

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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to the Parish of
Alkham

LOCAL PLAN - Dover District Council is to consult with residents, community groups, local businesses, and key stakeholders early in the New Year on the first draft of its new Local Plan. This will start on the 20th January 2021 and it is likely that some of the proposals will affect Alkham and details of how to access the plan will be given in a later edition. On page 2 of this newsletter there are articles from Geoff Lymer regarding new housing at Whitfield plus a lorry park which could also have a significant effect on Alkham.

THE PARISH COUNCIL is hoping to set up a register of vulnerable people in our community. If you would like to be on that register or if you need assistance, please email: alkham.assist@outlook.com. We will reply as soon as we can and will direct you to organisations who may be able to assist you during the Covid pandemic. The Parish Council would also like to collect a register of professionals or ex-professionals in the village who could be called on in an emergency. So, if you are, or were, a doctor, nurse, registered first aider, paramedic, police or fire officer please send your details to alkham.assist@outlook.com ...

REPORT a problem on a road or pavement please go to www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem. You can report non-urgent issues online including: streetlight faults; potholes; drainage; traffic signal faults; overgrown vegetation (including hedges and grass). Please use this service as any problems reported are automatically logged for the attention of the Highways Steward. You will be given an incident number and you can log in again to see the progress.

LOST FOOTPATHS REGISTRATION 2026 DEADLINE - Do you know of any lost Public Rights of Way (PROWs) in the parish? Any that are not identified, mapped and application made for legal recognition before 1st January 2026 will be lost forever. If you know of any paths that are lost please report them to the clerk, clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk or me at antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk. All recognised PROWs can be seen on the copy of the definitive map noticeboard opposite the village hall. The Ramblers are the leading group running this campaign - for more information go to ramblers.org.uk - don't lose your way - find out more. **Anthony Barrier**

CHICKENS were culled at a farm in Deal because of bird flu and the chief vets in Britain have decreed that all hens, turkeys and other captive birds will have to be kept indoors from the 14th December to prevent the spread of the bird flu.



ST. ANTHONY'S ALKHAM - A service will be held on Christmas Eve at 10.00 pm and anyone wishing to attend will need to wear a face covering and associate only with members of their own households or 'Christmas bubbles'.

CHRISTMAS ON THE MINNIS - Once again, David Beaney has gladdened the hearts of the residents of Ewell Minnis by providing and setting up a magnificent Christmas tree at the top of Wolverton Hill. Next to the red telephone box and covered in twinkling lights it is bringing seasonal cheer to us all at this very strange Christmas time. Well done! **Gail Swainston**

FISH AND CHIPS - The mobile fish and chip van has proved so popular that they are changing days and giving us more time when visiting Alkham. The van will park on the village hall car park between 4.45pm and 6.45pm on Saturday 16th January and then monthly; for these dates, please ask the operators. Please pre order (if possible) on 07955 926 835 by 4.00pm or by emailing hotchef1968@hotmail.com.

NHS Gift - Conditions at local A&E's are strapped. The best Christmas gift you'll give this year is not catching Covid. If you can, stay home. Don't travel. Don't extend your bubble. Don't catch Covid. Don't overrun the NHS. I know it's hard. But fighting Covid is harder. Happy Christmas and a better New Year. Regards **Catie Webber**

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The articles below are an edit from an email from our Kent County Councillor, Geoffrey Lymer.

The Government is overhauling its planning algorithm used to determine where a swathe of new homes will be built across England and hopefully this will mean building more houses on brownfield urban sites in the Midlands and the North and lead DDC to have a rethink regarding their unrealistic strategy of intending to build thousands of new houses in Whitfield when the surrounding areas do not have the infrastructure or number of jobs to cater for such an increase in population. As a result, the government is giving Dover District Council £16 million to build a Dover Rapid Bus Transport System. The idea is to take shoppers and commuters from villages north of the A2 down to the rail station and shoppers to the shops quicker than they reckon could be done currently on a bus by saving up to 10 minutes on journey time. The Rapid Bus Scheme is to be put in place ready to accept the occupants of thousands of new houses expected to be built in Whitfield and the government is offering £16 million for the projected £40 million to build and that £24 million could be put to better use improving the town centre.

A Customs Transit lorry park is projected to be built by the government at the rear of the B&Q site on the White Cliffs Enterprise park Whitfield. The lorry park will be roughly two and a half times larger than the entire current business park stretching from B&Q right to Whitfield roundabout. Natalie Elphicke the local MP states she wants to keep the roads around Dover clear as we transit from the EU but this lorry park is simply not going to do that with the result that main roads and rural lanes will become grid locked. You will be told that this will create 160 new jobs which is not accurate, for currently HM Customs operate a Custom Handling Import and Export Facility, employing a similar number of staff that will be closed. Our area will be damaged by these HGVs unless you can try to stop it now, by emailing the Under Transport Minister Rachel Maclean on rachel.maclean@dft.gov.uk, your local MP Natalie Elphicke on email address natalie.elphicke.mp@parliament.uk and the leader of Dover District Council Cllr Trevor Bartlett on Cllr-Trevor.Bartlett@DOVER.GOV.UK. I would be appreciative if you would be so kind as to copy me into your emails to ensure you receive replies to your objections. **Geoffrey Lymer**

CALL FOR A CHAT with Ruth - If you are on your own or feeling isolated and would like a chat Councillor Ruth Marczin-Bundy is happy to hear from you on 07906 213716. Please note that this is not relating to parish council matters or medical concerns but Ruth would like to offer a friendly conversation with anyone who would like to chat.

AIR AMBULANCE - Would you like one of our volunteer speakers to join you on your group or club's video call or meeting? If you are a member of a local group, club or society, 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 and hear how you and your members could get involved in supporting us. 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 talks@aakss.org.uk

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THE VICTORIANS AND THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS

In an anonymous book published in 1871, the author advocated the use of flowers as superior to writing love letters because: "Written love-letters would often be inadequate to convey the idea of the feelings which are thus expressed through the medium of flowers. Thus orange-blossoms signify hope; marigolds, despair; roses, beauty." If a young man decided that he wanted to pursue a young lady he might tell her this by sending her a bouquet made up of ivy (friendliness), snowdrops (hope), and roses (love). Conversely, if a young lady wanted to send a similar message to a gentleman that his attentions are indeed not repulsive to her, she might dress her hair with these flowers. If two young lovers wanted to meet in private and in secret the message could be conveyed with flowers. This bouquet would be comprised of sweet peas (meeting); convolvulus (night) and forget-me-not (Do not forget). A gentleman could tell a lady that he loved her simply by sending her one red rose. A lady could show that he returned his affection by wearing that rose. Much of the language of flowers originated in the romantic myths that give the flowers their names or in the superstitions that are associated with the flowers. For instance, the anemone, which signifies withered hopes and being forsaken derives its name from the Greek word from wind. Anemones are also known as Windflowers. There were different meanings ascribed to the same flowers (and lovers could have an understanding between themselves as to what a particular flower would mean). **Jackie Grebby LITTLE EVERDEN ROAD** – The soakaway and gullies that the Highway Authority installed on the road appear to be working. Now that the road is not flooded it's interesting to see that the water is coming from the adjacent field, however the landowner is not responsible for water run-off from his land.

THE SPARROWHAWK

Stalking the hedgerows
Close by twigs by rustling leaves
Silent as breath -

The sparrow dives, flies,
Tries to escape
Too late. With arrowed wings
I am the arc of death.

Nip and rip
Tug and tear
Sunday lunch
Lies flat
On its back
Right there
Where
I brought it down
And stripped it bare.

Gail Swainston

GARDEN ENTHUSIASTS -

One of the few positive signs of the past year has been the interest shown in gardening and growing our own fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers. Time spent outside has paid dividends to our mental health. So, I expect that many gardens in the village will be a blaze of colour in 2021. Our local group is always welcoming those who are keen to host a visit to their garden, possibly with some refreshment and lots of chat. I am intending to prepare a programme for our Garden Talk Group for this coming summer - please contact me if you are able to participate, or just want details of the events as they are arranged. **Janet Adamson** 01303 893413 janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com

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Sadly, because of the pandemic and the need to keep everyone safe, our Carol Services and Crib Services have to be online this year: please visit our Facebook page (see below). **If you choose to come to a service in church,** please remember to wear a **face covering,** use **sanitizer** on arrival, maintain **social distancing** and **keep to the rules** that apply to the Tier that we find ourselves in about who you can interact with.

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 20 th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
Online Carol Service www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH from Saturday 19th.			
Online Crib Service www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH from Tuesday 22nd.			
Thursday 24 th	Midnight Mass 10 pm	Midnight Mass 11.30pm	
Online Christmas Service www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH from Thursday 24th.			
Friday 25 th			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 27 th		Eucharist 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 - Doing my other job, like everything else just now, is proving tricky. I was a supply teacher working in secondary schools until a couple of years ago. Now I work with children who, for one reason or another, find school tricky, usually spending an hour or two working alongside them in their homes. That worked until the pandemic came along - home tuition and social distancing don't really go together. Going through my school bag the other day I came across some books that I had been lent to me by one of the schools I work with to use with one of my proteges. We had finished with them and the school probably needed them – so I rang up to see when I could drop them in. Reception answered. Covid had struck; their pupils had all been sent home and only a skeleton staff remained on site – please would I hang onto the books until after Christmas? Needless to say, Christmas itself promises to be rather different this year. Having a good loud sing, even carol singing, presents risks. And how do you explain sanitizer, social distancing, and the dangers of spreading infection by touching the crib figures to a small child? So reluctantly, like other churches up and down the country, we shall celebrate much of Christmas online. There will be services at Alkham and Capel on Christmas Eve, and at Hougham on Christmas morning – socially distanced, of course. For Christians, behind Christmas lies the conviction that in a time no less troubled than our own, God walked the earth as one of us. Whatever 2021 brings, we need not feel that we must face it alone. So I wish you and yours a Happy Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.

Brian Williams

POLICE 999 or 101

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Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors

clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Hall booking Tracey Prince 828098

W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641

Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784

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