

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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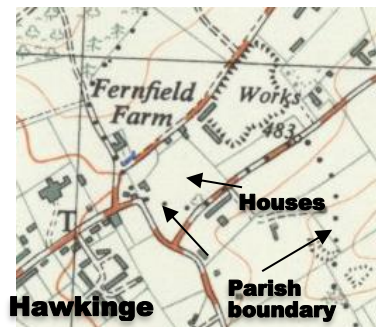
to all properties  
in the Parish



**DOG FOULING** – Further to the article in last month's newsletter about dog fouling an email was received to say there has been an increase in dog poo on the green and on the football pitch area. Most of this has been in the bottom corner near the footbridge but some was found near the playground, which is a danger to children from roundworm eggs which causes blindness in over 100 cases. It is also illegal not to clear up after a dog. The Parish Council has been asked if they would contact DDC to see whether a bin could be installed in Alkham.

**TEA & A CHAT** – Pleased to report that Tea & a Chat will start again on the last Thursday of each month at 2pm the first being October 29<sup>th</sup>. To comply with Covid rules please bring your own tea and biscuits and maintain the social distancing.

**HOUSES** – The parish of Alkham extends to the outskirts of Hawkinge and a piece of land adjacent to Hawkinge and opposite Fernfield Farm has outline planning consent for houses. It is under offer and when the houses are built the majority will be in Alkham parish.



**CHILTON FARMYARD B&B OPEN!** - After 20 years as tenant dairy farmers in Winchester, Susannah and Keith Mannerings moved to Chilton Farm 3 years ago. To make the small farm viable, a degree of diversification was needed. Following a lot of planning and hard work, four renovated redundant farm buildings are now opening as Chilton Farmyard B&B. This small group of charming flint buildings can cater for up to 11 people, ideal for families or friends to get away and explore this lovely part of Kent. There is also a spacious breakfast room which they hope will be used for small groups for 'out of town' meetings. "This has been a huge ambition of ours and it's hard to believe we have got to the point of welcoming guests to Chilton Farm. We would be only too happy to show any interested persons round." [www.chiltonfarmyardbandb.co.uk](http://www.chiltonfarmyardbandb.co.uk) - 01304 268621.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER** - All being well, assuming no further lockdowns, there will be a Remembrance service at Alkham Church, at 10.30 followed by remembering the fallen from Alkham and two minutes silence at the war memorial at 11.00. There will be social distancing in both the church and churchyard, and masks should be worn. **Rachel Fountain**

**MOBILE FISH & CHIPS** - Just thought that we would pen a few words as four happy customers in Short Lane who have just had a lovely Friday night fish supper from the fish and chip van. The food was excellent - our three large haddocks and a large rock were delicious, and it was all ready and waiting at the time agreed. We will definitely be going back, and thoroughly recommend it to anyone who missed out. **Georgina Wald**

**MOBILE FISH & CHIPS** will be back on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October at the village hall car park from 4.45pm to 6.15pm and will return on the last Friday of each month, except for December, at this time. The menu includes freshly cooked cod, haddock, scampi, sausage, burgers as well as veggie food and gluten free. Children are also catered for and please pre-order (if possible) on 07955 926 835 by 4.00pm or by emailing [hotchef1968@hotmail.com](mailto:hotchef1968@hotmail.com).

**POPPY APPEAL 2020** - Sadly, there will be no house-to-house Poppy collections this year. These are extraordinary times and we have had to adjust to doing things differently. There will still be Poppies available at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre and Tea Rooms, and in Southern Equestrian Supplies. They will also be at the Marquis of Granby and the Alkhamhurst Kennels. So do pop along to get your poppies from them. The larger out of town stores will also have manned Poppy collection tables. If you would like to find out more about how the British Legion are fundraising this year, or if you would like to make a donation, please go to [britishlegion.org.uk](http://britishlegion.org.uk). **Rachel Fountain**

**CHALK** - If anybody wants some chalk to use for a driveway, hard standing or yard, any amount large or small can be collected. Call Mike 07905 206702.

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**HARVEST FESTIVAL** - Despite coronavirus hampering gatherings, we put together a display for the Church at the last minute. We were given lots of flowers, greenery, and many very handsome bunches of grapes by Janet Adamson together with a bottle of homemade wine. Jo Walker brought lovely hops to drape over the font and Mark and Liza Loveday supplied beautiful hydrangeas. Martin Scherer sacrificed an entire corn stalk as well as some beautiful flowers. Debbie Saunders and her lovely granddaughter Amy Bennet made a Harvest Loaf with 3 decorative mice: kudos and many thanks to Debbie and Amy. Mairi and Glynn Jones supplied a very handsome monster pumpkin, Avi Munn magicked up 3 truly stunning flower and seed head displays, and Brenda Smith brought a lovely lantern and grass stalks. Brenda, Jo Walker and I spent a lot of time decorating the porch, Font and Alter. The Church was a little eerie and silent late Thursday as I fumbled together a pedestal arrangement of vegetables and fruit. I used skewers found neglected at the back of the kitchen drawer. Fortunately, Den Barnard was an angel and cleaned up after us all. On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> morning, as we few trickled in to sign our track and trace register, the Church gleamed with polish and looked loved and lovely. Brian Williams delivered a thoughtful sermon about cheerful giving. Indeed, many Alkham residents cheerfully gave of their time and produce. We paraded out to the organ playing "An English Country Garden" in great delight. I only wish more of you could have joined in as I doubt my photos do it justice. With luck we will still be able to observe Remembrance Day and then Advent. Until then, stay safe. Regards **Catie Webber**

**STORMY WEATHER** - The persistent rain and strong winds we have been experiencing since the latter part of September have caused considerable damage in Ewell Minnis. By the morning of Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October there was no BT telephone, no Wifi, and no power, as a telegraph pole on Wolverton Hill had snapped in half, bringing down all the lines together. The lines had already been supporting the weight of fallen branches from one side of the road. A tree that crashed down from the Neck Wood side was the final straw! Another pole further up the hill was split by the force of the impact, so that two poles have had to be replaced, even though they were only about 11 years old. The Hill was closed while all this work was carried out, and now you cannot really appreciate the extent of the chaos, but walkers will be able to identify the new poles by their smell! **Gail Swainston**

**NEWSLETTER FINANCES** – For the year September 2019 to August 2020 the cost of printing 320 newsletter per month was about £270, posting to 22 people was £158 and hosting [alkham.org](http://alkham.org) website £36 giving a total of £464. The revenue from adverts was £454.

**ADDERS** – An article in the Daily Telegraph said that adders could become extinct as they are being killed by pheasants. Most of the pheasants are a result of the breeding for shooting and those that are not shot escape to the countryside. There is a judicial review being carried out into game bird shooting and RSPB is going to end its neutrality, but gamekeepers say breeding keeps rare animals alive.

**LASHED BY G** - I've recently moved to Ewell Minnis and started a business from home called Lashed By G. I offer a range of semi-permanent eyelash extensions starting from just £20 and an at home salon experience if preferred! Please see my page on Facebook or Instagram or send me a message on 07860172817. **Georgia**

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**BUS** – In last month's newsletter there was a photo of a bus. John Vince emailed to say that it was a Dennis Lancet single decker that used to ply through the Alkham Valley on route 91 until the late 1950's. Before the bus garage

was built the buses parked in Bouverie Square as shown above.

**APOSTROPHES** – Recently I adjudicated for a friend over the placing of an apostrophe in the title of a new organization, and became fascinated by the origins of this useful but exasperating mark. Most European, especially Latin-based, languages have used apostrophes to denote omissions, as in 'wish'd' for 'wished'. In the 17th century, English printers began to use the apostrophe before an 's' in words denoting ownership, such as 'dog's dinner' for 'dinner belonging to the dog'. This derived from the Old English syllable '-es' that was added to words to denote possession. However, a word like 'doges' looks strange on the page, so printers used the apostrophe to omit the 'e', giving the familiar 'dog's dinner'. This did not solve all the problems, and by the 18th century printers were distinguishing between the dinner of one dog and the dinners of many dogs by placing the apostrophe after the plural, as in 'dogs' dinners.' It was now possible to cause the maximum confusion, between 'dog's dinner', 'dog's dinners', 'dogs' dinner' and 'dogs' dinners.' Thus was born the phrase 'greengrocer's (or greengrocers') apostrophe', from the incorrect forming of plurals, such as onion's and apple's. It's all rather unfair to greengrocers, when other shops often advertise "Ice Cream's", "Tea's" and even "Xma's Tree's". Lynne Truss, in her hilarious book on punctuation, *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, points out also that greengrocers have a particularly hard time deciding how to describe more than one thing ending in a vowel, giving rise incorrectly to "mango's" and "tomato's". She adds the story of a Somerset market gardener unfortunately named Carrott, noting that "the sign said "Carrott's" at the top but then listed other vegetables and fruits spelled and punctuated perfectly correctly." That's the apostrophe for you – tricky but capable of great precision.



When I saw her  
 Leap into his arms  
 I remembered what I had forgotten.

When I saw his  
 Feet matching her steps  
 I remembered what I had forgotten.

When I saw two  
 Meet becoming one  
 I remembered what I had forgotten.

When I saw life  
 Beat in front of me  
 I remembered what I had forgotten. And who I used to be.

**Gail Swainston** who recently went to a ballet at Rye.

**Steve Osborn**

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Tai Chi and Pilates have restarted

Other bookings are possible – please contact as above.

**CHURCH SERVICES**

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Praise 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> Remembrance	10.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am 10.30 am	10.30 am
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Worship 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

**BUS TIMES To Dover** 8.01, 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** - My mother had two brothers. Both served in the Forces during the war; afterwards, the family relocated from London to Ramsgate. But the younger of the two took a job at a hotel in the Lake District, met and married my aunt, and settled at the opposite end of England to the rest of the family. Each summer they would visit, and for my sister and I there would be outings and trips to the beach with our cousins. Our uncle was the best kind of uncle – kind, funny, and full of stories about his adventures as a lorry driver, delivering flour in and around Cumbria. Sadly, those adventures ended when he became ill. He lived just long enough to see his first granddaughter. By then I had passed my driving test. The annual visits continued, now usually in the opposite direction. However, my aunt travelled to Kent when I married, and for my ordination – she liked the idea of her nephew being a priest. But as the years passed, age and the onset of ill health took their toll. It was during one of our visits that the inevitable conversation took place: yes, I would assist at her funeral when the time came. Following her ninetieth birthday infirmity confined her first to her flat and then to her bed. Then came the pandemic and all that it has carried with it and finally, last month. There could be no funeral service as such; I wouldn't be able to keep my promise. On All Saints Sunday, the first Sunday of November, I will join with others in giving thanks for those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light. Then I shall light a candle, and think of her... **Brian Williams**

**PLEASED** to report that as of the beginning of October Sue Lees is physically very well and living in Pelham House.

**THE NEW** soakaway in Little Everden road, which was scheduled to finish on the 11<sup>th</sup> October, is still being constructed and there is still a fair amount of work to do.

**POLICE 999 or 101**

**Newsletter** brianwimsett@hotmail.com  
**Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors**  
clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk  
**Hall booking** Tracey Prince 828098  
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