

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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**Non-profit &
delivered free
to the Parish of
Alkham**

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN - JUBILEE PARTY SUNDAY JUNE 5th VICARAGE MEADOW - 1PM - Here's a reminder of the above village party which is proving to be very popular. We have tables and seating for 80 so please, if possible, bring along extra picnic tables and chairs. Still hoping for a dry weather day but any overhead cover will probably be a good idea too for a light shower - or as sun shade - but as mentioned before, we have the village hall booked as back up. As this event is a bring your own food and refreshments, there is no need to ring and let me know you are coming. Don't forget to get the children involved for the fancy dress competition from any decade in the last seventy, and hopefully you clever bakers are already planning your cake decoration. Finally, I'm planning traditional fun games for all such as egg and spoon, three legged and so on so should be a good afternoon. **Irene Barnard**

TWO GIRLS at Temple Ewell Primary School decided they wanted to raise funds for the Ukraine relief effort. They held a cake and craft sale in school and as part of that decorated some pebbles to sell. Some of those pebbles are now hidden around our village of Alkham. If you find one, please keep it, pass it on or re-hide it elsewhere. To date they have raised £388. **Nicola Church, Temple Ewell Primary School**

SPEEDWATCH – Further to last month's article regarding Speed Watch, Glyn Jones has asked the Parish Council to support the purchase of a new speed device and also the video equipment recommended by the police due to an increase in abusive and aggressive issues against some Speedwatch units (fortunately not Alkham to date). They have also submitted a paper to the Parish Council to consider when they review their Highway improvement Plan Policy and action for 2022/23, to include a 30mph limit from Hopton Manor to Wolverton bend and 20mph through the heart of the village with 40mph on the rest of the road between Standen cottages and Temple Ewell.

ALKHAM WI are having a coffee morning and a Bring and Buy sale on the 14th of May at 11am in Alkham Village Hall, all welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm

Tuesday 31st May

Marvellous – Toby Jones

Tuesday 26th April

West Side Story (2021)

Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

EDITH NEVE - On the 15th of March, the parish of Alkham lost a much admired and respected member of the local community, Mrs Edith Neave. She was 86 years of age. Edith had lived with her late supportive husband, Vic, in Ewell Minnis having moved to the hamlet several decades ago from Wolverton, where she had operated a care home. When Edith moved to Ewell Minnis she integrated with the local community readily, often providing support to those who sought it, in the immediate area. It is as a result of this she was encouraged to stand for and was elected onto Alkham Parish Council. She served the Parish Council loyally for many years, retiring, due to the declining health of her husband in order she could care for him towards the end of his final days. Edith always had an enquiring mind and never ceased to amaze me with her many entrepreneurial ideas and schemes which she would run pass me on my many visits to see her. She enjoyed life to the full with the daily support of her daughter Coco. Edith was certainly a fun loving character and will be missed by those who knew her. Her spirit is reunited with her husband's, whom she adored and loved so much. **Geoffrey Lymer**

CHRISSE ROSE died on the 6th of April after being diagnosed with cancer in January and given a prognosis of only weeks. Apart from a spell in the hospice whilst they brought pain management under control, she had her wish of spending her last days at home. Chrissie and her husband Peter were resident in Slip Lane for some years and they were well liked and always ready to help and get involved with village activities.

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STEPS IN FIELD BEHIND THE CHURCH

After the dire accident suffered in deepest, coldest January by a local resident (four hours prone on icy ground), people climbing these steps now, will find them much safer and easier to use, all repaired and strengthened by the KCC in late March. In addition, a new handrail

has been installed on the second upgoing set of steps. Thanks to the KCC response and Anthony Barrier's encouragement (our footpath warden) a good job has been done, and speedily too. **Jo Walker**

MEMBERSHIP – Someone gave £10 as membership to the Alkham Valley Society but a record of the name was not made. Please email Catherine Webber at catiewebber@me.com to register your name.

LIGHTNING – On the first of April there was an enormous flash of lightning followed by a similar size bang and it appears that the lightning struck the power line serving properties near Newlyn's Meadow and Hogbrook Lane causing a power surge that put at least 3 modems out of action plus some phones. The power surge caused damage to other properties' electrical equipment and the modem in the village hall was one casualty which was swiftly replaced by Plusnet.

KENT VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIP – You can change a person's life in Kent today by becoming a volunteer and if you'd like more information then go to the web site www.kentvolunteers.org.uk. You can search for volunteer opportunities across Kent, register your interest in volunteering opportunities that interest you or choose to allow organisations who want volunteers to contact you.

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SNOWFLAKES – Most people know about snowdrops which are the first flowers to bloom generally before or coinciding with the vernal equinox at the end of March and symbolises sympathy, consolation and hope. Another prevalent white flower which is not so well

known is the snowflake, or summer snowflake, and blooms in mid to late spring, just after the daffodils and resembles the snowdrop but is much taller. If you are interested in nature the Wildlife Trust has an annual challenge where they ask everyone to do one wild thing a day throughout the month of June and in 2021 saw over 760,000 people being involved. It is called **30 DAYS WILD** and if you'd like to sign up and receive a free pack to help you go wild, go to wildlifetrusts.org/30days wildlife site.



EVER WANTED TO BE AN ARCHAEOLOGIST? Now's your chance to get involved in a choice of community digs at Dover's Maison Dieu led by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. The first dig was in April and the other digs take place between 25-29 July, and 8-12 September, one near Biggin Hall and the other beneath a municipal flowerbed on the other side of the River Dour. Participants will be offered a choice of roles, from excavating and washing finds, to engaging with visitors or running a mini dig for families. The opportunity is open to anyone age 18 plus and full training will be given. Young people, age 18 to 25, are particularly welcome, including those currently unemployed or looking for work experience opportunities. Please contact Martin Crowther at martin.crowther@dover.gov.uk. or phone 07596 889 668 or go to www.maisondieudover.org.uk for further details.

THE CIRCLES OF HELL

I saw you once with Oscar
His rounded eyes aglow
With knowledge of all sorts of things
That children shouldn't know.
You showed him off so proudly
Pretending all was well
You needed me to love him
In those sad surrounds of hell.

A multi-storey carpark
The walls were grey and gloom
You must have paid to enter
And then there wasn't room.
You had to circle driving down
Looking for a space
Hoping that you might find some
And that he would find his place.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM W.I. - Our meeting was a very interesting one at which we had Clive Nutting talking about Madagascar the Enchanted Isle. Our next meeting is on the 10th May which is resolutions followed by a quiz. Well done to Vanessa Oakley on winning 1st prize for her Easter Bonnet. Hostesses are Debbie Saunders and Janet Gibbons, raffle Helen Scopes. All new members welcome. **Debbie Griggs**



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ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates

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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday - Friday Pilates 10am to 11am

Wednesday Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday 10 W.I. meeting 7.30pm

Thursday 26 Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1 st	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Praise 11.00 am
Sunday 8 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Saturday 14 th	Messy Church at St Radigund's Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 15 th	Worship 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 22 nd	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Thursday 26 th	Ascension Day United Parish Eucharist Hougham 7.00 pm		
Sunday 29 th	United Parish Eucharist at St Mary's Capel 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 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 - I boarded the train and found a seat. The man sitting opposite smiled and asked if I had had a good day. I had, I replied, and I asked him how his day had been. Celtic had beaten Rangers 2-1! He and his friend's nephew had travelled to Scotland hoping to get tickets for the match but had ended up watching it on a big screen. They had celebrated the win, and his young friend was now sprawled across the seat next to him. As I reassured him that I wasn't a Rangers supporter, his friend suddenly began clapping and chanting in honour of the genius who had scored the winning goal. In all honesty, sport and I have never understood each other, and I'm no football fan. I remembered this when I came across this headline: *Revealed: The most boring person in the world is a religious data-entry worker who watches TV.* It was about a study from the University of Essex. It listed jobs and activities – religion counts as a hobby, apparently - that are often dismissed as boring. But on reading it I found that it didn't pretend, as the headline suggested, to identify the most boring people in the world. It was really about the negative effect that being branded as boring by others can have on our lives. I once read somewhere that anything can be interesting – it's just a matter of whether we see it that way.

Sport gives pleasure to millions of people – no doubt I'm missing out on something. I live with the constant challenge of how to reveal the interest in something that people sometimes dismiss. I'm no football fan – but I am a God supporter. And not boring. At least, I don't think so... **Brian Williams**

POLICE 999 or 101

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Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors

clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Hall booking Shirley Prince 828098

W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

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Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784

MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669

KCC David Beaney 07818 024487

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Web sites www.alkham.org and

www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk