

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

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GET TOGETHER – The Village Hall would like to set up a weekly event, during the day, where people can come along and meet other people, whether they be old friends or new ones, and have a chat. There could be a computer, which those new to the Internet will be shown how to use, and an opportunity to set up an email account that could be checked regularly. Entrance would be free, and refreshments will be provided. People of any age are invited to come along so please ring 824969, email alkhamnews@gmail.com or leave a note in the Parish Council mail box outside the village hall if you are interested.

TRAFFIC - At the next Parish Council meeting on the 12th March a presentation will be made to the Parish Council of the results of the latest Questionnaire where parishioners were asked for their views on suggested measures to calm traffic on the Alkham Valley Road. All are invited to the meeting to learn how the Parish Council proposes to present these findings to KCC with a view to their implementation. **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM – Has Alkham lost its identity? The Boundaries Commission has set up a consultation on the election boundaries that make up Dover and Deal. It also recommended that Dover District Council should have only 32 councillors in the future, a reduction of 13. Alkham is currently in the River ward and as such is not recognised as a defined area within the ward. If you have a view on this please go to <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/> and leave a comment. The closing date is the 9th April 2018. **Bev Hubbard**

BREAK INS – A number of sheds have been broken into at Ewell Minnis recently and the police have advised that people should check that their outbuildings are secure.

LENT LUNCH - As Richard and I are unable to host a Lent Lunch this year, which would raise money for a charity of our choice, we are making a donation to the local Salvation Army. If anybody would like to add to this donation during Lent, Wednesday 14th February-Wednesday 28th March, by contributing a small amount, perhaps

BYWAYS – Despite there being a closure notice on Pimlico Way, off road vehicles are still using it and are trespassing on adjacent land. It is very difficult to block the byway as it can still be used by equestrians and horse drawn vehicles. However, it is a road traffic offence so please report any incidents to the police (101) and also the local Community Safety unit at www.kent.police.uk/your-area/canterbury-and-dover/river/

FILM NIGHT

February 27	Victoria & Abdul
March 27	The Party Comedy drama
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

VILLAGE HALL – Following comments received about keeping food warm, the village hall now has a new electric cooker which has two ovens and a ceramic top.

ALKHAM MEMORIES - An exhibition in the Village Hall on the weekend of 21 & 22 April, including material from the Local History Collection held by Susan Lees. The Hall will be open from 11.00a.m. until 4.00p.m. both days. Mark Robson will be giving a presentation "The Alkham Heroes" at 3.00p.m. on the Saturday, followed by tea and cake. All welcome, no admission charge! **Janet Adamson**

CHURCH – The water pipe has been laid and awaits connection and the lighting to the path is partially installed. Inside the font has been moved and other works for the new toilet and kitchenette continue.

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the price of a coffee, then the Village hall is open on Wednesdays, 10.30am-11am. when you could drop in with it. **Thank you.**
Susannah Tapsell

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH

The new Alkham website is now live; click and enjoy www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. Some of you may have found the site already, but if this is your first time have a search around. The improved features allow easy navigation to access the information you want. Thanks go to the website team for delivering a greatly improved site, especially to Harlan Weber for the web development. This is still a "work in progress" website, and we are open to host information for village and club activities, including additional useful link information. We would welcome your feedback. Please let us know what you think by emailing clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk.

FACEBOOK – The link to the Alkham Facebook page is currently on www.alkham.org. If you want twitter added, please email – see web site.

CONSULTATION ABOUT PIMLICO AND BULLRUN (Byways ERs 122,185 and 25) - Andrew Hutchinson of Kent County Council has sent a letter about these Alkham byways to people who he believes have an interest. He is asking for observations, views and information about the byways and their future management. He wants the consultation to be as inclusive as possible and for the letter to be circulated to others who wish to contribute to the process. The consultation is the next step in a process that may lead to Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) excluding 4x4s and motor bikes from these byways. There is no certainty at all that this will happen - the byways may be left open to all vehicles and they may be closed to all users on the grounds of safety as happened in 2016-7. To get TROs excluding motor vehicles we need to make the case to KCC. The Alkham & District byways group has provided safety assessments, photos and much else to KCC about the damage to byways and surrounding land caused by vehicles. Residents and users of the byways also need to give their views to KCC in this consultation. I have sent copies of the consultation letter to people who I know have an interest. That includes those who attended meetings in the village hall about byways last year or in 2016. If you have not received copy of the letter and would like one, please let me know. **Peter Smith - pnsmith755@gmail.com - 07711 648 255**

LADIES KEEP FIT in the village hall was started by Susannah Tapsell 18 years ago and is still going strong and last year it raised £600 for various charities and groups as well.

GARDEN TALK - We start the year with our (now traditional) wine quiz on Friday 9th March from 7.30p.m. at 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane. Gordon has been busy over the last 2 years preparing many fruity wines for sampling. Our outdoor garden visits will start in April - suggestions and hosts are still needed. Please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413)

DUE TO the church alterations there will be no memorial flowers this Easter but if you would like your loved ones remembered in our prayers please give me a ring and I will pass them on to Brian Williams. Perhaps you would like to make a donation to the church on the day. Please contact Carol on 01304 826514.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our February meeting was about the Salvation Army at which we had an excellent speaker who was Eileen West. Our next meeting will be 13th March and our speaker will be Jean Hatton, subject prison reformer. Hostesses Shelley Jackson, Beryl King; Raffle Sue Ross and VOT Eileen West. New members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**

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LIME KILN – About 400 metres up Slip Lane there is a right turn to Lydden, known locally as White Hill or Chalky Hill. The road is very steep and at the top of the first rise there used to be a lime kiln by the side of the road (not photo). The location is easy to spot as there is a large hole where the chalk was excavated to make lime. If chalk (CaCO_3) is heated to 900°C it changes to lime (CaCO) and carbon dioxide

(CO_2) with the resultant lime being primarily used to make mortar. The kiln would have been funnel shape with alternate layers of chalk and coal in it and after three days of burning, lime was produced. Many thanks to Alan Latham for finding the 19th century map. **editor**

THE WOLVERTON WARRIOR - A few weeks ago I visited two of Alkham's oldest residents who have recently moved to Dover. They are two Anglo-Saxon males excavated in 2007 and 2008 by a team led by Vince Burrows that included students and Alkham residents. The excavations identified two Bronze age barrows (burial mounds) and an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery on the barrows. Anglo-Saxons in Kent often chose to bury their dead on much earlier burial sites perhaps as a way of associating themselves with their ancestors. The small cemetery included a remarkable double grave containing the Wolverton warrior with his sword, spear, knife, shield boss (the metal cone at the centre of a wooden shield) and a pottery wine vessel. Remarkably a second male burial was directly underneath the first burial separated by wood planking. The double grave and its contents are now in a display case at the museum. Alkham residents contributed to the cost of the case. I recommend visiting the museum to see the impressive display cabinet with a reconstruction of the grave and the finds accompanied by a story board. Entry to the museum is free. More information and interim reports can be found at <http://www.alkhamarchaeology.co.uk>. Vince plans to publish the full excavation report in Archaeologia Cantiana, the journal of Kent Archaeological Society. **Peter Smith**

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present a concert in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 24th March, featuring Gioachino Rossini's "Stabat Mater", Gerald Finzi's "Lo, the Full, Final Sacrifice" and the world premiere of an orchestral work, Michael Lewis's "A Day at the Lakes". The concert, performed by professional soloists, the society's chorus and The Connaught Orchestra, will be conducted by the society's Musical Director, Stephen Yarrow. Tickets £14 (Students £7) are available from members of the society, online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/doverchoral, or telephone 01304 872812 and, if any remain, at the door on the night. For more information email info@doverchoralsociety.org.uk or find us on Facebook or Twitter @ DoverChoral. **Steve Osborn**

CANTORES DOMINICAE will perform "A German Requiem" by Brahms in Holy Trinity Church, Folkestone, at 7pm on Saturday 10th March 2018. Soloists Penelope Martin-Smith (soprano) and Stephen Foster (baritone) will be accompanied by Cantores in the double piano London 1871 version, all conducted by the choir's Musical Director, Adrian Bawtree. Tickets £10 (under 12 free) are available from members of the society, Laing Bennett (Lyminge), or pay on entry. **Steve Osborn**



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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Yoga 9.30 to 11.00am
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	6	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Saturday	10	SEK astronomical society in the afternoon
Monday	12	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm all welcome
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Monday	19	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	27	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1
Saturday	31	Beekeepers in the afternoon

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 4th		Eucharist 9.30 am Compline 5pm	Worship 11 am
Saturday 10 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11 th Mother Sunday	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11 am Compline 5 pm	Worship 11 am
Sunday 18 th		Evensong 5 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 25 th	Benefice Eucharist and Palm Procession 10.00 am Hougham		
Thursday 29 th	Maundy Thursday Benefice Eucharist 7.30 pm Hougham		
Friday 30 th	Good Friday Benefice Service 10.00 am Hougham		
Saturday 31 st	Building the Easter Garden at Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00-5.00 pm		
Sunday 1 st April	Easter Day Eucharist 9.30 am		

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - At university one Wednesday morning I found myself with a few moments before my next lecture, and decided to grab a coffee. Beside the till in the coffee shop was a plateful of muffins – carrot cake muffins, no less, irresistible to Yours Truly. Moments later I sat contemplating the muffin that felt as though it had been destined for my tummy since the beginning of time itself, and recalled a conversation that had ended with the words, “You’ll be there, Brian – there will be cake!” I wondered – could I really be addicted to cake? If so, what else could I be addicted to? Fast forward to the same coffee shop one week later, with more muffins on show – but this Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, and this time I did manage to resist temptation and make do with just the coffee. The forty days of Lent recall the stories from the gospels of Jesus fasting in the wilderness and resisting temptation in preparation for what was to follow. ‘Lent’ is an Old English word for spring – a time of growth. For some of us Lent is a time when we take a long, hard look at ourselves in preparation for Easter, and pray for strength to grow. I’m facing forty days without cake, of course, and others will be facing their own wildernesses without chocolate or biscuits or whatever. But it’s all wasted if Lent isn’t a time of growth for us – if we haven’t grown a bit more into the people that we are really intended to be. So I wish you all a fertile Lent, and look forward to celebrating the joy of Easter Day. **Brian Williams**

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 Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com
 Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
 W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
 Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
 AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
 Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
 Church Wardens Susannah Tapsell 822295 & Geoff Gaskill 823100
 MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
 KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
 DDC - P Beresford 216187
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