

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969

No. 288 January 2018

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CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS - About 50 adults and children turned up on the 9th December to sing carols before Leo Lambert and Jacob Taylor turned on the lights. Graham Bissett was the master of

ceremonies this year and is seen above playing the piano accordion. Many thanks go to Graham and Irene Barnard for arranging the evening. In previous years everyone went to the Marquis afterwards but this year the mulled wine, provided by the Marquis, was heated on a portable stove by the tree and together with mince pies dispensed to the carollers. Many thanks also go to Helen and Don Hobday for braving the cold and heating the wine.

CHILDREN'S DISCO – Thanks to David Beaney for arranging a children's disco in the village hall before the Christmas lights turn-on. Forty children came along, but there were only 8 from the village. However, it was the first time and there will be more in the future.

MANY THANKS to the Marquis and the Alkham Valley Garden Centre for donating generous raffle prizes to the children's Christmas disco.

ST ANTHONY'S CHRISTMAS TREE - In keeping with tradition Paul and Ian of the Alkham Valley Garden Nursery, have very kindly donated a beautiful tree for our church. On behalf of the PCC committee and all villagers we thank you very much. **Irene PCC Secretary**

BYWAYS – Pimlico Way and the Bull Run have been damaged yet again by off-road vehicles and there has also been criminal damage. Andrew Hutchinson, from KCC PROW, has placed a new emergency temporary traffic regulation order on motor vehicles, excluding motorcycles and quadricycles. Pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists will still be entitled to use the byways. The closure by notice can last a maximum of 21 days, but he intends to make an order to close the same for up to 6 months.

POPPY APPEAL - I'd like to thank everyone from the Alkham, Ewell Minnis and surrounding areas who donated to the Poppy Appeal. The Grand Total for 2017 is a magnificent £763.03. I'd also like to thank my helpers who, every year, come rain or shine, are out collecting. Last, but not least, thanks go to the local businesses who have had Poppy boxes by their tills. **Rachel Fountain**

GROTTO - Despite dreadful weather, Father Christmas's grotto was well attended on the 10th December and many thanks to all who attended and gave donations. Special thanks to Susannah and her Keep Fit ladies. The total raised was £614 for Demelza Children's Hospice (more next moth). **Anne and John Huggins**

Happy New Year

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be held in the village hall on the 3rd March starting at 7.30pm. Graham Bissett has offered to take over the running of the quiz, which Brian has been doing for the last 15 years. However, for this year Brian will ask the questions for 5 rounds and Graham will do the rest. If you'd like a table for up to 8 people, please speak to either Graham or Brian; phone Brian on 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com. The cost is £5 per person and food will be served at the interval.

ESTHER PRESTON was a wonderful person, who never had a bad word for anyone, died on the 15th of November aged 88. She was of the old Alkhamite generation and was married to Charlie who spent his life as a shepherd. Most of the extended Preston family came to the funeral where tributes were given by the grandchildren and memories of Esther spoken by son Robert.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - Please do not forget the annual walk 27 December 10.30 am from the Village Hall. It should last no longer than 2 hours. Dogs welcome. Mark Loveday, founder member and President of the Alkham Valley Society, would like to thank all well-wishers and says that there is a steady improvement. **J Walker (Sec)**

FILM NIGHT

December

No film

Jan 30

Dunkirk

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50
Please bring your own refreshments

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FRAUD IN ALKHAM – Yodel delivered an unexpected but correctly named and addressed parcel to a house in Alkham. Thinking it might be a present the parcel was accepted, but on opening it was found to contain items of some value. Shortly afterwards a woman phoned (number withheld) purportedly from the supplier, who said a package had been addressed incorrectly and someone would pick it up later that evening. The homeowner was suspicious and phoned the supplier directly and they confirmed the details were correct but on checking credit card and bank details found them to be different. It was established that the scammer had set up a bank account, e-mail contact and an account with the sender of equipment. The police were informed and a little later a man in a high vis jacket arrived at the door to pick up the parcel. He was told the sender had been contacted and the police informed with the result that the man then left at great speed.

TRAFFIC - On December 8th, 42 people attended a presentation by Cllr Geoff Hillier at the Village Hall to learn about progress on the traffic action plan for the Alkham Valley. The plan objectives are to reduce vehicle speed, road accidents and the number of vehicles using the valley as a through route to avoid the A20. Financial constraints will dictate the requirement for a phased implementation of the plan over several years with the Parish expected to provide KCC with about 30% of the total capital cost which is anticipated to be in the range of £100-£120k for initial stages and circa £240k overall. The proposals were well received by all those present. A questionnaire is contained within the Newsletter and all adult residents are requested to either complete it, and place it into the Parish Council Suggestion box outside the village hall, or preferably, visit www.alkham.org, where on the home page you will find, "Alkham Resident Traffic Calming Survey response click here", to complete the questionnaire on line. If you require additional photocopies of the questionnaire, please call Glyn 01304 826619 or Harlan 01304 768236. GLYN.JONES. glynmarine@btinternet.com.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The Society formed in 1977 is actively seeking new members to help protect and preserve the beauty of the Alkham Valley for all. The large number of byways, footpaths, bridle paths and all different areas that you and your families love to walk and explore in the Valley continually come under threat from illegal or inappropriate development or use; we aim to stop that. Our aim is to work with Kent Public Rights of Way (PROW), Parish Councils, Kent Wildlife Trust and local land owners in order to identify, protect and preserve the flora and fauna that is still abundant in the Valley for future generations. Yearly Membership costs just £5 per person or £10 per household. Please either contact us at alkhamvalleysociety@btinternet.com or send a cheque payable to The Alkham Valley Society to The Treasurer, Greenwood Manor, Slip Lane Alkham CT15 7EF, please include your name, address and email address. **Bev Hubbard**

PRECEPT – The Parish Council discussed the precept requirement for 2018 and decided to increase it by the rate of inflation to £8142.

POWER CUTS - UK Power Networks have a Priority Services Register which will ensure you will receive extra support if you experience a power cut. If you are of pensionable age, have medical conditions, young children, dementia or are disabled you should qualify. Ring 0800 169 9970 or go to UK Power Networks web site for further details.

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GLEBELANDS – The deeds to the land on which the village hall stands showed the word 'Glebe' on the other side of Hogbrook Lane. Glebe is an old word for a field, but glebe land means land attached to a parish church

and this was true until 2003; hence Vicarage Meadow. Opposite what is now the village hall was the village pond (photo), which was where the large sump area is now fenced off. The village pond eventually silted up and in 1926 the dyke was dug. **editor**

OZ'S CHRISTMAS COMPETITION – The 2017 edition of Hide and Seek, a quotation competition, included a page from me on the White Cliffs of Dover. The competition is now over, and readers might like to sample it this month. For each quotation, solvers must identify the author, the work, and chapter or verse. The digital temptation is obvious, but I can confirm that finding the sources in books is much more fun. Please email answers to steveaosborn@hotmail.com by the end of January. The first complete, or best incomplete, entry will receive a free copy of Hide and Seek 2018.

1. His eye, methinks, pursued the flight
Of birds to Britain half-way over
With envy; they could reach the white
Dear cliffs of Dover.
 2. There are blackbirds over
The greyish cliffs of Dover
 3. On the hill to the North, stands the Castle of Dover, which is fortified in the ancient manner, except on the sea-side, where it has the steep cliff for a fortification. On the South side of the town, the hill is, I believe, rather more lofty than that on the North side; and here is that cliff which is described by SHAKESPEARE in the Play of King Lear.
 4. "...an Englishman who is a Scotchman who is a Norwegian who is a Canadian who is a Negro at heart from Dahomey who is married to an American who is on a French ship in distress which has been built by Americans and who finds at last that he is a Mexican dreaming of the White Cliffs of Dover..."
 5. He is the capricious smile behind the colored bottles.
He eats not lest the poor want some.
He breathes of attitudes the piney altitudes.
He indeed is the White Cliffs of Dover.
 6. Oh, England! thy white cliffs are dearer to me
Than all the famed coasts of a far foreign sea;
- Happy Christmas and happy hunting! - Steve Osborn**



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Tracey Prince BSc (hons), PGCE, QTS, CELTA, CRB

CHRISTMAS 1917 – From The Times of 6 December 2017, quoting from the parish newsletter of St Mary's, Amersham, where the vicar recorded the following. In the trenches of Christmas 1917, German soldiers decided to extend a festive greeting to their enemy and raised a banner that read "Gott mit uns" (God with us). The Tommies replied with their own banner which read "We got mittens too." - **Steve Osborn**



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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm	
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am	
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am Whist Drive 7.30 pm	
Other Events in the village hall		
Tuesday	2	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	13	SEK astronomical society in the afternoon
Monday	15	Bird Club 7.30pm
Saturday	27	Beekeepers in the afternoon
Tuesday	30	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 7th		Eucharist 9.30 am	Christingle 11am
Saturday 13th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Christingle 11am	
Sunday 21st	Family Service Alkham Village Hall 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 28th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16 Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16
9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.07 16.32 17.32 Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - A while ago I was fortunate enough to visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem - the traditional site of the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is usually thronged with pilgrims and, as you can imagine, there is much to see. Among them are the tiny crosses that medieval pilgrims used to carve into the walls when they finally arrived at this holiest place of the Christian world. Why? We can only guess – perhaps in thanksgiving for having survived the journey without being shipwrecked, murdered or succumbing to the plague. I was in St Laurence Church, Hougham, a while ago when some visitors walked in and started to look around. Eventually one noticed something that I had never spotted before. On one of the pillars in the chancel are carved some crosses exactly like those in Jerusalem – difficult to see but there nonetheless, left centuries ago probably as a ‘thank you’ for a safe return from the Holy Land. People talk about being able to read churches. Everything in them – fine monuments, elaborate stained glass windows, tiny carved crosses, and everything else in between - tells the stories of those who were there before us. Now, at our own St Anthony's, work is about to begin to install the kind of facilities that we have come to expect. They will be there in the church together with the coffin lid of Herbert de Averanches, the fine arcade in the North Aisle that the monks of St Radigund's left us and all the other things that tell the stories of the people who have lived here over the centuries – a testament to the vision, expertise, dedication, hard work and generosity of those of our own time. God bless you, every one.

Brian Williams

POLICE 999 or 101

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Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Susannah Tapsell 822295 & Geoff Gaskill 823100
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
DDC - P Beresford 216187
WEBS www.alkham.org & www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

To contact the Parish Clerk or Councillors phone 07800 943434 or email alkham.pc@outlook.com

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BOXING DAY WALK – The weather on Boxing Day was pretty grim and only Mark Loveday, his son Sam, grandson Finlay aged 5, Sam's brother-in-law Richard and Dillon the dog turned up. They did a circular walk up the hill behind Alkham and down to Warren Lane in driving sleet and some snow, then home for hot showers. For those new to the Parish, Mark Loveday

owns the Old Rectory and is president of the AVS; he cares very much about Alkham and generously helps local causes. Mark also bought the land to the west of the village, which was part of Malmain Farm, such that it remained farmland.

TRAFFIC CALMING QUESTIONNAIRE - Those of you who have previously expressed concern over the growth of traffic through the village, and haven't yet submitted your completed Questionnaires, please do so before the **deadline of 31st January**. In order to exert maximum pressure on the Authorities to take action, it is essential that we demonstrate, in overwhelming numbers, demand for measures to be taken to calm traffic on the Alkham Valley Road. This could possibly be your last chance to do something about traffic through the village. Don't miss it. Act now. The Questionnaire can be completed on line via Alkham.org and all members of the household are urged to complete and submit their own forms. **Alkham Traffic Action Group - Geoff Hillier**

CHURCH PEWS - With building work for St Anthony's project now underway, a number of surplus church pews have become available for sale. Offers from parishioners are invited and should be made to Irene Barnard (824845) or Geoff Gaskill (823100).

KCC COMMUNITY TRANSPORT – The Alkham Valley is well served by buses but the outlying communities such as Ewell Minnis, West Hougham and Church Hougham are not. A solution is to have community transport and KCC Councillor, Geoff Lymer, is proposing that a mini bus be purchased. Funding for this will come from various sources and times of the bus will be published. A fare will have to be paid and there will be a late evening service to bring youngsters back from the towns. It is hoped that it will be introduced by September.

FETE AGM & Committee Meeting. There will be a Fete AGM and Committee meeting at 8 pm on 8th February in the Village Hall to prepare for the 2018 Fete (Saturday 14th July 2018 - put it in your diary now!). Please come along if you'd like to help in any way towards the 2018 Fete - the most important event in village life this (or any) year! Fresh ideas and helpers are always welcome! **Paul Tapsell**

EWELL MINNIS – There is a lack of signing at Ewell Minnis and therefore signs will be installed to that effect. In addition, there will be further road signing indicating Warren Lane and other roads.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be held in the village hall on the 3rd March starting at 7.30pm. Graham Bissett has offered to take over the running of the quiz, which Brian has been doing for the last 15 years. However, for this year Brian will ask the questions for 5 rounds and Graham will do the rest. If you'd like a table for up to 8 people, please speak to either Graham or Brian; phone Brian on 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com. The cost is £5 per person and food will be served at the interval.

ALKHAM WALK - White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, Saturday 20th January 1pm Alkham Village Hall. Dogs on leads welcome - 01304 241806.

FILM NIGHT	
Jan 30	Dunkirk
February 27	Victoria and Abdul
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - Martin Hibbert has been working on a new website for the Parish Council; this should be ready in the near future. Geoff Hillier has advised the deadline for returning traffic surveys is 31st January. The Parish Council are looking into the option of a minibus for the rural areas. This was suggested by Geoff Lymer at the last meeting. The areas covered would include Akham and Ewell Minnis. David Beaney has been working with KCC regarding installation of signs at Ewell Minnis; this will be funded in full by KCC. If you would like any extra information or would like to give us your thoughts please contact one of your councillors, contact email addresses are on the Alkham website.



ALKHAM COURT, which is at top of Meggett Lane, won gold in the Tourism South East's Beautiful South Awards both for Bed & Breakfast of the Year 2017/18 and Glamping Business of the Year. Glamping is glamour camping and at Alkham Court you stay in a beautifully restored 19th century

shepherd's hut. Congratulations to Wendy and Neil Burrows.

NEW YOGA CLASS on Thursdays in term time 9.30-11 am in the village hall. Equipment provided but please bring a blanket and wear loose clothing. Flexibility is not a pre-requisite, nor the ability to touch your toes. We build a strong foundation and work with the breath to extend out to the peripheries to find lightness and love in our postures. Cost is £8. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at all. Every question is important. **Hilary Horton 07905 520832**

WHILST we appreciate our neighbours wish to enjoy their celebrations, we would ask they are mindful of the horses and pets living in the vicinity. Despite being a rural community, our horses are kept fairly near to the neighbouring houses and we endeavoured to close off fields to keep them as far away as possible from any firework displays. Regulations state that fireworks must not be set off near livestock or horses in fields or buildings housing the same. Anyone planning to set off fireworks should warn neighbours in advance and set off the fireworks in the opposite direction away from them. Most people don't realise how much suffering fireworks cause to animals, particularly horses. So, we would ask that if you intend to let off fireworks in your back garden, please think carefully how it will affect the local animals. There are many villagers, horse and pet owners who share these views – just a bit of mindfulness would go a long way in reducing the stress levels of the animals as well as their owners! **Barrie & Tina Matcham**

GARDEN TALK – We are planning our Programme of visits to local gardens for this summer, and would welcome offers of hospitality within the village – we are usually lucky with the weather on a Friday evening! We start the season with an indoor venue – 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane, South Alkham on Friday 9th March at 7.30p.m. Please contact Janet Adamson on 01303 893413 with suggestions.

ALKHAM W.I. – Our first meeting back was January 9th and our speaker was Paul Norris who did a magic show for us, which was an enjoyable evening. Our next meeting will be February 13th at 7.30pm; our speaker will be Eileen West talking about the work of the Salvation Army. Hostesses are Janet Gibbons Sue Harman; Raffle Helen Price and VOT Helen Scopes. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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Fat cakes £1.00 each

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• ENGLISH as a FOREIGN LANGUAGE (EFL)

Tracey Prince BSc (hons), PGCE, QTS, CELTA, CRB

IN MARCH 1772 there was an advert in the Kentish Express: *Oak timber to be sold by auction on Monday the 13th day of April instant, at three o'clock in the afternoon, at the sign of the Fox and Goose, in Church Alkham Street. About one hundred and sixty trees, marked and landing upon a piece of wood land, called Stone Hill wood, in the parish of Alkham. For further particulars, enquire of Mr. Fabricant Attorney, Dover.* Stone Hill wood is at the junction of Slip Lane and Chalksole Green Lane and The Fox and Goose, which was the pub, is now called Forstal Cottage. Perhaps the trees went to Chatham for a ship that fought Napoleon.

ALKHAM WHIST DRIVE – Prior to the 1950's, whist was played in the Long Room at The Marquis before moving to the Village Hall because gambling wasn't allowed on licensed premises. George Kitham, Maurice Tutt, Ted Goldfinch, Cecil Godden, Margaret Archer and the Polden family ran the whist over the years and then Mabel Tapsell, Chris's first wife, took over in the 1980's until her death in 1991. Chris Tapsell continued to run the drives until December 2017 and in addition to renting the hall, money was given for the hall improvement and over the years a substantial amount was raised. Chris has attempted to find some alternative, either playing in the afternoon or a volunteer willing to continue with the Friday evenings but to no avail. If after reading this, you feel that you could assist, the opportunity remains – those loyal whist players, none of whom are from the village, are still willing and even keen to support the popular evening. Please ring Chris on 01304 831724 if you'd like to help.

MITCH ON MUSIC MAKING - Most self-respecting towns and cities have one and ours in my south coast home city is no exception. We even celebrated fifty years of music making a year ago. I'm talking Youth Orchestras. Seedbed of lifelong amateurs, seedbed of some - a few - professionals. Saturday mornings in some towns, Friday night when I were a lass, and lots of excitement as the bassoon player began grinning at me over the music stands - cherished memory now! And then a foreign trip in the summer hols. Ours then was to Dusseldorf. Recently a trip to Nurnberg as a German speaking accompanying adult. No, we weren't taken to the infamous parade grounds. But we were taken to see The Wall. A hot July day, we tumbled out of our coaches laughing and excited, and walked just a short way down the hill – and there it was, plastered and graffitied and watched over by the armed guards in high towers. Just like all those films. Now so believable - all those stories of divided families and daring escapes. No laughter now. Very moved. One lad said he'd learnt more today than in all his history lessons. But we did play in the cathedral that we and the allies had razed to knee height and which had been rebuilt exactly as before from photos and architects' plans. In the afternoon the doors were open to all comers and people drifted in and out. In the evening it was full house! And dusty old chairs were dragged out of back rooms for more and yet more audience. I remember the mood of warmth and pleasure - and of pride too - and a high fine oboe floating up into the rafters above. Music the international language, the builder of bridges. **Jane Mitchell**



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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Yoga 9.30 to 11.00am
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	6	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Thursday	8	Fete meeting 8pm – see page 1
Saturday	10	SEK astronomical society in the afternoon
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Monday	19	Bird Club 7.30pm
Saturday	24	Beekeepers in the afternoon
Tuesday	27	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 4th		Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 10th	Messy Church St Radigund's, Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Wednes 14th	Ash Wednesday Benefice Eucharist 7.00 pm Capel		
Sunday 18th	Worship 11am (Village Hall)	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 25th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

07.59	10.16	11.16	12.16	13.16	14.16	15.16	17.16	18.16	Sat. 10.16	11.16	12.16	13.16	15.16	17.16
9.32	10.32	11.32	12.32	13.32	14.32	16.07	16.32	17.32	Sat. 9.32	10.32	11.32	12.32	14.32	16.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I have never been able to keep a diary, and admire the self-discipline of those who do. Maybe that's why, when I first came across it years ago, I enjoyed reading a book entitled Transport of Delight by Methodist minister and now-retired Norwich bus driver Jack Burton. Over a year, he wrote about his day-to-day existence – not just about church and his wife and family, but also his love of football, evenings in the pub, and life seen from behind the wheel of a bus. One entry describes how, while on a meal break during their shift just before Christmas, he persuaded his conductor to join him in visiting Norwich Cathedral. This was not something his conductor would normally have done, and walking through the door, he gazed around. In front of them was a huge crib, ready for the Christmas services. He looked at it, turned to his driver and asked: Is this for everyone? Sadly, some people seem to think that churches only welcome a certain kind of person. Not true - Jesus seems to have been ready to mix with just about anyone, and I'm sure that if asked, Jesus would say that he wants his followers to do as he did. I once invited someone whose wife had recently died to a church coffee morning, hoping that he might try making new friends. But I'm not religious! he said. But you can drink coffee and talk to people – so you're in! I replied. When we can, we keep our churches open so that people can just go in and pray, be quiet, look around or whatever. You don't have to be a churchgoer or a certain type of person to be welcome. It really is for everyone. **Brian Williams**

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 Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
 AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
 Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
 Church Wardens Susannah Tapsell 822295 & Geoff Gaskill 823100
 MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
 KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
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 WEBS www.alkham.org & www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

To contact the Parish Clerk or Councillors phone 07800 943434 or email alkham.pc@outlook.com

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 290 March 2018

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GET TOGETHER – The Village Hall would like to set up a weekly event, during the day, where people can come along and meet other people, whether they be old friends or new ones, and have a chat. There could be a computer, which those new to the Internet will be shown how to use, and an opportunity to set up an email account that could be checked regularly. Entrance would be free, and refreshments will be provided. People of any age are invited to come along so please ring 824969, email alkhamnews@gmail.com or leave a note in the Parish Council mail box outside the village hall if you are interested.

TRAFFIC - At the next Parish Council meeting on the 12th March a presentation will be made to the Parish Council of the results of the latest Questionnaire where parishioners were asked for their views on suggested measures to calm traffic on the Alkham Valley Road. All are invited to the meeting to learn how the Parish Council proposes to present these findings to KCC with a view to their implementation. **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM – Has Alkham lost its identity? The Boundaries Commission has set up a consultation on the election boundaries that make up Dover and Deal. It also recommended that Dover District Council should have only 32 councillors in the future, a reduction of 13. Alkham is currently in the River ward and as such is not recognised as a defined area within the ward. If you have a view on this please go to <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/> and leave a comment. The closing date is the 9th April 2018. **Bev Hubbard**

BREAK INS – A number of sheds have been broken into at Ewell Minnis recently and the police have advised that people should check that their outbuildings are secure.

LENT LUNCH - As Richard and I are unable to host a Lent Lunch this year, which would raise money for a charity of our choice, we are making a donation to the local Salvation Army. If anybody would like to add to this donation during Lent, Wednesday 14th February-Wednesday 28th March, by contributing a small amount, perhaps

BYWAYS – Despite there being a closure notice on Pimlico Way, off road vehicles are still using it and are trespassing on adjacent land. It is very difficult to block the byway as it can still be used by equestrians and horse drawn vehicles. However, it is a road traffic offence so please report any incidents to the police (101) and also the local Community Safety unit at www.kent.police.uk/your-area/canterbury-and-dover/river/

FILM NIGHT

February 27	Victoria & Abdul
March 27	The Party Comedy drama
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

VILLAGE HALL – Following comments received about keeping food warm, the village hall now has a new electric cooker which has two ovens and a ceramic top.

ALKHAM MEMORIES - An exhibition in the Village Hall on the weekend of 21 & 22 April, including material from the Local History Collection held by Susan Lees. The Hall will be open from 11.00a.m. until 4.00p.m. both days. Mark Robson will be giving a presentation "The Alkham Heroes" at 3.00p.m. on the Saturday, followed by tea and cake. All welcome, no admission charge! **Janet Adamson**

CHURCH – The water pipe has been laid and awaits connection and the lighting to the path is partially installed. Inside the font has been moved and other works for the new toilet and kitchenette continue.

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the price of a coffee, then the Village hall is open on Wednesdays, 10.30am-11am. when you could drop in with it. **Thank you.**
Susannah Tapsell

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH

The new Alkham website is now live; click and enjoy www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. Some of you may have found the site already, but if this is your first time have a search around. The improved features allow easy navigation to access the information you want. Thanks go to the website team for delivering a greatly improved site, especially to Harlan Weber for the web development. This is still a "work in progress" website, and we are open to host information for village and club activities, including additional useful link information. We would welcome your feedback. Please let us know what you think by emailing clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk.

FACEBOOK – The link to the Alkham Facebook page is currently on www.alkham.org. If you want twitter added, please email – see web site.

CONSULTATION ABOUT PIMLICO AND BULLRUN (Byways ERs 122,185 and 25) - Andrew Hutchinson of Kent County Council has sent a letter about these Alkham byways to people who he believes have an interest. He is asking for observations, views and information about the byways and their future management. He wants the consultation to be as inclusive as possible and for the letter to be circulated to others who wish to contribute to the process. The consultation is the next step in a process that may lead to Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) excluding 4x4s and motor bikes from these byways. There is no certainty at all that this will happen - the byways may be left open to all vehicles and they may be closed to all users on the grounds of safety as happened in 2016-7. To get TROs excluding motor vehicles we need to make the case to KCC. The Alkham & District byways group has provided safety assessments, photos and much else to KCC about the damage to byways and surrounding land caused by vehicles. Residents and users of the byways also need to give their views to KCC in this consultation. I have sent copies of the consultation letter to people who I know have an interest. That includes those who attended meetings in the village hall about byways last year or in 2016. If you have not received copy of the letter and would like one, please let me know. **Peter Smith** - pnsmith755@gmail.com - **07711 648 255**

LADIES KEEP FIT in the village hall was started by Susannah Tapsell 18 years ago and is still going strong and last year it raised £600 for various charities and groups as well.

GARDEN TALK - We start the year with our (now traditional) wine quiz on Friday 9th March from 7.30p.m. at 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane. Gordon has been busy over the last 2 years preparing many fruity wines for sampling. Our outdoor garden visits will start in April - suggestions and hosts are still needed. Please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413)

DUE TO the church alterations there will be no memorial flowers this Easter but if you would like your loved ones remembered in our prayers please give me a ring and I will pass them on to Brian Williams. Perhaps you would like to make a donation to the church on the day. Please contact Carol on 01304 826514.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our February meeting was about the Salvation Army at which we had an excellent speaker who was Eileen West. Our next meeting will be 13th March and our speaker will be Jean Hatton, subject prison reformer. Hostesses Shelley Jackson, Beryl King; Raffle Sue Ross and VOT Eileen West. New members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**

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LIME KILN – About 400 metres up Slip Lane there is a right turn to Lydden, known locally as White Hill or Chalky Hill. The road is very steep and at the top of the first rise there used to be a lime kiln by the side of the road (not photo). The location is easy to spot as there is a large hole where the chalk was excavated to make lime. If chalk (CaCO_3) is heated to 900°C it changes to lime (CaCO_1) and carbon dioxide

(CO_2) with the resultant lime being primarily used to make mortar. The kiln would have been funnel shape with alternate layers of chalk and coal in it and after three days of burning, lime was produced. Many thanks to Alan Latham for finding the 19th century map. **editor**

THE WOLVERTON WARRIOR - A few weeks ago I visited two of Alkham's oldest residents who have recently moved to Dover. They are two Anglo-Saxon males excavated in 2007 and 2008 by a team led by Vince Burrows that included students and Alkham residents. The excavations identified two Bronze age barrows (burial mounds) and an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery on the barrows. Anglo-Saxons in Kent often chose to bury their dead on much earlier burial sites perhaps as a way of associating themselves with their ancestors. The small cemetery included a remarkable double grave containing the Wolverton warrior with his sword, spear, knife, shield boss (the metal cone at the centre of a wooden shield) and a pottery wine vessel. Remarkably a second male burial was directly underneath the first burial separated by wood planking. The double grave and its contents are now in a display case at the museum. Alkham residents contributed to the cost of the case. I recommend visiting the museum to see the impressive display cabinet with a reconstruction of the grave and the finds accompanied by a story board. Entry to the museum is free. More information and interim reports can be found at <http://www.alkhamarchaeology.co.uk>. Vince plans to publish the full excavation report in Archaeologia Cantiana, the journal of Kent Archaeological Society. **Peter Smith**

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present a concert in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 24th March, featuring Gioachino Rossini's "Stabat Mater", Gerald Finzi's "Lo, the Full, Final Sacrifice" and the world premiere of an orchestral work, Michael Lewis's "A Day at the Lakes". The concert, performed by professional soloists, the society's chorus and The Connaught Orchestra, will be conducted by the society's Musical Director, Stephen Yarrow. Tickets £14 (Students £7) are available from members of the society, online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/doverchoral, or telephone 01304 872812 and, if any remain, at the door on the night. For more information email info@doverchoralsociety.org.uk or find us on Facebook or Twitter @ DoverChoral. **Steve Osborn**

CANTORES DOMINICAE will perform "A German Requiem" by Brahms in Holy Trinity Church, Folkestone, at 7pm on Saturday 10th March 2018. Soloists Penelope Martin-Smith (soprano) and Stephen Foster (baritone) will be accompanied by Cantores in the double piano London 1871 version, all conducted by the choir's Musical Director, Adrian Bawtree. Tickets £10 (under 12 free) are available from members of the society, Laing Bennett (Lyminge), or pay on entry. **Steve Osborn**



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Saturday	10	SEK astronomical society in the afternoon
Monday	12	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm all welcome
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Monday	19	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	27	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1
Saturday	31	Beekeepers in the afternoon

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 4th		Eucharist 9.30 am Compline 5pm	Worship 11 am
Saturday 10 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11 th Mother Sunday	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11 am Compline 5 pm	Worship 11 am
Sunday 18 th		Evensong 5 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 25 th	Benefice Eucharist and Palm Procession 10.00 am Hougham		
Thursday 29 th	Maundy Thursday Benefice Eucharist 7.30 pm Hougham		
Friday 30 th	Good Friday Benefice Service 10.00 am Hougham		
Saturday 31 st	Building the Easter Garden at Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00-5.00 pm		
Sunday 1 st April	Easter Day Eucharist 9.30 am		

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16 Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16
9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.07 16.32 17.32 Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - At university one Wednesday morning I found myself with a few moments before my next lecture, and decided to grab a coffee. Beside the till in the coffee shop was a plateful of muffins – carrot cake muffins, no less, irresistible to Yours Truly. Moments later I sat contemplating the muffin that felt as though it had been destined for my tummy since the beginning of time itself, and recalled a conversation that had ended with the words, “You’ll be there, Brian – there will be cake!” I wondered – could I really be addicted to cake? If so, what else could I be addicted to? Fast forward to the same coffee shop one week later, with more muffins on show – but this Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, and this time I did manage to resist temptation and make do with just the coffee. The forty days of Lent recall the stories from the gospels of Jesus fasting in the wilderness and resisting temptation in preparation for what was to follow. ‘Lent’ is an Old English word for spring – a time of growth. For some of us Lent is a time when we take a long, hard look at ourselves in preparation for Easter, and pray for strength to grow. I’m facing forty days without cake, of course, and others will be facing their own wildernesses without chocolate or biscuits or whatever. But it’s all wasted if Lent isn’t a time of growth for us – if we haven’t grown a bit more into the people that we are really intended to be. So I wish you all a fertile Lent, and look forward to celebrating the joy of Easter Day. **Brian Williams**

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No. 291 April 2018

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GET TOGETHER – There has been sufficient response from the article in last month's Newsletter to start a 'Get Together' in the village hall. The exact details will be finalised in April with the first get together announced in the May Newsletter. Everyone is invited to come along, but it is primarily directed at those who feel isolated or alone, and we are quite happy to ferry people to the village hall if necessary. Entrance is free, and refreshments will be provided, so if you'd like to come along please ring 824969, email alkhamnews@gmail.com or leave a note in the Parish Council box.

SAM SWEET CHARITY presents a stroll down memory lane in aid of motor neurone disease. American supper style in Alkham village hall on Saturday 5th May at 7.30pm. Tickets £8 each available from Anne Huggins on 824340.

TRAFFIC – Geoff Hillier gave a presentation of the results of the Traffic Action Group questionnaire at the March Parish Council meeting and said 82 responses had been received from the 89 households adjacent to the Alkham Valley Road, whilst the replies from those away from the road were lower. Over 90% wanted a weight restriction introduced and 76% were in favour of a 20mph speed limit through the village; 86% wanted a pedestrian crossing and about 80% agreed to single lane entries to the village and a road narrowing by the Marquis. Several respondents said there should be average speed cameras, and this will be looked at again. The next stage is for the Parish Council, after validating the Draft Final Report, to set up a "Traffic Implementation Group" to consult the emergency services and other bodies for their comments and to then submit The Final Report to KCC Highways for their approval to the proposed scheme.

COMMUNITY BUS – In the February Newsletter mention was made of a community bus that could be introduced in the Alkham area. At the Parish Council meeting the Thanet Community Transport Association gave a talk about their service, that they have expanded to cover the Dover area. The 'Dial a Ride' is a door to door service to assist the elderly and disabled, who are unable to travel with the conventional bus service, to go shopping or to medical appointments. The annual membership is £20 with a current charge of £3.50 to use the bus and at present the service is under used. They also offer other services such as trips, holidays and group transport. If you would like more information please phone 01843 602030 or, if able, go to www.transportinthanet.co.uk. A booklet is also available if you ring the Parish Clerk on 07800 943434.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ went well with 10 tables competing. The winning team was from Ellinge and Chalksole and Graham Bissett, who asked half the questions, will take over from Brian next year.

ALKHAM MEMORIES - The exhibition of local history material, mostly from the 19th & 20th centuries will be held in the Village Hall over the weekend of 21st & 22nd April from 11 - 4 with free admission. Mark Robson will be giving a presentation 'The Alkham Heroes' at 3.00p.m. on the 21st, to be followed by refreshments. All welcome. Bring along your memories to be shared. **Janet Adamson**

VILLAGE HALL AGM - The Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday 17th April at 7.00p.m. which is open to all villagers and those involved in organisations that use the Village Hall. All welcome to attend and show an interest in this important village facility. It will be followed by the quarterly Committee Meeting.

TEA ROOMS – Edith Neve would like to thank the tea rooms at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre for being so helpful to someone who is unable to get there through illness. They packed the food for Edith to take away and she thinks they are marvellous. They are willing to do this for other people on certain ranges of food.

JUMBLE SALE in aid of the W.I. is on the 14th April in the village hall. The sales will now start at 10.30am Instead of 11am.

DO YOU NEED someone to do occasional cooking, housework, changing beds etc. If so, please get in touch with Shirley on 828098.

FILM NIGHT

March 27

The Party
Comedy drama

April 24

**The Limehouse
Golem** with Bill Nighy

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50
Please bring your own refreshments

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - Community Led Plan (CLP)

The village is moving forward with the CLP. Funding for a launch day was requested at the recent Parish meeting and is being considered by the Councillors. The launch day intends to be a day full of fun for all the family! The purpose of this event is so the Steering Group can get information from parishioners as to what they would like included in the CLP. This could be ideas ranging from facilities for the elderly to having a new swing for the children. Any suggestions whether big or small would be greatly received. Please give this some thought ready for the launch day. The date for the event is yet to be confirmed.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR - I wanted to write about lime manufacture chemistry described in the Lime Kiln piece last month. I also thought I should filter my letter through 'Is it true, is it kind and is it necessary?' questions. I think it would be fair to say that it is so filled with chemistry formula howlers that it would make an excellent test question for a school-child to be asked to comment - best regards **Tom Marcus**

RETIRING QUIZ MASTER - We want to say how much we have enjoyed Brian's annual Quiz Nights over these past decades and that we will miss his humorous way of asking those ambiguous questions! Thank you, Brian, for having amused us over those brain teasing years. Your Alkham friends.



GARDEN TALK - We have been invited to Hockley Sole, where Angie Snape has been creating a colourful spring garden. We meet there on Wednesday 4th April at 6.45p.m. Please note earlier time, to make the most of the daylight. For directions, contact Janet Adamson 01303 893413.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our March meeting was a very interesting one at which Jean Hatton told us about the life of Elizabeth Fry. Our next meeting is April 10th and our speaker will be Linda Warren, subject *Swinging 60's*. Hostesses are Susan Lees, Lucy McKenzie; Raffle Pam Sayers and VOT Debbie Griggs. New Members always welcome. There will also be a jumble sale on 14th April doors open at 10.30am. **Debbie Griggs**

PIMLICO BYWAYS - There is some misinformation being expressed that the Pimlico byways should be restored to bridleways as they had been for centuries. The Pimlico byways have never been bridleways. In 1949 when the PROWs were first recorded ER185, for example, was listed as a 'Cart Road Footpath' which it clearly was as it served the Pimlico hamlet. This didn't really clarify who was allowed to use it. The 1968 Countryside Act attempted to address this requesting that Highway Authorities research what actual rights did exist and reclassify all PROWs as either a footpath, bridleway or byway (BOAT). At this stage ER185, ER25 and ER122 were shown as byways on the draft map. After public consultation and due process they were all recorded as byways and byways they remain. There may be some confusion caused when ER185 was erroneously finger posted as a bridleway. ER185 was part of a KCC promoted 'Alkham Valley Rides' which was created by KCC officers who were no part of the PROW team. They appear to have signed paths at will with no reference to their actual status. Locally these erroneous status indicators have been removed and the correct status restored. **Anthony Barrier (footpath warden)**

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OZ on APRIL FOOL'S DAY – Over the years, I've often mentioned April Fool's Day in passing, but never as a topic because its origins are so obscure. The most popular theory concerns European calendar reform. In 46BC, Julius Caesar introduced his Julian calendar that made 1 January the first day of the year. Over the next 1500 years, some European countries moved their first day to 1 April for theological reasons. One such was France, but in 1564 the French King Charles IX moved his first day back to 1 January for secular reasons. In 1582, Pope Gregory also moved the date back to 1 January for all Christian Europe (except Britain). The story then goes that, in continental Europe, those who continued celebrating New Year on 1 April were teased as "April Fools." The only flaw in all this is that there are continental references to "April Fools" from before 1564, and British references from hundreds of years before 1752, the year that Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar. The earliest British reference is probably the Nun's Priest's Tale in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales (1392), describing the tricks played by a fox in catching the cock Chauntecler, but the wording is so ambiguous that the date could be either 1 April or 3 May. Throughout the 16th century there were several references in France to 'poisson d'Avril', meaning 'April fish' (still used today.) In 1686 the English antiquarian John Evelyn wrote 'Fool's Holy Day. We observe it on ye first of April.' This was the first clear reference to the tradition in Britain. Finally, on 2 April 1698, a British newspaper reported that 'Yesterday being the first of April, several persons were sent to the Tower Ditch to see the Lions washed.' April Fool's Day was at last a fixture. **(Steve Osborn)**

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH PROJECT - The installation of a toilet and kitchenette is well under way and beginning to look like the Architects' drawings. Considering the amount of building work over the past weeks, we are now hoping for a work party of volunteers to help with the clean-up. We do have a budget for professional cleaners within the reordering but will still need extra help for the areas not covered by that. This clean-up will probably be towards the end of April so if you can, please contact Irene 01304 824845 and let us know your interest. With the help of marigolds, some happy music, coffee and cake this could even turn into a pleasant couple of hours with friends and neighbours. **The Project Team**

ALKHAM HEROES - There will be more information on all the men whose names are on the village war memorial at the Alkham Local History weekend on Saturday April 21st at 3.00p.m. The work of the Heroes is ongoing and if you can add any further information please contact me or Brian Wimsett. **Mark Robson**

ALBERT FRANCIS, the son of James (a Poultry Keeper) and Rose Francis was born about 1898 in Yew Cottage, South Alkham. The 1911 Census reveals he was a 12-year-old school boy. Albert was a Private in the 2nd Battalion, Essex Regiment and died on Thursday, 18th April 1918. At this time his parents were living in Folkestone. Albert was aged 20 when he died, and he is buried at Chocques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais.

CECIL G ALLEN was the son of Mrs E Allen of Chalksole Green. The 1911 Census reveals that he was a 13-year-old schoolboy. Cecil enlisted at Woolwich and was in 'C' Company, 11th Battalion, Border Regiment when he died on Tuesday, 30th April 1918. The regiment had been in the Front Line until the 25th April but between the 25th and 30th was 'out of the line' and taking part in military training, church parades and a football tournament. It is recorded that Cecil "died of wounds" which presumably he received whilst at the Front. Cecil was aged 20 when he died. Cecil is buried at Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt.

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday		Art Workshop from 10am – 1pm Yoga 1.10pm – 2.10pm
Wednesday		Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday		Yoga 9.30 to 11.00am and 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday		Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am
Other Events in the village hall		
Tuesday	3	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	14	Jumble Sale 10.30am
Saturday	14	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Monday	16	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	17	Village Hall AGM 7pm – all welcome
Saturday	21	Alkham memories – 11am to 4pm – see page 1
Sunday	22	Alkham memories – 11am to 4pm – see page 1
Tuesday	24	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1
Thursday	26	PCC AGM – check time

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 1st	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 7.00 am	Eucharist 11 am
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11 am	
Saturday 14th	Messy Church Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 18th	Worship in hall 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 22nd	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 29th	Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's (Capel Old Church) 10.00 am		

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

07.59	10.16	11.16	12.16	13.16	14.16	15.16	17.16	18.16	Sat. 10.16	11.16	12.16	13.16	15.16	17.16
9.32	10.32	11.32	12.32	13.32	14.32	16.07	16.32	17.32	Sat. 9.32	10.32	11.32	12.32	14.32	16.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Many of you will remember the late, great actor and comedian Peter Sellers – perhaps as the accident-prone French detective Inspector Clouseau in the Pink Panther series of films, or in some of the other roles that he played. Sitting with a cup of tea in front of the TV and flicking through the channels recently, I came across one of his earlier films - Heavens Above! In it, he plays a vicar. As you can imagine, I was instantly hooked, and ended up spending much longer over my cup of tea than I had meant to. In the film Sellers' character is appointed to a well-to-do parish – completely by mistake. Practising what he preaches, he scandalises his parishioners by taking in various waifs and strays, appointing a dustman as churchwarden, and persuading a local landowner to provide free food for the townspeople. Nobody ever expected him to take Christianity that seriously, and in the resulting chaos it becomes clear that he really will have to go – but how? The Church comes up with a solution – appoint him Bishop of Outer Space! He ends up in orbit, warbling hymns about love and forgiveness to a global audience as he circles the Earth. It was very funny to watch, of course – but it also contained a grain of truth. Just as Sellers' vicar character ended up with little thanks for his sincerity, so not everything Jesus said and did suited everyone. As I write Holy Week is approaching, when Christians remember how Jesus, too, practised what he preached, and how it all ended on the cross. But Easter reminds us that his story doesn't end there, but continues in the lives of those who set out to follow him. Happy Easter! **Brian Williams**

POLICE 999 or 101

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Susannah Tapsell 822295 & Geoff Gaskill 823100
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
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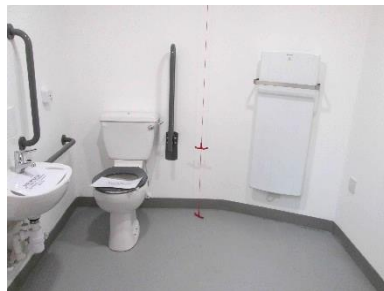
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TEA AND TALK – The first ‘Get Together’, as mentioned in previous Newsletters, will be on Thursday 24th May in the village hall between 2pm and 4pm. Everyone is welcome to come along but it is primarily directed at those who feel isolated or alone, and if you would like to be picked up and returned home please ring 824969 and something will be arranged. A computer will be available, and tea and biscuits will be provided. Further ‘Tea and Talks’ will be on the 4th Thursday of each month at the same time.

ST. ANTHONY’S CHURCH PROJECT has been completed other than water connection and snagging, which will be completed by the end of April. We now have a kitchenette and toilet with disabled facilities. The work has been carried out to a very high standard with oak doors throughout and is a credit to the church, so please do come and have a look as the church is open during the day. The font has been moved to the North Chapel and has an impressive oak floor around it. Lighting has been installed by the sides of the paths and the next phase is to make a driveable access from the Valley Road to 5 parking spaces adjacent to the path leading from the cemetery. A number of people have been involved in the project, but thanks must go to Irene Barnard and Geoff Gaskill for making the project happen.



SUE LEES – At the Annual Parish meeting Sarah Barker, who is the Chairman of the Kent Association of Local Councils, presented Sue Lees with a certificate which was in recognition for all the work she has done over the years for the parish. Sue was a very effective Parish Clerk for 23 years and then went on to be a Parish Councillor and in addition was the Village Historian who amassed copious details about the parish. The certificate was richly deserved, and we wish her well for the future.



KEY – A key was found near the village hall and it looks as though it may be for a safe because of the number of levers. It has a distinctive bob, so please phone 824969 for further details.

DEREK BANKS-NASH – It is sad to report that Derek died on the 10th April. He was in his 90th year and up until recently had been very active, including digging up a tree. His wife Marion bought a tumbledown cottage in Alkham in the 1980’s at auction, without Derek’s knowledge, and they renovated it to a high standard such that it is much admired by all who pass by. Derek made friends easily with his pleasant personality and lack of guile and will be missed by all who knew him. A Memorial Service will be held in St. Anthony’s church on the 26th April at 2.30pm, and everybody is welcome to go to Marion’s afterwards for refreshments.

FETE - The Fete this year is on Saturday 14th July from 1 pm - tell everyone you know. In addition, there will be a stallholders' meeting on Wednesday 2nd May at 8 pm in the Village Hall - please come along as we still need some more volunteers and ideas for a couple of stalls and new ideas/faces are always welcome. **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

ST ANTHONY’S CHURCH - As mentioned in last month's newsletter article, the date for extra church cleaning following the installation of kitchenette and toilet facilities, is Tuesday 8th May at 10am. Please come and help if you can. Coffee and cake provided. Thank you.

FILM NIGHT

April 24

The Limehouse Golem with Bill Nighy

May 29th

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50
Please bring your own refreshments

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - Just a reminder that Alkham has a new website up and running; we would like as many people to subscribe to it as possible. Please also offer any suggestions on what you would like to see on the website by emailing clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. Events happening in and around Alkham can be added to the website too. The Community Led Plan (CLP) group met again in April to discuss moving forward with the launch day. If you are interested in finding out more about what the CLP do, or you would like to join the group, please contact the clerk.

UNOFFICIAL BUS STOPS - When you wish to get off a bus, bus companies advise you to ring the bell, remain seated and wait for the bus to stop. This is all well and good for official bus stops, but it doesn't work for unofficial bus stops. In rural areas bus drivers are instructed to stop on request if safe to do so. When KCC ran the 91-bus service with their own buses and driver's local knowledge enabled the driver to know where to stop when requested at an unofficial bus stop. When Stagecoach took over the route that local knowledge was lost especially with their all drivers drive all routes policy. This problem was raised by a parishioner at a Parish Council meeting. So, what to do? I contacted Stagecoach for advice. Sorry to say the advice given wasn't very helpful. "When boarding the bus advise the driver where you want to get off. Due to the low volume of passengers on the 91 route it shouldn't be difficult for the driver to remember your request". In theory fine, in reality nonsense. For example, three unofficial stops: Drellingore Rise, Meggett Lane and Valley Cottages. Most drivers will not know these locations (local knowledge lost) and will not know where to stop unless you ring the bell, walk to the front of the bus and make your request in person. I will try the official advice next time I catch the bus and see what happens. **Anthony Barrier**

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING was on the 9th of April in the village hall and 15 people came along. After official business and the award to Sue Lees (shown on the front page), a talk was given about Coast Watch and more details about this are given below.

NATIONAL COAST WATCH - At the Annual Parish meeting a talk was given by John Keeble about Coast Watch and he said that some 20 years ago lightships, lighthouses and other lookouts were manned by people. All these were then automated so there was no one looking for other possible problems. In 1994 three people got together and started Coast Watch and today there are 50 stations around Britain manned by 2000 volunteers, who also raise the funds to run the service. The one at Folkestone is at Copt Point by Wear Bay Road in a former WW2 command post and is open 364 days a year from 10am to 6pm. For more details visit www.nci.org.uk/folkestone or phone 01303 227132.

GARDEN TALK - Following on from a blustery spring walk at Hockley Sole last month, where the bulbs were much admired, despite the late spring, we look forward to visiting Chalksole Cottage on Friday 11th May, where Linda & Geoff Gaskill will welcome us from 7.30p.m. For directions please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413)

ALKHAM W.I. - Our speaker for April was Linda Warren who gave us an interesting talking about the swinging 60's. The next meeting is 8th May, our resolutions meeting, followed by a Quiz by the two Debbies. Hostesses are Helen Price and Debbie Griggs and Raffle Debbie Griggs. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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STATIONARY ENGINES - Richard Miller, who lives in Newlyn Meadow, started collecting stationary engines about 4 years ago. His first engine was a 1946 Lister D which he bought as a non-runner, but after many hours fully restored it to a 'like new' smooth running condition. He also rebuilt a 1945 Wolseley WD8 engine from a non-runner to show standard; the WD refers to the War Department and they were built to run smoothly and as quietly possibly behind enemy

lines. He has also restored an Amanco Hit 'n' Miss engine, which only has one mechanically operated valve (the exhaust valve), hence its name 'Hit 'n' Miss' and a Lister Junior twin flywheel engine built in 1945. So, the next time you go to a Steam Rally or Vintage Fayre have a look at these engines as each one will have had many hours spent on restoration to preserve them as running pieces of industrial history. If you think you have any old vintage engines buried in your sheds etc., please give Richard a ring on 07867 368 508.

ALKHAM HEROES - **George Collard**, who the 1911 Census reveals, was single, aged 18 and a "General Labourer", died 51 weeks after his brother, Edward. George had emigrated to Australia in 1912 (the year his mother died) when he was 20 years old. He lived at Coonabarabran, Warrumbungle Shire, New South Wales, where he worked as an agricultural labourer. It was here that he enlisted on 3rd July 1916. Following basic training George sailed from Sydney on 17th October 1916 on the requisitioned P&O steamship H.M.A.T. Borda as a Gunner in the 34th Battalion, Australian Infantry. George "died of wounds received in action in France" on Monday, May 6th 1918, about 100 miles from his Alkham home. He was aged 25 and is buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen. **Mark Robson**

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION ANSWERS – There were no entries for the Christmas quotation competition, so no prizes to award, but I did receive two emails, one saying "I'll have a look at it tomorrow" and the other "Had a quick look but can't see anything yet." In preparing this answer page, I'm reminded how fearsomely difficult are the annual competitions such as Nemo's Almanac and Hide and Seek, whose half-mad devotees stay up half the night, speed-reading poetry books while trying to resist the lure of the internet. The quotations were in the January Newsletter and the answers are below. **Steve Osborn**

1. Thomas Campbell, Napoleon and the British Sailor, verse 4. Written 1840.
2. Noel Coward and Gertrude Lawrence, There Are Bad Times Just Around The Corner, Refrain 2, lines 3-4. Written in 1952, to cheer Britain up after 6 years of post-war austerity.
3. William Cobbett, Rural Rides, DOVER, Wednesday Sept 3, 1823 (Evening).
4. Malcolm Lowry, from Through the Panorama, in Hear Us O Lord from Heaven thy Dwelling Place, a short story collection published posthumously in 1961.
5. John Ashbery, He, verse 2. From his first collection, Some Trees, (1956).
6. Eliza Cook, The Land of My Birth, verse 2, lines 1-2. Published in 1838 in Melaia and Other Poems.

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Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	1	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	12	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Monday	14	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm – all welcome
Monday	21	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	29	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

07.59	10.16	11.16	12.16	13.16	14.16	15.16	17.16	18.16	Sat. 10.16	11.16	12.16	13.16	15.16	17.16
9.32	10.32	11.32	12.32	13.32	14.32	16.07	16.32	17.32	Sat. 9.32	10.32	11.32	12.32	14.32	16.32

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 29 th April	Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's 10.00 am		
Sunday 6 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Thursday 10 th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 7.00 pm		
Saturday 12 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13 th	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11 am	
Sunday 20 th	Worship 11 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 27 th	Benefice Eucharist with prayer ministry 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - In school, I once asked one of my classes how many of them would like to be famous. Some liked the idea – finding their X-Factor or becoming a famous athlete really appealed to them. Others weren't so sure – they preferred their lives as they were. Here at the Vicarage we now have a Celebrity Bunny. Not the Easter Bunny, but our own Peter Rabbit. He is getting old, and problems with his teeth require a visit to the vet every couple of months. Now the question of why suffering exists is among the thorniest of thorny questions. But turn on the TV, and you will find any number of programmes about hospitals, ambulances, doctors – and vets. We recoil from suffering, but we're still fascinated by it, it seems. When we arrived at the vets recently, a young woman with a clipboard came over and peered into the carrier. She explained that she was from a television company - they were making a programme about the veterinary practice. Please could they film Peter Rabbit? The next thing I knew, a microphone had been attached to my jacket, and we were on our way in to see the vet - who was wearing a camera on her head. The initial consultation, the procedure itself, and the check up afterwards were all filmed. Afterwards, in a Portakabin, I sat on a sofa with Peter alongside me in his carrier as his big moment arrived. Would he come out for the cameras? I opened the door. He turned his back on everyone, and then retreated to the far end of the carrier. No, he definitely wasn't coming out. I don't blame him. I wouldn't want to be famous for having wonky teeth either...**Brian Williams**

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No. 293 June 2018

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DEREK BANKS-NASH - The family and I would like everyone who came to Derek's funeral to know how much it meant to us, and would have done so to Derek, when he saw such a lot of people from the village. We were even more delighted when we got back from the Crematorium to see everybody enjoying themselves and circulating the room. All of our family, especially the girls and I, would like to take this opportunity to give our heartfelt thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who so kindly arranged everything. When we arrived at the hall in the morning with all the food etc., and even more so when we arrived after the service, we were not expecting to see so many people 'with their sleeves rolled up'. It was lovely, and we can't thank you all enough for making the occasion so good a 'send-off' for Derek. He would have been overjoyed. Thank you all again, from all of us, especially Anna, Rachel and myself. **Marion Banks-Nash**

GUITAR CONCERT - For the eighth year running Jimmy D'Alton Bellas is bringing some of his past and present pupils to St Anthony's for a 'Summer Evening Guitar Concert' on Saturday 30th June at 6:30pm. Once again special guest star Grant Dowse will be back eager to perform in the beautiful setting of our church. Mezzo Soprano Emily Renshaw will also be returning. Tickets are £8 with all proceeds going to St Anthony's and you will also be able to see the new kitchen and toilet facilities of the church which have just been completed. Tickets from Den (01304 824845) or Jimmy (01304 823164). **Den Barnard**

SWEET CHARITY - On Saturday 5th May, those attending the Sweet Charity event, at the Village Hall, for a stroll down memory lane were given an absolutely first-class evening of entertainment. The event, organised by Heather Waller in aid of the motor neuron disease charity, was fully booked out. It was an evening of two halves the first being acts of the old-time music hall nature followed in the second half by outstanding performances of well-known tunes of the past rendered by 5 professional singers from Maidstone, including Heather's son David Waller. The standard of their singing, individually and as a group, was quite remarkable. Thank you to all those involved for such an entertaining evening. **Geoff Hillier**

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS - As part of an Emergency Plan the Parish Council have put together a list of contact numbers. If a crisis should occur, and when necessary the emergency services have been contacted by dialing 999, the list gives the contact details of other agencies and people who can be contacted. The list is on the notice board outside the village hall and also on the two village web sites as shown on the back page of this Newsletter.

FETE MEETING - there will be the (final) Fete Stallholders' Meeting on **Thursday 7th June at 8 pm** in the Village Hall; we are nearly ready to go with the arrangements for the **Fete on the 14th July** starting at 1 pm, but all stallholders (or anyone interested in helping) should attend so we can make sure everything is in hand. We have a number of exciting new features this year, including Lamb Racing, so watch out for further information in the next newsletter and please come along to the meeting (and obviously the Fete) and get involved in the premier village event of the year.

Paul Tapsell 01303 892082

FETE - Any pictures, paintings or wall hangings you no longer want will be much appreciated if donated to our 'Art and Picture' stall at this year's Fete. Please contact Rosemary at 01303 892878. Happy to collect.

FETE - Handbags and scarves for the Fete. Please if you can donate a handbag for my stall, I would be most grateful. I am always in the Village Hall on Wednesdays at 10.30am if you can drop it in, if not please ring me and I will collect. Thank you very much. Susannah Tel. 01304 822295.

FILM NIGHT

May 29th

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June 26th

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BUS TIMES – Evidently the Alkham 91 bus timetable is changing from the 4th June. The StageCoach web site doesn't give the latest timetable so the details on the back of this Newsletter haven't been changed. However, I understand it should still be the same time at The Marquis going towards Folkestone but will now go via Warren Way and Canterbury Road, so it takes longer to get into Bus Station (and doesn't go via the Central Station and Royal Victoria Hospital). The return from Folkestone will be at 39 minutes past the hour, not 59 minutes. If possible, please check these details before travelling.

AVS are pleased to announce that they are in possession of a number of sketches depicting local scenes of Alkham by former resident and local artist Margret Knowles who now resides in Bath. Margaret has very kindly said that she is delighted to help and support AVS by allowing us to reproduce her sketches by way of notelets for sale for fund raising purposes in aid of AVS. AVS are therefore very pleased to announce that the first edition set of four views of Alkham are now available as notelets for just £4 for the set. The set consist of views of "The Old Post Office & Halton Court", "Hogbrook Hill Lane", "Village entrance from Dover" and "Meggett Lane South Alkham". Full details of the set can be obtained and ordered from alkhamvalleysociety@btinternet.com or from The Treasurer, AVS, Greenwood Manor, Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7EF. Watch out for further views to be released later in the year. **Bev Hubbard**

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - At the AGM on 14th May 2018, Martin Hibbert was elected as the new Vice Chairman; he will also take on the role of Flood Warden. Martin has been in contact with KCC Highways to arrange for assessments to take place of the affected areas of Alkham. If there are any ditches, gullies or sumps that you know of that need attention then please feel free to let us know. A new budget for the CLP launch day has now been agreed so plans can move forward. As always, if you would like to raise anything with the Parish Council, please email clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk.

ALKHAM MEMORIES - After two years of planning, the local history exhibition took place over a weekend in April. Based on some of the material that Susan Lees had collected over the past 40 years, the photographs and scrapbooks were supplemented by maps and farm records as well as the opportunity to research further, and to watch a collection of DVDs put together by Den of village events. A highlight was an updated version of Mark Robson's presentation on Alkham heroes of both world wars. The numbers who came, from the village and surrounding areas were appreciative: many stayed a couple of hours sharing reminiscences. Our grateful thanks to all who helped, and to Sue for hosting our Meetings.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our May meeting was a resolutions meeting about mental health. The next meeting will be on June 12th when our speakers will be George Taylor and Peter Clayton speaking about the story of Frank Sinatra. Hostesses are Sue Ross and Pam Sayers; Raffle Debbie Saunders and VOT Helen Price. New Members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**



GARDEN TALK - Our next visit is to Bramhall, Alkham Valley Road where Susannah & Richard Tapsell will be showing us around their garden and offering hospitality on Friday 8th June from 7.30p.m. We look forward to early summer colour and an immaculate vegetable garden. **Janet Adamson**

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OZ on CREATION – In the spring, we went to Maidenhead to hear Maidenhead Choral Society, which includes my daughter in the soprano line, sing Haydn's oratorio The Creation. It was a superb performance from choir, soloists and orchestra; I've sung this same work many times over the years, but never to this high standard. From where we sat in the front row, I could see and hear every musician; halfway through the second half I began to think of the complexity of what was going on in their heads and nervous systems, and how and why it all came about. I grew up in a devout religious environment, and learned that God created humans between 6,000 and 10,000 years ago on the sixth day of a week in which he had created the remainder of Life, the Universe and Everything. Animals and the first two humans emerged fully formed and there was no mention of who had created God. Later, a scientific education taught me that the whole universe emerged from nothing in a Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago, with the earth appearing 4.5 billion years ago, and humans evolving from primitive life-forms from 2.5 billion years ago to today, especially over the last 7 million years. For me, both theories were perfectly plausible, and I remain happy with my teacher's explanation that the first story was "just a parable for what actually happened, as that was so complicated." The bigger puzzle is why is there a universe at all? What if there were no universe? I'm quite capable of brooding on this subject until my head spins and I wonder if indeed I exist or not. At that point the only remedy is to listen to some music, Haydn perhaps or even my old idol Count Basie. **Steve Osborn**



ADDERS have been sighted in the dog walking area in Alkham and they can be told apart from grass snakes and slow worms by their distinctive zig-zag markings. Snake bites can be fatal, so dog owners need to act quickly if a dog has

been bitten. The dog will almost certainly cry out as bites are very painful. There is usually severe swelling around the bite area and if around the face or throat can be very dangerous. If your dog has been bitten, try and keep the dog as calm and still as possible and it is better to bring transport to the dog rather than making them walk back. Go straight to your vet and do not interfere with the wound or tie any sort of tourniquet because there is a danger of tissue damage around the bite.

CROSSWORD – In January 1942 a £100 prize was offered by the Daily Telegraph to anyone who could solve one of their crossword puzzles in 12 minutes or under. People were invited to the Telegraph newsroom and 12 contestants completed the crossword in the allotted time. However, they were considered so good that they were recruited by Bletchley Park as codebreakers. If anyone would like to have a go I can give you a copy. **editor**

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH - Following two hours of extra deep cleaning St Anthony's is now sparkling again, and it was wonderful to be able to use the new kitchen facilities for a well-earned coffee break. I would like to offer a huge thank you to Sue and Mike Ross, Avi Munn, Sandie Spencer, Anne Huggins, Linda Gaskill, Richard Tapsell and Den Barnard. **The Project Team**

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CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 3 rd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 9 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10 th	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11 am	
Sunday 17 th	Worship 11 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 24 th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham with Prayer Ministry 10.00 am		

From the vicarage - Norwich was once the home of the first woman to write a book in English – Julian of Norwich. She lived towards the end of the fourteenth century and lived as an anchoress – a woman who lived in a cell alongside a church, dedicated to a life of prayer and to doling out advice to those who came to her window asking for it. Today visitors can see St Julian's Church, heavily rebuilt after being bombed in 1942, and Mother Julian's cell – just as I did recently. Mother Julian was convinced that with God, our failings – whatever and however serious they might be – never have the last word. "All Shall Be Well," she famously wrote – a comforting thought in our anxious times, ideal for printing on a mug. Yes, I do have one. I had travelled to Norwich by train. Everything had gone smoothly until about half an hour away from journey's end when we slowed to a crawl. The PA system crackled. The conductor explained that we were approaching a series of level crossings. There had been reports of something on the line, and they had been told to slow and keep a sharp lookout. In mid-sentence, he suddenly interrupted himself: LOOK AT THAT VOLVO! Of course, everyone did just that. With the barrier down and nothing in sight, the Volvo driver had impatiently positioned himself ready to zig-zag over the line until alerted to the approach of our train. He sat sheepishly at the wheel as one coachload of passengers after another rumbled past, eyeballing him as they went, accompanied by a furious lecture from the conductor over the PA system about rules at level crossings. "All Shall Be Well," wrote Mother Julian. But whatever our shortcomings are, it probably helps if we work on them...

Brian Williams

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ALKHAM FETE - It's finally upon us - this year's Fete is on 14th July from 1pm. As always, we need as much help as possible putting the tents up from 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning - please come along with your second favourite heavy hammer! - and there are always jobs to help with up to and including clearing the meadow afterwards; many hands make light work, so please come along and share the load. We have a number of new attractions this year, as well as the traditional favourites, including Lamb Racing (sign up early to become an "owner" in one of the four races), a "Smashing" Shy, Morris Dancing, Tai Chi, the Band, The Astronomical Society (and alien guests), "The Parish Council Gazebo", Tractors, Firemen, Vintage Cars, a Wedding Dress display and refreshments (including cakes, tea, ice creams, burgers and beer and "Pimms"-ish), and more stalls than I care to name (further details, and requests for help, elsewhere in the newsletter). You have received a couple of books of Raffle tickets (£1 per ticket, £5 a book) with your Newsletter - please sell some and let me have the counterfoils and cash beforehand. This is THE village event of the Year, so please come and be a part of making it a success. Any questions - give me a call on 07947 016697. **Paul Tapsell**

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL is seeking to recruit a Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, salary according to experience in accordance with the NJC salary scales. Hours are approximately 10 per week. Please see page 2 for more details.

The first Village Hall 'Tea and Talk' get together event was held on Thursday 24th May when 13 parishioners gathered at the hall. Tea and biscuits were provided, free of charge, and those who came along were able to chat and be amongst friends in an informal atmosphere. The aim of these sessions is to encourage those who don't have the possibility to meet up with people on a daily basis to come along and spend a couple of hours a month in the company of others. These informal get togethers are held in the Village Hall, between 2pm and 4pm on the last Thursday of the month. The next will be on Thursday 28th June and the following one will be on the 26th July. All are welcome. **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM HEROES TRIP - On Tuesday, September 11th, Den Barnard and Mark Robson are taking a coach to France to visit various sites linked to the First World War. Full details on page 3.

OPERATION STACK - Highways England want to hear your views on the proposed approach to develop one or more lorry holding areas to reduce the congestion in Kent caused by any cross-channel disruption. The full details are on the Internet at <https://t.co/D49PURG8j8>.

ALKHAM FETE - Saturday 14th July. Cake Stall and Refreshments. We would be very grateful for donations of cakes for the cake stall and refreshments at the fete. These will be for sale in the village hall. Cakes can be brought to the village hall from 12 noon on the day or we can collect on Friday evening. For more details please ring Janet Barrow 01304 829585 or Sue Ross 01304 825736 - Thank you.

PLANTS - Please could I ask for any plant donations for the fete; I am quite happy to pick them up. Carol Mannall, Poets End, Short Lane. tel 01304 826514.

FETE BOOK STALL - Do you have any jigsaws you would like to donate to the Book Stall? We would also like any children's books - all ages - jigsaws, and box games, e.g. snakes & ladders, ludo, card games etc, that you no longer need and would like to donate. Happy to collect - please call Mike/Rachel Fountain on 823173 or 07905206702. Thank you.

WANTED small workshop for a local carpenter moving into the area. A new resident to the village is looking for a small workshop / large garage / farm outhouse to rent mainly for storage, but occasionally as a carpentry workshop. If you have anything suitable, please email info@5wayscarpentry.com. All offers greatly appreciated.

KEYS - A Yale and mortise key were found by the slide on the green. Please phone 01304 822365 for details.

FILM NIGHT

June 26th

Darkest Hour
Gary Oldman

July 31st

Finding your feet
Timothy Spall, Imelda Staunton

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50
Please bring your own refreshments

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ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL is seeking to recruit a Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, salary according to experience in accordance with the NJC salary scales. Hours are approximately 10 per week. Duties for this home-based appointment include attending a minimum of 8 monthly evening Parish Council Meetings per year on the first Monday of the month; preparing the agendas; taking minutes and giving procedural advice; carrying out the Council's administrative tasks; keeping financial records; preparing accounts and the annual budget and preparing records for audit purposes; dealing with general enquiries and correspondence; updating and co-ordinating the Parish Council website. The ideal candidate will have previous experience in a similar role, good IT, organisational, administrative and financial skills, be able to work on their own initiative. Applicants should forward their CV, with a covering letter explaining their suitability for the role to clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. The closing date for applications is Monday 24th June 2018. Interviews will take place during June/early July 2018 in Alkham.



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ROAD NAME – The Parish Council decided that the name of the road off Slip Lane up to Chalksole could be called White or Chalky Hill. In the March edition of the Newsletter there was an article about the Lime Kiln, which was on White or Chalky Hill. In 1846 notice was given regarding a meeting in the Marquis of Granby to discuss the enclosure of the Common Land and Limekiln Hill was included. **editor**

ALKHAM BOOK – I have completed three new pages for the Alkham History book, which are: Ellinge particularly coal and iron, plus more details of farms at Everden; North Hill House and Common Hill House including the associated road; Glebelands. Also, the brewery at Upton, brickyard at Fernfield and the lime kiln have been added. If you'd like a copy, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com or ring 824969. **editor**

SPOTTED – A person walking through the land at Chalksole is certain that he saw a wallaby hopping across the field. This did seem unlikely but looking on the Internet one was seen at Bethersden last year and a kangaroo recently caused havoc on the A20 near Lenham.

30mph – Lyminge Parish Council have taken the initiative and are distributing A4 bin stickers which say 30mph 'Please - slow down in our village'. Seems like a very good idea.



GARDEN TALK - After some lovely sunny weather and fine evenings, we hope the trend continues when we next meet, on Friday 6th July at 4A Newlyn's Meadow. Liz and Larry Lambourne are our hosts from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our June meeting was the story of Frank Sinatra, which was very interesting. Next meeting will be on July 10th when we have a Ukulele Band. Hostesses are Debbie Saunders and Susannah Tapsell, Raffle Susannah Tapsell and VOT Sue Harman. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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ALKHAM HEROES TRIP - On Tuesday, September 11th, Den Barnard and I are taking a coach to France to visit various sites linked to the First World War. Our first stop will be at Vimy Ridge. This was the scene of particularly fierce fighting which involved some of the Alkham men though is now known as the scene of a famous Canadian victory. The land on which the memorial stands was donated by the French to the Canadians and is a moving memorial to the men who died here. You are able to see and walk through the trench system and gain an insight into the strategic importance of the Ridge. We are hoping that we will also be able to have a guided tour of the tunnels in which troops sheltered and gathered before battle. This can only be booked on the day so will depend on demand at the time. There is plenty to see and absorb on the site if a tour of the tunnels is not possible. This will be our lunch stop too. The afternoon will be a time for reflection on the direct impact of war. We will visit the French National Military Cemetery at Ablain St-Nazaire which also houses a memorial to those killed in the region and where several Alkham men are named. We will then travel the short distance to Neuville St-Vaast to visit a German War Cemetery. Den and I have carried out a recce of the trip and feel this is a fitting way to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. If you would like to join us the details are: Cost: £30 (inc a Ploughman's lunch); Depart Alkham: 07.20 return: 19.00 (approx.). Payment will be required on booking and, if you have to drop out it will be up to you to find replacement and cover your costs (we've been caught out on this before!). We anticipate great interest so advise early booking. Please take payments to Den (01304 824845) at Halton Court. You will need a passport and an EHIC card is recommended. **Mark Robson**

OZ on STONE – It's 75 years since summer 1943, when Allied forces were busy planning D-Day, the attempt to land in Normandy. One of the problems was delivery of petrol to the forces after landing, as tankers and ship-to-shore pipelines would be susceptible to attack. In 1942 an undersea pipeline was proposed by Admiral Mountbatten, and agreed between him, Geoffrey Lloyd (Secretary for Petroleum), and Arthur Hartley (Chief Engineer of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company). The strategy was code-named Operation Pluto (Pipe-Lines Under The Ocean). Later that year the government instructed Siemens Brothers of Woolwich to design a suitable pipeline. Initial designs showed numerous problems when stress-tested, particularly with joints. And it was here that three more of the war's unsung heroes emerged, when Siemens employed a specialist lead business, W P Stone of Brockley, to devise a technique for jointing the 700-yard lengths of lead alloy pipes. After successful trials in the Thames, Stone was awarded the contract, and the three Stone brothers, Frank, Albert, and Ron began making the joints at Woolwich and Callenders Cables of Erith. They worked 18 hours a day and 7 days a week producing the joints for 492 miles of pipeline from Dungeness to Boulogne and Shanklin to Cherbourg. Of necessity the work was done in such secrecy that the Stone family had no idea what the brothers were up to. In October 1944 the Boulogne pipelines delivered 3,000 tons of fuel a day, rising to 4,500 tons by the end of the war. By 1949, over 90% of the pipeline was salvaged, the value of which far exceeded the recovery costs. After the war Frank extended the family business into lead shielding for the expanding nuclear and medical industries, working as a consultant until the age of 83. He died aged 90 in 2004. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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

Other Events in the village hall

Monday	2	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm – all welcome
Tuesday	3	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	14	Alkham Fete on village green from 1pm
Saturday	14	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Monday	16	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	31	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16 Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16
9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.07 16.32 17.32 Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 1 st	Evensong 6.30	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am
Sunday 8 th	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am	
Saturday 14 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 15 th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00	Eucharist 9:30
Sunday 22 nd	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 29 th	Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's (Capel Old Church) 10.00		

From the vicarage - By the time you read this, the Royal Wedding will be a dim and distant memory, from way back before the World Cup took over our TV screens. But think for a moment – which memory of that day most sticks in your mind? For me, it was the number of people who remarked on *that sermon*. Actually, it wasn't Bishop Michael Curry's fourteen minutes of fame, as some of the newspapers seemed to suggest – he is, after all, in the USA what the Archbishop of Canterbury is in the UK – but his thoughtful, carefully prepared and energetically delivered sermon (I did read it) certainly got him noticed on this side of the Atlantic. Sermons are strange things. I sometimes turn up on a Sunday with what I expect to be an absolute winner, and nobody says a word about it afterwards. But there have also been times when I've struggled to come up with anything that I felt was worth saying to be told afterwards, "*Great sermon – thank you!*" I remember being recognised by a receptionist at the opticians once. She told me that she had heard me preach a couple of years previously on one of her occasional visits to church, and then completely surprised me by reminding me of exactly what I had said. Why did Bishop Curry hit bullseye? I think people were expecting ten minutes of boredom. Instead, they had fourteen minutes of anything but. They listened, and whatever they thought of what they heard, many were still talking about it days afterwards. That's success. The much loved and sadly missed Rabbi Lionel Blue used to say that God shows his hand in the unlikeliest of places, airport lounges and parties included. Add weddings to that list! **Brian Williams**

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Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

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AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784

MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669

KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 295 August 2018

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FETE - A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the Fete on Saturday 14th July, from bringing the tents on site and putting them up to the final clearing of the meadow. I hope everyone enjoyed the day as much as I did, especially the brilliant lunacy of the lamb racing! There are far too many people to thank by name, but I must single out Warren, Dave and Richard for the use of their vehicles and sponsorship of the beer tent and

Pimm's pavilion. Thank you also to all the committee members for their support and hard work over the last year; please come and join us at the next meeting in early September when we will sort out the finances - I'm told we took over £5,000 so after expenses we should have a tidy sum to divide between the church and the village hall. Finally, thank you for coming on the day and for selling the Grand raffle tickets to all and sundry! **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

THE PARISH PLAN – Your Village Needs You! On Saturday 1st September you are invited to come along to the village hall and have some input to the Alkham Parish Plan. The Parish Council would like to know what your vision for the future of Alkham over the next few years is and they want it to be a community led plan – so this is where you come in. Over the next few months there will be a variety of occasions for you to help formulate the plan from questionnaires, focus groups, one to one meetings etc. and you can email, text, write a letter, use the Parish Council web site or any other method of communication. The important thing is to make sure you have your say. The first event is Saturday 1st September, Village Hall, 10:00 am til 4:00pm. If you can't make it let us know and we will come and see you – that's how important it is! **(Den Barnard 824845, Martin Hibbert 07796444860, Dave Beaney 825355)**

TEA AND A CHAT – The second 'Tea and a chat' was held in the village hall on the 28th June and not many people turned up; however, those that did really enjoyed themselves and therefore we will continue with this free event. The idea is that people who are alone or isolated can meet up with other people in a friendly environment and have a chat plus tea or coffee and biscuits. We are happy to pick anyone up and bring them to the hall and take you home afterwards; if you'd like us to do this please ring 01304 824969 or 01303 892878. Tea and chat is held on the last Thursday of the month from 2 to 4pm in Alkham Village Hall.

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE are holding their first Farmers Market on August 27th Bank Holiday Monday. There will be many stalls and great offers in house. Why not come along for a Big Valley Breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea.

ART EXHIBITION in Hythe Library 1st September to the 27th September 2018, showing work by Jacqui Botwright, Liz Lambourne and Helen Taylor.

ALKHAM HEROES TRIP September 11th Spaces are available but please book before the 3rd August - 01304 824845

HARVEST BARN DANCE - Dancing to Spring Barley, Alkham Village Hall Saturday 6th October 2018 19:30 to 23:15. Tickets £8.00 to include Ploughman's Supper. Tickets available from Graham Bissett, Bren Tor, Alkham Valley Road CT15 7BX 07789 690786 Graham.bissett@talk21.com

FOR SALE a Coalbrookdale Darby 15K log burning stove. Heats more than a large space, X condition, back boiler facility £550. Contact brian@pymldodge.f9.co.uk or phone 01304 820055.

THE MARQUIS has been sold to the owners of the Imperial Hotel at Hythe, which is part of the Ashford based GSE Group that has civil engineering and plant divisions. There will be no major changes and Tony Marsden says that it is time for him to move on to new projects and wanted to make sure he was leaving The Marquis in the right hands.

FILM NIGHT

July 31st

Finding your feet

Timothy Spall, Imelda Staunton

Aug. 28

The Shape of Water

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50
Please bring your own refreshments

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THE PARISH COUNCIL have appointed a new Clerk, Irene Bowie and would like to officially welcome her. Plans are moving forward to improve the fencing around the play area to make it safer for children. It is also hoped that the noticeboard nearest the Village Hill will go under some refurbishment in the near future. As always, if you would like to raise anything with the Parish Council, please email clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. **Parish Clerk**

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – At the Parish Council meeting on the 2nd July the new Parish Clerk, Irene Bowie was introduced, who is taking over from Janice Lambert. It was reported that monies for the repairs to the byways was likely to be made available this year. On September 1st at the Village Hall there will be an event, open to all, for people to give their suggestions as to what should be considered to be included in the Community Led Plan (CLP). The event will include entertainment and refreshments. More details will be made available closer to the time. The Traffic Action Group draft report has been accepted by the Parish Council and will now be discussed with the various emergency services and police to get their comments for inclusion into the final report before it is submitted to KCC. The draft report will be available to be viewed on the Parish Council website (www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk). As always, if you would like to raise anything with the Parish Council, please email clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk



CYCLING – Alan, Brian and Margaret Danstead have an electric bike each and they are all powered differently with the motor either in the back or front wheel or in the middle. Margaret is the unflappable scorer at the Annual Quiz and her first country ride was 16 miles starting at Slip Lane and onto Hawkinge, Acrise, Paddlesworth and back through Hawkinge. Great fun on a lovely day.

GARDEN TALK - Our next visit is on Friday 10th August, when we go to Thorn Cottage, Meggett Lane where we always find much of interest, and great hospitality from Rosemary and Geoff Hillier. All welcome from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**



WALLABY – In last month's Newsletter there was an article regarding the sighting of a wallaby on the byway leading up to Chalksole. An adjacent resident has emailed to say that she disturbed one a few years' ago while living at Pluckley. The animal was outside the garden gate early one Sunday morning, but hopped away extremely quickly. It was seen several times in that vicinity for a couple of years and was thought to be an escapee from who knows where.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our July meeting was an enjoyable evening. We had a ukulele band and everyone was singing along with them; it was a fun evening. Our next meeting will be August 14th which will be fish and chip night. Any members who weren't at the last meeting and would like fish and chips ordered please can you let me know by the 5th August; please ring me on 07796360473 and bring a bottle of wine. Any members wishing to take part in a decorate your own hat competition please bring them on the night and the best one wins a prize. There will also be a quiz by the two Debbie's; Raffle, Alison Warnock; VOT of thanks Beryl King. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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ST ANTHONY'S Summer Evening Guitar Concert.

For the eighth consecutive year Jimmy d'Alton Bellas brought his past and present guitar pupils to St Anthony's for another highly successful concert. A packed church was treated to a delightful evening of classical music from twenty students from the age of six. In the second half, invited guest Emily Renshaw (mezzo soprano) and Grant McFarlane Dowse (guitar) once again provided breathtaking performances. Jimmy also had on show his father's mandolin which had been returned to the family after many years (see picture). This instrument had been played all over the world by Hugo d'Alton with Igor Stravinsky and Julian Bream and many world-famous orchestras. The £700 that was raised has been donated to the Friends of St Anthony's. **Den Barnard**

OZ on PROMS (2018) – It's a busy time of year, both in the country, as harvest nears, and in the city, buzzing with tourists. Perhaps the only people who escape this seasonal pressure are children and the retired. Charles Lamb, in *The Superannuated Man* (1825), wrote "I have lost all distinction of season." For many, the summer season is marked by eating alfresco, drinking wine, and enjoying the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts, either live or on BBC radio and television. The Proms were founded in 1895 by Robert Newman, manager of the Queen's Hall, who appointed a young singing teacher called Henry Wood to conduct the concerts. Wood composed the *Fantasia on British Sea-Songs*, incorporating James Thomson's *Rule Britannia*, for the Proms concert celebrating the 100th anniversary of Trafalgar in 1905. Elgar's *Land of Hope and Glory* was sung to end the first night in 1914, and was triumphantly repeated on the last night in 1918. Early in the next war, in 1941, the Queen's Hall was gutted in an air-raid, and the Proms moved to the Royal Albert Hall, where they have since remained. Each Proms season has several themes, and one of this year's, marking the end of World War 1, is the way that British composers responded to that war and its aftermath. Hence there is music by Hubert Parry, Vaughan Williams, Holst, John Ireland and Frank Bridge. I'll know when the season changes again, from summer to autumn, when committee agendas fall through the letterbox, and the Last Night of the Proms is over. As Barrie Hall says, "Sunday morning after the Last Night feels strange and hollow, like the sad ending of a lovely long holiday" and he looks forward to the next season "when like summer's flowers the glorious Proms will once more burst into bloom, all over again." **Steve Osborn**

RSPCA Canterbury are looking to build a community of alternative homes for some of their more outdoorsy cats, which have missed out on socialisation with humans at crucial stages in their development as kittens. In order to help these cats they need to find people with large outside space and shelter who would be willing to offer this as a home for a cat. This could be anything from a shed in a large garden to a barn in a farmyard. All you need to supply is shelter, daily food supply and fresh water. If you would like to know more, please phone 01227 719113 or email them at info@rspca-canterbury.org.uk

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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

Tuesday	7	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	18	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Monday	20	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	28	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 5 th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Saturday 11 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12 th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
Sunday 19 th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 26 th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - As we all know, certain things happen at the same time each year, almost without exception. Easter is over and done with for this year, but once summer is over Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day and the run up to Christmas seem to follow in quick succession. But before all that, there's August, when the annual ceremony of the Trimming of the Hedge takes place at the vicarage. May I say how much I appreciate the kindness of all those passers-by who are kind enough to smile, wave or pass the time of day during the ceremony when they see Yours Truly balancing on top of a stepladder. But August is about more than just trimming hedges. The church at Hougham is dedicated to St Laurence, whose feast day is on 10th August. He lived in Roman times at a time when the Church was being persecuted. Ordered to hand over its treasures, he produced a group of poor people – these were its treasures, he said. At Capel, the church is dedicated to St Radigund, a princess who turned her back on a life at court to set up an abbey and to look after the poor and sick. Her feast is on 13th August. Alkham is dedicated to St Anthony of Pamiers, or Antoninus as he is sometimes called. A convert to Christianity, he is said to have returned home as a missionary after being ordained priest in Rome, and to have been martyred. He is remembered on 2nd September. The Prayer Book describes saints as 'lights of the world in their several generations' – people whose devotion has been an inspiration to others to bring light to the world's dark places. Now you know what I'm thinking about when I'm trimming that hedge.

Brian Williams

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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

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Sept 25	The Post Tom Hanks Meryl Streep

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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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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
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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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No. 297 October 2018

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - The question of overnight parking by camper vans on the village car park was discussed. This is a seasonal problem for those residents living near the Village Hall, but no action was agreed as this land is not owned by the Parish Council. This is not just a problem for Alkham as Temple Ewell suffers similar problems. During the interval representatives from Ewell Minnis voiced their concern that adverse remarks regarding caravans and planning issues in Ewell Minnis, were made by some residents at the Parish Plan launch on the 1st September. This was considered by those present from Ewell Minnis as a racial slur. It was agreed that more effort is needed by the Parish Council to ensure problems of those living in the outlying communities get equal attention to those given to the problems in Alkham village itself. We all need to live harmoniously together within the parish observing the rights of others within the law. **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The Annual General Meeting of the Alkham Valley Society will take place on November 20th at 7 pm in the Alkham Village Hall. there will be a supper and quiz at The Fox, Temple Ewell following the meeting (£5 p.p.). Please let the Secretary know if you intend coming along to The Fox. Thank you. The Secretary (01304 821641).

FILM NIGHTS - We normally don't have a regular Film Night at the village hall in December but this year we are proposing to have, in early December, a Week of Classical Films. They will be shown, free of charge, over 5 or 6 afternoons or evenings at the Village Hall; dates yet to be fixed, early in December. We are looking for suggestions as to what films you, the public, would like to see screened during this 'Film Festival Week'. Please contact either Geoff Hillier (01303 892878) or Brian Wimsett (01304 824969) with your favourite ideas and a selection of the most popular films will be shown.

TEA AND A CHAT - About a dozen people gathered at the Village Hall on Thursday 30th August to meet and chat over free cups of tea and biscuits. This event, held on the last Thursday of the month from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm is proving popular, giving people the chance to meet old and new faces and anyone wishing to come along is most welcome. The next Tea and a Chat is on the 27th September followed by one in October on the 25th.

COMPUTER - If anyone would like to know how to use a computer either for general use or surfing the internet please come to the Tea and a Chat as detailed above.

HARVEST BARN DANCE - Please come and support the barn dance on Saturday 6th October from which proceeds will be used to support village projects. It starts at 7.30pm in Alkham Village Hall and tickets cost £8, including a Ploughman's Supper. Please phone 07789 690786 or email Graham.bissett@talk21.com.

CHURCH JUMBLE SALE is on the 20th October in Alkham Village Hall with doors opening at 10.30 am.

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL service will be held on October 21st at 11.00am in St Anthony's. Unlike previous years, this year we are asking for donations for the Dover Foodbank. Please give generously, your donations can be left in the church. If you would like to help to decorate a window or another area of our beautiful church, please contact Linda 01304 823100. All help is very welcome.

CAMERA UNIT - People driving through the village will have noticed that the Safety Camera Unit has been regularly placed on the verge by Valley Cottages. This is because the data submitted by Speedwatch in Alkham has highlighted Alkham as a location that is experiencing a consistent high volume of speeding vehicles per hour. Hopefully this will lead to traffic calming measures being carried out. Apart from recording the vehicle speed the camera also shows drivers who are not wearing seat belts and using mobile phones.

FILM NIGHT

Sept 25

The Post
Tom Hanks Meryl Streep

Oct 30

Battle of the sexes
Emma Stone Steve Carell

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50
Please bring your own refreshments

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DEFIBRILATOR – When someone suffers sudden cardiac arrest, prompt action is required; an immediate 999 call for an ambulance and starting CPR immediately are essential. Most people who survive will have needed a shock from a defibrillator to correct a chaotic heart rhythm. The photo shows a public-access defibrillator with a key pad for which the 999 operator should give the code. They are expensive and there is a slight delay but a number of people in Alkham have been asking for one.



FENCE – The play area and picnic tables beside the Alkham Valley road at the top of the green are regularly used by families with small children. Because of this, it was decided to put up a fence from the start of the green by the Old Vicarage all the way round to Hogbrook Lane with access gates by the bus shelter and at the far end. Rustic would be the best way to describe the fence, which also has wire netting on, but it will blend into the village and it does not restrict visibility. **editor**



GARDEN TALK - Our last outdoor visit of this year will be on Friday 12th October when we visit the garden of 'Countryside' off the Alkham Valley Road, where Sue & Mike Ross will welcome us from 7.00p.m. **Janet Adamson**

BOOK CLUB - The October meeting of the Alkham Village book club will be on Thursday 25th October at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre at 1.30. We will discuss Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng. All are welcome to come along and join in. **Jane Aslett**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our September meeting was a very interesting talk by Bob Ogley about the great storm of 1987. Our next meeting will be on October 9th which will be hosted by the two Debbie's, it will also include an auction. Hostesses are Janet Adamson and Janet Gibbons, raffle Beryl King and VOT sue Ross. New members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**



BREWERY – There was a brewery at South Alkham which was called the Drellingore Brewery. In the Dover Express on the 9th June 1869 they had an advert which advertised “every description of ale & porter constantly on sale. Orders by Post”. However, three months later the brewery was for sale by auction, including all the equipment and barrels plus the contents of the house and associated buildings. The house, with malt house, stable and outbuildings plus a double dwelling cottage and land were also for sale and this became Upton Farm. Upton Farmhouse (above) was built around 1710 and is almost identical to the Old Rectory in the centre of Alkham with a dentilled cornice at roof level. **editor**

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ALKHAM HEROES - October marks the centenary of the last of the Alkham Heroes of the First World War.

JOSEPH EDWARD MOUNT was born about 1896 in Guston. In 1911 the Census reveals he was a 15-year-old, 'Farm Yard Boy'. Joseph enlisted as Driver T1/1765 in the Army Service Corps and first saw active service in France on the 26th October 1914. Later in the War, as a result of gas poisoning, he was discharged as medically unfit for further active service. Medals awarded: Victory Medal, British War Medal, 1914 Star, & Silver War Badge. By 1918 he was employed as a War Goods Inspector (Army Pensioner) and worked in Salford near Manchester. He married Edith Bailey (George Bailey's sister), on the 26th September 1918 at St Anthony, Alkham. Only two weeks after their marriage, on Friday, 11th October 1918, Joseph died, at 58 Great Cheetham Street, West Broughton, Salford (Lancs) - aged 23. The cause of death was recorded as Enteric Fever [Typhoid] but this was also the time of the second wave of the so-called Spanish Flu, an epidemic which killed more people than the First World War and which was often mistakenly reported as Typhoid. Joseph's new bride, Edith, was with him at his death. His body was brought back to be buried on 15th October 1918 at St. Anthony, Alkham. **Mark Robson**

OZ on FOYLES – In the 1950s, a day in London was a wondrous thing. We would arrive by the slow train from East Kent, and head straight for the Trafalgar Square soup kitchen that sold soup and bread for one shilling, accompanied by a jukebox playing classical music at sixpence a go. This was often followed by a trip to Foyles, the eccentric bookshop in Charing Cross Road, either to sell used books, buy new ones or simply browse. I was surprised and a little concerned recently when news arrived of the sale of the famous Foyles chain to Waterstones. Foyles began in 1903 when the brothers William and Gilbert Foyle failed their Civil Service exams, successfully sold their textbooks, and began selling books from home. In 1904 they set up a shop in Peckham, followed by the Charing Cross Road shop in 1906. In 1930, William's daughter Christina started the literary lunches at the shop that continue today; over the years over 1,000 authors and 500,000 guests have attended, including international leaders and most British Prime Ministers. Christina took over the business in 1945, and there followed a difficult period, due partly to postwar lack of investment and partly to the legendary eccentricity of Foyles management. For instance, Christine rejected all artificial aids such as electronic tills or calculators, and would not accept orders by telephone. Customers queued three times: to collect an invoice, to pay the invoice, then to collect the book, as sales staff were not allowed to handle cash. In 1999 Christina died and control passed to her nephew Christopher, who modernized Foyles business practices and expanded the number of shops. Waterstones now promises to keep the Foyles name and standalone status intact, so as to help fight Amazon, which is comforting news for booklovers. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Tuesday	Art Workshop from 10am – 1pm Yoga 1.10pm – 2.10pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am - Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am – check to make sure

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	2	White Cliffs Metal Detectors 7 to 9pm
Saturday	6	Barn Dance 7.30pm – see page 1
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	13	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Monday	15	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	20	Jumble Sale 10.30am – see page 1
Tuesday	31	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 7 th	Evensong 6.30	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am
Saturday 13 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 14 th	Eucharist 9.30am	Harvest F 11 am	Harvest V hall 4pm
Sunday 21 st	Harvest F 11 am	Evensong 6.00	Eucharist 9:30am
Sunday 28 th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - If you drive, you probably know what it's like to turn into a busy supermarket car park, carefully follow the arrows to a suitable parking space, and have to swerve to avoid someone who has apparently noticed neither the arrows nor the 'no entry' signs telling them that they are going the wrong way. In such a situation you and I would naturally smile, apologise and politely allow others to go safely on their way. But I was shown an online video recently that showed someone who, having made such a mistake, reacted rather differently. Someone chose to film what followed on their smartphone and posted it on the internet for the entire world to see. I once visited a house where a plaque hung in the hall. It read: "*Christ is the head of the home, the unseen guest of every meal, the silent listener to every conversation.*" I must admit that at the time this idea felt a bit creepy – but like everyone else, I've grown used to being in shops, in streets and on trains where cameras watch my every move, so the idea of Christ watching me as well doesn't really bother me. The writer of Psalm 25 pleads with God: *do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions.* Online videos offer a 'watch again' option at the end – fine if it's *Gone with the Wind*, your favourite band or Rooney scoring for England, but not if the world's watching you having a difficult moment on a bad day over and over again. But the Psalmist would probably say that God isn't interested in watching our mistakes over and over again, only in our new beginnings – and that's where He scores over *YouTube*. **Brian Williams**

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Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
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No. 298 November 2018

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LOCAL AMBASSADOR - Dylan Auger, who is 16 years old, has lived in Alkham for all his life and believes that now is the time for the younger community to be involved in the decisions that are being made by others that impact on their everyday lives, and future needs. Dylan would like to propose that he becomes a Local Ambassador for the Alkham younger generation and get involved with parish matters to ensure that the younger generation voice gets heard on community matters that affects them. He believes that over the years the younger generation has had no say in what happens in the Alkham parish and by being the Ambassador can present their views. Please contact Dylan with your opinions by phone on 07375866347 or email dylanaunger7@hotmail.co.uk and he will get back to you. All feedback is confidential and if the proposed initiative is successful he intends to hold regular meetings in the village hall, the dates of which will be published in the Alkham newsletter and on the local website.

DECEMBER FILM FESTIVAL - Some 36 film titles have been put forward for showing at the forthcoming free classical film festival from which the following short list of 12 films have been made. These are: 'Some Like it Hot', 'The Third Man', 'Gone with the Wind', 'Love is a Many Splendid Thing', 'Casablanca', 'Singing in the Rain', 'Roman Holiday', 'Top Hat', 'Kind Hearts and Coronets', 'Genevieve', 'Tale of Two Cities', and 'The Quiet Man'. From this short list a final selection of 7 films to be shown at matinees and evening performances over the period 4th to 14th December. Please send to the editor (01304 824969) those titles you would wish to be included to be shown. **Geoff Hillier**

THANK YOU to all those of you who supported the Harvest Barn Dance and made it such a success. Your enthusiasm and energy made the evening and I received several comments from folk who came from outside the village about the friendliness of the welcome they received. Thank you too, to those who helped prepare and distribute the supper and who cleared up afterwards. I haven't finished paying the bills yet. When that has happened, I will let you know how much was raised. As the dance was so successful I was wondering if there would be any interest in the village for a Folk Dance Club? I envisage a non-serious social evening, occasionally dancing to live music. There would be an opportunity to learn both English and Scottish Dances and, perhaps, some French and American Dances too. We could decide at our initial meeting how many times a month we would like to meet. If you are interested, please contact me on 07789 690786 or graham.bissett@talk21.com

FOR SALE substantial conservatory furniture; three-seater sofa and an armchair, £100. Please phone 01304 822365.

FACEBOOK - 'All about Alkham' is a Facebook page about Alkham and some locals have left comments about recent events. The easiest way to access is by the Facebook logo on www.alkham.org.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

I would like to thank everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning held on Saturday 22nd September in the village hall. Once again so many people baked wonderful cakes and gave me great items to sell on the various stalls. Thank you to everyone who helped in many different ways on the day and to all who gave me donations before, during and after the event. It was a wonderful community event and I am delighted to say that TOGETHER WE RAISED £1,010.00 for this great charity. Thank you everyone. **Sue Ross**

PARENT & TODDLER GROUP - I propose to start a group if there is sufficient interest. To be held on Mondays or Thursdays, whichever is the most popular from 9.30am to 11.30am. The cost will be £3 including a drink and biscuit for all. For more information please ring Shirley Prince on 828098.

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE have late night opening until 8.00pm on Thursday 29th November and a Christmas Farmers & Craft Market on Saturday 1st December from 10am to 4pm.

TEA AND A CHAT will be held again on the 29th November between 2pm and 4pm in the village hall. Please do come along as it's been enjoyed by those who have turned up, plus there's free tea/coffee and biscuits. There won't be a Tea and a Chat in December.

FILM NIGHT

Oct 30	Battle of the sexes
Nov 27	Mama Mia Here we go again
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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ER163 SLADDEN WOOD

For some time, I have been trying to get the gate at the top end of the path running through Sladden Wood repaired or replaced. At the same time Jo Walker, with the backing of the Alkham Valley Society, has been trying to get some steps created on the steep part of the path leading up to the gate. I'm happy to report that the gate has been replaced and steps installed together with a handrail at the steepest part. I would like to thank all those involved especially the volunteer team, who I believe, carried out the work. **Anthony Barrier Footpath Warden**

BOOK CLUB - The November meeting of the Book Club will be on Thursday November 29th at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre at 1.30. We will discuss *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. New members always welcome. **Jane Aslett**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our October meeting was a good evening where we had our own little auction amongst ourselves; thank you to Lucy Mckenzie for all your help. Our next meeting will be our AGM on November 13th. Hostesses Sue Harman and Shelley Jackson; Raffle Pat Yeomans. New members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

PARISH PLAN OPEN DAY

Firstly, a big thank you to all of you who turned up at the Village Hall on the 1st September to give your input to the Village Plan. About 150 villagers came and about 800 comments were left under the various categories. Some very interesting views were expressed including, of course, the main issues surrounding the Alkham Valley Road, Flooding, the Village Green, Community Activities and the work of the Parish Council. If you missed the opportunity of having your input - it's not too late, the Parish Plan Team (a mixture of three Parish Councillors and four volunteers and one young villager - Freya Miller) are currently analysing the results and will then be deciding on the next steps, so if you missed out on 1st September please submit your comments to any of the contacts below. Please stick with the original headings as used on the day if you wish: Conservation, Sports and Recreation, Economy Businesses and Employment, Public Transport, Heritage, Traffic and Road Safety, Local Governance, Young and Old, Environmental (including Flooding), Education Skills and Training, Health and Social Care, Community Buildings, Roads and Infrastructure and Development (including Housing). An interim report is going to the Parish Council for the November meeting together with the next steps of the project. One thing has become quite apparent from the data is that we will need as many volunteers as possible for the various ideas that have been suggested so let us know if you would like to be involved with the future of Alkham - in any way. Thanks again. **Martin Hibbert** (mrtnhbb@sky.com), **Dave Beaney** (dbeaney@gmail.com), **Steve Edwards** (Stephen_edwards@taktalk.net)

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Tracey Prince BSc (hons), PGCE, QTS, CELTA, CRB




Alkham Heroes - The final cross has been put up at the bottom of Slip Lane commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death of Joseph Edward Mount who was the last to die of the Alkham heroes. A small gathering of villagers assembled on 15th October

led by Mark Robson and the Reverend Brian Williams. **Den Barnard WILDLIFE IN THE GARDEN** - Our garden is generally wildlife friendly and a bit too friendly on occasions; squirrels and a young rat have used the bird feeder more recently. We don't use the green refuse collection service and consequently have piles of decaying greenery and brownery (compost heaps?) in all corners of the garden. We also have 5 plastic compost bins. Opening these can make one jump especially when there are a couple of serpents in there. We knew we had a grass snake as we had seen it by the nature pond that is about two inches deep but attracts mating frogs and their predators every year. In the middle of June we found our snake in the plastic compost bin at the other end of the garden, shortly after, it was still in there when we saw another sliding away from the base of the bin leaving its skin behind it. Research revealed that they can produce up to 50 eggs but are unlikely to deposit them in plastic compost bins and so I did not look for them. Yesterday, in the middle of September, I saw the results of their visit. I thought it was a small slow worm but completely the wrong colour; it was on the paving just outside my garage but quickly slipped away under the door cill. The markings with intermittent dark patches down each side and the yellow collar are those of a young grass snake. I wonder where the other 49 are and how many will make it through the winter? Interested in the subject then visit <https://kentarg.org> or if you see a grass snake tell them. **Alan Latham**

REMEMBRANCE AND RECONCILIATION - Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 November 2018 in Canterbury Cathedral. Cantores Dominicae is hosting a special weekend of choral events to be held in Canterbury Cathedral, marking the centenary of the ending of the First World War. More than 200 musicians from Britain and Germany will take part. The focus of the weekend is on mutual remembrance and reconciliation. Saturday 10 November 12:00: a lunchtime concert performed by Cantores Dominicae and Heinrich-Schütz-Kantorei from Kiel. This will include some movements from Brahms' 'German Requiem'. Sunday 11 November 18:15: an evening concert. Cantores Dominicae from Lyminge, Heinrich-Schütz-Kantorei from Keil, the Oyster Singers from Whitstable and the Canterbury Singers will perform 'Remembrance & Reconciliation', a work composed especially for this occasion by Cantores Dominicae's Musical Director Adrian Bawtree. All are welcome to these free choral events, each lasting about 45 minutes. Our grateful thanks go to the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral and the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust for their generous sponsorship. **Steve Osborn on behalf of Cantores Dominicae**

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Tuesday	Art Workshop from 10am – 1pm Yoga 1.10pm – 2.10pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
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Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am – check to make sure

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	6	White Cliff Metal Detectors 7pm to 9pm
Saturday	10	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Monday	19	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	27	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
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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 4th	Evening 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 10th	Messy Church Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11th	10.15 am	10.15 am at Memorial	10.30 am
REMEMBRANCE			
Sunday 18th	Service 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 25th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - I once heard of a young curate (no, not me) who stood up in church to preach his first ever Remembrance Sunday sermon. He had just begun by asking the congregation to imagine what the Somme must have been like, with its trenches, mud, and shells exploding everywhere when an elderly gentleman rose to his feet. "YOUNG PUPPY! I WAS THERE!" he barked, before storming out. Growing up, I sometimes heard my father and my uncles talking about their experiences in World War 2. Dad was an ammunition storeman in the Ordnance Corps; one uncle served aboard a minesweeper, another was an officer's batman. But one, who had seen action in Italy, spoke little about what he had done. I remember he mentioned Anzio, and also Monte Cassino. To a small boy, his stories sounded exciting. Only later did I realise the truth: that while still just a teenager he had seen - and done - things that nobody should have to see or do at any age. Returning home, at first he had talked endlessly about one particularly traumatic incident; only his uncle, himself a veteran of the Great War, seemed to understand what he had been through. This month sees the centenary of the end of World War 1. We are urged to remember. The services that will be held will include not only prayers for those who lost their lives in the world wars and in other conflicts since, but also for peace now and in the future. Thankfully, like that young curate most of us can only imagine trenches, mud, shells and what my uncle and great uncle went through; most of us have been spared the reality. Let's pray that those who come after us may be as fortunate. **Brian Williams**

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DDC - P Beresford 216187
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Brian Wimsett
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No. 299 December 2018

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THE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

The Christmas tree lights will be switched on at 4.45pm on Saturday 8th December. Father Christmas has promised to be there, and we will sing a few carols accompanied by Graham Bissett on the accordion with mulled wine and mince pies to get the party season started. See you there especially you children. **Den Barnard**

Meet the new team at The Marquis at the Christmas lights switch-on

Join the new management team at The Marquis for mulled wine and mince pies as part of the village Christmas Lights switch-on event on December 8th, and find out more about what they have planned for your local pub. The 200-year-old inn was bought by Ashford's GSE Group earlier this year and is being run by the team behind the iconic Hythe Imperial hotel, which has recently undergone a four-year, multi-million-pound refurbishment. One of the first decisions of the new management team has been to restore the pub's original full name, so it will once again be known as the Marquis of Granby, while an application has been submitted to Dover District Council for permission to make cosmetic improvements to the exterior of the building, along with some internal changes. The pub will close from January 1st for refurbishment, and when it reopens Friday, March 29th under the new name, the aim is for it to become an important part of village life, a great place for you to eat and drink and meet up with your friends and neighbours, and a supporter of local projects and community events. The architect behind the refurbishment is John Rogers, the creator and owner of the Ramblinns group that includes the Five Bells at Brabourne, The Globe Inn at Rye, The Woolpack at Warehorne and the Radnor Arms at Folkestone. The new menu will see a move back to good quality, locally sourced food at realistic prices, accompanied by a selection of real ales and Kentish wines. The bar will be dog friendly and have open fires, while the hotel rooms will be refurbished to reflect the new country pub feel, with a number of beautiful new suites being created.

CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL - As a Pre-Christmas treat and in lieu of the regular Film Night, during the period 4th to 13th December the Village Hall will be showing 7 classic films which have been chosen, by popular request, from an original list of 36 films proposed by the public. The films will be free to watch, and you are welcome to bring along whatever refreshments you wish. The programme of dates and time of the performances is as follows: Tuesday Dec 4th at 3 pm - Roman Holiday; Thursday Dec 6th at 7.30 pm - Genevieve; Saturday Dec 8th at 3 pm - Tale of Two Cities; Sunday Dec 10th at 7.30 pm - Some Like it Hot; Monday Dec 11th at 7.30 pm - Singing in the Rain; Tuesday Dec 12th at 3 pm - Love is a Many Splendid Thing; Thursday Dec 13th at 7.30 pm - The Quiet Man. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS WALK

The annual Alkham Valley Society walk will be on 27th December starting from the Alkham Village Hall at 10.30 a.m. and ending around midday. Dogs and their owners are welcome. It is an opportunity to meet, walk and talk. As usual, the more the merrier though it can be pretty merry with only five like last year, the weather being rough, cold and rainy. **J Walker** (Secretary)



FETE COMMITTEE MEETING - There will be a Fete Committee Meeting on Wednesday 5th December 2018 at 8 pm in the Village Hall - this is the post-Fete meeting to discuss this year's Fete and decide the division of the spoils - a perfect way to start the run in to the Christmas period. Please come along to give your thoughts and suggestions as regards the 2018 Fete and, if the meeting wills it, the possibility of one in 2019. Merry Christmas. **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

TEA AND A CHAT on the 29th November will be our Christmas one and in addition to the usual tea/coffee and biscuits there will be mince pies and the hall will be decorated. Please come and join us.

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY are holding a Curry & Quiz Night on Tuesday 20th November 8pm at the Fox, Temple Ewell. Please contact Jo Walker on 01304 821641 to book at £5 per head.



FILM NIGHT

Nov 27

Mama Mia
Here we go again

DECEMBER - Please see article on the left

Village Hall 7.30pm
Please bring your own refreshments

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LEAD THEFT – An attempt was made to remove some lead panels from the roof of St. Anthony's church. A ladder must have been used, so if anyone saw suspicious activity or has local CCTV please contact the police quoting crime report number WTGTV7HGJJ.

ANNIE THURGARLAND the Watercourse Officer at the Kent Stour Countryside Partnership, gave a presentation to the Parish Council on the 5th November. Despite not being able to project her slides Annie proceeded to explain her role, acting with KCC, to identify possible solutions to mitigate against flooding in Alkham. Her focus is on using natural flood management measures to slow down flood water before it becomes a problem. There are many different techniques to do this using natural materials to create detaining ponds, but they are still on a learning curve to select the right solution to each problem area. Her suggestions for the creation of a holding pond on part of the Village Green, for example, was met with some objections but the PC undertook to consider her approach to flood control and reconvene a meeting in the near future to discuss specific areas where such natural flood management techniques might be applied.

TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP (TAG) REPORT - The Parish Council, at their meeting on the 5th November, agreed to the setting up of a 'Traffic Implementation Group' (TIG) consisting of Councillors Geoff Hillier, Martin Hibbert and David Beaney, to carry forward the agreed traffic calming strategy for the Alkham Valley Road. The traffic calming measures, developed by TAG and having the overwhelming support of the people of Alkham are outlined in TAG's final report, a copy of which can be read on the Alkham Parish Council website www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk.

ALKHAM BOOK – The book 'A Brief History – Alkham Parish' has been updated and reprinted with four new pages which are: Coal exploration at Ellinge and other farms at Everden; Glebelands, the brickwork company and the lime kiln; North Hill and Common Hill and properties; an index at the back. Previous buyers of the book can have a copy otherwise it costs £5 with profits going to the Alkham Fund. Please ring Brian on 01304 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com if you would like a copy.



OVERNIGHT CAMPING – There has been a problem with campers parking on the car park opposite the village hall. Not only do some cause a noise disturbance but the small wooded area behind became badly soiled by human faeces. The matter was reported to DDC on their website, using the dog fouling heading as there is no specific one for humans, and the matter was swiftly dealt with and rectified by Paul Jaconelli, Waste Services Officer, DDC, and his team who cleaned area. The problem is probably caused by the increased use of the smaller type of camper van that do not necessarily have onboard chemical toilet facilities. A sign has been put up saying that the car park should not be used by overnight campers and the web site that advertises the location has been asked to remove it.

CO-OP LOCAL CAUSE - The Friends of Temple Ewell Primary School want to improve the outside area for all children to enjoy and explore by creating an area where they feel safe and can develop their independence. If you'd like to support them, please go to <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/29159>.

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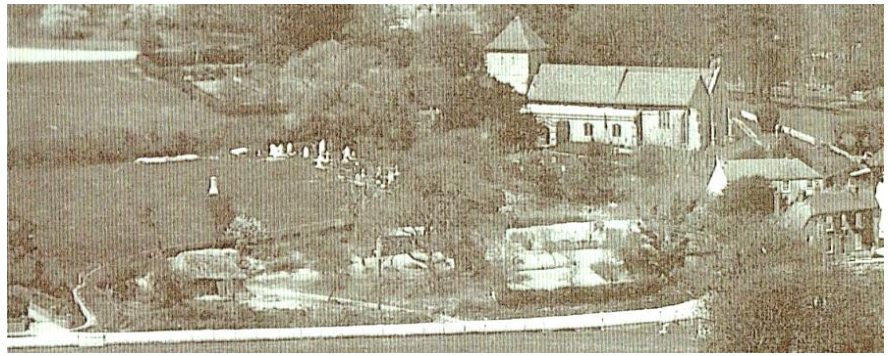
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WAR MEMORIAL – The photo above shows the newly erected war memorial on the piece of land donated to the church by Malmain's farm in the late 19th century. The existing cemetery extended to most of the gravestones seen in the photo and new land was consecrated by the Bishop of Dover in October 1902. On Saturday 4th October 1919 the memorial, which was erected for the sixteen men of Alkham who were killed in the First World War, was unveiled by Mr. Harman who was the schoolmaster at Alkham. It cost £88 (£4300 in today's money) and was paid for by donations from residents of Alkham. The Marquis can be seen on the right of the photo and the land to the left, in front of cemetery, was later sold and bungalows were built there in the 1960's. **Brian Wimsett**

OZ on THE WIPERS TIMES – On 7 October 1914 some 8,000 German cavalrymen swept through Ypres, western Belgium, in one day, to refuel and stock up on their way to the coast. When British troops arrived on 14 October 1914, their first problem was how to pronounce the name of the town, and they quickly decided on 'Wipers'. Their second task, in conjunction with the French forces, was to stop the enemy from either reaching the coast or returning to Ypres. The subsequent battle ended inconclusively on 22 November. It was just the first in the series of five battles for Ypres, the last ending in October 1918, that came to define the nature of modern industrial warfare. In winter 1916 Captain Fred Roberts and Lieutenant Jack Pearson, of the 12th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters, discovered a damaged printing press in the ruins of the shelled Ypres. One of their sergeants, a peacetime printer, repaired the press, and the three of them used it to print the first edition, in February 1916, of The Wipers Times, a satirical newspaper in the tradition of school magazines and Punch. It was a morale booster, combining wickedly humorous reflections on trench life with poems, lampoons and in-jokes; one classic Lonely Hearts advertisement, commenting on the USA's absence from the war at that time, was headlined "Lonely President wishes to correspond with anyone." As the action moved around, the title changed, to The Kemmel Times, The Somme Times, and then to The BEF Times for security reasons. Other than this, the newspaper had "little trouble with the censors" according to Captain Roberts. In December 1918, the final edition, titled The Better Times, was published, with the sub-title "Xmas, Peace and Final Number." It's food for thought during the coming 100th anniversary Christmas season. **Steve Osborn**

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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	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 8th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11 am	
Sunday 16th	Worship 11.00 am	Carols VH 3.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Saturday 22nd		Carols 7.30pm	
Sunday 23rd	9 Lessons & Carols 6.30pm pm	Benefice Eucharist 10.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am
Monday 24th	Crib service 4.30 pm Midnight Mass 11.30 pm	Crib service 3.00pm Midnight Mass 11.30 pm	
Tuesday 25th			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 30th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - Grumpy Vicar Moment: NONE of the Advent calendars that I saw in the seasonal aisle of a local supermarket had anything to do with the Christmas story! Grrr! Now, I can guess what you are probably thinking: "What an old meanie! We've been looking forward to our daily dose of chocolate throughout the first twenty-four days of December all year!" Or perhaps you prefer beer, or maybe perfume – you can buy Advent calendars with those in, too. But the ones I remember were magically Christmassy, with a picture behind each door until you reached the Nativity scene behind number 24. Then there was the Blue Peter Advent Crown! Remember that? How many families anticipated Christmas by collecting wire coat hangers, wire, baubles and tinsel ready for the moment when Valerie Singleton appeared on our TV screens and showed us one she had made earlier? She didn't just use real candles, she lit them, too! The instructions on the BBC website now recommend the tamer option of more baubles instead. For me a similar tradition that we have in church – the Advent ring – is my favourite. In the gloom of a grey early December morning we light a single candle (no baubles for us!) for the prophets, who foretold Jesus' birth. A week later, we light another - for John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus. A third is lit for Mary, Jesus' mother until, as Christmas approaches, four candles are blazing away. Finally Christmas arrives, the white candle in the centre representing Jesus is lit, and darkness gives way to light. All through January the Advent Ring, with Jesus in the middle, lights up the sanctuary. Meanwhile, the chocolate, beer and perfume are all long gone...Peace and light to you this Christmas – **Brian Williams**

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