

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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NEW VILLAGERS Meet and Greet Coffee Morning - There are many new families in the village since the last coffee morning, so thought it a good idea to have another. This event is a lovely way to meet new friends and neighbours and enjoy free coffee and tea, with biscuits, and treats for the children. Like before, we need established locals to come to act as welcomers. Please come along to the village hall on Saturday 4th May from 10am - 12.30. This event is sponsored by the Alkham Fund. **Irene Barnard**

MIDSUMMER BARN DANCE - Thanks to the generosity of Ann and John Huggins the Alkham Community Midsummer Barn Dance will be held at Greenwood Farm on 29th June 2019. Dancing from 19.30 to 23.30 to 'Contraband'. Tickets will be £10.00 each and will include a light supper. Licensed bar on the night. Tickets available from Graham Bissett. Contact 07789690786 or at graham.bissett@talk21.com. All proceeds from the event will be given to a local charity.

ALKHAM PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE - By now you should all have received a questionnaire. We need your views and thoughts on the focused questions. With your help we can work together towards building an inclusive social community within our Parish. If you haven't yet received a questionnaire, please contact your local councillor or Parish Clerk. The deadline for completion and return of the questionnaire is 30th April, so don't Delay - Have Your Say. **PP Team**
THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY has reopened as a village pub and the official opening was on the 5th of April to which parishioners were invited. The evening was a great success as the pub was absolutely crowded with people who also enjoyed a complimentary glass of champagne. The Marquis has been refurbished to a very high standard with a pub appeal (and rooms) and we wish the new landlords, Will and Nadine, all the best for the future.

A MAJOR slip up means the advertised film for April Film Night, which was to have been 'Green Book', has now had to be postponed and in its place the film to be screened on April 30th is 'Bohemian Rhapsody', the story of the band 'Queen'. The May film is still 'The Favourite'.

ST. ANTHONY'S church was absolutely packed on the 13th March for Pam Sayers funeral service and it was a fitting tribute to a much loved and respected lady. On page 3 is a recollection written by her.

BASKETS - Two hanging baskets have been put outside the entrance to Alkham village hall and they look great. They are part of privately funded initiative by Tracey Prince to bring colour to the village.

JUNIOR BAKE OFF is looking for bakers aged between 9-15 to take part in Series 5! For more information or an application form go to applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk. Applications close Monday 6th May 2019.

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS will be held on the 2nd May with voting at Alkham village hall. Only the District Councillor for Alkham and Capel-le-Ferne Ward will be voted for because the Parish Council is uncontested as less than seven people applied. The elected councillors are therefore Anthony Barrier, David Beaney, Neil Burrows, Martin Hibbert, Ruth Marczin-Bundy and Tracey Prince.



FREE LOGS

A large bay tree has just been felled, with DDC approval, in the centre of the village. If you'd like some free logs, please ring 01304 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

THE APRIL 'Tea and a Chat' will take place at the Village Hall on Thursday 25th when parish residents are invited to come along between 2pm and 4pm to join others for free tea and biscuits in convivial company. May's meet will be on the last Thursday of the month, the 30th. So, if you're feeling you'd like to join in and meet up with like-minded friends for a couple of hours, then do come along. **Geoff Hillier**
ALKHAM WI JUMBLE SALE in the village hall, 11th May from 10.30am to 12 o'clock. Refreshments available. Entrance 25p.

FILM NIGHT	
April 30	Bohemian Rhapsody
May 28	The Favourite
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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GUITAR CONCERT - For the ninth 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 29th June at 6:30pm. Once again Jimmy's young pupils will be eager to perform in the beautiful setting of our church together with star performers including Emily Renshaw who will be returning once again. Tickets are £8 and refreshments will be available at nominal cost. All proceeds as always go to the Friends of St Anthony's for the upkeep of our church. Tickets from Den (01304 824845) or Jimmy (01304 823164).

A CAUTIONARY TALE – A man with an expensive house butchered an oak tree that was blocking the view. The tree was subject to a preservation order and as he had not asked for permission he was taken to court and fined £1200. However, as the value of the house had increased by £21,000 it was deemed to be proceeds of a crime and with that plus legal costs the bill came to £40,000. In addition to preservation orders, if you live in a conservation area then you must also get permission to fell or work on a tree.

TRAFFIC - A complaint has been raised with Kent Highways on their website because of the increase in traffic and oversized vehicles on Slip Lane recently and the amount of damage they are causing to the banks, verges and trees lining the Lane, as well as being a safety risk to all users of the Lane be they walkers, horse riders or other vehicles drivers (the oversized vehicles cannot reverse safely). The request is, that as there is a "not suitable for HGV or oversized vehicles" sign at the bottom of Slip Lane, junction with Alkham Valley Road for traffic coming up Slip Lane; there is not one at the top of the Lane junction with Chalksole Green Lane, for traffic coming down, can Highways please erect one there? This traffic appears to be coming via Hawkinge; maybe their satnav directs them this way? **Bev Hubbard**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for May will be on Thursday 9th at the Alkham Valley Garden centre starting at 1.00p.m. We will be discussing The Long Song by Andrea Levy. If you are interested, please come along and join us. **Jane Aslett**

A DOG WALKING SERVICE called Lunabees is run by Gretel who is insured and CRB checked. She charges £10 an hour and can be contacted on 07853889014. (*free one-off as no advertising space*)

ALKHAM W.I. - Our April meeting was a member's night and our next meeting will be on the 14th May at 7.30pm. It's our resolutions evening followed by a Quiz by the two Debbie's. Hostesses are Susannah Tapsell, Alison Warnock; Raffle Mari Jones. New members welcome. Sadly, our American supper evening has been cancelled. **Debbie Griggs**

GARDEN TALK - We have started our garden visits this spring and have enjoyed meeting new neighbours. The next visit is to 'Bramhall' on the Alkham Valley Road on Friday 10th May from 7.30p.m. Further details from Janet Adamson (01303 893413).

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present a concert in River Parish Church, Minnis Lane, River, CT17 ORG, at 3.00 pm on Saturday 11th May 2019, featuring Faure: Requiem, Mozart: Coronation Mass, Faure: Cantique de Jean Racine, and Rutter. Soloists Bridget Tizzard, June Woodland, Joseph Yarrow and Kye Clarke, the society's chorus, and Rod Spencer (organ). Tickets (£10) are available from members of the society or at the door on the night. For further information email lindsaypowellwilliams@btinternet.com phone Lindsay 01304 203066.

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

Visit our new houseplant section which has a great selection of traditional/unusual plants. Summer flowering bulbs, potatoes and onion packs now in stock.

Our new garden and gift areas are full with unusual/practical gifts for the garden & home. Why not visit our tearooms for a Big Valley Breakfast, Lunch or afternoon Tea. Our homemade cakes are delicious!

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PAM SAYERS died in March and the following article, which she wrote about George and Mabel Jenkins, is printed as a tribute.

My grandfather's brother, great-uncle George, and his wife, Mabel, lived in France before the First World War. Why, I do not know. When the war started, Uncle George was fighting for the allies and was captured by the Russians and made to work in the salt mines*. To me as a child he always seemed a little odd, which I realised in later life was due to his treatment as a prisoner of war. After the First World War, Uncle George and Aunt Mabel went back to live in France and the War Graves Commission put him in charge of all the cemeteries, to make sure they were tended regularly and looked immaculate. Which they did. When the Second World War commenced, he and his wife fled to England from the advancing German army, to Dover, where all their close relatives lived and they stayed with another sister, Jessie Jenkins, who lived in Folkestone Road. When the war ended, they went back to France and Uncle George was again put in charge of the cemeteries. At the age of fourteen I went to stay with them and was taken by Uncle George on a tour of the cemeteries with all their crosses, row after row of them, very upsetting at that age but the grounds were immaculate. Unfortunately, I cannot remember the death of either of them because all the Jenkins family, including my grandmother, fled from Dover and the shelling to Bodicote, a village near Banbury, Oxfordshire. They all returned, except for two daughters who married in Banbury and settled there in Oxfordshire. **P. E. Sayers**
**The Russians were our allies in the First World War, so this is more likely to have been the Germans (Prussians?) who did employ slave labour in salt mines in Germany and Poland – Mark Robson.*

OZ on ENGLAND, THEIR ENGLAND – This time of year, with birds singing and the world coming to life again, reminds me of my father and his joy at the return of the cricket season. He was always keen on sport, playing football and tennis when young, and cricket well into middle and early old age. I couldn't follow in his cricketing footsteps, as being both half-blind in my left eye and right-handed was a lethal combination in front of the wicket. Teachers didn't allow me to abstain from batting, and so I often saved my life by simply raising the bat and letting the ball demolish the stumps. However I always supported Dad in his enthusiasm by watching him play, score keeping, taking him to Test matches, and exchanging cricketing literature such as *Beyond a Boundary*, by the West Indian C.L.R. James, or *England, Their England*, written in 1933 by Scottish writer A.G. Macdonell. During World War 1, MacDonnell had served as a lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery and been invalided out, later becoming a journalist. The life of Lieutenant Cameron, the hero of *England, Their England*, follows the same trajectory in a narrative described by Helen Moran as being 'somewhat autobiographical.' The story concerns the nature of England between the wars, with humorous anecdotes about town and country life: "Boone was a huge, awe-inspiring colossus of a man, weighing at least eighteen stone..." The most hilarious passage is the account in Chapter 7 of a village cricket match, where the village blacksmith secures a draw by hitting the ball so high that it takes MacDonnell three pages to describe its return to earth. My father died in April 1996, so in the next few days I shall read a few pages from *England, Their England* to myself in his memory. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm		
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm		
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am		
Other Events in the village hall			
Thursday	2	Local council voting 6.30 – 10.30 see page 1	
Saturday	4	Meet and greet 9am to 12 see page 1	
Tuesday	7	Whitecliffs Metal Detectors 7.30pm	
Saturday	11	W.I. jumbles sale 11am – SEKAS 7pm to 9pm	
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm	
Thursday	23	Possible European elections	
Tuesday	28	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1	
Thursday	30	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm see page 1	
CHURCH SERVICES			
DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 11th	Messy church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 19th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm
Sunday 26th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Thursday 30th			Eucharist 7.00 pm
BUS TIMES To Dover 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 To Folkestone 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			

FROM THE VICARAGE - On Sunday mornings at the church where I served as a curate a small group of familiar faces would gather in one corner, just as the service began. Mumbling their way through the hymns and hardly ever going forward for communion, or even a blessing, they knew that after the service everyone stayed on for coffee and biscuits. They always chose the nearest corner to the coffee urn, and as the last chords of the final hymn died away the biscuits would start to disappear. Jesus once compared God to someone who, his invitations to a banquet having all been turned down by those for whom they were intended, then told his servants to bring in anyone they found on the streets or in the hedgerows. For me, that small group always brought that parable to life – here were not just characters in a story, but real people from the streets and hedgerows for whom free church coffee and biscuits might easily have been breakfast. As I write, Easter is still a week away and once again, in church, we are thinking of what led up to Jesus' crucifixion and that first Easter, and the parts played by those whom Jesus chose as his friends in what happened. They were not just characters in a story, but real people who, just like us, could get things wrong, fall out with each other and maybe even turn their backs on a friend at the worst possible time. But Easter is about new beginnings. Convinced that he was risen from the dead, those same friends set about spreading the news that people still talk about today. It reminds Christians, that God isn't defeated by our failings, and doesn't give up on us either. **Brian Williams**

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Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
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