

Appledore Parish Annual Meeting  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
7.30pm Appledore Village Hall

1)Thirty residents attended. The chairman welcomed them all.

2)The minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were agreed. Proposed by Denise Stephens and seconded by Ruth Smith.

### **3) Presentation by Jon Pollard of Gusbourne – Vineyard Manager**

In 2004, Andrew Weaver bought the wine vineyard and took on Jon Pollard as vineyard manager due to his experience in agriculture and wine retail. It had 61 hectares in Appledore and 32 hectares in Sussex, growing grapes for pinot grigio, pinot noir, meuniere and chardonnay as well as producing sparkling Brut, Rose and Blanc de Blanc sparkling wines using the champagne process. Ridgeview retailed the wine. Andrew Weaver sold up in 2013. With new investment, further 'terroir' has been added. The land in Kent is clay whilst in Sussex it is flint over chalk resulting in different flavours to the grape and different ripening times and harvesting. There are a further 32 hectares to be planted in the future, currently being used for grazing. In order to press the ever increasing tons of grapes, the winery has been expanded the number of press rooms and the 'nest' has evolved to provide 'Taste, Tour and Buy' events. Gusbourne now only sells directly building up relationships with retailers. It also now bottles and labels all its produce. A 'Nest II' is planned for the Chichester area. Gusbourne has been exporting to 26 countries for the last 7 years.

### **4) The Chairman of the Parish Council – Roger Hiskey**

The chairman noted that it had been a good year thanks to volunteers who had assisted the council. Many had helped with litter picking while the council street cleaner Tom Hennessy had been ill. A temporary replacement had recently been employed. Volunteers had come forward and been trained for Speedwatch and others had offered their services to help in an emergency under the council's resilience plan. A group of volunteers were keeping our local footpaths clear and accessible and a few households had offered to maintain the planters at the new gateways. After just over 10 years the new 41 space car park at Court Lodge had been handed over to the parish council. Charles Wilkinson was thanked for this. More improvements were in the offing. The chairman thanked the council for their support.

### **5) Reports from County and District Councillors**

#### **County Councillor Report – awaited**

## **District Councillor Report – Awaited**

### **6) Reports from Local Groups**

#### **St Paul & St Peter – Rev. J Kennet & Rev. Canon L Hammond**

The church in Appledore was compared to an apple. The church building being the core of the apple whilst the flesh of the apple was the group of 9 churches to which it belonged. Thanks to the friends of St Paul and St Peter the Grade 1 listed building that is the church, is in good condition and it holds a central role providing a location for worship, pastoral care and discipleship. Online daily worship for 8-10 will continue. Regular services are held along with services marking the agricultural year. The Pet Service will return this September. Being part of a group of churches brings the benefits of greater numbers. The reflective service with breakfast is attended by 20 people every week. A trip to Iona is planned for later in the year. The skin of the apple represents the love of God. The future holds challenges and we may all need some help at some time.

Produce in the porch is available every other week and sales money and any donations go towards maintaining the church.

#### **Village Hall – Derek Winter**

The hall re-opened on the 25<sup>th</sup> April and whilst it was anticipated that it would take a year to return to business it has only taken 7 months. Previous hirers have returned and new ones have come on board.

There have been a few teething points and the hall is closed on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March for remedial works. Martello have also offered to install free of charge the new acoustic dampeners bought by the hall committee.

EDF is proving to be difficult to pin down to the verbally agreed rate and a complaint to the ombudsman will be made.

Low level lighting is planned for the car park in conjunction with the parish council.

#### **Parish Magazine – Ruth Smith**

I have been doing this for about a year and it has been a steep learning curve on the wonders of Microsoft Publisher.

We celebrated the village hall reopening, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and commemorated the Queen's passing.

We have introduced a Village Hall page. I have had several nods to a letters page – do you want one? Remember, letter should be short, polite, relevant to Appledore and in good English. And the Editor's decision is final.

Various ideas are in the pipeline – a look back to the early days of the magazine, a chance for the Borough Council candidates to tell us what they can offer Appledore. I would like to see contributions from all the village organisations.

As you know the magazine is free and delivered to your letterbox free. Most of the costs are covered by advertising revenue, the Church and the Parish Council. We

acknowledge publicly all donations and in the good old days, there were always two or three donations recorded on the second page. This has dropped off – over the last few years and this year we made a loss of £50. We send out over 400 magazines. To pay for last year's deficit and to cover a similar deficit this year, we need an extra £100 from you! Divided up that would mean a contribution of 25p per household!! Not a lot, and you might like to give more as everything this year is going to be more expensive. Donations need to be sent to Brian, who I would like to thank as well as the others.

### **Friends of Appledore Footpaths (FoAF) Gary Kinsley**

The volunteer group, headed by the Footpath Warden Paul Ripley, aims to keep the paths clear and accessible. They work with landowners as paths are on private land. Recently, they have been working on repairing the broken slate on the bridge at Mill Hill and the farmer there has cleared the self-seeded saplings that were growing and blocking the view. Unfortunately, there are 3 paths that have been built over and with the assistance of the parish council they are hoping to have these paths rerouted.

### **Appledore Recreation Ground Committee – Gary Kinsley**

The ground is managed by the charitable body that is the committee and not owned by the parish council.

The parish council working party 'Active Appledore' which includes members of the ground committee is looking at how to increase use of the facility and some volunteers help tidy up the MUGA and tennis court. The surface there is now degrading and needs replacing. Funds are available from the Football Foundation to assist with the growing interest in juniors, veterans, women and girls' football or more leisurely walking football. If you have an interest in a sport for the ground please get involved.

The pavilion building is of concern as the middle section is sinking. It needs shoring up and a viewing area would be a positive improvement. Income for the ground comes from the Car Rally and preparations for this are already underway. Ian Ramsden kindly allows his adjacent field to be used for parking. Improvements to the roadway and a new gate should allow safe two-way vehicle movements to it. The Car Rally is the 16<sup>th</sup> July.

The play area double swings have a new landing surface but unfortunately it has been damaged by users walking on it while it was still roped off and drying. Further equipment is planned.

### **Appledore Village Show – Dr R Smith**

After a break for the pandemic, we are definitely having a show this year. The proposed date is Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September and we have a new catering duo- Jenny and Linda. Jo Weeks and I together with help from others, will be running the show bit. We will still be making some changes but nothing too drastic. There will be the usual big onion, children's classes, amazing cookery entries, including the men's class, rosettes, cups and certificates. Details will appear at intervals in the Magazine, so keep your eyes skinned.



## Appledore Parish Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Friends of Appledore Station is a Local Community Group, Established, (on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018), to 'Improve the Image of Appledore Station by Providing a More Attractive, User-Friendly Facility and thereby Encourage an Increase in the Usage of the Marshlink Rail Service'

### **Marshlink Rail Service**

Continues to Feel the Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic and Work from Home Culture, along with Interruptions to Passenger Services Caused by the Ongoing Strike Action of Rail Union Members, yet Network Rail and the Train Operating Companies, (TOC's), Continue to Campaign to Attract Passengers to Return to Using the Railways

### **Appledore Station Building**

FoAS Canvassed for 3 Years for Restoration, it was Eventually Funded by The Railway Heritage Fund

The Intentions of GTR, (the Marshlink Line TOC), regarding Use of the Building are Still Unclear, Meanwhile there is Evident Internal Deterioration

It is Most Likely that a Commercial Occupancy will be the Outcome, although there are Restrictions eg First Floor Access, due to the Steepness of the Stairs and Restricted Car Parking. Any Tenant(s) will Need to Install Toilet Facilities

### **Canopied Area on Platform 1**

Since FoAS was Formed we have Canvassed GTR to Undertake Repairs and Redecoration of this Section of the Structure. GTR Consistently Claim Lack of Funds

### **Car Park**

Less of a Capacity Issue at Present as Rail Usage Continues at Well Below Pre-Pandemic Levels. None-the Less there are Days when it is Full to Capacity and No Scope for Expansion

### **Trackside Clearance**

Having Achieved Clearance of All of the Larger Items, (Rails, Sleepers, Sacks of Aggregate, Scattered Around in Close Proximity to the Station, it has been Observed that some 'Spare Rails' have Recently Appeared Opposite Platform 1. We will Keep a Close Watch to Ensure that NR Contractors Don't Slip Back into Bad Habits

There is Still Vegetation, Trash and Discarded Rubble Trackside of the Fence Along the Pathway to Platform 2, that Needs Removing by NR Contractors

### **Neighbouring Property**

Unfortunately, the Gated Area off of the Car Park is an Eyesore, particularly Viewed from Platform 2. The Strip of Land was Sold Off by NR. It is Claimed to be Owned by the Proprietor of the Antiques Store, although a Search of Land Registry Records States the Ownership as being that of a Trust

### **Directional Signage**

Still No Appearance of Directional Signage from Appledore Village to the Station and Vice Versa. This was Part of APC Highways Remit





### **11B Bus Service**

Stagecoach receives a Subsidy from KCC to Operate the Service. We have previously asked that KCC bring some Influence with Stagecoach to Install a Timetable, Prominently at the Station. Thus far Nothing has Materialised

Coordination of Bus and Train Timetables would be Useful for this Limited Service

### **Tourist Map**

Funded by GTR, a Copy of the Appledore Tourist Map, Gifted by APC, has been Installed in a Prominent Position at the Entrance to Platform 1

### **Vandalism**

It is Sad to Report that Moronic Numpties recently Tipped Over 2 of the Planters on Platform 2. This would have required Superhuman Effort for One Person to Achieve, Most likely Two or More Persons were Involved and it would Not have been Achieved Quickly

GTR advised that No Useful Images were Recorded by CCTV, which is a Surprise and a Disappointment. GTR did Initiate Prompt Repair and Reinstatement of the Two Planters



### **Projects Pending for FoAS Volunteers**

- ⇒ Spring/Summer Planting
- ⇒ Vegetation Management Adjacent to Pathway to Platform 2 – Funded by ABC Members Grant
- ⇒ Refurbishment of the 6 Planters and Spring/Summer Planting

### **Projects for Consideration/Action by GTR**

- ⇒ CCTV over the Car Park
- ⇒ Refurbishment of the Canopied Area on Platform 1
- ⇒ Strip and Repaint Handrail, Along Pathway to Platform 2
- ⇒ Internal Station Building Repair

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**Friends of Appledore Station**  
c/o The Wish House ~ Kenardington Road ~ Appledore ~ Kent ~ TN26 2BS  
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## Appledore Parish Council Open Meeting on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### APPLEDORE GARDEN SOCIETY

The pandemic caused a disproportionate effect on many organisations' activities and Appledore Garden Society was no different. All talks were cancelled together with the various visits planned. However, throughout that time we were able to retain our membership and digital contact, and were entertained by wonderful newsletters from our then Chairman, and the interesting articles and colourful scenes of members' gardens as we progressed through the seasons.

With 2022 approaching we cautiously planned for the year ahead, keeping visits fairly local and mindful that some members would be hesitant. The AGM was postponed until the February, and followed in March by the annual Quiz/Cheese and Wine night. Ten minutes before leaving for the meeting the Secretary received a call from the Quizmaster who was too ill to make the event. Our new Chairman and one of the members put their heads together and in no time came up with an assortment of questions, both horticultural and general knowledge. The evening was saved and appeared to have been thoroughly enjoyed by all.

In May we visited Belmont House and Gardens in Faversham. If gardening is not your sole forte there is a wonderful collection of clocks and watches on view in the House.

The Garden Society holds an annual plant sale and in 2022 we moved from the Hall to the Recreation Ground where we joined other stallholders in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee. We invited Canterbury Oast Trust (The Rare Breeds Centre at Woodchurch) to sell alongside our stand and provides them with an opportunity to raise much needed funds.

Other events in the year took us to

- 1) Godinton House during the delphinium fortnight
- 2) A wonderful evening trip to the Himalayan Garden at Riverhill for a private guided tour followed by our picnic amongst the glorious settings, accompanied by our delightful hosts and their adorable dog, Troy!
- 3) We made a return visit to the delightful Great Dixter gardens, and the following month we were privileged to have one of their Head Gardeners come over to present an interesting talk on his experiences at Dixter.
- 4) The year closed with the Society being given an insight to the workings of Chilstone Cast Stone Makers where we were shown slides of various settings for

their phenomenal sculptures from garden ornaments and statues to fountains and planters. We also went behind the scenes of the trivia, facts and figures of the Chelsea Flower Show.

Our Christmas Lunch wound up the year and in 2023 we embark on an exciting programme :

Next Friday evening (24<sup>th</sup> March) a talk on 'Plants that Bite'. April sees us at Brogdale at Blossom Time. A private viewing at Westwell House, Northiam. The all important and popular Plant Sale in late May. Winchelsea's Secret Gardens. Great Comp Gardens. A private viewing of Cliff Barn at Stone-in-Oxney. A trip to Chilstone Cast Stone workshops with a picnic set in the superb grounds by the lake. A proposed 2-day away trip to Arundel Castle and Gardens, together with two other nearby Gardens. A talk in October on 'How to commit the perfect murder and put the body to good use in the garden'. We learn of Interest in the Winter Garden in November, and finish with the Christmas Lunch.

All of the above events include some form of socialising which is really what the Society aims to achieve, and many a great day has been spent learning about and enjoying the surroundings of our amazing plant life and inventive garden designs, some resplendent, others more in line with ideas for our smaller plots. All these visits are supported by at least tea and cake, or the more adventurous might go for a full lunch or evening meal to end the day.

A survey carried out amongst members has resulted in our changing from Wednesday nights to Friday nights for the winter meetings, and visits are generally held towards the last week of the month. –

If any of this appeals please do think about joining. The Society currently boasts 35 members and the annual subscription is a modest £12 per member – you would be most welcome and please see me afterwards if you would like further details and possibly an application form!

Thank you

Tessa Knight

Secretary/Appledore Garden Society



## The Ramblers Group – Jo Weeks

After moving to Appledore from Tenterden in March 2022 I wanted to discover the local walks around the village so I could enjoy them with my dog. Several walks I had tried that were shown on maps didn't seem to go anywhere and I also spent several weeks secretly following other dog walkers which I realised could eventually get me in trouble! The parish magazine advertised a ramblers walk each month so in May I turned up at the Recreation Ground on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday but realised after 20 minutes that no one else was coming! Over the next few months I made enquiries with people I knew in the village and discovered the Ramble used to be really popular and was well planned and organised by a gentleman called Ken. However when Covid hit the ramble had stopped and not got going again as Ken was no longer able to do it.

After a phone call saying that someone would meet me in September our first ramble took place with just me and another lady Lillian who had lived in the village for many years. We didn't really know where to walk so I suggested walking down the Tenterden road and then along the footpath AT 123 which then pops up in the village and which I had discovered with the dog. We then walked back along the street and then investigated the footpath through the Magpie Farm houses which ended up with Lillian and I clambering through a very overgrown hedge and stile on the Tenterden road. The walk had been good and I had a new friend.

October came and this time there were 3 of us! We had decided to walk along the canal to Kenardington church. The weather was lovely and the countryside so peaceful. We rested in the church before walking back over fields and then through Gusbourne Vineyards. After this walk I did a little write up for the Parish Magazine, which Ruth kindly put in, in the hope of attracting a few more walkers.

The week before the November walk there had been torrential rain and much flooding. The ramble day was bright and sunny and today at the Rec. there were 6 of us! We had been joined by 2 members of the 'Friends of Appledore Footpaths' who have done much work to maintain the local footpaths. This time we walked through the village and then along the canal on the AT261 towards Rye, we walked for a couple of miles before crossing the canal and walking back. We were amazed at the amount of freshwater mussel shells that littered the canal which had obviously been fished out by various birds.



Once back in the village we visited the Black Lion where we spent a sociable hour having a well-deserved drink and sit down!

The December ramble coincided with a week of snow and ice. Four of us braved the elements and this time we walked across the sheep fields, along the footpath by Hornes Place, before crossing the road and following the footpath up to Park Wood. The walking was slippery and difficult because of the snow but at least the woods were clearer. We walked back past Oak Farm House and then stopped off for hot coffee and mince pies and a warm up at my house!

January brought some heavy frosts but ramble day was bright and sunny and our numbers had increased to 7! We walked to the Ferry Inn using footpath AT125 from Court Lodge Road. The views from the hill overlooking Stone were spectacular and we all agreed how lucky we were to live in such a beautiful place. We soon reached the Ferry so decided to carry on to tackle Chapel Bank. We followed the Reading Sewer along and were lucky enough to see a pair of egrets. Not all of us made it up Chapel Bank but those that did appreciated the stunning views. We made it back to the Ferry where we enjoyed a beverage before starting our walk back over the fields.

Unfortunately at this point things went wrong! Our most experienced Rambler, Angela, slipped on mud at the side of the road and as she fell she head butted the footpath signpost! A lump the size of an egg popped up on her head straight away just like in a Tom and Jerry cartoon. We secured her a lift back to the village and when I spoke to her the next day she was fine but sporting a wonderful black eye!! She wanted it made clear she had only had a coffee in the pub!

February came and ramble day was overcast but dry. Today there were 10 of us, some of whom had read the write ups in the parish magazine which is great. We had decided to again walk to Kenardington church but this time walking along the other side of the canal past Pumping Station Cottage on the AT127 footpath. The scenery this side of the canal is simply beautiful and overlooks the Romney Marsh. We follow the AT177 which is the Saxon Shore Way back which takes us into Gusbourne Vineyards where the grass around the vines is now being grazed by sheep. We reach Mill Hill and then it's just down the hill and back for a welcome cup of tea and slice of cake and a sociable hour with our lovely little group of rambles. Hopefully we'll see some of you tomorrow for the March ramble – don't forget – 1.00 pm at the Rec.





## Appledore Local History Society

### Appledore Parish Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Established in 1989, the Aims, Objectives and Obligations of the Appledore Local History Society are to:

- Provide a Focal Point for the Regular Gathering of Local 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 be Developed into a Permanent Appledore Heritage Centre
- Welcome and Inform New Appledore 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 Tourists to the Village

#### **Example Activities Since Last Parish Meeting**

- Re-Installation of PLUTO Pipeline Sign
- Beacon Lighting on Jubilee Celebration Day
- Launch of Updated Website ([www.appledorehistory.org.uk](http://www.appledorehistory.org.uk)) (June 2022)
- Public Enquiries Received and Responded to (x7)
  - Property Research
  - Family Research
- Poppy Wreaths Placed at Beacon and Church for Remembrance Day
- Digitising Photographs, Documents and Artefacts
- Expansion of Community Chest Database
- Networking with Other Local History Societies
- Welcome Packs Delivered to 18 New Residents of Appledore
- Detailed Research on the Following Topics
  - The Appledore Spies
  - Windmills (Booklet Written)
  - The Dead Boy on The Heath (Booklet Written)



## Appledore Local History Society

### **Source of Funds**

- Fundraising Events – Past
  - Jubilee Exhibition (June 2022)
  - Heritage Centre Open Day (August 2022 to Coincide with Flower Festival)
  - Quiz Night (October 2022)
- Fundraising Events – Planned
  - Andy Saunders Talk (3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023)
  - Quiz Night (TBC)
  - Great Storm of 1987 Talk (TBC)
- APC Grant to Cover Moving Costs (October 2022)
- Payment by APC for Removal/Disposal of Salt Bin (October 2022)
- Membership Fees and Donations
- Residents, Visitors and Councillors Donations

### **Depletion of Funds Since Last Parish Meeting**

- Running Costs eg. Rent and Utilities for Methodist Chapel to September 2022
- Web Site Hosting

### **Key Issues for Ongoing Activity of ALHS**

- Establishing a Permanent, Independent, Centrally Located Home/Heritage Centre\*
- Re-Establishing a Regular and Healthy Financial Base to Fund Projects
- Expanding Membership

### **Learning from History – The Dark Ages**

- Technology (iPhones, iPads, Laptops, etc), whilst of Tremendous Benefit, Could Result in a Loss of Local History, Unless Stored in a Readily Accessible Format
- The ALHS 'Community Chest' Database is Constantly being Updated with Loaned and Donated Items, (Photographs, Records etc), to Ensure that Future Generations will have a Source of Information on Appledore Village History





## Appledore Local History Society

### **Establishing a Permanent, Independent, Centrally Located ALHS Home/Heritage Centre**

Having Experienced a Nomadic Existence since its Inception, ALHS Experienced an Unexpected and Forced Exit from its Rented Section of the Methodist Hall, requiring it to Secure Temporary Accommodation for its Records and Artefacts. Whilst Fund Raising Events can be Accommodated in the Village Hall, Organising 'Open Days' are Too Difficult to Organise. Monthly ALHS Meetings Currently Take Place at Members Homes on a Rotational Basis

Discussions had Occurred in Recent Times whereby a Heritage Centre was built into the Planning Application for No 1 The Street. APC Supported the Application but later Shied Away from Acquiring that Section of the Development in Favour of the Added Investment in the Village Hall

Discussions Occurred when Redesigning and Refurbishing the Village Hall, to Allocate Space for ALHS, but again there was No Positive Conclusion for ALHS

At the December 2022 APC Meeting, ALHS formerly requested that APC Offer an 'In Principle Commitment' to Assign the APC Owned Parcel of Land between the Public Toilets and the Pavilion, (Essentially the Football Changing Rooms), for the purpose of Establishing a Permanent, Independent, Centrally Located Home/Heritage Centre

In addition, ALHS Formerly Requested that APC Offer an 'In Principle Commitment' to Allocate a Sum, from the Ringfenced Capital Budget, (Remaining Proceeds from the Sale of the Village Field), as a 'Starter Fund' towards the Monies Required to Design Construct and Fit Out an Appropriate Structure for the Storage and Display of Historic Materials and Artefacts, as well as Provide Administrative and Members Meeting Accommodation

As Background, a Similar Arrangement had been Requested by and Granted to the ARGMC in respect of Proposed Improvements to the ARG Facilities, Enabling them to Progress to Fleshing Out Plans and Gathering Costs, along with Identifying Potential Sources of Supplementary Funding. The ARGMC were Tasked to Present their Plans and Proposals for Public Review and Comment Before the 'In Principle Commitment', Might Convert to a 'Commitment'. No Date has Yet been Announced for the 'Public Review'

It Was, and Remains, the intention of ALHS to similarly Fully Investigate Options, Costs and Funding Sources, However, APC Stated that it Required such Information Before Granting an 'In Principle Commitment'. This is Unacceptable to ALHS, as it would Potentially Waste Time, Resources, Limited Funds and Impair the Credibility of ALHS with Potential Funding Options.



## Appledore Local History Society

The Last Message Received from APC, (15<sup>th</sup> March 2023), States:

*Dear Terry*

*The reason for my delay in responding to your email 7th March is because I have consulted and discussions have been taking place between colleagues on the Parish Council as well as members of the Recreation Ground Management Committee. There is not a totally negative response as far as your two requests go- in principle undertaking to assign land and in principle agreement to provide finance: nonetheless, there is certainly no agreement.*

*I would ask that for the time being you accept, the Parish Council will not give the in principle undertakings you seek.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Roger*

We are of the Opinion that ALHS is not being Afforded the Support it Seeks from APC to Further Develop and Protect the History of Our Village. The 'In Principle Commitment', would Only become a 'Commitment' were ALHS to Deliver Plans, Costings and Funding, Sufficient to Deliver a Suitable Appledore Heritage Centre

### **Concluding Message from Appledore Local History Society to Fellow Villagers:**

#### **Reprise - Learning from History – The Dark Ages**

- Technology (iPhones, iPads, Laptops, etc), whilst of Tremendous Benefit, Could Result in a Loss of Local History, Unless Stored in a Readily Accessible Format
- The ALHS 'Community Chest' Database is Constantly being Updated with Loaned and Donated Items, (Photographs, Records etc), to Ensure that Future Generations will have a Source of Information on Appledore Village History



## APPLEDORE BELLRINGERS

The Appledore bells have been ringing in our lovely church for a very long time and the recent history as far as I can discover is as follows.

Charlie Merchant was the captain after 2nd World War until his death in the 1980's. Fred and Gill Pearson led the bells from 1999 until 2007. All these dates are approximate so apologies for any errors. Other people mentioned in the recent history of the bells are Sid Fowle and Roy Moss.

Our present ringing master is Frank Wenham, from Stone who is in charge of the Appledore ringers along with James Boorman, second in command. Frank has been in this highly valued position since 2007. They have both encouraged and taught members of the team with regular practice nights on a Friday and extra lessons on muffled bells for beginners. On practice nights we welcome visitors from nearby churches to practice with us. This is a valuable and sociable benefit as we are then invited to ring in nearby churches on their practice nights. However it does mean that these visitors ring in their own churches for services and are not available for Sunday mornings in Appledore. At present there is no ringing for services on Sunday mornings as the times of services was changed without prior notice making it difficult for our regular ringers.

Throughout the year we welcome visiting ringers from other areas in the south east. The bells are also rung for special events, i.e weddings funerals, the flower festival and national celebrations.



We are now required along with the churchwardens and the PCC to complete safeguarding training which can be done on line or in person at St. Mildred's Tenterden.

Our AGM keeps us all up to date and is usually a social evening with a fish and chip supper. We also enjoy other social events throughout the year.

It is a commitment and takes a lot of practice but the rewards are great. There is nothing to match the pleasure and sense of achievement when you can be part of a service, which for me was one Christmas Eve ringing for midnight mass with my family present in the church.

We do need more ringers so if anyone is interested do please get in touch. Thank you for listening.

^

or pop along on a Friday Eve. 7.30pm  
your be made most welcome.

### **Appledore Art Club – D Stephens**

The club started in November 2015, running fortnightly two-hour sessions. I am happy to say that the Art Club is thriving. We returned to the village hall at the beginning of May last year. Since then we have acquired several new members, so we are now at full capacity.

During the past year we have enjoyed an outing to Dungeness including lunch at the Pilot, and a visit to the art gallery in Hastings. We had a summer party at one of the members' gardens where we could sit and paint or just enjoy a social occasion including lunch. One of our members organised a lovely afternoon with tuition in pastels from a professional artist. We put on an exhibition of our art in a marquee for the jubilee celebrations which was well received. The themed exhibition for the flower festival in the church proved very popular and resulted in some sales and inquiries regarding membership.

We now also display works of art in the village hall and in November we held our own exhibition, free admission to the public with a sale of homemade refreshments. At the end of the year, we had a small celebration for Christmas, this year in the hall, no painting, just a sociable event!

However some aspects of the hall have met with a certain amount of discomfort. The fire doors are extremely heavy making access to different parts of the hall very difficult for some of our members. We understand that an improvement regarding the acoustics is in hand.

Generally speaking our move back to the hall has been successful. We appreciate the new lighting and the use of the large car park. The comfortable seating is a bonus and the heating (especially this winter) has been very effective. So, all in all a busy and very enjoyable year for the Art Club and we are very happy to be back in the village hall.

### **CARM Meeting Point – Dr R Smith**

CARM Meeting Point has been running from the Methodist Chapel since it started many years ago. When the Chapel closed, it relocated to the village hall. Val and Viv decided to retire at this point and rightly deserve a very big thank you.

A new committee of Jo Killick, Nick Brandeth and I have taken on the job and are hoping to see numbers grow as the weather improves. We have some plans for activities during the meetings, but we do appreciate that most people just come to natter over coffee and cake. Yes Cake! We are the only Meeting Point to have a cake volunteer and Sally Linnington is our cake person – and boy does she bake well.

We meet alternate Tuesdays 10am – 11.30am and alternate with the Wednesday Breakfast Get Together run by the village hall ladies. They also do very good grub! So if you categorise yourself as elderly and in need of a bit of fun company, do come and join us.

### **Kentish Express Village Round Up – Dr R Smith**

The Village Round Up ceased with the pandemic and not restarted.

7) Questions – none. The meeting closed at 10.45pm.

DRAFT