

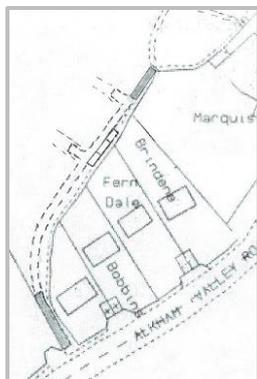
Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 301 February 2019

Non-profit & delivered free
to all properties in the Parish

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CHURCHYARD – Comments have been made about the vehicle access to the churchyard and the state of the ground. The paved areas by the road and church have been completed and, if funds allow, a grass reinforcement mesh at least 2.5 metres wide will be laid over the 60m length between the paved areas in the summer. Three parking bays and two turning bays will be similarly created, as shown on the plan.

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCHYARD has now been formally designated as a Commonwealth War Graves Commission site. The sign on the right is situated by the lychgate and commemorates the three Alkham Heroes buried in the churchyard.



COMMUNITY BUS - The Parish Council has joined, as a group, the Thanet Community Transport Association and paid the membership fee. If any parishioner wants to use the service you will have to register under the Parish Council membership but will not have to pay the joining fee, only the cost of your journeys. To use the service, you must live more than 500 metres from a bus stop, be unable to use public services and are elderly or disabled. If you are interested, then phone 01843 602030 and say that you are an Alkham parishioner and they will answer any queries you may have and register you. If you are unsure, ask any Parish Councillor or friend to ring them on your behalf. **editor**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY- The new steps, kissing gate and path repairs in Sladden wood were admired by members who attended the Christmas Walk on 27th December, thanks to all who came. The work was carried out by the White Cliffs volunteers and make the whole wood more accessible and enjoyable. Thanks also to Anthony Barrier (Parish Councillor) for supporting our request for the said repairs. **Jo Walker (SEC)**

PARISH PLAN UPDATE – An A5 sheet has been delivered with this Newsletter and gives an update on the Parish Plan. No volunteers came forward after the appeal in the January newsletter, but it's not too late; please let us know if you would like to help in any way by contacting Irene Bowie, the Parish Clerk (see bottom of back page for details). **Den Barnard**

THE POWER CUT in Alkham on the 15th January was due to branches being cut off trees by Newlyns Meadow and bringing down three overhead cables. The police and fire brigade attended as the cut cables were arcing badly.

SLADDEN FARM is just to the east of Alkham village and appeared on BBC 1's 'The



Farmers' Country Showdown' on the 16th January. In the programme it featured a breeder of Dexter cattle in Essex and Di Smith at Sladden Farm as they prepared to go to the Royal Norfolk Show. Di was shown at her 74-acre farm and on Shakespeare cliff where her Dexters also graze in an eco-friendly environment. In a charming programme, narrated by Bill Paterson, Di's Dexter, Meadow flower, won a second and Di then went on to win another second and a third with Martin, who helps at the farm, showing some of the Dexters. Di considers the show to be her holiday, as that is the only time she gets off, and is quite amazing at the age of 81 running the farm and caring for her 100 or so Moomin Dexters. **editor**

FOR SALE - Traditional hat and coat hall stand with mirror, glove/key box and original umbrella drip trays. Made by Flashmans & Co of Dover. Very good condition, buyer collects £130. If interested, please ring Irene 01304 824845

TEA AND A CHAT – The next Tea and a chat will be on the 28th February at 2pm. Please do come along to the village hall for some company and refreshments.

FILM NIGHT

Feb 26	Monsoon Wedding
Jan 29	King of Thieves Michael Caine - Ray Winstone

Village Hall 7.30pm
Please bring your own refreshments

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ALKHAM BYWAYS - Off road cars and motor bikes have returned to the Pimlico and Everden byways 185 and 25 cutting ruts, removing barriers, and trespassing. Kent County Council's restoration has been undone, the ruts put

pedestrians and horse riders at risk. As a result of the serious damage KCC have made a further emergency order temporarily excluding motor vehicles (other than quads and motor bikes). Although vehicles are causing further damage to the Bull run (ER122) KCC have said that they do not consider that it needs closing at this stage. The section through the woods has suffered severe damage which KCC say they will repair. In the meantime, it seems unsafe for walkers and horse riders. After two or so year's delay the Parish Council's minutes of its November meeting stated the council's position on local byways that it would prefer seasonal Traffic Regulation Orders but that "it is mindful that the decision ultimately rests with Kent Count Council."

Although it is known that KCC are more likely to make seasonal TROs than permanent ones it is not apparent why the Parish Council do not support the many residents who, at meetings in the Village Hall, clearly prefer permanent TROs. **Peter Smith, Alkham Byways Group**

GARDEN TALK - We are looking forward to spring, and our new series of garden visits, which we hope to begin in March. Anyone who wishes to host an event, or has suggestions of local places to visit or wants more information, please contact: **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**



AIR AMULANCE Would you like one of our volunteer speakers to visit? If you are a member of a local group, club or society (over age 16), then you can book a talk with us - free of charge. Our volunteer will talk about how we work, innovate and save lives. It promises to be an interesting and inspiring meeting for your members, whilst enabling us to raise vital awareness of our charity. If you would like to hear more about us, then we would love to hear from you. Get in touch now to book a talk at a time and place that suits you; 01634 471 900 or talks@aakss.org.uk.

TEMPLE EWELL and District Produce Association's Coffee morning is on Saturday the 9th February in Temple Ewell Village Hall between 10am-12noon. It is free to all members and friends of the club and there will be news of this year's coach trip and you will be able to book your seat with a small deposit. There will also be a table top quiz for you to do while meeting up with friends and having tea/coffee and biscuit. If you would like to join the club, they will have the new schedules (fee only £1) starting with the Spring Show on Saturday March 30th between 2-4pm in Temple Ewell Village Hall.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our January meeting started with a very interesting talk by Jo Murrell talking about the AVCP. Our next meeting will be on February 12th when our speaker will be Girling Solicitors talking about Wills and Inheritance Tax. Hostesses are Cherry Leppard, Christine Peel; Raffle Janet Barrow and VOT Edith Neve. All new members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

BOOK CLUB - The next Alkham Village Book Club meeting will be on Thursday 14th February at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre at 1.00p.m. The book for discussion is The Hidden Legacy by G.J. Minnett. **Jane Aslett**

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ALKHAM TITHE BARN - In the Old Testament a tithe, meaning a tenth, was an offering of one's agricultural income to the Lord as an expression of thanks and dedication. In medieval times, and later, it was the assumption that the world was governed by God and that the clergy should be paid a tithe so that it could operate in his name; there were agnostics who resented paying but it was enforced by law. The church also gained revenue from the Glebe lands and church fees. Originally the tithe was paid in kind and therefore the church needed somewhere to store the corn and other items and in Alkham there was a thatched tithe barn behind the Rectory, as shown on the left in the photograph. An 1836 Act converted tithes into an annual rent and the Marquis paid tithes on the homestead, pasture, hops, arable, garden and sainfoin to the value of just over £6 (£600 today) of which the church got about 10%. In 1936 an act was passed which revoked the payment of the rent tithes but invoked an annuity of an agreed sum which was to last for 60 years. In 1977 the government decided, because of increased administrative costs, that the scheme should cease. The tithe barn was demolished in the 1930's and thanks go to Jo Walker for pointing the barn out and to Alan Latham for providing the links to the tithe records. **editor**

OZ on CHRISTMAS PAST – At the December meeting of Lyminge Laureates, after reading our own poems on the Seasonal Offering theme, we discussed the idea that 'Charles Dickens invented Christmas as we know it.' Opinion was divided, and I decided on further research, partly with a view to this newsletter story. The Oxford English Dictionary's earliest entry for Christmas is from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (1101), which, in translation, says "...this year at Christmas King Henry held his court in Westminster." But this is hardly 'as we know it' and the OED records many further examples with varying degrees of relevance and humour from the next 900 years. Among my favourites are John Swan in Specula Mundi (1635) recording that "...a hot Christmas makes a fat Church-yard.", and Richard Steele in The Spectator (1712) complaining that officials "...have the Impudence at Christmas to ask for their Box." During the 17th century, Christmas Day celebrations were banned by Puritan governments both in England from 1647 to 1660 and the American colonies between 1659 and 1681, effectively abolishing Christmas 'as we know it.' By the time Victoria came to the throne in 1837, the western world had changed significantly. The effects of the British Industrial Revolution and the Second British Empire had fed on each other to produce enormous wealth, of which a little trickled down to ordinary families, sufficient for a modest annual celebration. Prince Albert introduced the Christmas tree and decorations at Windsor Castle in 1841, after which the popularity of Christmas grew rapidly. Charles Dickens's great achievement was in using, rather than inventing, 'Christmas as we know it' to cause change. My father once explained it all to me much more succinctly: "Well, son, what they have to do is turn your pockets out once a year, else they run out of money." **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	5	White Cliff Metal Detectors 7pm to 9pm
Saturday	9	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Monday	18	Bird Club 7.30pm
Saturday	23	Beekeepers in the afternoon
Tuesday	26	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

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
	Evensong 4.30	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am
Saturday 9th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10th	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am	
Sunday 17th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00	Eucharist 9:30
Sunday 24th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - Other churches have tried it – quite successfully apparently – and I thought that we might try it too. Holding a special service for those planning to marry, or who were newly married, on St Valentine's Day, that is. To be honest, it fell a bit flat. What everyone seems to remember was that it was a bitterly cold afternoon, and nobody who came has asked when we're having the next one... So who was St Valentine, and what did he have to do with cards, flowers or chocolates? It seems that around 270, when one of the Roman Emperors, possibly Claudius II, gave orders that anyone helping Christians should be arrested. In Rome someone of that name – possibly a priest – was imprisoned, tortured and executed. The Church declared him a saint and chose to remember him on 14th February. By chance, it was around this time that a pagan festival called Lupercalia was celebrated in Rome. This involved young men being matched with young women, along with other things - many of which would be banned today. Over time the connection between the Saint's Day and the old Roman festival has encouraged people to make the connection between Valentine and the celebrations that we are so familiar with. There's more. Legend says that while awaiting execution Valentine was visited by his jailer's daughter. She was blind, and it is said that when he prayed, she miraculously received her sight. Sadly, there was to be no fairy-tale ending for them. Following his execution, a note was found in his cell, addressed to her and signed 'From Your Valentine.' This St Valentine's Day, prayers and best wishes for all those who are setting out on one of life's greatest adventures... **Brian Williams**

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