

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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DEREK BANKS-NASH - The family and I would like everyone who came to Derek's funeral to know how much it meant to us, and would have done so to Derek, when he saw such a lot of people from the village. We were even more delighted when we got back from the Crematorium to see everybody enjoying themselves and circulating the room. All of our family, especially the girls and I, would like to take this opportunity to give our heartfelt thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who so kindly arranged everything. When we arrived at the hall in the morning with all the food etc., and even more so when we arrived after the service, we were not expecting to see so many people 'with their sleeves rolled up'. It was lovely, and we can't thank you all enough for making the occasion so good a 'send-off' for Derek. He would have been overjoyed. Thank you all again, from all of us, especially Anna, Rachel and myself. **Marion Banks-Nash**

GUITAR CONCERT - For the eighth year running Jimmy D'Alton Bellas is bringing some of his past and present pupils to St Anthony's for a 'Summer Evening Guitar Concert' on Saturday 30th June at 6:30pm. Once again special guest star Grant Dowse will be back eager to perform in the beautiful setting of our church. Mezzo Soprano Emily Renshaw will also be returning. Tickets are £8 with all proceeds going to St Anthony's and you will also be able to see the new kitchen and toilet facilities of the church which have just been completed. Tickets from Den (01304 824845) or Jimmy (01304 823164). **Den Barnard**

SWEET CHARITY - On Saturday 5th May, those attending the Sweet Charity event, at the Village Hall, for a stroll down memory lane were given an absolutely first-class evening of entertainment. The event, organised by Heather Waller in aid of the motor neuron disease charity, was fully booked out. It was an evening of two halves the first being acts of the old-time music hall nature followed in the second half by outstanding performances of well-known tunes of the past rendered by 5 professional singers from Maidstone, including Heather's son David Waller. The standard of their singing, individually and as a group, was quite remarkable. Thank you to all those involved for such an entertaining evening. **Geoff Hillier**

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS - As part of an Emergency Plan the Parish Council have put together a list of contact numbers. If a crisis should occur, and when necessary the emergency services have been contacted by dialing 999, the list gives the contact details of other agencies and people who can be contacted. The list is on the notice board outside the village hall and also on the two village web sites as shown on the back page of this Newsletter.

FETE MEETING - there will be the (final) Fete Stallholders' Meeting on **Thursday 7th June at 8 pm** in the Village Hall; we are nearly ready to go with the arrangements for the **Fete on the 14th July** starting at 1 pm, but all stallholders (or anyone interested in helping) should attend so we can make sure everything is in hand. We have a number of exciting new features this year, including Lamb Racing, so watch out for further information in the next newsletter and please come along to the meeting (and obviously the Fete) and get involved in the premier village event of the year.

Paul Tapsell 01303 892082

FETE - Any pictures, paintings or wall hangings you no longer want will be much appreciated if donated to our 'Art and Picture' stall at this year's Fete. Please contact Rosemary at 01303 892878. Happy to collect.

FETE - Handbags and scarves for the Fete. Please if you can donate a handbag for my stall, I would be most grateful. I am always in the Village Hall on Wednesdays at 10.30am if you can drop it in, if not please ring me and I will collect. Thank you very much. Susannah Tel. 01304 822295.

FILM NIGHT

May 29th

**Three Billboards Outside
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June 26th

**Darkest Hour
Gary Oldman**

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50
Please bring your own refreshments

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BUS TIMES – Evidently the Alkham 91 bus timetable is changing from the 4th June. The StageCoach web site doesn't give the latest timetable so the details on the back of this Newsletter haven't been changed. However, I understand it should still be the same time at The Marquis going towards Folkestone but will now go via Warren Way and Canterbury Road, so it takes longer to get into Bus Station (and doesn't go via the Central Station and Royal Victoria Hospital). The return from Folkestone will be at 39 minutes past the hour, not 59 minutes. If possible, please check these details before travelling.

AVS are pleased to announce that they are in possession of a number of sketches depicting local scenes of Alkham by former resident and local artist Margret Knowles who now resides in Bath. Margaret has very kindly said that she is delighted to help and support AVS by allowing us to reproduce her sketches by way of notelets for sale for fund raising purposes in aid of AVS. AVS are therefore very pleased to announce that the first edition set of four views of Alkham are now available as notelets for just £4 for the set. The set consist of views of "The Old Post Office & Halton Court", "Hogbrook Hill Lane", "Village entrance from Dover" and "Meggett Lane South Alkham". Full details of the set can be obtained and ordered from alkhamvalleysociety@btinternet.com or from The Treasurer, AVS, Greenwood Manor, Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7EF. Watch out for further views to be released later in the year. **Bev Hubbard**

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - At the AGM on 14th May 2018, Martin Hibbert was elected as the new Vice Chairman; he will also take on the role of Flood Warden. Martin has been in contact with KCC Highways to arrange for assessments to take place of the affected areas of Alkham. If there are any ditches, gullies or sumps that you know of that need attention then please feel free to let us know. A new budget for the CLP launch day has now been agreed so plans can move forward. As always, if you would like to raise anything with the Parish Council, please email clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk.

ALKHAM MEMORIES - After two years of planning, the local history exhibition took place over a weekend in April. Based on some of the material that Susan Lees had collected over the past 40 years, the photographs and scrapbooks were supplemented by maps and farm records as well as the opportunity to research further, and to watch a collection of DVDs put together by Den of village events. A highlight was an updated version of Mark Robson's presentation on Alkham heroes of both world wars. The numbers who came, from the village and surrounding areas were appreciative: many stayed a couple of hours sharing reminiscences. Our grateful thanks to all who helped, and to Sue for hosting our Meetings.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our May meeting was a resolutions meeting about mental health. The next meeting will be on June 12th when our speakers will be George Taylor and Peter Clayton speaking about the story of Frank Sinatra. Hostesses are Sue Ross and Pam Sayers; Raffle Debbie Saunders and VOT Helen Price. New Members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**



GARDEN TALK - Our next visit is to Bramhall, Alkham Valley Road where Susannah & Richard Tapsell will be showing us around their garden and offering hospitality on Friday 8th June from 7.30p.m. We look forward to early summer colour and an immaculate vegetable garden. **Janet Adamson**

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Tracey Prince BSc (hons). PGCE. QTS. CELTA. CRB

OZ on CREATION – In the spring, we went to Maidenhead to hear Maidenhead Choral Society, which includes my daughter in the soprano line, sing Haydn's oratorio The Creation. It was a superb performance from choir, soloists and orchestra; I've sung this same work many times over the years, but never to this high standard. From where we sat in the front row, I could see and hear every musician; halfway through the second half I began to think of the complexity of what was going on in their heads and nervous systems, and how and why it all came about. I grew up in a devout religious environment, and learned that God created humans between 6,000 and 10,000 years ago on the sixth day of a week in which he had created the remainder of Life, the Universe and Everything. Animals and the first two humans emerged fully formed and there was no mention of who had created God. Later, a scientific education taught me that the whole universe emerged from nothing in a Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago, with the earth appearing 4.5 billion years ago, and humans evolving from primitive life-forms from 2.5 billion years ago to today, especially over the last 7 million years. For me, both theories were perfectly plausible, and I remain happy with my teacher's explanation that the first story was "just a parable for what actually happened, as that was so complicated." The bigger puzzle is why is there a universe at all? What if there were no universe? I'm quite capable of brooding on this subject until my head spins and I wonder if indeed I exist or not. At that point the only remedy is to listen to some music, Haydn perhaps or even my old idol Count Basie. **Steve Osborn**



ADDERS have been sighted in the dog walking area in Alkham and they can be told apart from grass snakes and slow worms by their distinctive zig-zag markings. Snake bites can be fatal, so dog owners need to act quickly if a dog has

been bitten. The dog will almost certainly cry out as bites are very painful. There is usually severe swelling around the bite area and if around the face or throat can be very dangerous. If your dog has been bitten, try and keep the dog as calm and still as possible and it is better to bring transport to the dog rather than making them walk back. Go straight to your vet and do not interfere with the wound or tie any sort of tourniquet because there is a danger of tissue damage around the bite.

CROSSWORD – In January 1942 a £100 prize was offered by the Daily Telegraph to anyone who could solve one of their crossword puzzles in 12 minutes or under. People were invited to the Telegraph newsroom and 12 contestants completed the crossword in the allotted time. However, they were considered so good that they were recruited by Bletchley Park as codebreakers. If anyone would like to have a go I can give you a copy. **editor**

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH - Following two hours of extra deep cleaning St Anthony's is now sparkling again, and it was wonderful to be able to use the new kitchen facilities for a well-earned coffee break. I would like to offer a huge thank you to Sue and Mike Ross, Avi Munn, Sandie Spencer, Anne Huggins, Linda Gaskill, Richard Tapsell and Den Barnard. **The Project Team**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop from 10am – 1pm Yoga 1.10pm – 2.10pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Yoga 9.30 to 11.00am and 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	5	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Thursday	7	Fete meeting 8pm – all welcome
Saturday	9	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	26	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

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

07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16 Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.07 16.32 17.32 Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32
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CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 3 rd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 9 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10 th	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11 am	
Sunday 17 th	Worship 11 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 24 th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham with Prayer Ministry 10.00 am		

From the vicarage - Norwich was once the home of the first woman to write a book in English – Julian of Norwich. She lived towards the end of the fourteenth century and lived as an anchoress – a woman who lived in a cell alongside a church, dedicated to a life of prayer and to doling out advice to those who came to her window asking for it. Today visitors can see St Julian's Church, heavily rebuilt after being bombed in 1942, and Mother Julian's cell – just as I did recently. Mother Julian was convinced that with God, our failings – whatever and however serious they might be – never have the last word. "All Shall Be Well," she famously wrote – a comforting thought in our anxious times, ideal for printing on a mug. Yes, I do have one. I had travelled to Norwich by train. Everything had gone smoothly until about half an hour away from journey's end when we slowed to a crawl. The PA system crackled. The conductor explained that we were approaching a series of level crossings. There had been reports of something on the line, and they had been told to slow and keep a sharp lookout. In mid-sentence, he suddenly interrupted himself: LOOK AT THAT VOLVO! Of course, everyone did just that. With the barrier down and nothing in sight, the Volvo driver had impatiently positioned himself ready to zig-zag over the line until alerted to the approach of our train. He sat sheepishly at the wheel as one coachload of passengers after another rumbled past, eyeballing him as they went, accompanied by a furious lecture from the conductor over the PA system about rules at level crossings. "All Shall Be Well," wrote Mother Julian. But whatever our shortcomings are, it probably helps if we work on them...

Brian Williams

POLICE 999 or 101

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KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
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