

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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delivered free
to the Parish of
Alkham**

THERE ARE two articles about choirs, with the second on page 2, and having more than one group locally is a positive thing as people will attend several groups and it helps recruit new members.

COME ALONG AND SING FOR FUN - Following the success of the Men United in Song project there has been much talk of the health benefits of singing, just for fun. We are very fortunate that our own, musically talented, Graham Bissett has decided that he could start a Community Choir and with the support of Ken Spencer and Myself, we have already promoted him to Musical Director. Ken and I will attempt to assist Graham with a few organisational and secretarial duties and we have already recruited the services of our lovely wives to come along and take part. The community choir will be open to all ladies and gents regardless of ability and there are no auditions, so if you ever thought you'd like to sing with others, this is the opportunity. We will book the Alkham Village Hall as our venue for a weekday evening and we'd like to get a feel for how many might like to join so please do get in touch even if just to chat, you really are all welcome. Kev Rolfe e: kev.rolfe@yahoo.com Ken Spencer e: s33krs@gmail.com

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - Monday 29th of August is our community cricket match with live music, hog roast and a charity auction back at the Marquis with funds raised for those effected by the war in Ukraine and projects within the village. We would love to see as many of you there as possible, it'll be a great atmosphere and brilliant community spirit as well as an opportunity to raise some money for some great causes. Posty Tony has also moved the Marquis Quiz night this month, so the two dates don't clash to Monday 22nd of August. **Hugh Thompson**

THE CHURCH is running a fete again at the Capel Garage Safari on the 4th of September at St Radigunds and since the pandemic we have very little money coming in. I am sure you would not like to see your beautiful old church go into disrepair and close as we need an awful lot of money to maintain it. We would like any donations of plants and bric-a-brac and also any raffle prize donations please. I hope we can rely on you all to buy tickets to support us. If you can help in any way, it would be much appreciated; please ring Carol Mannall on either 07946 106742 or 01304 826514 - thank you.

CATIE WEBBER'S father died whilst on a visit to Alkham. He lived in Australia and his family would like to acknowledge the marvellous support Alkham residents gave their family following Dick's death and could not have managed such a community spirited, uplifting service and wake in Brisbane. It was a splendid send-off.

A BOOT FAIR is being held at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre on Sunday 11th of September, sellers to arrive at 6.30am and buyers from 8am. Cars £10, vans £15, no food vans.

BARRY SHEPPARD – It is sad to report that Barry died at the Ashford Pilgrims Hospice on the 4th of August. For many years Barry has spared time to put his energies and mind towards the support of the Alkham Valley, serving as chairman of the Alkham Valley Society from 2010 to 2017. He stood down from this not always easy position on grounds of ill health but remained at the wheel in many other ways. We will miss you Barry, your commitment and often humorous support. Thank you. Our deep sympathy to Margaret and to their sons and their families. **Jo Walker (sec Alkham Valley Society)**. Miss you, Barry

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

This year's coffee morning is planned for Saturday 24th September 10am - 12noon. It will be held in the village hall and as in previous years there will be a variety of stalls, including a tombola and cake stall. The coffee morning is in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity that not only provides nursing care but also gives practical, financial and emotional care to cancer sufferers and their families. The coffee morning has always been a wonderful community event and has always been so well supported, it would be lovely to see you all there again this year. I would be so grateful to anyone who would be willing to bake a cake (large or individual) for the cake and refreshment stalls. For further information please contact Sue Ross on 01304 825736.

FILM NIGHT
September 27th
Downton Abbey: A New Era (2022)
August 30th 7.30pm
Goodbye Mr. Chips - Martin Clunes
Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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RIVER VOICES ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS - Are you over 50 and have always wanted to sing? River voices meets in River Methodist Church on Thursday afternoons from 2.00 - 3.30, our next term starts on 15th September. We sing a wide range of musical material with the aim of enjoying singing together and learning to use our voices. There are no auditions, you do not need any previous musical experience or be able to read music. River Voices is run by Living Lively, a Kent based charity which runs singing groups for people over 50. We grew out of an NHS research project into the health benefits of singing and over 400 people attend one of our groups each week. For more information, please contact Matthew on 07951 572920 or matthew@livinglively.org.uk

A HUGE THANK you to our Alkham neighbours for their many kindnesses this past July. You all made my father's sudden death while visiting the UK a bit easier to bear and certainly gave him a tremendous send off. Thank you for decorating the Church, making food, attending the funeral and singing your hearts out and making the wake a celebration of his life and a genuine delight. Thank you too, for lending an ear whilst providing cups of tea/coffee/ wine with warmth, understanding and wisdom to all three of us - Harlan, Margaret and me. **Catie Webber**

SOUTHERN EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre would like to invite you to discuss your equines Autumn/Winter feeding needs with Representatives from Spillers Horse Feed & Omega Equine Supplements. There will be special offers on the day throughout the shop! We look forward to seeing you!! (01303)891996

MEN UNITED IN SONG - On July 16th the gala concert of the MUIS choir took place in the Nye Hall at the Duke of York Military School in Dover. Over the 8 week rehearsal period Graham Bissett and myself were joined by Ken Spencer and the three of us all took part in the concert which we thoroughly enjoyed. At the time of writing the Choir had raised almost £35,000 for Prostate Cancer UK and still the money comes in. We'd like to thank everyone who has sponsored us and especially to those who came along to support us on the evening. It's not too late to get involved as there will soon be a DVD of the concert available to purchase and anyone who would like one can get in touch and we will let you know when the details are released. If you'd like a little taster, please take a look at the Kent Messenger TV report which can be found at www.kentonline.co.uk/kmtv/video/amateur-male-choir-in-dover-raises-35-0000-in-aid-of-prostate-cancer-52590/. **THANK YOU ALL.**

Kev Rolfe e: kev.rolfe@yahoo.com

PIMLICO WAY – The dry spell has helped to consolidate the byway and hard material has been laid from what used to be known as 5 ways where the path from Alkham meets the byway and continues to the wood at the Folkestone end. The part towards Dover appears to be firm and then the hard material continues down the slope to Slip Lane.

159 BANK HOTLINE – If you receive an unexpected, suspicious, or fraudulent call and are worried by it you can call 159 and between September last year and April this year 75000 calls have been made to that number. The number can also be used if you suspect a rogue trader and you can also report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

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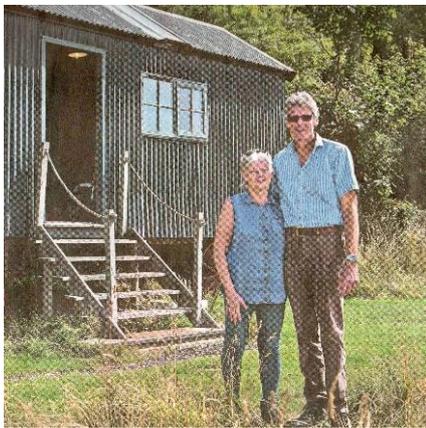
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THE DAILY TELEGRAPH on the 6th of August had a three quarter page article about Neil and Wendy Burrows who live in South Alkham. Neil is a farmer whose family have farmed in South Alkham for the past 57 years, and also has an award-winning farmhouse bed and breakfast which he runs with his wife Wendy. The newspaper article was about an abandoned late 1880's rusty shepherd's hut. Neil often drove

past the hut which was on Romney Marsh and realised there was the potential to make a modern use of history and turn the hut into a five-star retreat for glamorous camping now known as glamping. It took some time to do the conversion, which included many contemporary and period details, and they have since added another hut both of which are proving very popular. More details can be found on greenhillglamping.co.uk

IN JUNE 2022 at the South of England Show, Diana Smith of Sladden Farm had great success showing her pedigree Dexter cattle, helped by Matt Weiss. 'Magnolia' came first in her class, and her daughter 'Magenta' followed in her mother's hoof prints by also winning her class. Another of 'Magnolia's' offspring, Millie, maintained the family's high standards by coming second in the Maiden Heifer class. Sladden Farm gained many further awards at the Kent County Show in July. **Gail Swainston**

CRAFT FAIR - Thank you to everyone who supported craft fair at Greenwood Farm it was a beautiful day and enjoyed by all who came, unfortunately due to travel chaos in Dover and Folkestone some were unable to come so we were lower in numbers. The amount raised including donations was £550 which goes to Air ambulance. **Anne Huggins**

Meditation on First Light

I am the bones
I face the east
Each morning I rise up
And clatter my skeleton

The rattle flies
Out, hits the sun
Bounces back and echoes
Over your wide expanse.

Your openness
Quivers the sound
But it can't hold me,
I ripple out to your distant edges.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM WI - On Tuesday the 9th of August we had an enjoyable evening and had fish and chips which were from Seafarers in Cheriton Folkestone. Our next meeting is on September 13th and our speaker is Jane Muddle all about hats and bags. Hostesses Sue Ross, Margaret Batchelor, Raffle Alison Warnock and VOT Helen Scopes. All new members welcome **Debbie Griggs**

QUIZ NIGHT – On Saturday the 17th of September in Alkham village hall at 7.30pm. Anyone wishing to book a table please contact Debbie Griggs on 07796360473 and if you would like to donate a raffle prize that would be appreciated. Tables of 6 people £4 per person.



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Tuesday - Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	29	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4 th	Prayer 6.30 pm	Parish Eucharist	Hougham 10.00 am
Saturday 10 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11 th	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00am	
Sunday 18 th	Worship 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30am
Sunday 25 th	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 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 - This month I have a confession to make; I've been spotted indulging in my latest guilty pleasure. Yes, my car was still parked on the drive, and yes, I really was standing at the bus stop. No, there was nothing wrong with the car. And yes, I really am old enough to have a bus pass! But I don't think of myself as getting old. It's not so long ago that I was still working in schools as a supply teacher. But when a girl pupil had to repeat herself to me no less than three times, I realised that I was reaching my sell-by date. Retirement came in the form of an appointment with the Audiology Department, and I was rewarded with a pair of hearing aids rather than a carriage clock for my long years of service. Not that I'm done yet. I'm heartened by the story of a bishop, new in post, who discovered that one of his priests had been running the same parish for over forty years and was still there, even though aged well over eighty. He wrote, thanking him for his years of faithful ministry and asking if he had thought of retiring. Back came the reply: nothing had ever been said about his being a temporary appointment until then! I still work with young people who have been excluded from school for one reason or another. My last protégé succeeded in producing a spectacular model of Dover Castle

and in gaining a Food Safety Certificate, among other things – he should be stating a college course soon. Having finished working with him, I was asked if I wanted to retire. I was tempted - until I read the Thank You card that he sent. So, maybe not just yet... **Brian Williams**

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