

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

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to the Parish of
Alkham

HARVEST SUPPER - I am arranging a Harvest Supper for Monday the 11th of October. As you all are aware our churches were closed during the pandemic and consequently we had no money coming in. For the upkeep of our beautiful churches, we need your money please. I think cottage pies and fruit crumbles are the way to go so if anyone can donate these, I would be most grateful and also anything for the auction or the raffle. We will start at 7.00pm in Alkham village hall and tickets will be £8.00 per person; please ring Carol Mannall on 01304 826514 or 07946106742.

ALL THINGS CHRISTMAS – With winter fast approaching we are now looking forward to Christmas, myself (Debbie) and Graham have decided to take over the mantle of all things Christmas in Alkham this year. We would like to thank Den and Irene for all their work over the years and their support this year. Hopefully, we can go a little way in filling their shoes. With that said we have two dates for the diary. The first being **Saturday 4th December** for the Christmas Party, all are welcome at the village hall from **7-11pm**. It will be a bring your own drink and we are also looking for contributions for a food sharing table. We will also be running a Christmas raffle, in support of our local village, donations welcome. Please contact us via **west_deborah@ymail.com** if you will be attending and/or bringing along food donations so we can ascertain numbers. We are also open to any party ideas or help on the day! Please join us for the Christmas Light switch-on at **4:45pm** on **Saturday 11th December**. Graham Bissett will be supporting us with a short carol service, weather permitting. Mince pies, mulled wine and squash for the children, will be served at our lovely local pub, The Marquis, straight after. We also have it on good authority that Santa may also be making an appearance! Keep an eye out for further details in November's newsletter. **Debbie West**

PANTOMIME – The actor Brian Croucher, who lives in Slip Lane, will be playing Baron Hardup in the pantomime Cinderella at the Lees Cliff Hall in Folkestone this year. The pantomime runs from the 10th of December to the 31st twice daily, except some Sundays which only have matinees at 2pm and there will be no shows on the 20th, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

MEET AND GREET COFFEE MORNING – Just a reminder that it will be on Saturday 23rd October in the village hall from 10 - 12.30 with free refreshments and treats for the children. It is a relaxed way to meet new friends and neighbours, especially for those who have moved into the village during the past year. Please come along and hopefully many villagers will come along to meet the newcomers and enjoy a pleasant Saturday morning. **Irene Barnard**

THE NEW bus shelter has now been installed at the bottom of Wolverton Hill and Alkham Valley Road. The



parish council has worked very closely with KCC Highways to provide a much needed shelter. Our thanks go to Geoff Lymer for funding the project from his KCC Members Grant. **Irene Bowie**

THERE IS A VACANCY on the parish council. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor or would like more information please email the Parish Clerk, Irene Bowie, on clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

JEANETTE AND DANIEL would love to know about heritage fruit varieties that may have been grown in Alkham Valley. They wish to restore the orchard that was once present at Drellingore Barns, and by replanting local varieties they can provide a benefit to both the ecology of the site and the sympathetic treatment of its heritage. Any insights or suggestions sent to family@drellingorebarns.com would be most gratefully received. **Daniel Jones**

FILM NIGHT

Tuesday 26th October 7.30pm

The hitman's wife's bodyguard

This is a comedy starring Ryan Reynolds and Samuel L Jackson.

September's film is **Fairy Tale: A True Story**

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

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Alkham Village Hall

contact Anna Dashwood

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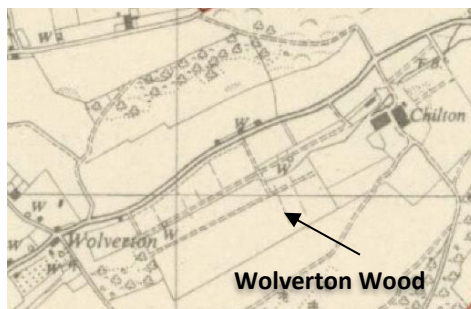
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WOLVERTON WOOD In the August newsletter there were details regarding the sale of Wolverton Wood and Reg Woodruff says that this wood used to be a nursery. Chris Tapsell confirmed this and provided further information regarding the

area that is now the wood which was part of the adjacent Chilton Farm. The access was from Chilton Farm which was owned by Clarkes who were the Dover nurserymen and they kept it until after WWII when the farm was sold to Mr. Dodd. He cultivated all the cultivatable land leaving the area where the nursery had their shrubs and trees to grow into what it is today and the above map shows the nursery as it was in the 1930's. The wood is currently for sale by auction with Clive Emson. **Editor**

IN THE AUGUST newsletter there was criticism about the role of the Alkham Valley Society which was unfair. They are a separate entity from the Alkham Parish Council and are free to express their concerns about events and actions happening in the Valley including expressing these opinions at Parish Council meetings. **Brian Wimsett**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our September meeting was our fish and chip night and we would like to thank Streez 2 Streez for cooking them for us; we would certainly recommend them. This was followed by a quiz by the 2 Debbie's. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday October 12th at 7.30pm and our speaker will be Shirley Prince on flower arranging. Hostesses Alison Warnock and Helen Price, raffle Sue Koo, V.O.T Helen Scopes. New members always welcome. All the ladies from Alkham WI would like to congratulate Debbie Holliman and Michael Bacon on their forthcoming wedding on the 24th of September. **Debbie Griggs**

SEAGULLS – The car was having an MOT at Halfords in Folkestone so I went walking and bought a sandwich in Asda and exited across the precinct below. Close to the coffee shop I was mugged by a seagull which bashed into the side of my head and flew off with the half sandwich which I wasn't particularly enjoying at the time. A neighbour related this story to his daughter in law on the seafront at Whitstable and shortly after she too was mugged by a seagull. **Brian Wimsett**



TEA N' CHAT - The Village Hall is open, on the last Thursday of the month, for an informal get-together with refreshments, biscuits and sometimes cake! A chance for villagers to meet up, reminisce, swop books, magazines and stories so please come and join us between 2.30 and 4.00p.m in the village hall.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS SERVICE is run by Kent Coast Volunteering, and you can become a volunteer befriender to support older, lonely, and isolated people in the local area. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to know more about the services they offer please phone 07816406350 or email katy.murray@kcv.org.uk.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE – If you need help with transport or getting to appointments or other places to go Kent Coast Volunteering offer a volunteer's service that can help. For more information ring 01303 259007 or email info@kcv.org.uk.

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AN ELEPHANT

Hawk Moth
Caterpillar was
discovered in my
garden last
week. I have

never seen such a large caterpillar, nor one that looked back at me with such an unflinching gaze. Closer inspection revealed - of course - that what I had taken to be eyes were in fact on the back of the head as a means of scaring away potential predators out searching for a banquet. Just as I was beginning to feel a whole lot more relaxed about what I'd originally thought might be a small snake, it raised its trunk. It's not named 'The Elephant' for nothing. How common are these locally? Have you found one in your garden? **Gail Swainston**

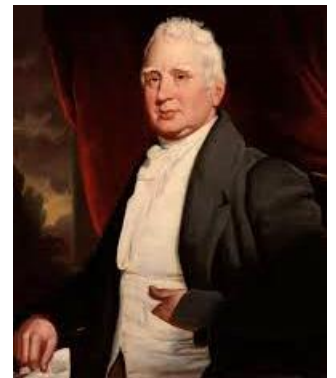
The photo above does give some food for thought as a caterpillar has very little intelligence so how would it know that a pair of false eyes on its rear would scare predators? **ed**

OZ ON RURAL RIDES - The writer of the Daily Telegraph article quoted from in 'Cold Spots' might be tickled to know that he reminded me somewhat of William Cobbett. Between 1822 and 1826 Cobbett made a number of fact-finding tours on horseback across the south and east of England, his accounts of which were published in 1830 as Rural Rides. On Monday 1st September 1823, he travelled from Folkestone to Dover, not via the Alkham Valley, but along the main road, known today as 'the old A20' or the B2011. He noted the valley "descending all the way to Dover, a distance of about six miles...each side of which may be about a mile and a half", concluding that "there are eighteen square miles of corn." This clarity of observation is matched only by Cobbett's vigorous prose style, described by William Hazlitt as "plain, broad, downright English", as witness his description of Dover itself: "...like other sea-port towns; but really, much more clean, and with less blackguard people in it than I have ever observed in any sea-port before." Cobbett was a fine example of the English 'radical patriot', fiercely loyal to his country, but determined to expose government mismanagement and corruption wherever they occurred. During his stay in Dover, he inspected the underground defences, and became incensed at what he saw as the colossal waste of money on "the only set of fortifications in the world ever framed for mere hiding." Uncertain whether to continue to France or along the coast to Thanet, Cobbett allowed his horse to decide, and stopped next at Deal, which he described as "a most villainous place full of filthy-looking people." As a Deal-born radical patriot, I feel obliged to say that Cobbett sometimes got it wrong. **Steve Osborn**

THE GARDEN GORGON

When you're pruning back the fuchsia Don't forget to look beneath her. Under those pink and purple skirts A fearsome garden monster lurks - As terrible as Old Godzilla The Elephant Hawk Moth Caterpillar!

Gail Swainston



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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday - Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Tuesday	Craft class 11am to 1pm (check on day)
Wednesday	Tai Chi 5.30pm to 6.30pm
Thursday	Mother and toddler group 10am to 12am

Other events in the village hall assuming no changes

Tuesday	5	White Cliffs Metal Detectors 7.30pm
Saturday	9	SEKAS 7pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Saturday	23	Meet and greet 10am to 12.30pm – please see page 1
Tuesday	26	Film Night 7.30pm – please see page 1
Thursday	28	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3 rd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 9 th	Messy church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10 th	Harvest Eucharist		
Harvest Festival	9:30 am	11.00 am	4.00 pm
Sunday 17 th	Worship 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 24 th	United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am Alkham		
Sunday 31 st	St Mary's: Eucharist, 9.30 St Radigund's Thanksgiving Service, 11.00		

FROM THE VICARAGE - I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day...! Most of us will know Wizzard's Christmas song: first recorded in 1973, it has, apparently, made the charts each year since 2007. You don't recognise it? Don't worry – it's bound to be playing in a supermarket near you soon enough. Thankfully In church, it isn't Christmas every day! As I write, Harvest, All Saints, Remembrance Sunday and Advent are still to come, each with their own distinctive hymns, readings and prayers. Christmas every day would leave us bloated from too many mince pies; the different times and seasons of the Christian year offer a healthier. more varied diet of things to think about. All Saints arrives as leaves turn brown and days grow shorter. Before the Christmas rush begins, there comes a pause that reminds us that our home in this world is only temporary, holds out the hope of a better one to come, and encourages us to give thanks for those who have been lights of the world in their several generations, as the Prayer Book puts it. The pandemic deprived many of opportunities to say goodbye to their departed loved ones as they would have liked. So, this year we are planning to celebrate All Saints by holding Thanksgiving Services in each of our churches to which anyone who cares to come is welcome. Flowers or photographs can be brought along and arranged beforehand, candles lit for loved ones during the service, and light refreshments will be available afterwards. These will be at Alkham on 24th October at 10.00, St Radigund's Capel on 31st October at 11.00, and Hougham on 7th November at 11.00. If you want to come, please do – a phone call or email will help us to cater for everyone. **Brian Williams**

POLICE 999 or 101

Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com
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
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669
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