

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett  
The Old Post Office  
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE  
Telephone 01304 824969  
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

**No. 349 February 2023**

**Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council**

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



**POWER CUTS** – As most people will know there have been a lot of power cuts in Alkham recently and the cause is a fault in the underground power cable which runs across the car park towards the village hall. Newlyn Meadow was put on a generator as were some properties around the top of Meggett Lane. The

problem did cause some equipment to trip which accounts for the frequent blackouts and some sympathy should go to the people working for the electricity supplier as one of their crew was out during the day and continued overnight.

## **THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES - Saturday May 6th**

If you are interested in celebrating this day, then please save the date. No definite plans are made as yet but it will probably be similar to the Jubilee event. I have secured the village hall and will give more details later in the year. **Irene Barnard**

**THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY** – If it's not too late they have a casual meet up for drinks at the Marquis of Granby on January 19<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 9pm and everyone is welcome to come along.

**COME TO THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY** for Australia Day drinks from 6pm on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> of January. There are lots of Aussies and families with Aussie connections in Alkham. **Catie Webber**

**LITTER PICK UP** – On the 18<sup>th</sup> of February there will be a litter pick and snow drop walk. Please come to the Village Hall at 10:30am dressed appropriately but if the weather is wet it will be postponed to the 25<sup>th</sup>. **Catie Webber**

**COST OF LIVING** – Social Enterprise Kent have an updated version of the Cost of Living Support document, which includes information about the Fuel Voucher scheme. Please go to [sekgroup.org.uk](http://sekgroup.org.uk) and click on cost of living.

**SALE IN VILLAGE HALL** on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April between 10 -12pm. Various items including a vast selection of jewellery, home accessories such as paintings, candle holders, planters, lamps, cushions and rails of quality clothes. **Charlotte and Irene**

**DYKE CLEARANCE** – Last year KCC were asked by the Parish Council if they would clear a grip to the east of Newlyn Meadow. Further to this the dyke to the west in front of Valley Cottages has been cleared of all vegetation and silt build up carried out with the use of traffic lights and diggers. If you wish to report a highway problem go to [kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem](http://kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem).



**CHRISTMAS WALK** - The rain was in abeyance for the Alkham Valley Society Christmas walk and 20 or so people, a good few dogs and progeny massed outside the Alkham Village Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> December. A smart pace was set to walk through the Warnock's fields towards St Radigund's. The aim was to reach Chilton Farm, cross the road with Hi-Viz alerts, go up Red Barn Lane to the Minnis then back over Common Hill and back to homes. But a massive tree had blocked the footpath and Paul Tapsell, cometh the hour cometh the man, suggested an alternative via Mount Ararat, across the fields to Meggett Lane and over to Pimlico and back to homes. It was deemed a successful walk from various feedbacks. No rain the whole way but, all together now: Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud!..... plus, I bid for a large apple crumble at the Harvest Supper, froze it, ate it shared among 14 people and it was lovely. Thank you whoever made it! A good annual event investment. **Jo Walker**

**FILM NIGHT 7.30pm**

**February 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Aftersun**

**January 31st**

**Mrs. Harris goes to Paris (2022)**

Entrance is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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Contact Anna Dashwood

07736 849 194 [www.pfstaichi.com](http://www.pfstaichi.com)

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Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February

will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm

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### WOOF WOOF

Jack, who lives in the centre of Alkham, loves Christmas and also hunting for all the presents that he gets.



**TRAFFIC** – Dover District Council asked for comments on their Local Plan and the Alkham Valley Volunteer Community Speedwatch Group sent a response to the section dealing with sustainable transport and travel. In summary they have commented that the policy does not address the road safety concerns raised by parishioners in both the TAG and parish plan consultations. They go on to say that their policy has clearly identified the primary routes to be the A2 to the north and the A20 to the west and no consideration seems to have been given to the regular traffic disruption on the A20 through the Dover due to the inability to manage ferry traffic within the port resulting in heavy usage of the unclassified Alkham Valley Road. In addition to these comments when the new A20 dual carriageway was planned it was envisaged that the junction at the end of the Alkham Valley road was primarily to serve the large development at Hawkinge. Unfortunately, due to the problems encountered in Dover the Alkham Valley Road has become an extended slip road to the A20/M20 and it appears that the Highway Authority accepts this as a norm and are extremely reluctant to introduce any delays to this traffic. **Glyn Jones and editor**

**TEMPLE EWELL AND RIVER** are also suffering due to the volume of traffic on the Alkham Valley road at peak times. Large queues develop on the valley road where it meets the junction with the old A2 as the latter has priority and visibility to the left is very poor due to the angle at which they meet. Some drivers choose to use Lower Road that goes through River on one side and Temple Ewell on the other side to avoid the junction. The one from Temple Ewell has an oblique bend under the railway viaduct and both sides are narrow and unsuitable for heavy traffic. Various improvements have been put forward to improve the junction but there has been no agreement to date.

**SIT FIT** – On Tuesday mornings from 10am to 11:30am Sit Fit is held in Alkham Village Hall and those feeling a bit stiff or inspired by New Year Resolutions may like to join us for a gentle but complete workout. We do a thorough warm up and then about 12 minutes seated exercises to music. This is now frequently touted as sofa yoga and then we do about 15 minutes light cardio to music. There are easy versions and hard versions of most exercises. It is very suitable for people who want some ideas for exercises they can do despite some injuries or age related problems. It costs £2 per session as we are not attempting to make a profit but just pay the hall hire and any excess monies go to Charity chosen by the group. And we have coffee and a chit-chat from 11am that everyone is welcome to join even if they don't exercise. Maybe see you there soon. All enquiries [catie@thewebbers.org](mailto:catie@thewebbers.org).

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## HISTORIC FOOTPATH

At the bottom of Short Lane in Alkham there is a footpath which runs across the fields and up to the road leading to St. Radigund's Abbey and is called the Priest's Walk. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century the Knights Hospitaller were

at St. John's Commandery near Swingfield shown in the photo above, with the purpose of caring for and protecting pilgrims going to the Holy Land. Pilgrims from there walked to Alkham, probably through Ellinge and down Slip Lane to what is now the Alkham Valley Road. At that time, it was a river which they forded and then walked across a field which today is the village green and football pitch and along the line of Short Lane to the Priest's Walk which took them to St. Radigund's Abbey. With the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the commandery was converted into a farmhouse and is now administered by English Heritage. The Priest's Walk also goes by Moseling's Hole which was featured in this newsletter. **Editor**

Hanging out the washing and the  
white sheets to the wind

Flailing out and sailing out against  
the deep blue sea

With a skyline flecked with  
feather

And a crackle of the crispness,  
With the saltiness of swollen lips  
and eyes.

Coloured bedding duvets chosen  
on a stripe-filled day

Genoa and spinnaker against a  
brighter sky

But the lashing's coming looser

And the tighter threads are  
trailing,

As the wind spills out, both sails  
and dreams collapse.

**Gail Swainston**

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Happy New Year everyone and what a start to the new year with nothing but rain and power cuts. Our January meeting was about primates of Uganda by Clive Nuttman but unfortunately, we didn't get to see the slides because of the power cut but we did have an interesting talk while waiting for the power to come back on which sadly didn't. Our next meeting is on February 14<sup>th</sup> when we will be having the R.N.L.I coming to do a talk for us. Hostesses are Alison Warnock and Vanessa Oakley, Raffle Debbie Griggs, VOT Nicola Church. New members always welcome

**Debbie Griggs**



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## POLICE 999 or 101

Newsletter [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors

[clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

Hall booking Shirley Prince 828098

W.I. Secretary Janet Barrow 829585

Footpaths [antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk)

AVS [joannawalker777@gmail.com](mailto:joannawalker777@gmail.com) 821641

Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784

MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669

KCC David Beaney 07818 024487

DDC [cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk](mailto:cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk)  
07796444860.

Other sites [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

[www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

[alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com](mailto:alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com)

[alkhamvs.org](http://alkhamvs.org) (Alkham Valley Society)

## ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates

Please ring Tracey for information on 01304 828098

### Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

### Other events in the village hall

Thursday	23	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm
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### CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Songs Of Praise 11.am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	United Parish Eucharist Capel 7.00 pm		
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

**BUS TIMES To Dover** 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28

**To Folkestone** 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09

Check on [www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables) and 91 bus

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - Three of our churches – St Anthony's, St Laurence, and St Mary's – are open during the day. Anyone can go in, sit, think, and perhaps pray – and some do, as entries in the visitors' books show. They may be out walking or cycling, visiting old haunts or perhaps the church where they were married. A few months ago, someone thought to light a candle for singer Olivia Newton-John following her passing. More recently, someone did the same for Lisa Marie Presley. Not everyone signs the book, so we can't be sure of how many visitors our churches have. But I suspect that more churchgoing goes on than people realise – it's just not always for services. The other day I found a book that I'd forgotten I had. Entitled *Say One for Me*, it was about the remark that people would make on Sundays if they saw a friend or neighbour on their way to church. But times have changed. No longer a day of rest, Sunday has become a day of being busy – for some, even part of their working week. Consequently, there are now fewer people in church on Sundays, especially since the pandemic struck. So, finding someone who will Say One for You isn't as easy as it was. Could we make it any easier? Last year many of those who do come to church completed a questionnaire aimed at finding out and Yours Truly spent ages at the computer, feeding it all into a spreadsheet and trying to work out when and where to hold services so that people can get to them more easily. Anyone with any suggestions, please get in touch! In the meantime, our churches remain open, and anyone can drop in, light a candle, and Say One for Someone. **Brian Williams**