

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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CHRISTMAS TREE - It's coming up to Christmas time again, so to start off your Christmas come along on Saturday 10th of December at 5.30pm to see the switching on of the Christmas tree lights on the village green. The cricket hut will be open where there will be mulled wine, a soft drink for the children and even a mince pie. Santa Claus will be in attendance and there will be some Christmas carols to put us in a festive mood. Look forward to seeing you there. **Graham and Debbie West**



BUS SERVICE From the 30th of October the 91 bus service through Alkham has changed and the new times are shown on the back page. If you wish to double check on the times, go to www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables.

COME TO THE MARQUIS pub for Australia Day drinks 6 pm Thursday 26th of January 2023. There are lots of Aussies and families with Aussie connections in Alkham. **Catie Webber**
ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

Members are advised that the Annual General Meeting will be held on 28th of November 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Alkham Village Hall. Tea/coffee and cake will be served at the end of the meeting. Should attendees have particular items to discuss under Any Other Business, please contact the Secretary (joannawalker777@gmail.com).

TEA N CHAT – There will be the usual Tea n Chat in the village hall on Thursday 29th December from 2.30pm to 4p.m.

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm

No film in December

November 29th

Uncharted – Mark Wahlberg

Entrance is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated



SNOWDOWN MALE VOICE CHOIR CONCERT - On Saturday evening the 29th of October St Anthony's was 'full to bursting' when Snowdown Male Voice Choir entertained a capacity audience with an evening of songs and music. We have for the last 3 months been enthusiastic members of the choir and it was an ambition of ours, even before we joined, to bring this event to the village church. Ken long thought it would be a great idea, especially as his father and uncle were both members of the Snowdown choir when they worked as miners in the colliery until it closed in the 80's. The work involved in organising this was at times daunting and without the help and of our wives (Sandy, Ange and Charlotte) it would have been a lot more difficult (thank you ladies). Many thanks also to all our friends who volunteered their time to make the concert possible, and also thanks to the Marquis (parking) and Barham primary school (staging). From the feedback we have received it was a huge success. It was great to see to the church full of life, the chandelier glowing with candles, the voices and music reverberating around the church creating a wonderful atmosphere. Net profits from the concert totalled over £800 which has been donated to St Anthony's Church and Parkinson's UK Dover branch. Ambition fulfilled! Thank you Alkham for all your support. **Ken, Kevin and Graham**

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Tai Chi

Wednesday, 3.30 - 4.30 PM
Wootton Village Hall

Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM
Hawkinge Community Centre

Contact Anna Dashwood
07736 849 194 www.pfstaichi.com

Streetz2Streetz

Mobile Fish and Chip Unit
Saturday 26th November

will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm

No visit in December

Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details

Also cater for weddings, kid's parties, christenings, charity events, fish supper parties and boot fairs

TEMPLE EWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL - Did you go away at half term, or are you just having a clear-out at home? Please donate any foreign coins/notes you have left (or find) to the school as we can convert this into cash for the benefit of our children. Please drop them into the school office before Friday 16th December or call Mrs. Church on 01304 822665. The school is off Lower Road just past Bushy Ruff.

DOVER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION - Residents are being invited to have their say on the district's Local Plan which helps shape future development in the area up to 2040. A series of in-person and online public exhibition events are being held as part of the



consultation, which runs until Friday, December the 9th. The Local Plan sets out the vision and framework for future development, including where new homes, shops and businesses should be built. To view the plan, go to www.doverdistrictlocalplan.co.uk...

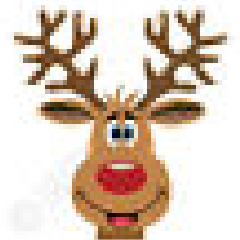
DDC appear to use an out of date map as it first shows the large field opposite Valley Cottages as a possible site but scrolling down to another plan it shows it as unsuitable. A previous owner was John Ullmann who had the land as set-aside and when he died in 2007 a planning application was submitted for a very large housing development which was rejected.

Following this a person who lives in Alkham and cares about Alkham bought the land and it is now used by a local farmer to grow crops. **Editor**

NEWSLETTER – The financial year for the newsletter ended in September and I'm pleased to say that costs were covered and there was a profit of about £50. All payments go in the Newsletter Club Account with Nat West so, if necessary, this can be used to cover part of the cost of replacing the two Brother laser printers that are used each month. **Editor**

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL is offering free parking in its car parks on Saturdays in December. The Dover Winter Light Up on the 2nd and 3rd of December includes the Dover Winter Fire Garden on the Roman Lawn and a range of seasonal stalls and entertainment in

Dover Market Square on Saturday 3rd December with a Winter Lantern Procession lighting up Dover from 6pm. On Saturday 10th December, there will be a meet the Reindeer event in Dover Market Square, with a range of market stalls and entertainment, as well as a live reindeer, and the chance to meet Father Christmas in his grotto.



ALKHAM W.I. - We would just like to say a big Thank you to everyone who turned out on the 8th of November in the dreadful weather to the Pamper Evening; we had a great response. A big thank you from Nicola Church and Debbie Griggs. Our W.I. Xmas meal on the 13th of December will be at the Fox pub at Temple Ewell and we must be there for 7pm. Happy Christmas from Alkham W.I. **Debbie Griggs**

SOUTHERN Equestrian Supplies and the Alkham Valley Garden Centre will be having a late night on the Thursday 8th December so please pop along and Alkham W.I. will be singing Carol's at the garden centre. Also every Saturday in December there will be Father Christmas and you must book to save disappointment.

SOUTHERN EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES also sell poultry foods, goat food and dog food i.e., Skinner's foods and Chudley's foods, just give us a call on 01303 891996.

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CHESTNUTS – A question was asked as to why horse chestnuts are so called and the best answer is that before modern veterinary medicines they could be ground and fed to horses to relieve them of coughs. Interestingly chestnut and horse chestnut are two different species with chestnut being related to beech trees and horse chestnut more closely related to maple trees. The leaves are slightly different with the chestnut trees having toothed leaves that grow singly and horse chestnut produce leaf clusters, with 5 to 7 leaflets growing in a circular pattern from each base. Chestnut husks have a more shaggy appearance, similar to that of a porcupine whilst horse chestnut husks are green and leathery, covered with sharp-looking spikes. Chestnuts are edible and nutritious whilst horse chestnuts are poisonous and can cause paralysis and other serious symptoms if eaten raw and unprocessed. However, the horse chestnut is better known as a conker which can be attached to a piece of string and used in playground battles and the chestnut as a sweet chestnut which can be heard roasting on an open fire at Christmas. **editor**



SLIP LANE was closed for 2 days in November to replace a section of road that was damaged some time ago by a vehicle fire.

FILM NIIGHT – Keeping Mum a scythe of a story: Maggie Smith, redoubtable, reliable, shock, horror and laugh. This film went down well in the demure setting of the Alkham Village hall - but who knows what really goes on? Unexpected figures make brief but telling appearances as the tale tantalisingly unravels - look carefully at fields, turned earth, ponds for glimpses of fur or high viz jackets. Thanks for the film choices, most enjoyable. **Jo Walker**



DECEMBER

Under the mistletoe

No one to kiss

Nowadays

It's just hit and miss

Never did know

It would end like this

When what we had

Was bliss.

Gail Swainston



THE ANNUAL Alkham Valley Society Christmas walk will take place on the 27th of December, starting from the Village Hall at 10.30am. The walk generally takes two hours. Children and dogs encouraged. **Jo Walker**



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Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
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Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669
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Other sites www.alkham.org
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Please ring Tracey for information on 01304 828098

Regular events in the village hall

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Friday | Pilates 10am to 11am |
| Wednesday | Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm |

Other events in the village hall

| | | |
|----------|----|------------------------------|
| Thursday | 29 | Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm |
|----------|----|------------------------------|

CHURCH SERVICES

| Date | Alkham | Capel | Hougham |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Sunday 4 th | Evensong 4.30 pm | Eucharist 9.30 am | Worship 11.00am |
| Saturday 10 th | Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm | | |
| Sunday 11 th | Eucharist 9.30 am | Worship 11.00 am Carols Hall 3.00 pm | Carols at village Hall 11.00 am |
| Saturday 17 th | Carols by Candlelight Capel 7pm | | |
| Sunday 18 th | 9 Lessons and Carols 6.30 pm | | Eucharist 9.30 am |
| Saturday 24 th Christmas Eve | Crib service 4.30 pm Mass 11.30 pm | Crib service 3.00 pm Mass 11.30 pm | |
| Sunday 25 th | | | Eucharist 9.30am |

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

FROM THE VICARAGE - I am writing this on Remembrance Sunday - a day of looking back and remembering, as well as looking forward and praying for a better tomorrow. It also happens to be the deadline for the December edition - which means that even though as I write Advent hasn't even begun, by the time you read this Christmas will be well and truly on its way. Some say that Jesus could possibly have been born around September – shepherds would not have been watching flocks in the fields as late as December. But in the year 336, the Roman Emperor Constantine chose to celebrate the birth of Christ on 25th December, and the tradition seems to have stuck. Since it was the time of year when pagan midwinter celebrations were in full swing anyway, some suspect he may have simply got in on the act. But what is there to celebrate? Read about the Nativity, and Mary and Joseph turn out to have more in common with today's homeless couples looking for somewhere to stay than we would like to think; for women to have to give birth in the same circumstances as Mary today would cause an outcry; and refugees of our own time know all too well what it must have been like for that couple and their baby when they had to flee to Egypt to escape the homicidal King Herod. But for Christians, Christmas is a time of looking back to how Jesus came into the world as one of us – and remembering that it's often when life is at its messiest and most difficult that people tend to find him. And that Christmas is also a time of looking forward and praying for a better tomorrow. Happy Christmas, and a Peaceful New Year. **Brian Williams**

