that practical measures can often be the best way to deliver the needs of families. For example, there is an old Parish Plan for Appledore which sets out various good ideas to help local families, but so far it seems that very little has been done, even though the plan dates back to 2008/2009.

Village character / new development proposals

I work as an independent planning consultant, helping people apply for planning consent for new developments and working with others to object to new housing and other schemes which are not appropriate.

I have noticed a few projects in the village where there appear to be breaches of planning conditions. I believe those breaches are an attack on the rural character of our village. But the most important thing is that our Parish Council should engage with the local people as a voice promoting the right developments and discouraging the wrong ones.

Neighbourhood Planning, at Parish Council level, has a lot to offer. It offers a democratic and legitimate opportunity for public involvement. Once the Government's new planning policies become legislation, I shall argue for this. It will be a very powerful way for us as villagers to protect our village.

I believe that I can do more for the village as a member of the Parish Council. I ask you to give me the opportunity to do this. If you have any questions, please contact me at: andrea.honnor@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your interest.

GARY KINSLEY: NOMINATION FOR A POSITION ON THE PARISH COUNCIL. THE NEXT INSTALMENT...

My wife, Dawn, 'joked' the other day that Midsomer's plots are not nearly as interesting as village life in Appledore. I *think* she was joking, but perhaps she knows something DCI Barnaby doesn't. Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone who's welcomed me and offered their support for the upcoming Parish Council elections held at the end of June (likely to be the 24^{th of} June, I believe) – please do come out and vote for the standing candidates.

Many people have already taken the opportunity to discuss pressing matters for the village with me – all good, and some excellent ideas. As mentioned in my letter in the last issue of the Parish Magazine, one of the tasks for any new councillor will be to figure out where boundaries of responsibility between Parish, Borough, and County Council sit. Honestly, I've no idea yet, but I'm keen to learn and have the time and energy to find out.

Matters people have already raised include parking in the village (and Heathside in particular); the Keep Britain Tidy campaign (I have joined the team of eager litter heroes including Jo, Alan, Mary, and Tracy who will be coordinating litter collection particularly in the village and surrounding public footpaths in order to keep our lovely village tidy, this, as a compliment to the fantastic villagers who already take the trouble to collect litter). I heard anecdotally the Parish Council successfully helped extend the speed limits (great job all) but several parishioners have suggested there are still dangerous spots which need looking into. Also, a matter close to my heart the village's telecom speeds were raised (my professional background is IT networks and cybersecurity) so I'll certainly support the existing councillors and keep campaigning for the parts of the village not yet blessed with fibre.

The benefit of my being newish to Appledore is my ability to have an open mind, no historical personal baggage, and a willingness to approach positively issues which affect the village for the betterment of residents and tourists. Clearly, with your support, if elected to the council, I'll work hard to ensure Appledore continues to improve and delight parishioners with a positive and constructive attitude. So please come and support me on election day. Move along Barnaby – nothing to see here.

BRODIE

MAY DAY, MAY DAY

Nothing to worry about, just the weather is not much fun at the moment as I don't really enjoy walking in the rain.

Every time we go out and think it's going to be a lovely strolli n the sunshine, it pours with rain. Then we go out all dressed up in waterproofs for a wet walk, the sun comes out and we're baking hot and overdressed.

But never mind all that we've had visitors to the house and what fun that was. I did my best to help. Every time I heard the carpet cleaner, I jumped up on the sofa or the bed to keep out of the way. For some reason it wasn't really appreciated. As soon as they arrived we went to the beach at Littlestone. I took my pink ball and had a great time running along the shore chasing it in and out of the water. As it happens, there were not many people because it had been raining so much just before we arrived.

I even got some of my favourite snacks during the picnic. I was sitting there good as gold patiently waiting for a little treat. It definitely pays off to be well behaved!

Back at the house my visitors produced the usual treats and a new toy. Oh how I love having visitors!

When we are out walking, I am trying exceedingly hard to be on best behaviour and not pull on the lead. But sometimes when I see a cat sitting there waiting to pounce or a chicken about to cross our path, it's quite beyond me. I heave and pull and then I get such a ticking off. How can she be so cross with me when I'm just doing my best to protect her!

We're doing our usual walks with Bonnie and Claude. I'm running round them in ever increasing circles, faster and faster until we are all feeling quite dizzy. But it's good fun really. I enjoy their company and they always seem pleased to see me

So that's all for now. Till the next time, love to you all, enjoy your walks, rain or shine.

Love,

Brodie



SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE PUB DAY



MADDIE HART & HAYLEY HARPER

PRESENT

G 9 G ON THE GREEN

Saturday 26th June 2021
at The Black Lion Pub, Appledore
BBQ served from 4pm
Live singing from Hart & Harper from 5pm



Appledore Parish Councillors' Contact Details

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

James Perkins (Chair) 01233 758107, mobile 07789 916132

email apc.jperkins@gmail.com

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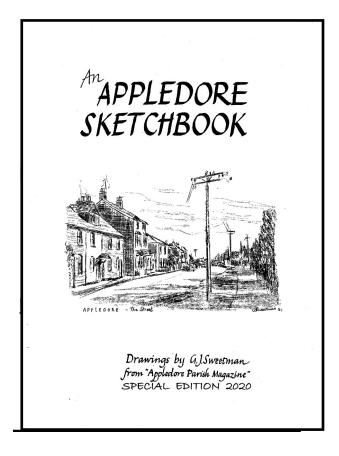
Please note:

The Appledore Website is:

https://www.appledorekent.org/

You will find a copy of the Parish Magazine on this site.

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 thrkng@aol.com.



Learn, Laugh, Live!

Open Afternoon 3-6pm

Wednesday, 2nd June

Wondrous to say, we have survived the pandemic! We have much more stored up energy and are poised to meet and mix again.

Indeed, our first big issue is to invite new members to join the happy spand, now well over 200.

In small groups, usually in each other's homes, we have a choice of nearly 40 varied subjects: arts, languages, science, pub walks - surely something for everyone.

There is a modest annual subscription, and for most activities, that's it. While the only rules for starters are "Over 50, and retired, or partially so."

On Wednesday 2nd June you are invited to an Open Afternoon, with tea and buns, in a charming garden just off Tenterden High Street, when you can explore every detail - please drop by, it could be the beginning of the rest of your life!

Townland, Six Fields Path, TN30 6EX

A small turning beside Webb's the Ironmonger's

Or phone Jenny Stevens 01580 388831



APPLEDORE GARDENERS' SOCIETY

The Appledore Gardeners' Society is coming to life after a long period of dormancy necessitated by the demands of Covid-19. Hopefully, it has given you all time to work on and enjoy your gardens.

We have missed the opportunity to meet up, visit beautiful places together and just to chat. But we can now meet outside in larger groups, and we have planned a programme of informal nearby garden visits (and later on, indoor meetings with a speaker).

2021: June 23rd Hole Park, Rolvenden

July 21st Pashley Manor, near Ticehurst August 11th Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst

September 22nd Great Dixter, Northiam

All visits and meetings are on Wednesdays, unless otherwise notified. We will make our own way to the gardens, meeting at 2.00 p.m., then walking in groups, or as we wish, moving to the café/tearoom where we can meet and chat, again as we wish.

2021: October 20th Speaker (subject to be confirmed)

November 24th Speaker (subject to be confirmed)

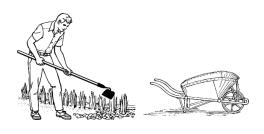
Winter months see us indoors at the Methodist Chapel, The Street (this to be confirmed) at 7.00 p.m., to enjoy a speaker and light refreshments.

Our traditional Christmas lunch will be on December 15th.

With all of the above in mind, we would love to see new members, and joining the Society is a very good and friendly way to meet other likeminded people, in an informal way. The annual subscription is modest at £10, but we do not make a charge for the first year of membership.

Do consider joining us, and contact: Secretary: Tessa Knight (01233 758319) Chairman: Paul Ripley (01233 758410)

OR JUST TURN UP AT ANY OF THE ABOVE, WHERE YOU WILL RECEIVE A WARM WELCOME



VICTORY FOR THE APPLEDORE UNDER-12 SMUGGLERS!!!

This month I was lucky to have a chat with Richard Baker, the Manager of Appledore's victorious Junior Smugglers F.C. Under-12 team after their Monday night training session. They have just won a cup and league double. The team made history by winning the cup for the first time in their history.

First - congratulations! What a great season - tell us all about it

It started in lockdown really - we started training over Zoom, twice per week and had a quiz every Thursday- the team spirit was just there and, when we started, the boys were so ready to get going again! It has just gone from there. I've been really lucky, I've had Paul Annings and Spencer Goddard to help with the training and the boys just love them.

How are you feeling today?

I think we were all a bit tired tonight! We celebrated on Saturday with a barbecue – they all came and managed to run around till 9pm. Today we are feeling the effects! We celebrated with ice cream tonight!

Is that it now for the season?

No, the season has been extended until June 12th.

How was the Cup Final?

We played against Rye Bay. It was 7-0 on Saturday. It's tough to have such a score when they are little – we had played them twice already – their manager is really nice. He was pleased they got to the final. They played really well. For the first 20 minutes it was 0-0, our boys then came to the forefront and played magnificently. We are so lucky those boys want to play for Appledore.

Tell us about the squad. What are their ages?

My youngest son is the youngest – he's 10 - 11 soon and the oldest is not far off 13. We are allowed to play off a two year group – 6 and 7 - as we are a village – as the catchment is small. Some teams only play with year 7.

So, you are playing against older kids?

Yes, we play some boys in the year above but there's not that much difference at this age.

You have 2 sons on the team? Yes!

Are you harder on your own kids than the others?

Probably! (laughter)

What aspirations do the players have? Do any want to play professionally?

There are 3 who have been picked to play for Ashford – but they are still going to play for Appledore too – Sunday for Ashford.

3 boys this year who were picked for the District. When we got there most of the boys came from two teams in the Kent league and then suddenly there were these boys from Appledore - my son, Blake and Louie. A few are going to play a really high level.

Any scouts around?

Yes, we had Hastings approach two of them on Saturday. Hasting have semiprofessionals playing at the club and youth teams.

Have no professional clubs come out to see them play?

Yes, we have Chelsea Academy who come out to Homewood School on a Friday – they are looking at all the local boys and then the right ones will be cherry-picked.

How long have the team been together?

Most of them for two years but we've had sone really good additions this year. Bar two they all go to Homewood School – the other two were together with them at Hamstreet so they know each other really well, they are as thick as thieves!

Is the team open to all?

Yes! We are looking for people to join – we had a new one come tonight actually – new to the village. We encourage boys to join us. They will be welcomed. Appledore are all lovely boys – even the very, very good players – there are no prima donnas – I am very lucky. They all have the right attitude.

What league do they play in?

They play in the Ashford Arctic League.

Is it tough?

Not hard enough for them. I only started the team last year and they started in the bottom league – they were promoted – into middle league and this season they have been just amazing. We are going to go up a league to the highest league.

Does it involve a lot of travelling?

Not really as it is part of the Ashford District League, it's not as bad as playing in the Kent League – our furthest games are Headcorn and Wye

You haven't lost a game this year in both League and Cup – how do the other teams feel when they play against you?

Well, we are not hated but I think they are a bit er...

Here comes Manchester City (laughter)

Yeh! Jim Kelly wrote that on the Facebook page!

Yeh but they will be tested next year – it's not good to be winning all the time. The team needs to learn to be gracious in defeat. But they will do well.

How about you? You played for Appledore did you?

Yes, I have played for Appledore since I was 17 – I was captain from the age of 23 until 2 years ago when I gave it up and decided to run the boys' team instead. My wife does most of the work – I just do the fun bit! Playing with the boys!

Are you from Appledore?

No I'm Appledore Road so I always played for Tenterden but my best friends played here.

I started playing for Tenterden and my friends said, "Come and play for Appledore on Sunday." I did and I've never played for any other team on a Sunday!

I was a mercenary on a Saturday actually – I played as high as I could - I went through Gillingham Academy, I played a good standard as a kid. I knew I was 1 of 22 or 23 when only 3 would make it but it was a brilliant experience.

In the last few years, I'd turn up to play and think, "You know, I'm 36 now and maybe should stop playing." If you think about it, — I've got t-shirts older than these boys!!!

Did you do any coaching badges?

I'm doing them now – but I never thought I'd do this – I know it sounds stupid, but I get more out of it than anything! I run a big business, but I absolutely look forward to it every week. It is a big part of all our lives at home.

It's nice that you can do something with your kids and your wife as well isn't it?

Yes – my daughter comes and watches too – it's fantastic – I love it!

Does your daughter play?

No – she's not bad though. She joins in with the boys in the garden – that will be the next thing. There was talk of a girls' team – there are a few girls in the village but I don't know if there would be enough. Girls' football is getting really big in this country, but you have to travel so far for games. Now with Covid, that's a bit of a hindrance.

These next questions come from my son who is a football coach in the US! Firstly, how do you as a coach get every player to reach their individual goals?

At their age, competition between them is really healthy – we've got a lad – Alfie Newark – he's from a rugby family – he came to us and he will get the most improved player trophy this year - his mum and dad say it is because of the work we put into them. I'm really lucky because Paul and Spencer are really good footballers as well and the boys want to be like them, and they learn so much from them. I am trying to help them reach their individual goals so they are improving and can do what they want to do.

How has it been through Covid?

A nightmare really – we had just got going and then in early 2020 we had lockdown. We were doing so well – Jan. 2020 - we had just started winning. It was then that Jo Ramsden suggested Zoom training – twice a week.

I set up our tv from the lounge in the pergola in the garden and I had 14 lads on the screen and because they had no where to go they were there every week – every Wednesday and Saturday for training and Thursday for the quiz.

Did you have to change your training routine because it was on Zoom?

Yes - first I looked on You Tube to see what people do and then we evolved it. We had four ball and that was their zone - they had to do stuff in there - it was just about keeping up fitness and keeping them going.

Were the schools closed then too?

Yes – and I live in St Mary in the Marsh and sometimes we didn't see anyone for 5-6 weeks and we started doing the training. It helped such a lot.

One really rainy day we couldn't train so I did the quiz and that became a regular event every Thursday night. Then we got the word we could train, so we first started on a Monday night with very strict regulations. The boys would come in one way - they had to stay within 4 cones - they weren't allowed to come out. If they came out, as far as I was concerned, they had to leave – there were a lot of people there who put trust in us by coming. Then things relaxed a little bit more and they could play a friendly and it's gone from there – they haven't lost since.

How about the other Appledore teams, I hear the Men's team is doing well?

The Men's team is doing well – I occasionally play for them – when they are short but they are all a lot younger than me now! When I played for them the first three years we got promoted three years in a row and went right up the leagues from the bottom leagues and then it got to a point – some of the lads were getting on for 35 and they filtered away but I just stayed because I loved it – I just felt it was right.

I heard you are looking for new sponsors?

Not us – that's the men's team too – they are looking for a new sponsor.

I sponsor – my business- Rb Central Systems – sponsors our team along with Iain Ramsden of Platford's Construction. Iain sponsors our rain-jackets and I sponsor training and football kits.

Where do you go from here?

Obviously, we are going to be promoted into the top league and we are going to have to reassess. I honestly think we can get into the league above that. We played a friendly against the team that are second in the league above and we beat them. I think we'll do well. If we do really well, we'll have to assess whether we stay in the Ashford league or we look to the higher leagues – the Kent leagues.

Also, we are going 11 aside next year from 9 aside this year – well that's not so bad having a squad of 11 – I was thinking gosh – no one can get injured! We need 4-5 more committed players.

What about the parents – how involved do they get?

They are fantastic – I'm lucky – nice people and so supportive. After the last Covid break we trained twice a week for a month, so the boys were fit for the first game and every one turned up every Monday and Wednesday.

What has been your favourite goal this season?

Oh...(pause)... I will say – and it's very biased – my youngest son – he scored against Rye in the league. He didn't know what to do and actually started crying but it was the celebration by the team when he scored – even the goalie got to him – oh it was magic – and I was welling up!. That celebration summed them all up – because he's the youngest and they all look out for him anyway – and it was a good goal as well! It emphasised just how much they are a team. But there are so many good goals! For example, in the cup final at the weekend, Louie scored from about 35 yards - just looked up and smashed it in. Sealed it at 7-0!

If you had to ask the players what their favourite goal of the season was – what do you think they would say?

Oooooh! (pause) that's a real good one. I actually don't know because they have scored so many good ones...it's going to be probably ... I would say... Oliver Goddard. At the time, they were playing a team second in the league and it was a really tough match and Oliver went through about 7 players and then rounded the keeper – it was just the most amazing individual goal and then the team relaxed. It was early in the season, they had been winning really well, and they suddenly came up against a team who were hard to play – they were tough – a stopping team. We beat them 5-0 in the end, but that goal made the difference. Until then they had never gone through a half without scoring – and this was right on half time. He just kept going! I was saying, "Pass, pass....no - go on your own!!!" Magic!

What were your celebrations like at the weekend when you won the cup?

I was so nervous until the third goal went in and then I went a bit crazy! I probably celebrated too much! Roar! But they deserved to win because they are the best team. Sometimes the best team won't always win the cup final though!

Did the parents invade the pitch at the end?

No – because of Covid they were very good! But it was lovely because they had a presentation, and it crowned all their hard work. We turn up and do the coaching – they turn up every week and work so hard. It was just when Jake Ramsden lifted that trophy and it was magic – because he is an Appledore boy – Captain Marvel!

