

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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LOCAL AMBASSADOR - Dylan Auger, who is 16 years old, has lived in Alkham for all his life and believes that now is the time for the younger community to be involved in the decisions that are being made by others that impact on their everyday lives, and future needs. Dylan would like to propose that he becomes a Local Ambassador for the Alkham younger generation and get involved with parish matters to ensure that the younger generation voice gets heard on community matters that affects them. He believes that over the years the younger generation has had no say in what happens in the Alkham parish and by being the Ambassador can present their views. Please contact Dylan with your opinions by phone on 07375866347 or email dylanaunger7@hotmail.co.uk and he will get back to you. All feedback is confidential and if the proposed initiative is successful he intends to hold regular meetings in the village hall, the dates of which will be published in the Alkham newsletter and on the local website.

DECEMBER FILM FESTIVAL - Some 36 film titles have been put forward for showing at the forthcoming free classical film festival from which the following short list of 12 films have been made. These are: 'Some Like it Hot', 'The Third Man', 'Gone with the Wind', 'Love is a Many Splendid Thing', 'Casablanca', 'Singing in the Rain', 'Roman Holiday', 'Top Hat', 'Kind Hearts and Coronets', 'Genevieve', 'Tale of Two Cities', and 'The Quiet Man'. From this short list a final selection of 7 films to be shown at matinees and evening performances over the period 4th to 14th December. Please send to the editor (01304 824969) those titles you would wish to be included to be shown. **Geoff Hillier**

THANK YOU to all those of you who supported the Harvest Barn Dance and made it such a success. Your enthusiasm and energy made the evening and I received several comments from folk who came from outside the village about the friendliness of the welcome they received. Thank you too, to those who helped prepare and distribute the supper and who cleared up afterwards. I haven't finished paying the bills yet. When that has happened, I will let you know how much was raised. As the dance was so successful I was wondering if there would be any interest in the village for a Folk Dance Club? I envisage a non-serious social evening, occasionally dancing to live music. There would be an opportunity to learn both English and Scottish Dances and, perhaps, some French and American Dances too. We could decide at our initial meeting how many times a month we would like to meet. If you are interested, please contact me on 07789 690786 or graham.bissett@talk21.com

FOR SALE substantial conservatory furniture; three-seater sofa and an armchair, £100. Please phone 01304 822365.

FACEBOOK - 'All about Alkham' is a Facebook page about Alkham and some locals have left comments about recent events. The easiest way to access is by the Facebook logo on www.alkham.org.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

I would like to thank everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning held on Saturday 22nd September in the village hall. Once again so many people baked wonderful cakes and gave me great items to sell on the various stalls. Thank you to everyone who helped in many different ways on the day and to all who gave me donations before, during and after the event. It was a wonderful community event and I am delighted to say that TOGETHER WE RAISED £1,010.00 for this great charity. Thank you everyone. **Sue Ross**

PARENT & TODDLER GROUP - I propose to start a group if there is sufficient interest. To be held on Mondays or Thursdays, whichever is the most popular from 9.30am to 11.30am. The cost will be £3 including a drink and biscuit for all. For more information please ring Shirley Prince on 828098.

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE have late night opening until 8.00pm on Thursday 29th November and a Christmas Farmers & Craft Market on Saturday 1st December from 10am to 4pm.

TEA AND A CHAT will be held again on the 29th November between 2pm and 4pm in the village hall. Please do come along as it's been enjoyed by those who have turned up, plus there's free tea/coffee and biscuits. There won't be a Tea and a Chat in December.

FILM NIGHT

Oct 30	Battle of the sexes
Nov 27	Mama Mia Here we go again
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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Offers invited for one or both, dog not included - 824969

ER163 SLADDEN WOOD

For some time, I have been trying to get the gate at the top end of the path running through Sladden Wood repaired or replaced. At the same time Jo Walker, with the backing of the Alkham Valley Society, has been trying to get some steps created on the steep part of the path leading up to the gate. I'm happy to report that the gate has been replaced and steps installed together with a handrail at the steepest part. I would like to thank all those involved especially the volunteer team, who I believe, carried out the work. **Anthony Barrier Footpath Warden**

BOOK CLUB - The November meeting of the Book Club will be on Thursday November 29th at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre at 1.30. We will discuss *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. New members always welcome. **Jane Aslett**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our October meeting was a good evening where we had our own little auction amongst ourselves; thank you to Lucy Mckenzie for all your help. Our next meeting will be our AGM on November 13th. Hostesses Sue Harman and Shelley Jackson; Raffle Pat Yeomans. New members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

PARISH PLAN OPEN DAY

Firstly, a big thank you to all of you who turned up at the Village Hall on the 1st September to give your input to the Village Plan. About 150 villagers came and about 800 comments were left under the various categories. Some very interesting views were expressed including, of course, the main issues surrounding the Alkham Valley Road, Flooding, the Village Green, Community Activities and the work of the Parish Council. If you missed the opportunity of having your input - it's not too late, the Parish Plan Team (a mixture of three Parish Councillors and four volunteers and one young villager - Freya Miller) are currently analysing the results and will then be deciding on the next steps, so if you missed out on 1st September please submit your comments to any of the contacts below. Please stick with the original headings as used on the day if you wish: Conservation, Sports and Recreation, Economy Businesses and Employment, Public Transport, Heritage, Traffic and Road Safety, Local Governance, Young and Old, Environmental (including Flooding), Education Skills and Training, Health and Social Care, Community Buildings, Roads and Infrastructure and Development (including Housing). An interim report is going to the Parish Council for the November meeting together with the next steps of the project. One thing has become quite apparent from the data is that we will need as many volunteers as possible for the various ideas that have been suggested so let us know if you would like to be involved with the future of Alkham - in any way. Thanks again. **Martin Hibbert** (mrtnhbb@sky.com), **Dave Beaney** (dbeaney@gmail.com), **Steve Edwards** (Stephen_edwards@taktalk.net)

Alkham Valley Garden Centre
Late Night Opening Till 8.00pm
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Saturday 1st December 10am - 4pm
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Alkham Heroes - The final cross has been put up at the bottom of Slip Lane commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death of Joseph Edward Mount who was the last to die of the Alkham heroes. A small gathering of villagers assembled on 15th October

led by Mark Robson and the Reverend Brian Williams. **Den Barnard WILDLIFE IN THE GARDEN** - Our garden is generally wildlife friendly and a bit too friendly on occasions; squirrels and a young rat have used the bird feeder more recently. We don't use the green refuse collection service and consequently have piles of decaying greenery and brownery (compost heaps?) in all corners of the garden. We also have 5 plastic compost bins. Opening these can make one jump especially when there are a couple of serpents in there. We knew we had a grass snake as we had seen it by the nature pond that is about two inches deep but attracts mating frogs and their predators every year. In the middle of June we found our snake in the plastic compost bin at the other end of the garden, shortly after, it was still in there when we saw another sliding away from the base of the bin leaving its skin behind it. Research revealed that they can produce up to 50 eggs but are unlikely to deposit them in plastic compost bins and so I did not look for them. Yesterday, in the middle of September, I saw the results of their visit. I thought it was a small slow worm but completely the wrong colour; it was on the paving just outside my garage but quickly slipped away under the door cill. The markings with intermittent dark patches down each side and the yellow collar are those of a young grass snake. I wonder where the other 49 are and how many will make it through the winter? Interested in the subject then visit <https://kentarg.org> or if you see a grass snake tell them. **Alan Latham**

REMEMBRANCE AND RECONCILIATION - Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 November 2018 in Canterbury Cathedral. Cantores Dominicae is hosting a special weekend of choral events to be held in Canterbury Cathedral, marking the centenary of the ending of the First World War. More than 200 musicians from Britain and Germany will take part. The focus of the weekend is on mutual remembrance and reconciliation. Saturday 10 November 12:00: a lunchtime concert performed by Cantores Dominicae and Heinrich-Schütz-Kantorei from Kiel. This will include some movements from Brahms' 'German Requiem'. Sunday 11 November 18:15: an evening concert. Cantores Dominicae from Lyminge, Heinrich-Schütz-Kantorei from Keil, the Oyster Singers from Whitstable and the Canterbury Singers will perform 'Remembrance & Reconciliation', a work composed especially for this occasion by Cantores Dominicae's Musical Director Adrian Bawtree. All are welcome to these free choral events, each lasting about 45 minutes. Our grateful thanks go to the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral and the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust for their generous sponsorship. **Steve Osborn on behalf of Cantores Dominicae**

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Tuesday	Art Workshop from 10am – 1pm Yoga 1.10pm – 2.10pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am – check to make sure

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	6	White Cliff Metal Detectors 7pm to 9pm
Saturday	10	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Monday	19	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	27	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

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

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
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

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 4th	Evening 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 10th	Messy Church Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11th	10.15 am	10.15 am at Memorial	10.30 am
REMEMBRANCE			
Sunday 18th	Service 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 25th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - I once heard of a young curate (no, not me) who stood up in church to preach his first ever Remembrance Sunday sermon. He had just begun by asking the congregation to imagine what the Somme must have been like, with its trenches, mud, and shells exploding everywhere when an elderly gentleman rose to his feet. "YOUNG PUPPY! I WAS THERE!" he barked, before storming out. Growing up, I sometimes heard my father and my uncles talking about their experiences in World War 2. Dad was an ammunition storeman in the Ordnance Corps; one uncle served aboard a minesweeper, another was an officer's batman. But one, who had seen action in Italy, spoke little about what he had done. I remember he mentioned Anzio, and also Monte Cassino. To a small boy, his stories sounded exciting. Only later did I realise the truth: that while still just a teenager he had seen - and done - things that nobody should have to see or do at any age. Returning home, at first he had talked endlessly about one particularly traumatic incident; only his uncle, himself a veteran of the Great War, seemed to understand what he had been through. This month sees the centenary of the end of World War 1. We are urged to remember. The services that will be held will include not only prayers for those who lost their lives in the world wars and in other conflicts since, but also for peace now and in the future. Thankfully, like that young curate most of us can only imagine trenches, mud, shells and what my uncle and great uncle went through; most of us have been spared the reality. Let's pray that those who come after us may be as fortunate. **Brian Williams**

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MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
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