

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969

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THE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

The Christmas tree lights will be switched on at 4.45pm on Saturday 8th December. Father Christmas has promised to be there, and we will sing a few carols accompanied by Graham Bissett on the accordion with mulled wine and mince pies to get the party season started. See you there especially you children. **Den Barnard**

Meet the new team at The Marquis at the Christmas lights switch-on

Join the new management team at The Marquis for mulled wine and mince pies as part of the village Christmas Lights switch-on event on December 8th, and find out more about what they have planned for your local pub. The 200-year-old inn was bought by Ashford's GSE Group earlier this year and is being run by the team behind the iconic Hythe Imperial hotel, which has recently undergone a four-year, multi-million-pound refurbishment. One of the first decisions of the new management team has been to restore the pub's original full name, so it will once again be known as the Marquis of Granby, while an application has been submitted to Dover District Council for permission to make cosmetic improvements to the exterior of the building, along with some internal changes. The pub will close from January 1st for refurbishment, and when it reopens Friday, March 29th under the new name, the aim is for it to become an important part of village life, a great place for you to eat and drink and meet up with your friends and neighbours, and a supporter of local projects and community events. The architect behind the refurbishment is John Rogers, the creator and owner of the Ramblinns group that includes the Five Bells at Brabourne, The Globe Inn at Rye, The Woolpack at Warehorne and the Radnor Arms at Folkestone. The new menu will see a move back to good quality, locally sourced food at realistic prices, accompanied by a selection of real ales and Kentish wines. The bar will be dog friendly and have open fires, while the hotel rooms will be refurbished to reflect the new country pub feel, with a number of beautiful new suites being created.

CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL - As a Pre-Christmas treat and in lieu of the regular Film Night, during the period 4th to 13th December the Village Hall will be showing 7 classic films which have been chosen, by popular request, from an original list of 36 films proposed by the public. The films will be free to watch, and you are welcome to bring along whatever refreshments you wish. The programme of dates and time of the performances is as follows: Tuesday Dec 4th at 3 pm - Roman Holiday; Thursday Dec 6th at 7.30 pm - Genevieve; Saturday Dec 8th at 3 pm - Tale of Two Cities; Sunday Dec 10th at 7.30 pm - Some Like it Hot; Monday Dec 11th at 7.30 pm - Singing in the Rain; Tuesday Dec 12th at 3 pm - Love is a Many Splendid Thing; Thursday Dec 13th at 7.30 pm - The Quiet Man. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS WALK

The annual Alkham Valley Society walk will be on 27th December starting from the Alkham Village Hall at 10.30 a.m. and ending around midday. Dogs and their owners are welcome. It is an opportunity to meet, walk and talk. As usual, the more the merrier though it can be pretty merry with only five like last year, the weather being rough, cold and rainy. **J Walker** (Secretary)



FETE COMMITTEE MEETING

- There will be a Fete Committee Meeting on Wednesday 5th December 2018 at 8 pm in the Village Hall - this is the post-Fete meeting to discuss this year's Fete and decide the division of the spoils - a perfect way to start the run in to the Christmas period. Please come along to give your thoughts and suggestions as regards the 2018 Fete and, if the meeting wills it, the possibility of one in 2019. Merry Christmas. **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

TEA AND A CHAT on the 29th November will be our Christmas one and in addition to the usual tea/coffee and biscuits there will be mince pies and the hall will be decorated. Please come and join us.

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY are holding a Curry & Quiz Night on Tuesday 20th November 8pm at the Fox, Temple Ewell. Please contact Jo Walker on 01304 821641 to book at £5 per head.



FILM NIGHT

Nov 27

Mama Mia
Here we go again

DECEMBER - Please see article on the left

Village Hall 7.30pm
Please bring your own refreshments

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LEAD THEFT – An attempt was made to remove some lead panels from the roof of St. Anthony's church. A ladder must have been used, so if anyone saw suspicious activity or has local CCTV please contact the police quoting crime report number WTGTV7HGJJ.

ANNIE THURGARLAND the Watercourse Officer at the Kent Stour Countryside Partnership, gave a presentation to the Parish Council on the 5th November. Despite not being able to project her slides Annie proceeded to explain her role, acting with KCC, to identify possible solutions to mitigate against flooding in Alkham. Her focus is on using natural flood management measures to slow down flood water before it becomes a problem. There are many different techniques to do this using natural materials to create detaining ponds, but they are still on a learning curve to select the right solution to each problem area. Her suggestions for the creation of a holding pond on part of the Village Green, for example, was met with some objections but the PC undertook to consider her approach to flood control and reconvene a meeting in the near future to discuss specific areas where such natural flood management techniques might be applied.

TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP (TAG) REPORT - The Parish Council, at their meeting on the 5th November, agreed to the setting up of a 'Traffic Implementation Group' (TIG) consisting of Councillors Geoff Hillier, Martin Hibbert and David Beaney, to carry forward the agreed traffic calming strategy for the Alkham Valley Road. The traffic calming measures, developed by TAG and having the overwhelming support of the people of Alkham are outlined in TAG's final report, a copy of which can be read on the Alkham Parish Council website www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk.

ALKHAM BOOK – The book 'A Brief History – Alkham Parish' has been updated and reprinted with four new pages which are: Coal exploration at Ellinge and other farms at Everden; Glebelands, the brickwork company and the lime kiln; North Hill and Common Hill and properties; an index at the back. Previous buyers of the book can have a copy otherwise it costs £5 with profits going to the Alkham Fund. Please ring Brian on 01304 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com if you would like a copy.



OVERNIGHT CAMPING – There has been a problem with campers parking on the car park opposite the village hall. Not only do some cause a noise disturbance but the small wooded area behind became badly soiled by human faeces. The matter was reported to DDC on their website, using the dog fouling heading as there is no specific one for humans, and the matter was swiftly dealt with and rectified by Paul Jaconelli, Waste Services Officer, DDC, and his team who cleaned area. The problem is probably caused by the increased use of the smaller type of camper van that do not necessarily have onboard chemical toilet facilities. A sign has been put up saying that the car park should not be used by overnight campers and the web site that advertises the location has been asked to remove it.

CO-OP LOCAL CAUSE - The Friends of Temple Ewell Primary School want to improve the outside area for all children to enjoy and explore by creating an area where they feel safe and can develop their independence. If you'd like to support them, please go to <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/29159>.

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

Late Night Opening Till 8.00pm

Thursday 29th November

Great Food Carols & Christmas Gifts

Christmas Farmers & Craft Market

Saturday 1st December 10am - 4pm

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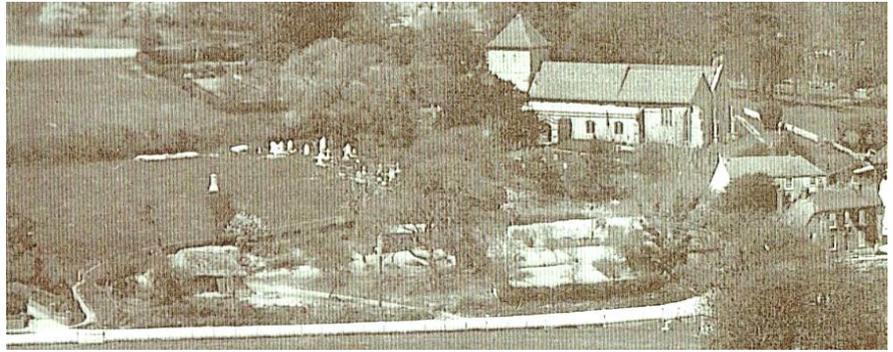
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WAR MEMORIAL – The photo above shows the newly erected war memorial on the piece of land donated to the church by Malmain's farm in the late 19th century. The existing cemetery extended to most of the gravestones seen in the photo and new land was consecrated by the Bishop of Dover in October 1902. On Saturday 4th October 1919 the memorial, which was erected for the sixteen men of Alkham who were killed in the First World War, was unveiled by Mr. Harman who was the schoolmaster at Alkham. It cost £88 (£4300 in today's money) and was paid for by donations from residents of Alkham. The Marquis can be seen on the right of the photo and the land to the left, in front of cemetery, was later sold and bungalows were built there in the 1960's. **Brian Wimsett**

OZ on THE WIPERS TIMES – On 7 October 1914 some 8,000 German cavalrymen swept through Ypres, western Belgium, in one day, to refuel and stock up on their way to the coast. When British troops arrived on 14 October 1914, their first problem was how to pronounce the name of the town, and they quickly decided on 'Wipers'. Their second task, in conjunction with the French forces, was to stop the enemy from either reaching the coast or returning to Ypres. The subsequent battle ended inconclusively on 22 November. It was just the first in the series of five battles for Ypres, the last ending in October 1918, that came to define the nature of modern industrial warfare. In winter 1916 Captain Fred Roberts and Lieutenant Jack Pearson, of the 12th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters, discovered a damaged printing press in the ruins of the shelled Ypres. One of their sergeants, a peacetime printer, repaired the press, and the three of them used it to print the first edition, in February 1916, of The Wipers Times, a satirical newspaper in the tradition of school magazines and Punch. It was a morale booster, combining wickedly humorous reflections on trench life with poems, lampoons and in-jokes; one classic Lonely Hearts advertisement, commenting on the USA's absence from the war at that time, was headlined "Lonely President wishes to correspond with anyone." As the action moved around, the title changed, to The Kemmel Times, The Somme Times, and then to The BEF Times for security reasons. Other than this, the newspaper had "little trouble with the censors" according to Captain Roberts. In December 1918, the final edition, titled The Better Times, was published, with the sub-title "Xmas, Peace and Final Number." It's food for thought during the coming 100th anniversary Christmas season. **Steve Osborn**

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| | |
|------------------|---|
| Tuesday | Art Workshop from 10am – 1pm Yoga 1.10pm – 2.10pm |
| Wednesday | Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am - Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm |
| Friday | Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am – check to make sure |

Other Events in the village hall

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|---|
| Tuesday | 4 | White Cliff Metal Detectors 7pm to 9pm |
| Wednesday | 5 | Fete Committee meeting 8pm – see page 1 |
| Saturday | 8 | Christmas Lights turn on – see page 1 |
| Saturday | 8 | SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm |
| Monday | 17 | Bird Club 7.30pm |

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

| |
|---|
| 8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34 |
| Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41 |
| 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32 |
| Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32 |

CHURCH SERVICES

| DATE | ALKHAM | CAPEL | HOUGHAM |
|---------------------------------|--|---|-------------------|
| Sunday 2nd | Evensong 4.30 pm | Eucharist 9.30 am | Worship 11.00 am |
| Saturday 8th | Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm | | |
| Sunday 9th | Eucharist 9.30 am | Worship 11 am | |
| Sunday 16th | Worship 11.00 am | Carols VH 3.00 pm | Eucharist 9.30 am |
| Saturday 22nd | | Carols 7.30pm | |
| Sunday 23rd | 9 Lessons & Carols 6.30pm pm | Benefice Eucharist 10.00 am | Eucharist 9.30 am |
| Monday 24th | Crib service 4.30 pm Midnight Mass 11.30 pm | Crib service 3.00pm Midnight Mass 11.30 pm | |
| Tuesday 25th | | | Eucharist 9.30 am |
| Sunday 30th | Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am | | |

FROM THE VICARAGE - Grumpy Vicar Moment: NONE of the Advent calendars that I saw in the seasonal aisle of a local supermarket had anything to do with the Christmas story! Grrr! Now, I can guess what you are probably thinking: "What an old meanie! We've been looking forward to our daily dose of chocolate throughout the first twenty-four days of December all year!" Or perhaps you prefer beer, or maybe perfume – you can buy Advent calendars with those in, too. But the ones I remember were magically Christmassy, with a picture behind each door until you reached the Nativity scene behind number 24. Then there was the Blue Peter Advent Crown! Remember that? How many families anticipated Christmas by collecting wire coat hangers, wire, baubles and tinsel ready for the moment when Valerie Singleton appeared on our TV screens and showed us one she had made earlier? She didn't just use real candles, she lit them, too! The instructions on the BBC website now recommend the tamer option of more baubles instead. For me a similar tradition that we have in church – the Advent ring – is my favourite. In the gloom of a grey early December morning we light a single candle (no baubles for us!) for the prophets, who foretold Jesus' birth. A week later, we light another - for John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus. A third is lit for Mary, Jesus' mother until, as Christmas approaches, four candles are blazing away. Finally Christmas arrives, the white candle in the centre representing Jesus is lit, and darkness gives way to light. All through January the Advent Ring, with Jesus in the middle, lights up the sanctuary. Meanwhile, the chocolate, beer and perfume are all long gone...Peace and light to you this Christmas – **Brian Williams**

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS alkhamvalleysociety@btinternet.com
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
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