

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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PARISH PLAN - OPEN DAY 1st SEPTEMBER - With this newsletter you will have received a personal invite to the Parish Plan Open Day on Saturday 1st September. Please come along to the Village Hall for a few minutes between 10:00 and 16:00 to give your views on how you would like to see the future of our village. There will be various headings displayed where you can make your comments, anonymously if you wish, whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee with cake. Just to make it even more interesting please bring along your invite, or pick up one on the day, to be entered into a prize draw with several prizes courtesy of our sponsors. There will also be giant garden games for children and we would also like to see the young people of the village having their say on what they would like for Alkham. The Parish Plan team plus Parish Councillors will be on hand for any questions on the day. If you can't make it, please let us know and we will organise a follow up. **(Den Barnard 824845, Martin Hibbert 07796444860, Dave Beaney 825355)**



CORN FIRE - On the 25th July ten fire engines tackled a huge blaze on the cornfield adjacent to Great Everden Farm on the high ground above Alkham. It made the national news and the cause is unknown.

HARVEST BARN DANCE - Saturday 6th October 19:30 to 23:15 in Alkham Village Hall there will be Barn Dancing to Spring Barley. Tickets costing £8, including a Ploughman's Supper, are available from Graham Bissett, Bren Tor, Alkham Valley Road CT15 7BX, phone 07789 690786 or email Graham.bissett@talk21.com.

TEA AND A CHAT - The next Tea and a Chat event will be at 2pm on Thursday 30th August in the Village Hall. It is open to all to come along for a couple of hours on the last Thursday of the month for free tea and biscuits and a chat with old friends and to have also the opportunity to meet new ones from 2pm to 4pm. Come along and join in with friendly company. September's event will be on the 27th. Put it in your diary.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - The next Parish Council meeting, to which everyone is welcome attend, will be at 7.30pm on the 3rd September in the village hall.

STAN FOWLER died on the 4th August after a short illness, aged 80. He lived with his wife Val in a bungalow in Slip Lane and used to have a shop in the village of Boughton where he made and sold clocks. His wife Val was for many years the booking secretary for the village hall and going to the bungalow was like visiting an oasis of calm with a grandfather clock clicking slowly in the background. Stan was a good man and a great photographer whose photos were used in several Alkham calendars. Val is moving to Margate to be near her daughters and many thanks go to her for doing the bookings and key holding for the village hall for so many years.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING Saturday 22nd September in the village hall from 10am until 12noon. This coffee morning is in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, a very worthwhile charity that as well as providing nursing support also gives practical and financial help to cancer sufferers and their families. As in previous years there will be a variety of stalls including a tombola. I am always overwhelmed at the generosity of all those who support the coffee morning each year and I would again be very grateful to anyone who would be willing to bake a cake (large or individual!) for the cake and refreshment stalls. For any further information please contact Sue Ross - 01304 825736.

FILM NIGHT

Aug. 28	The Shape of Water
Sept 25	The Post Tom Hanks Meryl Streep
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - We are only a couple of weeks away from the PARISH PLAN open day, which is being held on the 1st of September @10am - 4pm at the village hall. There will be free refreshments and activities to keep the children interested such as a penalty shoot out and giant outdoor games. The parish has never held an event like this before. It is time to bring your ideas along and have your say. We want all age groups to join us in the future of the parish. It maybe that you have lots of ideas or you just the parish to stay the way it is. EITHER WAY WE NEED YOU!! This is a parish event for parish people.

NEWSLETTER - I'm pleased to report that the Newsletter broke even last year. Printing cost £456, postage was £108, and delivery was £9 making £573 in total and the revenue from adverts was £578 (some non-payments were written off). **editor**

WHO are the thoughtful gents who mow the path through the churchyard? They are well kept, and it is a pleasure to walk on them rather than a tangle of grass. I'm sure I'm speaking for all the locals and visitors and particularly dog walkers who regularly use them. A big thankyou to those responsible, you really are appreciated. Please carry on the good work - don't stop! **Pamela Sayers (dog walker)**

ALKHAM BYWAYS, latest position - In June Pimlico and Bullrun byways were re-opened to vehicles following a six-month closure by Kent County Council to prevent further vehicle damage over the winter. This followed KCC's preliminary consultation on their future management. Possible management outcomes include permanent Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) excluding all motor vehicles throughout the year - something which local residents having been calling for. Following the consultation KCC were due to present their recommendations to its consultative group called the Byway Management Working Group in June. Unfortunately, this was not done, and we are still waiting for the recommendations. At present the byway surfaces are in good condition in most places because of the last closures and exceptionally dry weather. KCC have funds available for some work on parts of the byways in poor condition. The byways group will continue to press for permanent TROs. Please contact me if you would like further information. **Peter Smith** - pnsmith755@gmail.com and 07711 648255.



GARDEN TALK - Our next visit will be to Woodstock, Alkham Valley Road, where we will be welcomed by Helen and Don Hobday. This will be on Friday **14th September** (which is a change of date from previous details), starting at 7.00p.m. to be able to view the garden in daylight. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our August meeting was a fun one and we had fish and chips followed by a Quiz which everyone enjoyed; thank you to Debbie Saunders for helping me. Well done to Sue Ross who came 1st in the decorated hat competition and also the runner up Gina Daniels. Our next meeting will be on September 11th when our speaker will be Bob Ogley talking about the Great Storm of 1987; this will be an open evening so everyone is welcome and it starts at 7.30pm. Hostesses are Alison Warnock and Eileen West; Raffle Eileen West and VOT Janet Gibbons. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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EVERDEN BYWAY – At South Alkham, Pimlico Way rises to the high ground where the byway splits with one arm leading to Everden. Martin Scherer, who owns the land, has been carrying out a lot of work adjacent to Pimlico Way and the Everden Byway including clearing the scrub land which has pleased many people including Kent Wildlife Trust and Natural England who want to see sheep grazing. The crater field is too steep and undulating for vine trellising so agro-forestry and grazing between widely spaced nut trees is planned. Having cleared the vegetation alongside the Everden byway it was realised that parts were precipitously close to the craters, so the byway is being widened to increase safety and the banks used by 4 x 4's removed. In the process it was discovered that part of the Everden Byway is in the wrong place, which KCC will reinstate. Martin intends to start grazing sheep and another field will be filled with vines next year. Pimlico is beautiful and should be shared so a track along the bottom boundary of the Crater Field will be created for a beautiful walk beneath trees, which friends of the Vineyard can walk or ride horses; friends are free to walk anywhere there are not grazing animals. To be a vineyard friend, people need to click 'like' to Pimlico Vineyard's FaceBook page.

MITCH on PROVENÇAL SONG – If you had a halfway decent voice and a love of music and a smattering of one or two European languages you might just be invited on the Summer Tour to the south of France - along with twenty young musicians. Oh and a willingness to cook for about twenty five mouths or so...And you would stay in the little village houses where the travelling grape pickers would stay come the vendage in September. The students all played at least one instrument, and sang too of course, so an evening concert consisted of a chamber group plus a concerto plus a solo sonata and two sets by the choir – reward for the cooks was to join in. The first church we sang in was one of those mediaeval gems - ancient and lofty and festooned with cobwebs, wooden pews with the patina of centuries. The priest in charge was nervous, lighting a lot of candles I noticed. Something to do with the bare shoulders and knees of the girls maybe? The heat was an invitation to wear a lot less than usual... But as soon as they started to sing and play the glories of Mozart and Vivaldi he relaxed – no more candles needed. For the shoulders were covered in performance black and the sounds were glorious. And they stood to applaud – best of all rewards. I think surprised that students so young were so professional in every way – the high standard of all the players, the high standard of behaviour too. Little did they know we all partied late into each hot southern night! **Jane Mitchell**

THANKS to John Prince for the kind donation of his time and cabinet making skills in the construction of a storage cupboard for St Anthony's. The cupboard, beautifully constructed in European oak, is integrated into the kitchenette and completes the internal improvements to the church (please pop in and see it). The new toilet and facilities were put to good use at the recent guitar concert and will be blessed by the Bishop of Dover at a special service on 9th September to which all are welcome.

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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

Saturday	1	Parish Plan meeting 10am to 4pm – see page 1
Sunday	2	PCC
Monday	3	Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm all welcome
Saturday	8	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Monday	17	Bird Club 7.30pm
Saturday	22	MacMillan coffee morning 10am to midday
Tuesday	25	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 2nd	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Saturday 8th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 9th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham with Bishop Trevor 10.00 am		
Sunday 16th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 23rd	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 30th	Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's (Capel Old Church) 10.00		

FROM THE VICARAGE - As a student teacher, I remember the advice that we were told always to follow when on school placements. *Before taking a seat in the staff room, make sure that it's not the one that Mr Bloggs always sits in – you won't be forgiven!* Visiting a cathedral one afternoon recently I decided to stay for Evensong, at which a visiting choir would be singing. I found a quiet corner and waited for the service to begin. Shortly afterwards an elderly couple sat down next to me. The woman smiled and asked if I was with the choir. I explained that I was just a visitor. Still smiling, she welcomed me – and happened to mention that she usually sat where I was sitting! *But there's no reason why you shouldn't sit there*, she reassured me. I resisted the temptation to reply that in my own church I always sit in the same seat too, but that nobody else wants it because it goes with the job... But by now she had turned her attention to a group of tourists who had sat down in front of us and were busily taking selfies. She spent the rest of the service leaning across, smiling and making sure that they had their prayer books open at the correct pages. The service ended with a procession during the final hymn. She wouldn't be taking part, she had told me – her legs wouldn't let her. The hymn began, we smiled our goodbyes, and together with the tourists I sang my way to a chapel for the Blessing (and more selfies). What's the moral of this story? If someone sits in your seat, try smiling and making them welcome. If you have ever mistakenly sat in someone else's, I know how you felt... **Brian Williams**

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