

Chapter 1 : The 6 Best Hotels Near Alfriston Clergy House, UK – [calendrierdelascience.com](http://calendrierdelascience.com)

*Autumn bounty at Alfriston Clergy House With traditional apple tree varieties in the orchard laden with fruit and pumpkins peeking through their cover of leaves, this is the perfect place to rest and take inspiration as the days draw in.*

I have annual membership of the National Trust and, each year, I shamelessly wring as much value out of it as possible. I fished out my dog-eared, NT card, gulped the last of my coffee and strolled over. The Clergy House, This rare example of a medieval Wealden hall house was built in about and by the late nineteenth century was in such a state of disrepair that the owners, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, decided to demolish it. But first they agreed that a woman, Harriet Coates – who had been born and still lived in the house – could see out her days there. National Trust image After she died in , the new vicar of Alfriston, the Rev. They agreed to buy and sympathetically restore their first building many Victorian renovations were anything but sympathetic. I wondered whether theirs is attacked as virulently by sawfly as mine. In I collected well over a hundred, in hardly a handful and my plants no longer resemble lace-work by autumn. Mowing paths through the long grass makes a feature of what is, after all, unkempt lawn. More close sward or buttercups and daisies? I know which I prefer. I walked along the bank of a reed-filled pond to the rear of the ticket office and towards the beds and borders near the house. As the garden is fairly small, I paused often: As every flight of sunny steps should, these were lined with Mexican fleabane which trips off the tongue easier than *Erigeron karvinskianus*. This little wonder will flourish in the tiniest of cracks, self-seed and flower non-stop till the first frosts. Past stately artichokes; and a lavender hedge worth another visit to see in flower ; I arrived amongst the raised beds. These are seriously constructed and I winced at the inadequate, half-inch width boards I have used. Unlike mine these will last decades. After eight years, several boards at The Priory are rotten and need replacing but I suppose eight years is quite a long time. I pulled a face at memories of eradicating, fanatically, opium poppies in The Old Forge vegetable garden, in an ongoing battle to prevent it self-seeding. But actually, why did I do that? They add to a vegetable garden rather than detract – and are easy enough to pull up if they appear somewhere unwanted. How nice an idea is that? Silky bronze fennel also drew my hand, growing against burgeoning potatoes, with a nearby teasel left to flower in its own good time. I would have pulled that up too but resolved to be more relaxed about interlopers in future. Pretty blue flowers on that salad, anyone? I retraced my steps to a small brick-paved area, with a central bed and peony in flower, to views over the yew hedging, across the river valley with the Downs beyond. Nearby, relishing the southerly aspect, was a very impressive *helianthemum*. How marvellous to see it as a huge, established specimen. And close by are *erodiums*. Two more *erodiums* peeped out from under the yew. Four clipped box trees sit near the west wall of the house, under-planted with *dianthus*. These pinks were just coming into flower during my visit but will be a sight – and scent – a little later on. Red campion, blue geraniums and magenta *gladioli* jostle against the house wall with white rambling rose, summer jasmine and vine racing to obscure windows. And so back, through a cloud of rose perfume, to the ticket office and the blackboard. I turned to enter the house but, though the garden was mostly empty, it was too busy with the door blocked by visitors waiting to get in. My brain mulling over gardening ideas and inspiration, I returned to the entrance gate avoiding the plants-for-sale with steely willpower and walked out to the Church. Right then, time enough for The George Inn and that pint of Harveys. Check detailed opening hours here. Alternatively, take the train to Seaford and follow a grand walk to Alfriston two or three hours. Wow the villagers with your local knowledge and say it right – ALLfriston. The second, for Garden Buildings Direct , on the health benefits of gardening. Click the links to read answers from me and other garden bloggers.

### Chapter 2 : THE CLERGY HOUSE - Review of Alfriston Clergy House, Alfriston, England - TripAdvisor

*Alfriston Clergy House in Alfriston, Polegate, East Sussex, England, was the first built property to be acquired by the National Trust. It was purchased in for £ [1] The house lies adjacent to the Church of St. Andrew.*

This village is in the English county of East Sussex. We arrived at our accommodation but soon set out to explore the village. Our first stop was the church on village green or Tye. Andrew is a lovely church. After spending some time inside we walked around the exterior. The clergy house stands close to the church but is a smaller building. The Clergy House straight away caught my interest as it looked so quaint and typical of old England, with its thatched roof and timber frame. Interestingly In fact it is the first building owned by the national trust, acquired in the year As it was open to the public we went to look inside. There are two floors to the house. It did later become used by clergy although it was rather small and simple, lacking in grandeur compared to most vicarages in pre nineteenth century England. Rather than go too much into the history of this house I shall use the timeline from [http:](http://) It smelt old and looked old and my main impression of the house was of carved beams, low ceilings, narrow hallways, oak beams and leaded glass windows. The Clergy House is known for its chalk and sour milk floor which I now know was an early form of concrete. On this lovely warm and sunny spring day the gardens were really coming to life. The gardens are famed in the area for their flora and fauna. Indeed it is a good spot for bird watchers. The outside areas consist of a rose garden, orchard and vegetable garden. At this time of year the shrubs were to be enjoyed but it was too early for the roses to be in full bloom. Many of the plants are chosen for their scents. I would imagine in the summer the garden must be a real feast for the senses and is indeed an enviable spot. Pushchairs are allowed but it can be a bit of a tight squeeze. TOILETS Another consideration if visiting with children is that there are no toilets available at the clergy house and the nearest public toilets are in the nearby car park. Braille and large print guides are available and so is, I understand, a sensory experience I think for visitors confined to a wheelchair some of the clergy house may prove a little difficult as it is old and not easy to adapt. There are steps to get into the house and corridors are narrow. However, it is still in nice weather worth visiting to see the exterior of the house close by and for the beautiful gardens. But please note that some parts of the garden would also be difficult to access owing to steps here and there.

### Chapter 3 : Clergy house - Wikipedia

*The late history of the Clergy House in Alfriston, is synonymous with the birth of the National Trust, as this was the first private property to be saved for public posterity, in England and thereby marked the founding of the mission and future quest of.*

Excellent example of a medieval Wealden hall house Alfriston Clergy House This 14th-century timber-framed house was famously the very first historic property purchased by the National Trust, in It is what we call a Wealden type of building, that is, with a projecting hall, flush with the first floor wings. It is thatched, with a hipped roof. There are casement type windows with diamond-shaped panes, and one of these is an oriel window. The interior of the building is an open hall, with a crown-post roof. The clergy house stands across the lane from the parish church of St Andrews. The church was built around , but by that time the house had been standing for a decade. It was actually built by a well-to-do farmer. In it was purchased by the church. Well, then, it was surely intended to serve as a vicarage for the village priest? For most of its lifetime, the Clergy House was rented out to tenants, to earn extra income for the church. In the 15th century the house was granted to Michelham Priory , who retained it for over years. The gable end By the late 19th century the Clergy House had become a nuisance for the church; upkeep of the ancient structure was onerous, and the church wanted to demolish the building, even though there was a tenant in place! The last tenant died in , and the building would probably have followed suit, were it not for the efforts of the vicar of Alfriston, Reverend FW Beynon. The vicar set up an appeal to save the building, and in it was sold by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to the National Trust. The purchase price was 10 pounds, which sounds insignificant today, but in would still have been a fairly sizeable sum, roughly equivalent in purchasing power to a few thousand pounds. The House The house is made of wattle and daub, filling in the gaps in an oak frame. This infill is now covered in a lime wash. The house was built as an open hall, with two storeys. To the east are family rooms, with a parlour and garderobe, with a solar above. At the opposite end of the hall were small chambers for storage and food preparation, with quarters for servants above. There would have been an open fire in the centre of the hall, and there was no chimney; the smoke from the fire was expected to work its way through the thatched roof. A small garden runs from the house down to the Cuckmere River. Reeds grow along the river banks, so it is not surprising that the roof of Clergy House is covered in thatch, with river reeds forming the base layer! In the 16th century, the service rooms were replaced by a crossing wing, projecting to the rear of the house. The windows throughout the house would have been unglazed, with only wooden shutters for protection from the elements, until the 17th century. Small diamond-paned window glass was added then, and an upper floor inserted in the hall. This upper chamber has been removed by the National Trust so that we can see the house in its original 14th-century state. The timber-framed front facade One of the oak beams is decorated with a carving of an oak leaf. This carving may have been the inspiration for the National Trust oak leaf logo. The hall has an earthen floor, made solid with a combination of sour milk mixed with chalk. Behind the house, running down to the river, is a lovely cottage style garden, designed by Sir Robert Witt, who occupied the house as a tenant in the s. In the garden is a Judas tree, over years old, with clipped box, and a small kitchen garden and herb garden. Visiting Be aware that there is no parking at the Clergy House. You will need to use the main village car park to the north, as you come into Alfriston off the A A matter of weeks after the trust was officially registered under the Companies Act in , 5 acres of cliff at Dinas Oleu was donated to it. The Clergy House was, however the first property purchased by the Trust.

### Chapter 4 : Alfriston Clergy House - Sussex : Borrowed Space

*The legacy of the Clergy House in Alfriston Sussex The late history of the Clergy House in Alfriston, is synonymous with the birth of the National Trust, as this was the first private property to be saved for public posterity, in England and thereby marked the founding of the mission and future quest of.*

### Chapter 5 : Alfriston Clergy House Stock Photos & Alfriston Clergy House Stock Images - Alamy

*Our fabulous day out hunting Easter eggs at Alfriston Clergy House, Sussex.*

### Chapter 6 : Visit Alfriston Clergy House on your trip to Alfriston

*It was a lovely place to spend a couple of hours walking round Alfriston village and the clergy's house. A little stroll along the canal/water.*

### Chapter 7 : Alfriston Clergy House | Historic East Sussex Guide

*Alfriston Clergy House NT. likes Â· 3 talking about this Â· 2 were here. Steeped in history and surrounded by beautiful cottage gardens, Alfriston.*

### Chapter 8 : Opening Times | Alfriston Clergy House | National Trust

*Alfriston Clergy House - Sussex 4th July A trip to the countryside revealed a little gem of a house and garden. This place is special as it was the first.*

### Chapter 9 : The 10 Best Restaurants Near Alfriston Clergy House - TripAdvisor

*Alfriston Clergy House is a little gem! The first National Trust property, there is a lot of information there about the forming of the Trust which is interesting but don't ignore the house itself.*