

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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



AS CHRISTMAS is now fast approaching, we would like to give you some gentle reminders of dates for your diaries. Firstly, the Christmas party, which is booked in the village hall on the 4th of December, everyone is welcome and although we have had good response, please continue to email to let us know you are coming. Please contact us via west_deborah@ymail.com you just need to bring your own drink, we are also looking for contributions for a food sharing table, if you could support this that would be great. We will be running a Christmas raffle, in support of our local village, donations welcome. Finally, we are also open to any party ideas or help on the day! Secondly, please join us for the Christmas Light switch-on at **4:45pm on Saturday 11th December**. Mince pies, mulled wine, and squash for the children, will be served at our local pub, The Marquis of Granby, straight after. **Debbie West**
"AND THE BAND PLAYED ON...."

The "Gumboots Reggae Band" of Folkestone played live at the Marquis of Granby Alkham on Thursday, October 27. The numbers visiting the weekly live shows are really picking up. Make sure you fellow townspeople support our local pub and the local acts that appear there every Thursday night the next one being on the 2nd December. **Catie Webber ...**



MARQUIS OF GRANBY - I'd like to welcome our new Manager, Marina Stone who has just joined us and already doing a brilliant job! Marina has worked in some fantastic places and is a seasoned hospitality professional and will be here, along with myself, Nadine and Will to keep you entertained, watered and fed! With Christmas just around the corner now, and with the traditional lights turn-on being on the 11th of December, we look forward to welcoming you all for some mince pies and Plum "Mulled" Wine that evening. We have reserved a large section until 7:30pm when we will start to take table reservations should you wish to join us for some food. We will have a Christmas Set Menu running throughout December up until Christmas Eve to run alongside our A La Carte Menu. And lastly, we have some great entertainment in the form of a band and a magician on New Year's Eve and a fantastic menu created by Steve. We'd love to have you here and see the New Year in together, we have some space left so should this be of interest, details are on our website or feel free to contact us directly on 01304 873410 or info@marquisofgranby.co.uk. **Hugh Thompson**

THE CHRISTMAS walk by custom takes place on 27th December. This year it will be the same, leaving the Village Hall at 10.30 a.m. and lasting about 2 hours. It is not a strenuous walk but provides a chance for people to meet up during the holiday season. Dogs are welcome as well. **Jo Walker (sec AVS)**

*Merry
Christmas*

GOOD NEWS - Next January the surface of Pimlico Way will be repaired from its junction with Slip Lane up the rise by and past Etondale and along first part of Pimlico. The surface will be covered in higher grade hydraulically bound material (recycled materials and cement) and hopefully this will stop a lot of the debris and flints coming onto Slip Lane. They are also looking to divert runoff water from the top of Pimlico into the field and carry out minor repair work to the byway by Flintwood Lodge.



CLEANER - If you would like some help with your cleaning, please contact Shirley Prince on 01304 828098 or email at shirleyannprince@gmail.com.

FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm
Tuesday 30th November

Nomadland with Frances McDormand
There will not be a film in December

Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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MEET AND GREET COFFEE MORNING - The recent coffee morning proved, once again, to be popular with more than seventy enjoying refreshments. A power cut right at the start didn't affect the enjoyment as the water boiler was piping hot and so we were able to continue until power was resumed. It was particularly nice to meet several new families and were able to introduce them to more established residents. It appears all seem to have settled nicely, even with the horrid interruption of the pandemic - with some expressing wishes to be more involved in the village with any future events. Thanks to Linda and Debbie for help and to Brian Wimsett's Alkham Fund. **Irene Barnard**

NEWSLETTER – The financial year for the Alkham Monthly Newsletter ended in August and with predicted income will break even. I print the 320 (1280 A4 sheets) newsletters each month on two laser printers using about £27 of toner. In addition to this is the paper, stamps for copies sent and £36 for the alkham.org web site. The advert revenue goes in the newsletter's club account which covers any profit or loss. **Brian Wimsett**

FASTTRACK – In the May edition of the newsletter there was an article about a bus rapid transport system which runs from Archers Court Road Whitfield to the Priory station in Dover. This requires a new bridge over the A2 and a section of carriageway from the roundabout at the end of road which goes past Tesco's to connect to the Old Dover Road. The route continues to the top of Castle Hill by Dover Castle where a roundabout will be built. This is now scheduled to start in April 2022 and will serve the housing development at Whitfield and 300 new homes at the Old Connaught barracks and use electric buses. Hopefully this will induce some drivers to use the train rather than the cars which will probably come down the Alkham Valley Road.



THE WORKS to the roof on St. Anthony's church in Alkham are complete at a cost of over £18,000. To preserve the building for future generations, whether religious or secular, the Friends of St. Anthony gave £12,914 and the church paid the remainder.

WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRY – It is very encouraging to know that Kent's Heritage Coast was placed 4th on a list of the world's best regions to visit in 2022 by the Lonely Planet ... and

KEARSNEY ABBEY and Russell Gardens have been awarded The Green Flag Award, the first parks owned and managed by Dover District Council (DDC) to receive the prestigious recognition. The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our November meeting was our AGM Meeting followed by an auction; thank you to Lucy McKenzie for all your help. We do not have a December meeting as it will be our Christmas Dinner at the Marquis of Granby. The ladies from Alkham WI would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. **Debbie Griggs**

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HEROES – On the alkham.org web site there is a 'Heroes' link where details of the men who lost their lives in WWI and WWII are given. There is also a separate link to 'About Alkham' where there is a photo taken around 1928 of a group of children in the playground adjacent to Alkham School. An email was recently received from John Fagg to say that in the photo second from right in the front row is his uncle Louis Fagg and in the centre is Henry Keeler both of whom later lost their lives in WWII and are listed on the 'Heroes' page. Louis was born at the Butt and Ben on Wolverton Hill and Henry was born at Pimlico South Alkham and it is sad to learn the connection between the two pages. **Brian Wimsett**

A TURNPIKE ROAD IN DOVER - Turnpike roads originated in the 17th century mainly due to parishes unwilling or unable to invest in roads. Run by a trust, they made charges on road users and were locally managed. The name originated from the pikes (long sticks) that blocked the way until the fare was paid. Eventually the pike became a toll house. The first two Turnpike Acts relating to Kent were passed in 1709 and 1711 and were in the west of the county. By 1753, the route from Dover to Barham Downs (part of the London Road) was turnpiked. The first tollhouse in Dover was opposite the Eagle Tavern on the London Road, Charlton. This marked the boundary of the town and was where the gallows were. The road followed the old road crossing the River Dour at Buckland where the brick bridge was financed by the toll money. Those wishing to avoid paying a toll would go along the old way through the ford at Bridge Street – until a tollgate appeared at Crabble Hill. The Charlton tollhouse was demolished in 1855 while Crabble Hill housed a Dover police constable collected dues on coal brought into Dover from Kearsney Station. **Jackie Grebby**



POPPY APPEAL - I'm very happy to say that this year, from Alkham and Ewell Minnis, we have collected a grand total of £718.13 - a figure that we can all be proud of. This will go towards helping members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Airforce, veterans and their families, when they need support. I'd like to thank my collectors Shirley, Helen, Larry, Georgina and Beverley. And also The Marquis of Granby, the Alkham Valley Garden Centre, Alkham Tea Rooms and Southern Equestrian, who all displayed Poppy collection boxes. And many thanks too, to all the residents and visitors who contributed. **Rachel Fountain**

FARE WELL

The swallows gather on the wire
Swoop down, circle higher,
So numerous it takes your breath away.

Fifty one and counting in a cloud,
A mist of delicate sound
Rising to vanish in the endless sky.

So very small prepared to fly so high -
Your heart is in your mouth, migrating south.

Gail Swainston



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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday - Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Wednesday	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am: Tai Chi 5.30pm to 6.30pm
Thursday	Mother and toddler group 10am to 12am

Other events in the village hall assuming no changes

Tuesday	7	Metal detectors 7pm
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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 11th	Messy church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am <i>Carols at Capel Village Hall 3.00 pm</i>	<i>Carols at West Hougham Village Hall 5.00 pm</i>
Saturday 18th		Carols by Candle 7.00	
Sunday 19th	9 Lessons and Carols 6.30 pm		Eucharist 9.30 am
Friday 24th	Crib service 4.30 pm	Crib service 3.00 pm	
Christmas Eve	Mass 11.30 pm	Mass 11.30 pm	
Saturday 25th			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 26th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - Christmas is coming – and this year Christmas Day, when Christians celebrate God's gift of His Son to the world, falls on a Saturday. On the Sunday, however, the mood shifts, even before we've had a chance to recover from all those satsumas. It's the Feast of St Stephen. That's right! The day when, according to the carol, Good King Wenceslas looked out, saw a poor man gathering winter fuel, and was so filled with compassion that he and his page braved a blizzard to deliver pine logs and what we would now call a takeaway to where the man lived: Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing... What of Stephen himself? He, too, blessed the poor - the New Testament describes him as full of faith and the Holy Spirit, chosen for the task of caring for those in need. The signs and wonders he performed and the wisdom with which he spoke evidently brought him to the attention of the authorities. On trial for his life, he criticised them for having had Jesus killed. That led to him being dragged out of the city and stoned to death, the first of Jesus' followers to die as a martyr. His body was buried some distance from the city, and its location possibly forgotten. It so happens that the saintly King Wenceslas of Bohemia, whom the carol celebrates, also suffered martyrdom - his power-hungry brother had him murdered in September 935. And Stephen's tomb? It is said that in 415 its location was revealed in a dream to a Christian priest called Lucian as he slept in his church. Following their discovery the saint's remains were moved to Jerusalem on 26th December that year. Have a wonderful Christmas, and a peaceful New Year. **Brian Williams**

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