

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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**Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council**

**Non-profit &  
delivered free  
to the Parish of  
Alkham**



**SNOW SCENE** – Marian Barber emailed this lovely photo of the village green which she took in February.

**MARQUIS** - With life returning to some sort of normality, we are pleased to announce we will be re-opening our outside terrace on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April with additional heating and wind protection being installed to make everyone feel as comfortable as possible. And what a few months it has been for us... When lockdown restrictions came into place in November, we decided to do our bit for the local community by offering complimentary meals to the vulnerable and children that weren't able to take advantage of school meals during this time, totalling 263 mouths fed during the November and December period. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2020, we teamed up with the Hythe Imperial to make 1000 "packed lunches" for the lorry drivers that were stuck on the A2 and unable to travel to the continent during that festive period. And from January we adapted our offering to cater to those that still wanted a taste of the Marquis menu with fully prepared boxes to cook at home of which we have received overwhelming praise - we would like to thank those of you that helped support us through these last few months! We are incredibly excited to be opening our doors and seeing some familiar faces once again. Our kitchen will be open lunchtimes throughout the week with drinks available well into the evening. Dinner services will initially be available on a Friday and Saturday with bookings being taken until 7pm and with Sunday lunch finishing at 5pm. Of course, we cannot wait to welcome you inside as of the 17<sup>th</sup> of May but be rest assured, we've got your comfort covered outside. **Hugh Thompson**

**GEOFF HILLIER** – It is sad to report that Geoff died on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March aged 82. He was taken from his house in London to St. Thomas's hospital late last year suffering from the Covid virus and was eventually sent home but was later readmitted having contracted pneumonitis which was found not to be treatable and he was therefore discharged to palliative care. Geoff lived with his wife Rosemary at South Alkham and was very involved with the village and instrumental in getting the stage reconstructed in the village hall which was used for a variety of entertainment. He was chairman of the Village Hall Committee and started Film Night in the hall, which proved to be very popular, as was Tea and a Chat. Geoff was a Parish Councillor for several years and apart from other activities which included linking Alkham into the Kent Police and Community Speedwatch scheme, he led the Traffic Action Group set up in response to widespread village concern. Rosemary says that until his illness Geoff was also deeply concerned to establish effective management of the Nailbourne along its entire course from Drellingore to Short Lane which, as an engineer, he recognised as an ever-growing hazard to both health and safety of the village and the cherished village hall. He gave his time generously to all these matters out of his fondness for Alkham and the exceptional friendliness of so many here. He did it all with a lightness of touch and his characteristic good humour. As was his wish his funeral will be at 1.30 at St. Anthony's Church on 31<sup>st</sup> March, followed by committal at Hawkinge Crematorium.

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**BARBARA PALMER** - Sadly Barbara passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> February shortly before her 95th birthday. She spent her early years in Suffolk going into service at 13 as was the custom in 1939. Barbara served in the Women's Land Army 1943-1950 in Suffolk as a relief milk worker amongst other things. She met Bob in a pub when he was home on a month's army leave from Egypt. Four years later in 1951, they married. Barbara joined Bob living in Tripoli, Libya, for three years, with three children under five years of age, before being posted back to Ashford where their fourth child was born. Barbara, following her husband Bob's retirement from the Ministry of Environment, moved to Slip Lane, Alkham in 1989. Barbara was a huge champion of the village for 30 years: an active WI member, Alkham cricket team supporter especially the cricket teas, stall holder at fetes and fayres running the jewellery and cake stalls, holding charitable coffee mornings with Bob in their beautiful gardens to name just some of the activities Barbara was involved in. Barbara was a keen and knowledgeable gardener and her baking and jam making were legendary, especially known for her cakes, Date and Walnut loaf, apple pies and marmalade. She will be remembered with great fondness as a stylish lady with generosity, wit, humour, legendary resilience and a sparkle in her eye! **Beverley Mann**

**WILDLIFE** – Bread was put on the tree trunk behind the house and disappeared overnight. I bought an Apeman camera, and it first recorded a mouse and a fox then the next night a badger. **Brian**



**WEB SITES** – It appears that the Parish Council web site has been terminated, so it is no longer included in this newsletter. The other web site [alkham.org](http://alkham.org) is still running where you can see the Alkham Newsletter in colour. It's not the most modern site but it does have local details which may be of interest to those searching for Alkham.

**REGARDING** Kearsney and Russell Gardens, in 1929 Hilton Russell was present at a celebration of the Klassical Konfraternity of Kongenial Konfreres a club for locals over the age of eighty years, of which there were 83 members in attendance and a further 800 who could not make the celebration. They received vouchers which they could exchange for goods. Evidently there are about 6800 people over 80 in the area now. **Jo Walker**

**ILLEGAL** use by 4x4's on Pimlico Way continues and it's now almost impassable for horses and walkers. A local resident has but up a sign to say the byway is closed to motor vehicles and that it is in a very dangerous condition for horse riders and walkers.

**TANKERS** – As a result of the wet weather and the underlying chalk becoming saturated the sewer which goes down Hogbrook Lane becomes flooded and overflows through some manhole covers. Because of this, tankers which have been seen on the car parks near the village hall, are sucking some of the excess out of the sewers to help the flow. In the flood of 2001, the toilets in the village hall and adjacent properties could not be used.

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## RECONNECT WITH NATURE: Chilton Farm and Awesome Valley.

What a winter we had! As many of you know the COVID pandemic has affected our family life in many ways especially with members of the family working frontline in leading national hospitals and having high risk and elderly members. Among these difficulties, how lucky we are to live in this beautiful area of natural beauty and having the opportunity of spending time even during the lockdown walking through the vast fields of Chilton Farm, listening to the wind in the ancient woodland and even enjoying sledging on the gentle slopes for the few days of snow we had in February. We feel that not all members of the community are lucky enough to ease the pressures of the lockdown and the consequences of the pandemic. I and my family feel it an inner and moral duty to share these opportunities with the community. In this current time when the lockdown and restrictions are gradually easing, we would like to offer our outdoor amenities and invite members of Alkham Parish to take a peaceful stroll, away from the crowds around the perimeter of the field at Chilton Farm, and the accessible part of the woodland with beautiful views stretching across the wonderful Alkham Valley. For some of you it can be a peaceful time of reflection on the past year's events, being grateful for successes in overcoming the pandemic. For those of you who have lost loved ones, you can reflect and give thanks for their life. We would like to offer you to dedicate a sapling as a memorial for people that you would like to remember, that have sadly left us or that you feel have made a difference in your life of difficulty or contributed to helping others. The perimeter walk is about a 2 km circuit with flat footpaths, also hills to raise your heart rate! There are bridleways through Chilton Farm that link to the field or there is an area where you can park. Please call 07906213716 to book your free private walk. **Ruth Marczin-Bundy**



## Kent in English Proverbs

If you would know your county

Hear what the proverbs say;

Take note of some old sayings

Recalled from yesterday

Parts of Kent have wealth and health,

And parts have only wealth;

Parts have neither wealth nor health,

And parts have only health.

Knight of Cales,\* or Knight of Vales

Or lord of north country,

Kentish yeoman has the rent

To buy them out all three.

Once, 'tis said, the devil gave

Daughter fair in marriage;

With her too, they say, he gave

Dover, Deal, and Harwich.

Naughty Ashford, surly Wye,

Poor Kennington hard by;

But where prospect all around

More blessed to the eye?

\* Knights of Cales (Cadiz, formerly Cales, in Spain) were made by Robert, Earl of Essex, following the capture of the City in 1596. Many were said to be of low fortune.

If you'd see a church mis-went, \*\*

Go at once to Cuckstone;

If you'd speak at Dover Court,

Don't, for none will listen. \*\*\*

What was a Jack of Dover?

A dish, they say of old,

That must have been twice heated,

And must have been twice cold.

One more thing they also said,

When they spoke of Dover:

When it's dark on Shakespeare Cliff,

It's dark the whole world over.

Such are old English proverbs,

All well remembered still;

Such are old English sayings,

Make of them what you will.

\*\* **Of unusual proportion.**

\*\*\* It was said that in Dover Court all were speakers, none hearers.

**Jackie Grebby**

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**CHURCH SERVICES**

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Thursday 1st	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 7.00 pm		
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Good Friday Service Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 8.00 am	Eucharist 11.am
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am	
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		

**BUS TIMES To Dover** 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

**To Folkestone** 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32

Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - During Lent many people give up something like chocolate or biscuits or take on something like joining a Lent Group. Lent Groups usually involve meeting with others for tea and discussion – difficult this year, since it is difficult for any of us to meet at all. My chosen solution? Record videos that people can watch, think, and pray about and post them on Facebook. But how to keep them interesting? Why not add some photographs taken when I visited the Holy Land some years ago? One photo showed my fellow pilgrims crammed into a cave – social distancing didn't matter back then. Tradition has it that it was there, beneath the Paternoster church near Jerusalem, that Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them to pray. His teaching – the Our Father or Lord's Prayer – appears on the walls of the church in more than 140 languages. They were to ask forgiveness for their sins and forgive those who sinned against them - Jesus knowing full well that forgiveness is something that most of us struggle with. We all know what it is like to be sinned against – and how tempting it is, when it happens, to take to social media, tell all to the world and get others to take our side. But Jesus taught forgiveness. Make no mistake, forgiveness excuses nothing. Rather, it faces up to whatever has happened and bears the cost of mending what would otherwise stay broken. As Easter approaches, Holy Week and the cross point to the cost of forgiveness, and Easter morning and the empty tomb to its reward. A soft option? St Augustine thought that by bearing grudges, we hurt ourselves far more than we could ever hurt anyone else. Forgiving others, then, is good for us after all...

**Brian Williams**

**POLICE 999 or 101**

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