

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

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

No. 368 October 2024

Non-profit &
delivered free
to the Parish

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council



VOLUNTEERING! - I wanted to thank the Parish Council for a name check in the last edition of the Alkham News for helping to clear the road outside the village hall; in truth there were too many volunteers to name which all started following a tipsy conversation during the village Garden Club earlier in the year. Any notion that they are my 'band of volunteers' really needs putting to bed as the good spirit of those people volunteering is just an extension of what so many people, for so many years have already done. You all know who you are! Amongst some of the comments made to me were that perhaps

it's quite difficult or an imposition when Parish Councillors, Village Hall committee members or anyone in a position of responsibility ask for volunteers. Now I not saying that I'm irresponsible but I'm certainly not a Parish Councillor, a Village Hall committee member or anyone of any significance. However, it does seem to me that we have many skills amongst us in the village and if they can be put to good use for our community, without the need to pay for the services, we could all benefit. During the ongoing improvements to the Village Hall this latest band of volunteers have concreted a new side path following the recent repair of the soakaway and started on the paving slabs and electrical supply into the car park. Who knew we had a master concreter in the form of Bryony Levermore and a master mixer in the form of David Manton. There's more work still to be done and, be it the finesse of Graham West or the brute force of myself, all are welcome to help out as so many already have. The Village Hall for one is a charity, it needs our help and support whatever skill, talent or service that is. As a person of no significance at all, I'm happy to put anyone in touch with the right people where your talents can help. Also, thanks to passer-by, expert photographer and self-titled specialist moaner Barry Spicer who insisted on taking a photo of the four of us! **Kev Rolfe**

CALLING ANYONE who enjoys a thoroughly enjoyable, social evening! I have booked the Village Hall on 5th of October to hold a Harvest Barn Dance/Ceilidh/Folk Dance – call it what you will. There will be live music and a caller, and supper will be included in the ticket price of £10, which I think represents amazing value for money for 4 hours of entertainment. There will not be a bar so, of course, you are welcome to bring your own refreshment. If you have not been to an event such as this before, no dancing skills are necessary, just the ability to walk, to step or to skip in time with the music, as the caller will give you the instructions for each dance. Two feet or either right or left variety is not an excuse! This is not Line Dancing, but traditional English, Irish and Scottish folk dancing, sometimes in couples, but often in sets of several couples. It is super exercise and a great way of socialising and meeting people. I guarantee you will leave the hall with a smile on your face. I need to sell 70 tickets to cover costs of musicians, food etc. Please contact me at 07789 690786 or graham.bissett@talk21.com for tickets – and bring your friends!! **Graham Bissett**

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING - On Saturday the 26th of October between 10-12 am we are raising funds towards hall improvements and hope you can come along for a cuppa. There will be the usual raffle and cake stall, so could all you lovely people please donate whatever you can. I would appreciate raffles prizes beforehand, so I know what I have but cakes on the day please. **Sue Koo - 07454021992**

IT'S THAT TIME of year again folks Harvest supper time. I have booked the hall for Monday the 14th of October and it will be an American Supper again where you bring your own food and drink. It will start at 19.00 and please if you have any produce that can be auctioned off please bring it along to either our Harvest service on the Sunday or on the night. Tickets will be £7.00 each to book ring Carol on 07946106742 or 01304 826514.

MARK LOVEDAY – It is sad to report that Mark died in September. He owned the Old Rectory in Alkham and further details and thanks for his many contributions are given on page 2.

B P S window cleaner

Window cleaning specialists no house too small. We use a reach & wash purifying system that means no streaks or smears and no chemicals. Our poles reach those hard to get areas. Safely clean conservatory roof. We fully clean all windows, doors & frames.

Call Paul on 01304 823763 or
07971389039

CAR & VAN SERVICING

**MOTS, TYRES & EXHAUSTS
BRAKES, CLUTCHES & REPAIRS
DIAGNOSTICS**

Free collection & delivery or courtesy car arranged

**POULTON SERVICE & EXHAUST CENTRE
HOLLOW WOOD ROAD, DOVER CT17 0UB
01304 201235**



All types of paving, driveways, walls, groundworks and a full garden design

Free quotations

Local family run business

**07818024487 or 01304 825355
e-mail: quotes@dbworks.co.uk**

Professional Dog Grooming Service

No2 Wolverton Cottages
Alkham Valley Road
Contact: Karen 07594478587
Email: woofreadywoof@gmail.com
Find us on 



Alkham Court

Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast
Meggett Lane, South Alkham
5 Star: Gold Award
Peaceful location overlooking Alkham Valley
'Winners Best B & B in SE England'
Tourism SE Award
Web: www.alkhamcourt.co.uk
Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

Tai Chi

Wednesday, 3.30 - 4.30 PM
Wootton Village Hall
Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM
Hawkinge Community Centre
Contact Anna Dashwood
07736 849 194 www.pfstaichi.com

Streetz2Streetz Mobile Fish and Chip Unit Saturday 19th October

28th September

will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm
Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details
Also cater for weddings, kid's parties, christenings,
charity events, fish supper parties and boot fairs

MARK LOVEDAY - Mark was born in London in 1943 and lived in London, but he also owned the Old Rectory on Slip Lane which his family regularly visited for many years as he loved Alkham and tried to do everything he could to keep it as a lovely village. When the owner of Malmain Farm died about 10 years ago the beneficiaries applied for a planning application to build a large number of houses on the farmland by the entrance to Alkham on the Folkestone side, but this was rejected and Mark immediately bought the land which continues to be farmed today. Cricket was Mark's life-long interest and each year his team the Harrington Hackers played an Alkham team on the village green and entertained proverbial lunches at the Old Rectory which many may remember. He was also Chairman of the Alkham Valley Society and gave generous donations to the Friends of St. Anthony to maintain the church building and helped with other village activities. He was a kind man and Alkham is very grateful. *This is on behalf of Alkham*

ASIAN HORNETS IN ALKHAM, now more descriptively being referred to as yellow-legged hornets (YLH) - In August, a yellow legged hornet nest was found up Slip Lane. The nest was found after a number of YLH's had been trapped at various locations around the village. The National Bee Unit (Plant and Animal Health Agency) visited as soon as the hornets were identified and started work to locate the nest. This was an involved process with them recording flight time and direction of individual hornets. They then had to work out how best to destroy a nearly 30 metre high nest next to houses and a road. In the end climbers poisoned the colony and later removed the nest. Other nests have been found and destroyed in Lydden and Temple Ewell. The first week of September was "Asian hornet week" and some of the coverage on the BBC featured locations in Alkham. We had YLH and nests last year but there is a greater awareness of what we need to do to prevent this predatory species from becoming established in the UK. There have been traps set up since last year at roughly 1km intervals, the majority of these supplied and monitored by Dover and District Bee Keepers Association. We are going to continue seeing YLH's each year even if nests are cleared as new hornets will arrive from France, so it is important particularly in our area that people know what to do if they suspect they have seen a YLH. The Asian Hornet Watch app remains the best way to do this, otherwise make sure that you have a clear picture to help identification, as the European hornet and various wasps are easily misidentified as YLH's. Please contact me if you would like a card with identification details. **Emma Kaile** emmakaile1@gmail.com

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION - Out of the 29 households which took place in this year's contest, owing mainly to this year's slug fest, odd weather and storm Lillian by the time the day of measuring the sunflowers came only 6 competitors were left. The winner this year are Sue and Ray Latham with an impressive 7'4, followed by Vernon 6', Alan Tapsell 5'8, Paul Tapsell 5'6, Ken Spencer 5'3 and Richard Tapsell 5'1. Thank you to everyone who took part and to Vernon who grew all the seedlings. **Anita James**

A MESSAGE from Temple Ewell School - Mrs Church has been busy again applying for grants to enrich our school programme and support our families. This time we have been successfully chosen as a Tesco blue token nominee. Please, when you shop in Tesco Dover, can you collect a blue token at the till and pop it into the Temple Ewell School slot by the door as you leave. It is also in the Deal store so please share this with your friends and family. The token drop runs from the first week in October until mid-January 25. **Angela Matthews**

MAT WALECKI

Window cleaner
Household repairs

General maintenance and repairs
Pole system and traditional
Painting and decorating
07803333709
Matek167@hotmail.com



Your Local One Stop Flooring Shop
www.actioncarpets.co.uk
26 Market Square, Dover, CT16 1NG
Folkestone: 01303 246505
Dover: 01304 207007 Whitfield: 01304 20700
Call for a free estimate or visit a showroom
We Have All Floors Covered

River Chimney Sweep

Insurance approved certificate issued with every sweep
Other installations include
Stove installation: Chimney liners
Bird cowl: Chimney repointing
Stove servicing and repairs
Call Marcus Wright
Tel: **01304 761081 Mob: 07971 699220**
www.riverchimneysweep.co.uk
Registered OFTEC Stove Installer

GRAHAM WEST

General Maintenance
Electrical Installation Specialist
General household repairs, Painting decorating
Small plumbing, Woodwork
Specialist electrical installations
07973330890
graham.west28@hotmail.com,

Coastal Mowers and Plant

Garden Machinery, Power Tools
& Small Plant
Repairs – Service – Sales
07867 368 508 01304 829224
Unit 3, Honeywood House, Honeywood
Road, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3EH

Wolverton Farm Fire Wood

All our wood is seasoned and ready to burn!
We have been in the community for 4 decades and selling wood for 2! Ton bags, small trailers, large trailers and mega loads, we do them all! We also sell kindling in large bags! Please get in touch. You can call us, text us or
WhatsApp us: 07717303878 We are also on Instagram:wolvertonfarmfirewood.

ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK

If you are interested in the history of Alkham an A4 51-page book is available with many old photos and is free for people associated with Alkham. Please email
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

PETANQUE SOCIAL TASTER - Following the most recent Parish Council Meeting, I would now like to arrange a Social Taster Event on Vicarage Meadow at 2pm on Saturday the 12th of October. First, I'd like to thank everyone for all the responses, I have reported these back to the Parish Council and I have asked for their support and permission to build a terrain on the The Meadow. I believe that I gave a very fair representation of the feedback including comments about some wishing for children's play area's to be prioritised, about concerns over costs, about fencing (which is not part of the proposal) and about concerns over issues at the Capel-le-Ferne area but that the majority of feedback was supportive and in favour. I'd like to address a few of the comments directly, however space and time are limited so I invite everyone to attend the taster for more information. I've requested to book the village hall so I would suggest that we all meet in the hall at 2pm to discuss the proposal and play some pétanque right after. I will be inviting all the Parish Councillors so this is your opportunity to show your support and find out more, please come along, whatever the weather and bring whatever refreshments you prefer and don't forget your boules, although there will be some available for all to use including children's sets, in fact as the taster will be held on grass it may well prove that we all use plastic sets as the steel boules that many of you have may not be suitable on the day. Finally, the large issue of money! I'll be trying to raise all the construction costs through donations so that when I go back to the council again we are only looking for permission to build and no cost implication. I've already had some very generous offers which I am embarrassed to accept but I'm sure with the number of people supporting this request we can raise enough fairly easily, although donations are not required to join us on the day or use the facilities after. I'm not looking for any cash at this stage, but I will be asking for pledges, anonymously if desired, on the day so we know what we are facing. If successful I'd like to obtain permission from the Parish Council and have the facility built after Christmas and ready for use by Easter 2025! **Kev Rolfe**

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - So it's that time again, village Christmas lights will be on Saturday 7th December, please come along for a sing song and chat with Santa. We are going to follow this with a party in the village hall. So, get your glad rags on and come along for some fun, music and dancing. We are looking to do sharing platters again and everyone bring their own drinks. Finally, there will be a raffle, this will pay for hire of the hall and any remaining monies will go to support village hall improvements. Hopefully, you can help with donating of a raffle prize/s. One last thing if you could contact me, just ideas of numbers and what you might like to bring along for sharing on the night. Looking forward to seeing you all. Further updates next month. **Graham West** (graham.west28@hotmail.com).

ALKHAM W.I. - What an enjoyable evening, our speaker was Judi Knight telling us all about the war and how there were clothes coupons as well as food coupons. Our next meeting is on the 8th of October and our speaker will be Dean Guston, subject the queens service. Hostesses Lucy McKenzie and Marian Libaert, raffle Helen Price, VOT Eileen West. New members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**



Local Watchmaker

Service & Repairs to all makes of vintage & modern timepieces. Battery changes to full Servicing.

Also, Pocket Watches & Carriage Clocks.
07986 424293

Email: chronoexserv@hotmail.com

Competitive rates for residents of Alkham Parish.

Pilates + Classes @ Alkham Village Hall

Friday mornings 10 to 11am

£6pp Julie Watt, REPs qualified instructor

Just turn up or phone 07825109670

Email pilates.mbs@gmail.com



Whitfield Computer Services

Lee Eversfield fdc

Hardware & software problems • Installations

Upgrades • Repairs • Internet set-up

Virus removal • General advice

No fix – No fee **Tel: 01304 204227** OAP special rates

E-Mail: lee.eversfield@btinternet.com

OIL BOILER SERVICE Est 1987

Friendly Family Service

For routine service and emergency breakdowns contact

P & V QUENBY LTD

01227 760428 07768 594147

EV car chargers

and all electrical work for your home and garden.



C7 ENERGY

c7email@proton.me

01227 621 207

EAST KENT PADDOCK MAINTENANCE

Topping, Rolling, Harrowing, Spraying, Fertilizer spreading, Fence repair and erection, water tanks and piping.

Tel. Nigel Peddle 01304 824004 or 07810203324

ANDY GEE - Gas Safe registered heating and plumbing engineer
07807586902 or 01304 207378
andygee1709@hotmail.com

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm

Alkham Village Hall

29th of October

The Family – Robert De Nero

24th of September - Whistle Stop Cafe

Free entry but £4 donation appreciated

BUS TIMES To Dover

7.59,8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28

Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28

To Folkestone

9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09

Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09

Assumed correct but check on

www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates
Please ring Catie on 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com

Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am

Wednesday Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm

Friday Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Saturday 5 Harvest Barn Dance – see page 1

Tuesday 8 W.I. meeting 7.30pm

Monday 14 Harvest Supper – see page 1

Saturday 26 Coffee morning – see page 1

Thursday 31 Tea & chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evening 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Saturday 12th	<i>Fun, fellowship and food - children accompanied</i> 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Songs 11.00 am	Songs 11.00 am
HARVEST			
Sunday 20th	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 27th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

POLICE 999 or 101 NEWSLETTER brianwimsett@hotmail.com

PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

HALL BOOKING Catie Webber 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com

W.I. SECRETARY Janet Barrow 829585 **VICAR** Brian Williams 01303 243784

AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org

MP Mike Tapp: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487

DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860.

LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE - In May 1373 a woman who we now know as Julian of Norwich lay seriously ill, and a priest was summoned. As he held a crucifix in front of her the figure of Christ seemed to speak to her, an experience which, once recovered, she described in her book *Revelations of Divine Love*. Possibly the first book in English to be written by a woman, it's still in print. Her conviction that God's love conquers all, and that come what may 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well' - continues to comfort and inspire. But could such a spiritual classic still be written today? In situations like Julian's people are now more likely to send for a paramedic, rather than a priest. Could the 'Still, Small Voice' have penetrated the flashing of blue lights, and the wail of sirens? Rabbi Lionel Blue used to say that God shows his hand in the most unexpected places. Others talk about 'getting a prod'. I know what they mean. Take a visit to the dentist, for example. Arriving there a couple of months ago I unexpectedly found myself being asked to add one of their work colleagues to our prayer list at church. She was ill, they were concerned about her, and they evidently thought that prayer might help. As I sat in the chair, my dentist handed me a piece of paper with her name on it. I had arrived there expecting to have a broken tooth removed, but ended up with a 'prod'! On a return visit recently I asked how she was. I was told that she is still receiving treatment. I told them that we're still praying. "Thanks Brian," came the reply. "It does help." **Brian Williams**