

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 300 January 2019

Non-profit & delivered free
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CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS - Thanks to everybody who came for the Village Christmas Tree lights switch on. In spite of the weather, it was amazing that nearly 100 turned up to watch five-year-old Phoenix do the honours. A big thank you also to Darren Healey, the new owner of the Marquis, for providing refreshments and outlining their plans for the future. Well done to Louise, Nadine, Hailey and the rest of the Marquis staff who coped brilliantly with the

incredible turn out. Our thanks also to Ken and Gordon Spencer who made sure that Father Christmas arrived safely and to Brian Wimsett and his Alkham Fund who supplied the new lights. **Den Barnard**

SLADDEN FARM ON TV – Di Smith, who runs Sladden Farm, will appear on the BBC in January. She took part in a programme called ‘The Farmers’ Country Showdown’ which is billed as a heart-warming series that celebrates inspirational farming families and the rural events where they showcase their hard work, as they try to win the top prizes. The BBC spent a whole day with Di at her farm, just to the east of the village, where she has her Dexter cows and they also filmed at Shakespeare cliff where her animals also graze. The programme is not yet scheduled but should be shown in January or early February. **editor**

PARISH PLAN UPDATE – VOLUNTEERS - The Parish Plan is now entering a crucial phase of its development. Analysis of the open day results is well underway with the production of a master spreadsheet. This document will allow the team to identify key actions and list them under priorities and types of action. This is the evidence phase of the Parish Plan. There is much essential work to be undertaken on the identified actions to ensure the credibility of the plan. The work will require further research and consultation, and the Parish Plan team are seeking community volunteers to join various sub working groups to carry out this important work. If you want to volunteer, please submit your name to the Parish Clerk (see back page). Many thanks. **Martin Hibbert**

CLASSIC FILMS - Over a period of 10 days in December 7 classic 1950’s film were shown at the Village Hall. The showings were free and attended by a core of enthusiastic film goers. The films ranged from musicals like ‘Singing in the Rain’ to classics like ‘Genevieve’ and ‘Some like it Hot’. Those who came enjoyed the experience of revisiting their memories of films from their past. **Geoff Hillier**



TEA AND A CHAT – There won’t be a Tea and a Chat in December but there will be one as usual on January 31st at 2.00pm. If you haven’t been before, please do come a long as it’s a very pleasant way to spend a couple of hours with good company.

ANOTHER great Poppy Appeal - £820.66 - from Alkham and Ewell Minnis residents, who gave so generously in this Centenary year. Thanks to The Marquis, Alkham Tea Rooms, Alkhamhurst Kennels, Southern Equestrian and Alkham Valley Community Project, that had Poppy Boxes. And a special mention to the Garden Centre who also donated the money they received from their charity book shelves. Thanks also, to Shirley Prince for providing the wreath for the Remembrance Service at the church. Finally, to the collecting volunteers – **Rachel Fountain**

DOMESTIC OIL thefts are still happening as a property in Ewell Minnis had some oil taken recently.

FILM NIGHT

There is no film in December

Jan 29	King of Thieves Michael Caine - Ray Winstone
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Village Hall 7.30pm
Please bring your own refreshments

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ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL has increased the 2019/20 precept level this year by an average of £0.27p per week per household. In determining the budget and precept the Parish Council has set the priority projects it wishes to achieve against the current and future finances of the Council. The precept has not been increased significantly for many years. Indeed, for the last two financial years, the Parish Council's expenditure was greater than its income. The overspend is taken directly from reserves. Savings have been made where possible, with many budget items reduced by a small % to try and limit the increase in Precept for 2019/20, without having a dramatic impact on village services. The Parish Council will seek grants and external funding for projects before reserves are spent. A critical factor in the increase in precept has been the non-availability of Kent County Council and Dover District Council funding for projects such as the Parish Plan and the Traffic Implementation Group. Also, the increased administrative costs due to greater legislative requirements for Parish Councils. The Alkham precept proposed for 2019/20 is £ 12,500, which when divided by the tax base of 307.61 Band D equivalent houses within the parish, results in Parish Council Tax figure of £ 40.64 for the year or £0.78 per week. This equates to an average annual increase per household of £14.17 on last year's figure of £26.47. The Parish Council are always reluctant to increase the Precept but hopes that residents will feel that the increase will be beneficial. Alkham continues, deservedly, to be a very popular parish, because of its vibrant community and excellent facilities. The Parish Council is seeking to do everything in its power to make sure the village continues to be a good place to live. **Neil Burrows Chairman**

ST ANTHONY'S CHRISTMAS TREE - On behalf of Rev Brian, the PCC and all who worship and visit this beautiful old church, we would like to offer our appreciation and thanks to Paul and Ian at the Alkham Garden Centre for providing, once again, a beautiful tree. **Irene Barnard**



PLANNING APPLICATION – The boundary of the parish of Alkham stretches to Hawkinge and the Parish Council were asked their opinion regarding the erection of 19 dwellings on the land shown by the arrow. With reservations, they approved as do the Planning Department.

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BYWAYS - KCC wishes is to keep the byways open and not to close them unless they are badly damaged, but the Parish Council would prefer seasonal TRO's and report damage as necessary. However, the Parish Council accepts that the decision lies with KCC.

ALKHAM WI had their Christmas meal on the 11th December at the Marquis, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our next meeting will be on the 8th of January when our speaker will be Jo Murrell talking about the Alkham Valley community project.

DOVER COLLEGE - Do you have a child due to start Reception in September 2019? Here at Dover College we believe our Reception class offers the best start to education but don't just take our word for it, see for yourself at our Reception Entry Open Evening on Thursday, 10th January at 6pm. To book call 01304 244523 or jsadmissions@dovercollege.org.uk (free newsletter entry for local school)



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ALKHAM'S OAK TREES – In the February 2018 edition of the Newsletter there was an article about Stonehill wood, which is at the junction of Slip Lane and Chalksole Green Lane in Alkham. In March 1772 the standing oak trees in this wood were sold at an auction in the Fox and Goose pub next to the present-day Marquis. In 1793 the Napoleonic Wars began, and this brought increased prosperity to Dover partly because of the increase in ship building. The King shipyard at Dover was the only commercial ship builder but there were other shipyards around and they saw an increase in orders from the government. The keels were laid down on the beach and the ships were mainly built out of locally grown oak from woods or forests that surrounded Dover at Alkham, Elham, Lydden, Lyminge, Temple Ewell and Whitfield and it is quite probable that the oak trees from Stonehill wood were used in these ships to fight the French. A ship required about 40 acres of woodland to build and Stonehill would have provided around 9 acres. One ship, The Zephyr, was built at Dover in 1795 and cost £2,660, which in today's money is £380,000; today a frigate costs about £70 million to build. The maritime information came from doverhistorian.com, which is an excellent site with a lot more information about Dover. **Brian Wimsett**

OZ on CABBAGES – Recently I received a very funny but alarming report on Facebook that went as follows: “Pythagoras’ Theorem is 24 words long. The Lord’s Prayer: 66 words. Archimedes’ Principle: 67 words. The Ten Commandments: 179 words. The US Constitution with all 27 Amendments: 7,818 words. The EU Regulations on the Sale of CABBAGES: 26,911 words. This says it all.” I thought this a wonderful piece of invective, but was wary – were the numbers correct? – why did cabbages require 26,911 words of regulation? So I checked out the word counts, and the first five were acceptable, after allowing for variations in translation and editing. However, in references to EU cabbage regulations, the numbers varied wildly, with a preponderance of the number 26,911. This number dates back to World War II, long before the EU, let alone their cabbage regulations. According to Professor Barry O’Neill of the University of California, the US government regulated the sale of cabbage seeds in a 2,600 page report. Later it was rumoured that the regulations would be extended to include cabbage plants in a 26,000 page report. By 1951, the rumoured figure had grown to 26,911, even occurring from time to time in the US Senate in the 1980s. The story crossed the Atlantic in 1953, when a British MP used the same device, but substituting eggs for cabbages, to criticize the activities of the Egg Marketing Board. The 26,911 figure was again used in 2006 during a Lords debate on EU regulations on duck eggs. In the same year, the EU issued Regulation (EC) No 634/2006 regarding the sale of cabbages, in a report between 1,800 and 2,000 words long, but this was withdrawn in 2009 after criticisms regarding its relevance. The whole area of farm produce is now included in a single EU document of some 32,000 words. However, UK farmers still have to follow our Red Tractor Assurance Scheme’s Protocol for Cabbage, which, according to its author, Andy Richardson, has 23,501 words. Which is, I think, about where we came in – give or take. **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	8	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday	9	White Cliff Metal Detectors 7pm to 9pm
Saturday	12	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Monday	14	Bird Club 7.30pm
Saturday	26	Beekeepers in the afternoon
Tuesday	29	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 6th	Evensong 4.30	Eucharist 9.30	Christingle 11am
Saturday 12 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13 th	Eucharist 9.30	Christingle 11am	
Sunday 20 th	Christingle 11am	Evensong 6.00	Eucharist 9:30
Sunday 27 th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - On a train journey recently, Mrs Vicarage announced that she would like a cup of tea. So, Yours Truly duly made his way to the On-Board Shop (that's what the Buffet Car is called now) in search of refreshments. Arriving at the On-Board Shop, I stood at the counter and expected to be greeted with the usual "Can I help you?" The attendant, however, was chewing the end of a pen and puzzling over a form that she was trying to fill in. Looking up, she waved her pen towards me and asked if I could help her! She opened a flap on the machine behind her and pointed to something that appeared to contain coffee granules. She needed to order some of that - but she wasn't quite sure which box to tick. We studied the form together, ticked what we thought might be the correct box, and agreed to attach a Post-It note to explain, just in case. Then she made tea. Of course, it was flattering to think that I might have looked intelligent enough to be able to understand the form - but it made me think. It would have been easier for that attendant to have pretended to have known what she was doing and to have just ticked anything rather than ask a stranger for help. Not for nothing were Christians in medieval times taught that humility was one of the seven virtues. How often are we too proud to admit that we don't know everything? It may well be that, as you read this, that buffet car attendant is hard at work somewhere between London and the North. God bless her - not only is she honest, humble and conscientious, but she also makes a decent cup of tea...

Brian Williams

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 Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com
 Hall booking Tracey Prince 828098
 W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
 Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
 AVS alkhamvalleysociety@btinternet.com
 Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
 MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
 KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
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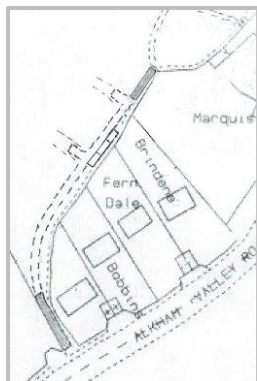
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CHURCHYARD – Comments have been made about the vehicle access to the churchyard and the state of the ground. The paved areas by the road and church have been completed and, if funds allow, a grass reinforcement mesh at least 2.5 metres wide will be laid over the 60m length between the paved areas in the summer. Three parking bays and two turning bays will be similarly created, as shown on the plan.

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCHYARD has now been formally designated as a Commonwealth War Graves Commission site. The sign on the right is situated by the lychgate and commemorates the three Alkham Heroes buried in the churchyard.



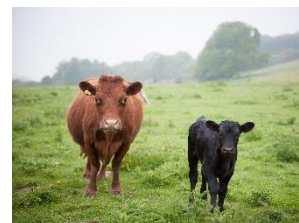
COMMUNITY BUS - The Parish Council has joined, as a group, the Thanet Community Transport Association and paid the membership fee. If any parishioner wants to use the service you will have to register under the Parish Council membership but will not have to pay the joining fee, only the cost of your journeys. To use the service, you must live more than 500 metres from a bus stop, be unable to use public services and are elderly or disabled. If you are interested, then phone 01843 602030 and say that you are an Alkham parishioner and they will answer any queries you may have and register you. If you are unsure, ask any Parish Councillor or friend to ring them on your behalf. **editor**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY- The new steps, kissing gate and path repairs in Sladden wood were admired by members who attended the Christmas Walk on 27th December, thanks to all who came. The work was carried out by the White Cliffs volunteers and make the whole wood more accessible and enjoyable. Thanks also to Anthony Barrier (Parish Councillor) for supporting our request for the said repairs. **Jo Walker (SEC)**

PARISH PLAN UPDATE – An A5 sheet has been delivered with this Newsletter and gives an update on the Parish Plan. No volunteers came forward after the appeal in the January newsletter, but it's not too late; please let us know if you would like to help in any way by contacting Irene Bowie, the Parish Clerk (see bottom of back page for details). **Den Barnard**

THE POWER CUT in Alkham on the 15th January was due to branches being cut off trees by Newlyn's Meadow and bringing down three overhead cables. The police and fire brigade attended as the cut cables were arcing badly.

SLADDEN FARM is just to the east of Alkham village and appeared on BBC 1's 'The



Farmers' Country Showdown' on the 16th January. In the programme it featured a breeder of Dexter cattle in Essex and Di Smith at Sladden Farm as they prepared to go to the Royal Norfolk Show. Di was shown at her 74-acre farm and on Shakespeare cliff where her Dexters also graze in an eco-friendly environment. In a charming programme, narrated by Bill Paterson, Di's Dexter, Meadow flower, won a second and Di then went on to win another second and a third with Martin, who helps at the farm, showing some of the Dexters. Di considers the show to be her holiday, as that is the only time she gets off, and is quite amazing at the age of 81 running the farm and caring for her 100 or so Moomin Dexters. **editor**

FOR SALE - Traditional hat and coat hall stand with mirror, glove/key box and original umbrella drip trays. Made by Flashmans & Co of Dover. Very good condition, buyer collects £130. If interested, please ring Irene 01304 824845

TEA AND A CHAT – The next Tea and a chat will be on the 28th February at 2pm. Please do come along to the village hall for some company and refreshments.

FILM NIGHT

Feb 26 Monsoon Wedding

Jan 29 King of Thieves
Michael Caine - Ray Winstone

Village Hall 7.30pm
Please bring your own refreshments

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ALKHAM BYWAYS - Off road cars and motor bikes have returned to the Pimlico and Everden byways 185 and 25 cutting ruts, removing barriers, and trespassing. Kent County Council's restoration has been undone, the ruts put

pedestrians and horse riders at risk. As a result of the serious damage KCC have made a further emergency order temporarily excluding motor vehicles (other than quads and motor bikes). Although vehicles are causing further damage to the Bull run (ER122) KCC have said that they do not consider that it needs closing at this stage. The section through the woods has suffered severe damage which KCC say they will repair. In the meantime, it seems unsafe for walkers and horse riders. After two or so year's delay the Parish Council's minutes of its November meeting stated the council's position on local byways that it would prefer seasonal Traffic Regulation Orders but that "it is mindful that the decision ultimately rests with Kent County Council."

Although it is known that KCC are more likely to make seasonal TROs than permanent ones it is not apparent why the Parish Council do not support the many residents who, at meetings in the Village Hall, clearly prefer permanent TROs. **Peter Smith, Alkham Byways Group**

GARDEN TALK - We are looking forward to spring, and our new series of garden visits, which we hope to begin in March. Anyone who wishes to host an event, or has suggestions of local places to visit or wants more information, please contact: **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**



AIR AMULANCE Would you like one of our volunteer speakers to visit? If you are a member of a local group, club or society (over age 16), then you can book a talk with us - free of charge. Our volunteer will talk about how we work, innovate and save lives. It promises to be an interesting and inspiring meeting for your members, whilst enabling us to raise vital awareness of our charity. If you would like to hear more about us, then we would love to hear from you. Get in touch now to book a talk at a time and place that suits you; 01634 471 900 or talks@aakss.org.uk.

TEMPLE EWELL and District Produce Association's Coffee morning is on Saturday the 9th February in Temple Ewell Village Hall between 10am-12noon. It is free to all members and friends of the club and there will be news of this year's coach trip and you will be able to book your seat with a small deposit. There will also be a table top quiz for you to do while meeting up with friends and having tea/coffee and biscuit. If you would like to join the club, they will have the new schedules (fee only £1) starting with the Spring Show on Saturday March 30th between 2-4pm in Temple Ewell Village Hall.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our January meeting started with a very interesting talk by Jo Murrell talking about the AVCP. Our next meeting will be on February 12th when our speaker will be Girling Solicitors talking about Wills and Inheritance Tax. Hostesses are Cherry Leppard, Christine Peel; Raffle Janet Barrow and VOT Edith Neve. All new members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

BOOK CLUB - The next Alkham Village Book Club meeting will be on Thursday 14th February at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre at 1.00p.m. The book for discussion is The Hidden Legacy by G.J. Minnett. **Jane Aslett**

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




ALKHAM TITHE BARN - In the Old Testament a tithe, meaning a tenth, was an offering of one's agricultural income to the Lord as an expression of thanks and dedication. In medieval times, and later, it was the assumption that the world was governed by God and that the clergy

should be paid a tithe so that it could operate in his name; there were agnostics who resented paying but it was enforced by law. The church also gained revenue from the Glebe lands and church fees. Originally the tithe was paid in kind and therefore the church needed somewhere to store the corn and other items and in Alkham there was a thatched tithe barn behind the Rectory, as shown on the left in the photograph. An 1836 Act converted tithes into an annual rent and the Marquis paid tithes on the homestead, pasture, hops, arable, garden and sainfoin to the value of just over £6 (£600 today) of which the church got about 10%. In 1936 an act was passed which revoked the payment of the rent tithes but invoked an annuity of an agreed sum which was to last for 60 years. In 1977 the government decided, because of increased administrative costs, that the scheme should cease. The tithe barn was demolished in the 1930's and thanks go to Jo Walker for pointing the barn out and to Alan Latham for providing the links to the tithe records. **editor**

OZ on CHRISTMAS PAST – At the December meeting of Lyminge Laureates, after reading our own poems on the Seasonal Offering theme, we discussed the idea that 'Charles Dickens invented Christmas as we know it.' Opinion was divided, and I decided on further research, partly with a view to this newsletter story. The Oxford English Dictionary's earliest entry for Christmas is from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (1101), which, in translation, says "...this year at Christmas King Henry held his court in Westminster." But this is hardly 'as we know it' and the OED records many further examples with varying degrees of relevance and humour from the next 900 years. Among my favourites are John Swan in Specula Mundi (1635) recording that "...a hot Christmas makes a fat Church-yard.", and Richard Steele in The Spectator (1712) complaining that officials "...have the Impudence at Christmas to ask for their Box." During the 17th century, Christmas Day celebrations were banned by Puritan governments both in England from 1647 to 1660 and the American colonies between 1659 and 1681, effectively abolishing Christmas 'as we know it.' By the time Victoria came to the throne in 1837, the western world had changed significantly. The effects of the British Industrial Revolution and the Second British Empire had fed on each other to produce enormous wealth, of which a little trickled down to ordinary families, sufficient for a modest annual celebration. Prince Albert introduced the Christmas tree and decorations at Windsor Castle in 1841, after which the popularity of Christmas grew rapidly. Charles Dickens's great achievement was in using, rather than inventing, 'Christmas as we know it' to cause change. My father once explained it all to me much more succinctly: "Well, son, what they have to do is turn your pockets out once a year, else they run out of money." **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	5	White Cliff Metal Detectors 7pm to 9pm
Saturday	9	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Monday	18	Bird Club 7.30pm
Saturday	23	Beekeepers in the afternoon
Tuesday	26	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
	Evensong 4.30	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am
Saturday 9th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10th	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am	
Sunday 17th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00	Eucharist 9:30
Sunday 24th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - Other churches have tried it – quite successfully apparently – and I thought that we might try it too. Holding a special service for those planning to marry, or who were newly married, on St Valentine's Day, that is. To be honest, it fell a bit flat. What everyone seems to remember was that it was a bitterly cold afternoon, and nobody who came has asked when we're having the next one... So who was St Valentine, and what did he have to do with cards, flowers or chocolates? It seems that around 270, when one of the Roman Emperors, possibly Claudius II, gave orders that anyone helping Christians should be arrested. In Rome someone of that name – possibly a priest – was imprisoned, tortured and executed. The Church declared him a saint and chose to remember him on 14th February. By chance, it was around this time that a pagan festival called Lupercalia was celebrated in Rome. This involved young men being matched with young women, along with other things - many of which would be banned today. Over time the connection between the Saint's Day and the old Roman festival has encouraged people to make the connection between Valentine and the celebrations that we are so familiar with. There's more. Legend says that while awaiting execution Valentine was visited by his jailer's daughter. She was blind, and it is said that when he prayed, she miraculously received her sight. Sadly, there was to be no fairy-tale ending for them. Following his execution, a note was found in his cell, addressed to her and signed 'From Your Valentine.' This St Valentine's Day, prayers and best wishes for all those who are setting out on one of life's greatest adventures... **Brian Williams**

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W.I. Secretary Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Charlie Elphicke 01304 379669
KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
DDC - P Beresford 216187
WEBS www.alkham.org &
 www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

To contact the Parish Clerk or Councillors phone 07771616795 or email clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

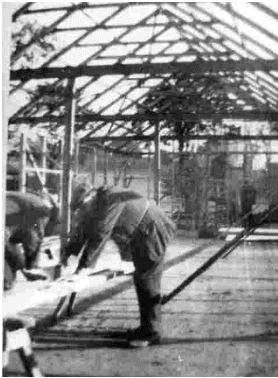
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No. 302 March 2019

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THE VILLAGE HALL was built in 1931 and in the photo, Henry Harvey can be seen cutting the timber. In the Museum of Kent Life at Maidstone there is a similar hall on display and some people think that's where ours should be. However, people visiting our hall love the wood panelled walls and floors and the homely feel, but it is looking a bit tatty on the outside with flaking paint. The Hall Committee therefore got three tenders to

repaint the hall and Roberts will start work when the weather gets a bit warmer. The colour will be green with the exact shade to be decided; if you have an opinion on this please let us know. **editor**

HANDRAIL – The entrance to the churchyard off the Valley Road opposite Newlyn's Meadow was recently paved with tarmac and as it is a quite steep it was decided to install a handrail to assist pedestrians. The adjacent house owner Norman very kindly agreed to have the handrail



attached to his close boarded fence and the height of the rail was dictated by the fence's cross bracing. The materials were bought at Wickes and paid for by the Alkham Fund and the work was carried out for free by Den, Brian and Alan.

NEW VILLAGERS - MEET AND GREET COFFEE MORNING

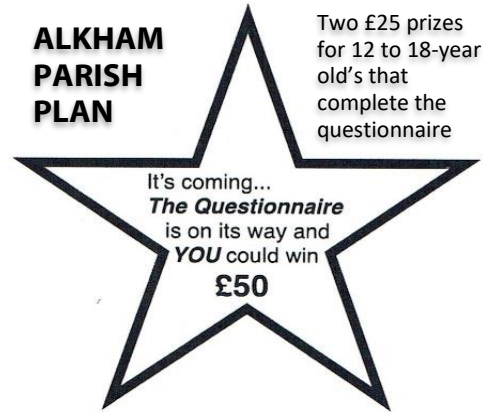
There are many new families in the village since the last coffee morning, so thought it a good idea to have another. This event is a lovely way to meet new friends and neighbours and enjoy free coffee and tea, with biscuits, and treats for the children. Like before, we need established locals to come to act as welcomers. Please come along to the village hall on Saturday 4th May from 10am - 12.30. This event is sponsored by Brian Wimsett, Alkham Fund. **Irene Barnard**

100 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK – 'The Parish Clerk was directed to write to the District Council calling their attention to the overflowing of the road between Church Alkham and South Alkham and asking if it cannot be remedied, the Parish Council have called your attention to it before and nothing has been done and they now hope that the matter will now receive your attention.' (Extracted from Parish Council Meeting minutes 21st February 1919). **Den Barnard**

PRINCE TUTORING will be running courses in the village hall in the Easter holidays on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 to 12am; courses include 11+ etc. (see ad page 3). Please ring Tracey on 07814354122.

ALKHAM PARISH PLAN

Two £25 prizes for 12 to 18-year old's that complete the questionnaire



ALKHAM WI JUMBLE SALE in the village hall, 11th May from 10.30am to 12 o'clock. Refreshments available. Entrance 25p.

TEA AND A CHAT is held on the last Thursday of each month in the village hall starting at 2pm and finishing at 4pm. The next Tea and a Chat will be on March 28th so please do come along and, apart from free coffee, tea and biscuits, meet other people for a chat.

POWER CUT – Some people wondered why parts of Alkham came on earlier than others when the power line was brought down by Newlyn's Meadow. When there is a major fault on the line the power feeding Alkham is turned off at Little London to the east of Chalksole. When the fault is found that area is isolated and then the power is turned back on, which accounts for Slip Lane etc. coming on 4 hours before the properties adjacent to Newlyn's Meadow.

FILM NIGHT

February 26

Monsoon Wedding

March 26

Overboard
Kurt Russell Goldie Hawn

Village Hall 7.30pm
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A NEW GARDENING SERVICE IN THE VILLAGE - James West is the son of long time Alkham resident Eileen West. After eight years in Canada, James is returning to Alkham to develop a high-class garden maintenance business. He spent four years training in horticulture at Hadlow College, near Tonbridge and the next nine years working for English Heritage, maintaining the diverse plants in the gardens of Walmer Castle. He moved to Ontario and to a large garden centre where his role was to advise customers on the selection and care of trees, shrubs and other plant stock. He also headed up their planting service. At the beginning of April he will commence his business in the village, offering a complete garden maintenance service whilst focusing on planting and plant care. He will operate as "James West Gardens" and, initially, can be contacted on 01304 268464.

THIS YEAR, The Friends of Temple Ewell Primary School has been chosen to benefit from the Co-op Local Community Fund. We are raising funds for the outside area of the Millennium Hall to be resurfaced and made more accessible for access to the hall from the Church and a nicer area for the young children in our school to play. To help us raise vital funds, we'll be relying on Co-op shoppers every time they buy Co-op own-brand products. Co-op members can decide which local group they would like to back by going online www.coop.co.uk/membership where you can also join. **Nicola Church**



RSPCA CANTERBURY AND DISTRICT ANIMAL CENTRE has lots of 'Masterful Moggies' who are in the prime of their lives and have sadly found themselves looking for new homes. These cats have spent their whole lives in a home and are desperate to return to their home comforts. If you're looking for a companion to spend your

evenings watching TV with, then an older cat is perfect. Timmy (photo) is 10 years young and likes nothing better than to sit on a lap and relax. At 18 years Tammy is the oldest cat at the centre and all of the cats have been health checked by a vet and have been neutered, vaccinated and treated for fleas and worms. www.rspca-canterbury.org.uk

THE MARQUIS – The alterations to the Marquis include removal of paint to all elevations and the replacement of a door with a window. The existing steps are to be removed and an illuminated hanging sign installed. Internally there will be a new fireplace and a glazed lobby plus various stud partitions to ground floor. The bin store will be relocated, and a retaining wall erected with an additional 19 car parking spaces created. The Parish Council approved the proposals and the village looks forward to the opening of the Marquis of Granby in March.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our February meeting was an enjoyable evening with a talk from Girling Solicitors. Our next meeting will be on the 12th March when our speaker will be Gehad Homsey talking about the charity mercy ships. Hostesses Edith Neve, Helen Price; Raffle Gina Daniels and VOT Eileen West. New members are always welcome. We are organising an American supper evening for the 18th May; more information will follow in next month's newsletter. **Debbie Griggs**

GARDEN TALK - We start the year with a visit to 'Woodstock' on the Alkham Valley Road on Friday 8th March, where Don & Helen will welcome us from 7.00p.m. The Programme for the year is almost complete but offers to host an evening are still welcome. **Janet Adamson (01303 893413)**

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DIARY OF A COUNTRY PARSON - In St Anthony's church behind the Marquis of Granby there can be found on the chancel floor a ledger stone to record the passing of George Slater in 1709. He was the lay parson and lessee of the nearby rectory. On the stone he is described as a gent of Wiltshire. His role in Alkham? The obvious deduction was that he was serving the church and its flock. That was perhaps not correct as there was also a vicar by the name of John Daulinge at that time who also has a ledger stone in the church chancel. It is more than likely that reverend Daulinge dealt with all matters liturgical. This assumption is based on information from James Woodforde's diary, "Diary of a Country Parson 1758 – 1802". In the diary it is recorded that he hired a curate to look after the matters of the local church in Weston, Norfolk. It seems likely that George Slater had a similar relationship with his vicar. Further evidence may be drawn from knowledge of the tithing system of that period. Tithes were divided into greater (rectorial) tithes, the product of the arable fields and value of stock, and lesser (vicarial) tithes, raised from labour and minor produce i.e. the day labourers and cottagers. Where the Rector was not the incumbent, he took a share of the greater tithes and his appointed vicar would have to survive on the lesser tithes supplemented by the glebe income and the freehold of the churchyard (mdlp.co.uk). Note the connection with the roads Glebeland. If James Woodforde's life as portrayed in his diary reflects the life of lay parson George Slater then he would have been a country gentlemen with an income from the tithes paid by the local farmers. It is also probable that he was chairman of the Vestry which was a little like our parish council but that is another story. **Alan Latham**

OZ on RONNIE'S – After reading my October 2018 story, a reader asked what we got up to in Soho in the evening after visiting Foyles bookshop in the Charing Cross Road. I'm sorry to say that it was nothing more shocking than visiting some of the many jazz clubs that had sprung up across the country in the 1950s, particularly in London, from the Chislehurst Caves Club in the south-east to the Bull's Head, Barnes, in the south-west. Of these, we most favoured Ronnie Scott's Club, both for musical quality and the cheap entrance fee of half a crown (about £3 in today's money). Ronnie was born in 1927 in Aldgate into a Jewish family. In his early teens he discovered jazz and studied the tenor saxophone under Jack Lewis, the father-in-law of Vera Lynn. After the war Ronnie played tenor saxophone with all the major British big bands, occasionally working his way on the Cunard liner Queen Mary to New York to hear the great American jazz musicians playing live. During the 1950s, the big bands declined for economic reasons, and Ronnie led a series of smaller groups. In 1959, he and fellow tenor saxophonist Peter King acquired the Gerrard Street, Soho, basement that became Ronnie Scott's Club, later moving to 47 Frith Street, also in Soho, where it remains today. Over the years, Ronnie's became a Mecca for musicians and listeners from all over the world. Part of the attraction was the food, particularly during the legendary 'all-nighters', and part was Ronnie's irresistible humour. The two were combined in his defensive remark "a thousand flies can't be wrong." Ronnie died in December 1996 following dental surgery, epitaphed by his comment, still used for publicity at the entrance to the club, "I love this place, it's just like home, filthy and full of strangers." **(Steve Osborn)**

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Saturday	16	SEK astronomical 7pm
Tuesday	26	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1
Saturday	30	Beekeepers in the afternoon

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 3 rd	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Wednesday 6 th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 7.00 pm		
Saturday 9 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 18 th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 25 th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 31 st	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	Worship 11am VH

BUS TIMES To Dover 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
To Folkestone 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

FROM THE VICARAGE - As I write, it is the day after St Valentine's Day. While shopping earlier I found yesterday's left-over roses being sold off, and the shelves beginning to fill with Easter Eggs. It won't be long before we are shopping for those, too, and cheerfully parting with our money in the process. Before Easter comes Lent – the 40 days of which I had never really thought of as a business opportunity for anyone until this morning, when the phone rang. Here I should explain that there are companies that sell churchy things, everything from communion wine to altar cloths. Their brochures arrive in the post, land in a corner of my office, and stay there until we either order something or throw them out. But one of these companies, I learned, wants to get to know me better - with Lent approaching they had thought to give me a ring. I spent the next few minutes reassuring their sales rep that I have palm ash for Ash Wednesday, palm crosses for Palm Sunday, and will contact him if I need any Easter candles. We were on first-name terms by the time I hung up. By tradition Lent, as you may know, is a time of prayer and fasting. It recalls the stories from the gospels of Jesus being led by the Spirit into the wilderness, resisting temptation with words from scripture and coming through it all unbroken. For Yours Truly, it will be 40 days of prayer, Bible reading and probably no cake (sigh!) and perhaps for some of you it will also be a time of denying yourselves a favourite treat, and we shall all arrive at Easter the better for it. But making money out of Lent? I had never thought of that... **Brian Williams**

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No. 303 April 2019

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PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – If you would like to be a Parish Councillor for Alkham, nomination forms can be obtained from the Election Office, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ. However, the nomination papers must be delivered to the Returning Officer, Wellesley and Pitt Rooms, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ no later than 4 pm on Wednesday, 3rd April. There are seven positions to be filled and if the election is contested the poll will take place on Thursday, 2nd May.

PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE - The Parish Plan Team have been working for some time and the end is now in sight and we're hoping to have a draft plan ready by the end of the summer. The team is made up of eight volunteers plus two young villagers (including three parish councillors) and advice and guidance has been given by Kent County Council, Dover District Council, the Kent Association of Local Councils and several other Parish Councils who are producing Community Led Plans. Most importantly of all, the team have been obtaining input from Alkham Villagers. Last September our Village Plan Open Day had a great turn out and nearly 800 comments/issues/ideas were put forward. We have also had excellent feedback from individuals from the village. The next step is to quantify the amount of support for all the issues/ideas and you will have received with this newsletter an envelope containing a questionnaire and a stamped address envelope for its return. Please complete and return as per the instructions; if you need help please ask. We would also really like to hear from our young villagers. All forms are confidential, and the information is only to be used for formulating a Parish Plan. There is a sponsored prize draw with several prizes just to give you one more reason for returning the questionnaire. A big thank you for all Brian Wimsett's newsletter deliverers for their help. Thanks in anticipation. **Neil Burrows and the Parish Plan Team**

FETE - We had a Fete Committee meeting on the 6th March and due to a number of key personnel not being available we have decided that there will not be a Fete this year, but we will be back next year on the 11th July 2020, so put the date in your diary now. We will, however, be having a Grand Raffle with the intention of raising money for the Church and Village Hall and to supplement our funds for the next Fete - watch this space for details! **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

VILLAGE HALL - The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee takes place on Tuesday 16th April, at 7.00p.m. in the Village Hall. This will be followed by the quarterly Committee Meeting. All residents of the village, and representatives of groups that use the Village Hall are welcome to attend and make suggestions and/or comments on what activities should be planned and general suggestions regarding the running of the Hall. If anyone wishes to serve on the Committee, they would be made most welcome. **Janet Adamson**

PAMELA SAYERS – It is sad to report that Pam died on the 13th March aged 84. She was a lovely lady and will be missed by all her knew her and sympathy goes to the extended family. The funeral will be at St. Anthony's on the 25th March at 4pm and a full obituary will be included in next month's Newsletter.

TEA AND A CHAT - On the 28th February we had about 13 people come to the village hall for free tea and biscuits to meet fellow residents to chew over the fat and exchange gossip and news with each other. For entertainment we had a short play reading session where all took part, which was fun, and we plan further fun activities at future Tea and a Chat afternoons. So do come along on the last Thursday of the month between 2pm and 4pm to meet up with similar minded people and enjoy a couple of hours of relaxed conversation.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING is on the 8th April at 7.30pm in the village hall and it is hoped that there will be a speaker. Everyone is invited to attend.

THE A.G.M. for St. Anthony's Church, Alkham will be on Thursday, 11th April 7pm in the Village Hall. All welcome.

ALKHAM WI JUMBLE SALE in the village hall, 11th May from 10.30am to 12 o'clock. Refreshments available. Entrance 25p.

FILM NIGHT

March 26

Overboard

Kurt Russell Goldie Hawn

April 30

Green Book

Village Hall 7.30pm

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THANKYOU to Councillor David Beaney for putting up the Christmas tree at the Minnis; for getting the Ewell Minnis signs put up; getting the rubbish picked up around the Minnis and for filling in the verge passing places on Warren Lane – may the good work continue.

Laurence Jones Little West Hill Farm

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL – The regular meetings, to which all parishioners are welcome, are held on a Monday evening starting at 7.30pm in the village hall. The dates for this year are 13th May, 1st July 9th September, 4th November. To see the agendas for the meetings and minutes, please go to www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk/council-admin/agenda-minutes/.

TB TESTING – Di Smith of Sladden Farm hosted a meeting in Alkham village hall in February for farmers to express their feelings regarding TB testing in the Dover area. Di's herd of 70 cows are confined to the farm under DEFRA regulations and she and her fellow farmers wanted answers from the government's animal welfare vet who was present. There had been an incident in Guston last April which triggered the TB restrictions and after some heated debate the NFU area secretary, who chaired the meeting, said he would take up the issues with DEFRA on their behalf.

HGV'S – The problem of HGV's using unsuitable roads continues. In February a large artic with HGV sat-nav, drove up Warren Lane from Lydden and came down White Hill to Slip Lane. At this junction the road is narrow and going around the corner the HGV removed the downpipe and eaves board from The Old Granary. The details of the lorry were taken and shortly there will be scaffolding on Slip Lane to repair the damage. Rose Cottage, which is also on this corner, had their fence and gate badly damaged by a heavy lorry a short time ago.

THE BOOK CLUB for April will be on Thursday 11th at 1.00p.m. The meeting will be at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre where we will discuss 'On The Front Line With Women Who Fight Back' by Stacey Dooley. If you are interested in joining the book club, please come along and join us. **Jane Aslett**

GARDEN TALK - Our next visit will be on Friday 12th April, starting at 7.00p.m. to allow time to see the garden in daylight. Please contact Janet Adamson, 01303 893413 for full details.

RAIL TO CHURCHYARD - Appearing in March's newsletter: old men preparing to camp or picnic in the Church Yard, or are they propping up the bar in preparation for the Marquis of Granby opening? Who are these old men? Do we know them? A sympathiser must have ganged up to take the photograph, another old man? The new rail will undoubtedly assist further incursions into the Church Yard, but many thanks anyway! **anon**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our March meeting was a very interesting talk about Mercy Ships and our next meeting will be on April 9th which will be a member's night. Hostesses are Debbie Griggs and Debbie Saunders, Raffle Helen Scopes. On 18th May we are having an American supper night, 7-7.30pm to 10.30pm, and at £5 per person includes entertainment which will be a ukulele band and a prize will be awarded for the best decorated table. Please bring your own food and refreshments, plates, cutlery and glasses. If you would like to book a table, please contact Debbie on 07810890637 or 07796360473. New members always welcome. **Debbie**

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

Visit our new houseplant section which has a great selection of traditional/unusual plants. Summer flowering bulbs, potatoes and onion packs now in stock.

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PARISH COUNCIL – Today local affairs are dealt with by the Parish Council but before the latter was enacted parish matters were administered by the Vestry. The word vestry was originally associated with the church but as the parishioners met in the vestry, they too adopted the name. The Vestry was entitled to vote on all parish matters and to elect parish officers with a vestry clerk being responsible for the minutes and organization of the meetings. Parish Officers were mainly elected by the vestry annually at Easter and the positions were largely unpaid but some carried ancient perks such as a piece of land or rights to grazing in the churchyard. All parishes had to have a parish clerk, two church wardens, who had significant powers, and a sexton. There was also a constable who would be responsible for the ale houses, beggars, church and poor rate collection, maintenance of pillories and stocks and the village lock up; he was unpaid but allowed expenses. The post of surveyor was generally the most avoided as he too was unpaid and was responsible for the parish roads, lanes and drainage ditches the works for which were under funded and under resourced. In 1894 a Local Government Act created Rural District Councils as well as Parish Councils and Alkham Parish Council met for the first time on the 4th December 1894 and similar responsibilities were assigned to councillors, but any works are generally carried out by the District or County Council where underfunding still remains a problem. **editor**

OZ on FORTY YEARS ON – I need first to quote from the writer Gavin Ewart: "My purpose ... is not to stimulate sentimentality about vanished schooldays – or to make any sort of political propaganda about the kind of schools we ought to have." That came from the introduction to his Forty Years On, a 1969 anthology of school songs. After February's Alkham Film Night, I chatted to a fellow viewer about my recent 1950s stories, and we discovered that we had both attended Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club and the same old school. At this point it would be easy to lapse into sentimentality as the school is truly magnificent, built on the side of a steep hill, with terraced sports pitches, a tower, and the Great Hall, containing an organ gallery which is still in use. However, the most evocative feature is the school song, Forty Years On, written by Edward Ernest Bowen in 1872 for Harrow, and shared similarly with many other schools. It is an unashamed tear-jerker, warning the young and reminding the old of what the passage of forty years means for them, in four verses, each followed by a chorus commencing 'Follow up! Follow up! Follow up!', using football as a metaphor for life. Bowen was born in County Wicklow, Ireland in 1836, and educated at Blackheath Proprietary School, King's College London, and Trinity College Cambridge. After completing his first teaching post at Marlborough College, he moved to Harrow where he worked as a progressive and enlightened teacher while composing at least 17 other school songs for Harrow before his death in 1901. Such songs were traditionally sung at speech days and other major events. Today's school songs seem smaller and more numerous, promoting modern values, health and relationships, but without the sheer boisterous energy of Forty Years On. **Steve Osborn**

COMMEMORATION - If you would like to commemorate a loved one this Easter with a lily, please contact Linda Gaskill 823100. Each lily will be £5.00.

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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall

Monday	8	Annual Parish meeting 7.30pm – see page 1
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Thursday	11	St. Anthony's church AGM 7pm
Saturday	13	SEK astronomical 7pm
Tuesday	16	Village Hall AGM 7pm – see page 1
Tuesday	30	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 31st M	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	Worship 11am VH
Sunday 7th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 13th	Messy church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Palm Service 11am	
Thursday 18th	Maundy Thursday Benefice Eucharist Capel 7.00 pm		
Friday 19th	Good Friday Benefice Service Capel 10.00		
Saturday 31st	Building the Easter Garden at Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 21st	Eucharist 11.00 am	Eucharist 7.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 28th			Eucharist 10.00am

BUS TIMES To Dover 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
To Folkestone 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

FROM THE VICARAGE - Easter is late this year, and as I write most of Lent stretches ahead of us. So perhaps it was contemplating the thought of no cake for the next few weeks that drew my eye to a newspaper article by the singer Charlotte Church. In her case, it was not cake but alcohol that she had been abstaining from. Feeling the benefits of 'Dry January' had led her to embrace a dry February as well, resisting pressure from others to drink and feeling so much better for it. Apparently, the current health and fitness cult has pinched some features of Lent – the "giving up" bit when it comes to chocolate, cream cakes and the rest – but mostly leaves the prayer, Bible reading and other bits to one side. But as liberating as the ideas of wellness and wholeness might seem, as with anything else the joy drains away all too easily when reduced to a list of do's and don'ts: Thou shalt drink green tea and go to the gym; thou shalt not loaf in front of the TV eating pizza... No commandment demands that Thou shalt give up cake for Lent – it's my choice. Just as Charlotte Church finds that her new-found regime makes it easier for her to reach out to people and connect with them, so doing Lent – with all the bits – does something similar for me. It shifts my attention away from my own selfish wants – even for little things like cake – and keeps the joy by helping me to reach out to God and other people and connect with them. So, bless you if you're doing Lent - especially if you're doing it with all the bits. And a very Happy Easter to you, when the time comes.
Brian Williams

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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
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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 304 May 2019

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NEW VILLAGERS Meet and Greet Coffee Morning - There are many new families in the village since the last coffee morning, so thought it a good idea to have another. This event is a lovely way to meet new friends and neighbours and enjoy free coffee and tea, with biscuits, and treats for the children. Like before, we need established locals to come to act as welcomers. Please come along to the village hall on Saturday 4th May from 10am - 12.30. This event is sponsored by the Alkham Fund. **Irene Barnard**

MIDSUMMER BARN DANCE - Thanks to the generosity of Ann and John Huggins the Alkham Community Midsummer Barn Dance will be held at Greenwood Farm on 29th June 2019. Dancing from 19.30 to 23.30 to 'Contraband'. Tickets will be £10.00 each and will include a light supper. Licensed bar on the night. Tickets available from Graham Bissett. Contact 07789690786 or at graham.bissett@talk21.com. All proceeds from the event will be given to a local charity.

ALKHAM PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE - By now you should all have received a questionnaire. We need your views and thoughts on the focused questions. With your help we can work together towards building an inclusive social community within our Parish. If you haven't yet received a questionnaire, please contact your local councillor or Parish Clerk. The deadline for completion and return of the questionnaire is 30th April, so don't Delay - Have Your Say. **PP Team**
THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY has reopened as a village pub and the official opening was on the 5th of April to which parishioners were invited. The evening was a great success as the pub was absolutely crowded with people who also enjoyed a complimentary glass of champagne. The Marquis has been refurbished to a very high standard with a pub appeal (and rooms) and we wish the new landlords, Will and Nadine, all the best for the future.

A MAJOR slip up means the advertised film for April Film Night, which was to have been 'Green Book', has now had to be postponed and in its place the film to be screened on April 30th is 'Bohemian Rhapsody', the story of the band 'Queen'. The May film is still 'The Favourite'.

ST. ANTHONY'S church was absolutely packed on the 13th March for Pam Sayers funeral service and it was a fitting tribute to a much loved and respected lady. On page 3 is a recollection written by her.

BASKETS - Two hanging baskets have been put outside the entrance to Alkham village hall and they look great. They are part of privately funded initiative by Tracey Prince to bring colour to the village.

JUNIOR BAKE OFF is looking for bakers aged between 9-15 to take part in Series 5! For more information or an application form go to applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk. Applications close Monday 6th May 2019.

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS will be held on the 2nd May with voting at Alkham village hall. Only the District Councillor for Alkham and Capel-le-Ferne Ward will be voted for because the Parish Council is uncontested as less than seven people applied. The elected councillors are therefore Anthony Barrier, David Beaney, Neil Burrows, Martin Hibbert, Ruth Marczin-Bundy and Tracey Prince.



FREE LOGS

A large bay tree has just been felled, with DDC approval, in the centre of the village. If you'd like some free logs, please ring 01304 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

THE APRIL 'Tea and a Chat' will take place at the Village Hall on Thursday 25th when parish residents are invited to come along between 2pm and 4pm to join others for free tea and biscuits in convivial company. May's meet will be on the last Thursday of the month, the 30th. So, if you're feeling you'd like to join in and meet up with like-minded friends for a couple of hours, then do come along. **Geoff Hillier**
ALKHAM WI JUMBLE SALE in the village hall, 11th May from 10.30am to 12 o'clock. Refreshments available. Entrance 25p.

FILM NIGHT

April 30

Bohemian Rhapsody

May 28

The Favourite

Village Hall 7.30pm
Please bring your own refreshments

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GUITAR CONCERT - For the ninth 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 29th June at 6:30pm. Once again Jimmy's young pupils will be eager to perform in the beautiful setting of our church together with star performers including Emily Renshaw who will be returning once again. Tickets are £8 and refreshments will be available at nominal cost. All proceeds as always go to the Friends of St Anthony's for the upkeep of our church. Tickets from Den (01304 824845) or Jimmy (01304 823164).

A CAUTIONARY TALE – A man with an expensive house butchered an oak tree that was blocking the view. The tree was subject to a preservation order and as he had not asked for permission he was taken to court and fined £1200. However, as the value of the house had increased by £21,000 it was deemed to be proceeds of a crime and with that plus legal costs the bill came to £40,000. In addition to preservation orders, if you live in a conservation area then you must also get permission to fell or work on a tree.

TRAFFIC - A complaint has been raised with Kent Highways on their website because of the increase in traffic and oversized vehicles on Slip Lane recently and the amount of damage they are causing to the banks, verges and trees lining the Lane, as well as being a safety risk to all users of the Lane be they walkers, horse riders or other vehicles drivers (the oversized vehicles cannot reverse safely). The request is, that as there is a "not suitable for HGV or oversized vehicles" sign at the bottom of Slip Lane, junction with Alkham Valley Road for traffic coming up Slip Lane; there is not one at the top of the Lane junction with Chalksole Green Lane, for traffic coming down, can Highways please erect one there? This traffic appears to be coming via Hawkinge; maybe their satnav directs them this way? **Bev Hubbard**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for May will be on Thursday 9th at the Alkham Valley Garden centre starting at 1.00p.m. We will be discussing The Long Song by Andrea Levy. If you are interested, please come along and join us. **Jane Aslett**

A DOG WALKING SERVICE called Lunabees is run by Gretel who is insured and CRB checked. She charges £10 an hour and can be contacted on 07853889014. (*free one-off as no advertising space*)

ALKHAM W.I. - Our April meeting was a member's night and our next meeting will be on the 14th May at 7.30pm. It's our resolutions evening followed by a Quiz by the two Debbie's. Hostesses are Susannah Tapsell, Alison Warnock; Raffle Mari Jones. New members welcome. Sadly, our American supper evening has been cancelled. **Debbie Griggs**

GARDEN TALK - We have started our garden visits this spring and have enjoyed meeting new neighbours. The next visit is to 'Bramhall' on the Alkham Valley Road on Friday 10th May from 7.30p.m. Further details from Janet Adamson (01303 893413).

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present a concert in River Parish Church, Minnis Lane, River, CT17 ORG, at 3.00 pm on Saturday 11th May 2019, featuring Faure: Requiem, Mozart: Coronation Mass, Faure: Cantique de Jean Racine, and Rutter. Soloists Bridget Tizzard, June Woodland, Joseph Yarrow and Kye Clarke, the society's chorus, and Rod Spencer (organ). Tickets (£10) are available from members of the society or at the door on the night. For further information email lindsaypowellwilliams@btinternet.com phone Lindsay 01304 203066.

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

Visit our new houseplant section which has a great selection of traditional/unusual plants. Summer flowering bulbs, potatoes and onion packs now in stock.

Our new garden and gift areas are full with unusual/practical gifts for the garden & home. Why not visit our tearooms for a Big Valley Breakfast, Lunch or afternoon Tea. Our homemade cakes are delicious!

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PAM SAYERS died in March and the following article, which she wrote about George and Mabel Jenkins, is printed as a tribute.

My grandfather's brother, great-uncle George, and his wife, Mabel, lived in France before the First World War. Why, I do not know. When the war started, Uncle George was fighting for the allies and was captured by the Russians and made to work in the salt mines*. To me as a child he always seemed a little odd, which I realised in later life was due to his treatment as a prisoner of war. After the First World War, Uncle George and Aunt Mabel went back to live in France and the War Graves Commission put him in charge of all the cemeteries, to make sure they were tended regularly and looked immaculate. Which they did. When the Second World War commenced, he and his wife fled to England from the advancing German army, to Dover, where all their close relatives lived and they stayed with another sister, Jessie Jenkins, who lived in Folkestone Road. When the war ended, they went back to France and Uncle George was again put in charge of the cemeteries. At the age of fourteen I went to stay with them and was taken by Uncle George on a tour of the cemeteries with all their crosses, row after row of them, very upsetting at that age but the grounds were immaculate. Unfortunately, I cannot remember the death of either of them because all the Jenkins family, including my grandmother, fled from Dover and the shelling to Bodicote, a village near Banbury, Oxfordshire. They all returned, except for two daughters who married in Banbury and settled there in Oxfordshire. **P. E. Sayers**
**The Russians were our allies in the First World War, so this is more likely to have been the Germans (Prussians?) who did employ slave labour in salt mines in Germany and Poland – Mark Robson.*

OZ on ENGLAND, THEIR ENGLAND – This time of year, with birds singing and the world coming to life again, reminds me of my father and his joy at the return of the cricket season. He was always keen on sport, playing football and tennis when young, and cricket well into middle and early old age. I couldn't follow in his cricketing footsteps, as being both half-blind in my left eye and right-handed was a lethal combination in front of the wicket. Teachers didn't allow me to abstain from batting, and so I often saved my life by simply raising the bat and letting the ball demolish the stumps. However I always supported Dad in his enthusiasm by watching him play, score keeping, taking him to Test matches, and exchanging cricketing literature such as *Beyond a Boundary*, by the West Indian C.L.R. James, or *England, Their England*, written in 1933 by Scottish writer A.G. Macdonell. During World War 1, MacDonnell had served as a lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery and been invalided out, later becoming a journalist. The life of Lieutenant Cameron, the hero of *England, Their England*, follows the same trajectory in a narrative described by Helen Moran as being 'somewhat autobiographical.' The story concerns the nature of England between the wars, with humorous anecdotes about town and country life: "Boone was a huge, awe-inspiring colossus of a man, weighing at least eighteen stone..." The most hilarious passage is the account in Chapter 7 of a village cricket match, where the village blacksmith secures a draw by hitting the ball so high that it takes MacDonnell three pages to describe its return to earth. My father died in April 1996, so in the next few days I shall read a few pages from *England, Their England* to myself in his memory. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall

Thursday	2	Local council voting 6.30 – 10.30 see page 1
Saturday	4	Meet and greet 9am to 12 see page 1
Tuesday	7	Whitecliffs Metal Detectors 7.30pm
Saturday	11	W.I. jumbles sale 11am – SEKAS 7pm to 9pm
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Thursday	23	Possible European elections
Tuesday	28	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1
Thursday	30	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 11th	Messy church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 19th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm
Sunday 26th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Thursday 30th			Eucharist 7.00 pm

BUS TIMES To Dover 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
To Folkestone 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

FROM THE VICARAGE - On Sunday mornings at the church where I served as a curate a small group of familiar faces would gather in one corner, just as the service began. Mumbling their way through the hymns and hardly ever going forward for communion, or even a blessing, they knew that after the service everyone stayed on for coffee and biscuits. They always chose the nearest corner to the coffee urn, and as the last chords of the final hymn died away the biscuits would start to disappear. Jesus once compared God to someone who, his invitations to a banquet having all been turned down by those for whom they were intended, then told his servants to bring in anyone they found on the streets or in the hedgerows. For me, that small group always brought that parable to life – here were not just characters in a story, but real people from the streets and hedgerows for whom free church coffee and biscuits might easily have been breakfast. As I write, Easter is still a week away and once again, in church, we are thinking of what led up to Jesus' crucifixion and that first Easter, and the parts played by those whom Jesus chose as his friends in what happened. They were not just characters in a story, but real people who, just like us, could get things wrong, fall out with each other and maybe even turn their backs on a friend at the worst possible time. But Easter is about new beginnings. Convinced that he was risen from the dead, those same friends set about spreading the news that people still talk about today. It reminds Christians, that God isn't defeated by our failings, and doesn't give up on us either. **Brian Williams**

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No. 305 June 2019

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MIDSUMMER BARN DANCE - Thanks to the generosity of Ann and John Huggins the Alkham Community Midsummer Barn Dance will be held at Greenwood Farm on 29th June 2019. Dancing from 19.30 to 23.30 to "Contraband". Tickets will be £10.00 each and will include a light supper. Licensed bar on the night. Tickets available from Graham Bissett. Contact 07789690786 or at graham.bissett@talk21.com. All proceeds from the event will be given to a local charity.

SAM'S SWEET CHARITY - Heather Waller, on behalf of Alzheimer's and the British Heart Foundation is holding an American Supper style evening in Alkham village hall on Saturday 6th July. Tickets costing £8 are available from Anne Huggins by ringing 01304 824340.

PARISH PLAN - A great big thank you for all those who returned the Parish Plan Questionnaire - what a fabulous response! Over 200 villagers replied (from about 125 households) and we also had over 40 names who have volunteered for future activities. The mammoth task of inputting the data onto a spreadsheet has started and the team would like to thank Irene Barnard for taking this on. When completed the Prize Draws will take place (date and time to be announced). Just a reminder that all data remains confidential and will only be used for the purpose of formulating the Plan. For the analysis no names will be associated with the answers given on the questionnaire. Thanks again. **Parish Plan Team**

NARROW LANES - There has been an increase in heavy lorries using the narrow lanes, particularly to the north of Alkham. A lorry from Lithuania stopped at the unauthorized sign saying 'No Entry HGV's and large vehicles' on Warren Lane where White Hill begins; it was directed by a local resident to go via Chalksole Green Lane and across the top to Hawkinge as it was trying to access the M20. Clearly this is not acceptable, and the recent increase may be due to these lorries using non-hgv sat nav. Signage is required at Lydden, where Warren Lane starts and at Fernfield, just outside Hawkinge, to stop large unsuitable vehicles using these roads. The Parish Council have been informed as have the Highway authority so hopefully something will be done. A resident has said that it would be helpful if delivery companies could be made aware that they may need to use a restricted size vehicle.

MEET AND GREET COFFEE MORNING - It was pleasing to see many enjoying coffee and biscuits, although the village hall was not bursting like before. It was lovely to be able to meet new families and the children enjoyed the tasty treats. With help from Susannah, Helen and Sylvia the morning went very well. Thanks also to Brian for funding this event from the Alkham Fund. **Irene Barnard**

TEMPLE EWELL SCHOOL is holding a Fete on Saturday 29th June 11am -2pm and a "Pamper Evening" at Crabble Cornmill on Friday 5th July 7.00pm-9pm (Tickets £5).

JOHN JACKSON - I would like to express my thanks for all the support and kindness I have received during John's illness and recent passing. I am grateful to you all. **Shelley Jackson**
John Jackson was a keen supporter of village activities and regularly attended Garden Club. Before retirement John was the captain on a cross-channel hovercraft, a job which he enjoyed and in retirement could be seen walking his two beloved Jack Russells. The funeral was at Barham Crematorium, which was attended by a large number of people, and reflected the respect and affection in which he was held.

PARISH COUNCILLOR - There is a vacancy on Alkham Parish Council for a Parish Councillor and if anybody would like to be considered for co-option please write to the Clerk, Irene Bowie, Pollyfield Cottage, Scragged Oak Road, Detling ME14 3HD or clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. You can also ring 01622 737749.

THE VILLAGE HALL is scheduled to be painted externally in the first or second week of June.

THE JUNE 'Tea and a Chat' will take place at the Village Hall on Thursday 27th between 2pm and 4pm; join others for free tea and biscuits in convivial company.

FILM NIGHT

May 28

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June 25

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CHURCH ACCESS - Geoff Gaskill and helpers have installed a 2.5m wide grass mesh roadway from the Valley Road entrance to St. Anthony's paved access. There is also room for cars to park and turn.

GUITAR CONCERT - On Saturday 29th June starting at 6:30pm, Jimmy D'Alton Bellas past and present pupils are coming to St Anthony's for a 'Summer Evening Guitar Concert'. Tickets are £8 and refreshments will be available at nominal cost. All proceeds as always go to the Friends of St Anthony's for the upkeep of our church. Tickets from Den (01304 824845) or Jimmy (01304 823164).

THE AIR AMBULANCE is a charity which receives no government funding and relies on charitable donations. They can recycle used postage stamps to help fund these vital services and all kinds of stamps are welcome, on or off paper; just leave no more than a 5mm single thickness border around them, and the perforations should not be damaged. Stamps can be sent to: Air Ambulance Stamp Appeal, Xchange Master, 272 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JR. Freepost envelopes can be requested by emailing: airambulance@xchange-master.co.uk.

YOUNG PEOPLE can now prepare for their adventures abroad by signing up for a travel safety training that will cover topics such as items to pack, how to stay safe and healthy, and how to avoid becoming a victim of crime, as well as giving basic first aid training. The first course will be at Invicta Grammar School in Maidstone from 10am to 4pm on Tuesday, June 25 and is open to young people from all schools. To request a booking form please email Victoria.Parker@theeducationpeople.org. Please do not contact the school. Young people will gain a Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance (HABC) accreditation for attending the course. **Geoff Lymer**

PSYCHIC DAY at Alkham Village Hall Saturday 22nd June 11-4pm, last readings 3.30; £3 entrance and 20-minute sessions for £15. Everglow the Rebecca Kruza Foundation Campaign is working to improve support services and provide respite for mothers and their babies suffering the affects of post natal depression symptoms. Please join us for professional: Tarot/medium readings: Reiki healing, Mystic stalls and refreshments and you'll find a friendly welcome while you join our worthy cause. For more information and to make donations go to Facebook; Everglow the Rebecca Kruza Foundation or contact Lyn Richardson on 07879627373.

GARDEN TALK - Our June visit will be to 'Countryside' off the Alkham Valley Road, where we meet at 7.30p.m. on Friday 7th June. For directions, please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413).

BOOK CLUB - The meeting for June will be on Thursday 13th starting at 1pm at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre. The book for discussion is Behind The Mask - The Life of Vita Sackville -West by Matthew Dennison. If you are interested, please come along and join us. **Jane Aslett**

ALKHAM W.I. - May the 14th was our resolutions evening followed by a Quiz by the two Debbies. Our next meeting is on June 11th when our speaker is Tony Barnes who is a vet and he will be speaking on how things have changed. **Debbie Griggs**

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SEWAGE - If you are not connected to a main drainage sewer you will probably have a cesspit/pool, septic tank or proprietary treatment works. Legislation in 2015 introduced restrictions, on where the discharge from these systems can be disposed of. If it's a cesspool it must be totally sealed and allow no discharge and should be emptied periodically. If it's a septic tank it must only discharge into a drainage field, sometimes known as a soakaway and if you have a septic tank you can't discharge into a water course from 2020. A sewage treatment plant (Klargester BioDisc for example) is more effective in treating sewage and may discharge into a ditch. This is fine without an environment agency permit providing it is under the maximum daily discharge volume to fall within their permit system. The latest regulations came out in 2015, and are called 'General binding rules: small sewage discharge to a surface water' and it's a very important document for many property owners. Once upon a time, you could 'discharge' the separated waste water from within the septic tank through one of two ways: To a drainage field or soakaway system - here, the waste water percolates through holes or slots into the pipework, into the surrounding sub-soils. This provides a form of treatment of the water, and it allows the waste water to disperse safely without causing a pollution. To a watercourse - the waste water would flow through a sealed pipe straight to a local watercourse such as a stream or a river. So, what's changed? In a nutshell, you can no longer do no. 2 above. The reason for this is because the 'quality' of the waste water is no longer considered clean enough to flow straight into local watercourses without causing pollution. **Alan Latham**

A LOCAL resident emailed – *'We are not ruled by the majority but by the majority who participate. Thomas Jefferson'*

MITCH on ROUGH SLEEPING – First item on to-do list on each occasion was to send a child to the shop for chewing gum. With orders to chew thoroughly. Strange since I was normally a stuffy mum who disapproved of both gum and chewing. Said gum when ready was to become cork, bung or stopper at the top of the tent. Then the hard work began. A lot of pumping on one of the old-fashioned foot pumps to fill the four inflatable ribs of the tent till it looked like a small version of the London Dome. Or O2 as it now is. Except it was blue. High wind was not good news though and to avoid the whole thing sleeping children and all being lifted up up and away we tied the guy ropes to the door handles of the heavy old Saab. Seemed to work. The other problem of course was inferior chewing gum leading to the collapse in the wee small hours, so it looked like a lobster pot imploding onto innocent sleepers. Scouring the farmyard by moonlight and finding a handy clothes prop I spent the hours till daylight standing there propping up tent and family. Children blissfully unaware. Different now isn't it - three-bedroom detached numbers cover the sites - with bedrooms and kitchens just like home. Good memories though. Shame creaky joints tell me to hang up the guy ropes... **Jane Mitchell**

LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS – Jamie Rose, who represents the Conservative party, was elected District Councillor for Alkham and Capel-le-Ferne and in Dover Downs and River, David Beaney was elected.

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Saturday 8th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 16th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 23rd	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 30th	Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's (Capel Old Church) 10.00 am		
BUS TIMES To Dover 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 To Folkestone 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			

FROM THE VICARAGE - Here's a question: is life something just to be got through, or something to be explored? In Richard Bach's story Jonathan Livingstone Seagull, Jonathan is always being told that seagulls only fly so that they can eat. That doesn't suit the young gull – he loves flying for its own sake, wants to know what a seagull can really do, and so sets out on a voyage of discovery. I sometimes refer to that story at christenings, the point being that baptism is also intended to mark the beginning of a voyage of discovery that starts in this world and ends in the next. I was reminded of this recently when my son mentioned finding a dead herring gull in the gutter on Dover Hill. Something had hit it; it had a ring on each leg. Following discussion, we set out with bin sack and gardening gloves, retrieved the body and tapped the number on the ring into the computer. Suddenly, Our Gull had a story to tell. We learned that GR94363, as Our Gull was known, had been trapped and ringed as a two-year-old in January 2015 at a tip at Pitsea, Essex. At some point Our Gull flew the Thames Estuary, and then the English Channel. He or she was spotted near Boulogne in August 2017, inland at Curgies, near Valenciennes and the Belgian border in December 2017, and finally back on the French coast near Le Touquet in August last year. Jesus once said that though five sparrows are sold for two pennies not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. Our Gull now rests from his or her journeys in this world in a corner of the vicarage garden; remembered both in this world, and in the next. **Brian Williams**

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No. 306 July 2019

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ANNUAL ALKHAM QUIZ NIGHT – The Alkham W.I. are holding a quiz in the village hall on the 7th of September between 7.30pm and 10pm, with doors opening at 7pm. The cost is £3 per person for a table of up to 6 people; please bring your own food and drink. To book a table please contact Debbie Griggs on 07796360473 or Debbie Saunders on 07810890637.

SAM'S SWEET CHARITY SHOW- A reminder to book your tickets for this Variety Show and American Supper at the Village Hall on Saturday 6th July. Tickets costing £8 are available from Anne Huggins by ringing 01304 824340. The evening is being held on behalf of the Alzheimer's and British Heart Foundation charities.

MIDSUMMER BARN DANCE – If you have never been to a barn dance before please do come along as it really is great fun; people don't always do what the caller says, and brief interruptions can ensue whilst things are sorted out. The barn dance will be at Greenwood Farm on the 29th June, thanks to the generosity of Ann and John Huggins, and dancing is from 19.30 to 23.30 to "Contraband". Tickets are £10.00 each and will include a light supper with a licensed bar. Tickets are available from Graham Bissett on 07789690786 or at graham.bissett@talk21.com. All proceeds from the event will be given to a local charity.

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - After a couple of quiet years due to reduced numbers (and the closure of several other local clubs we used to play), we are looking to revitalise the Alkham Cricket Club. We may not be able to play on the Meadow due to insurance-related issues, but the Club has been around officially since 1839 and it'd be sad for it to pass into history as so many village clubs, so we are looking into our options. With that in mind, we will be holding a meeting in the Marquis at 8 pm on Sunday 7th July; if you are interested in being a playing, or a "social", member of the club please come along so we can assess how best to meet the wishes of the members and the needs of the club going forward, i.e. whether the preference would be for evening T20-style matches or weekend 40/50 over games, social evenings, fund-raising opportunities, etc.. It goes without saying that we welcome players of either sex and or any (or, like me, no) ability. If you are unable to make the meeting please give me a call on 07947 016697 to let me know your views, and I'll pass them on to the meeting. The Club would like and needs the support of the villagers if it is to continue, so please come along. **Paul Tapsell**

CONGRATULATIONS to Helen Hobday who ran the Race for Life 10K in Folkestone on the 9th June and raised over £200 for Cancer Research.

TEA AND A CHAT is on Thursday 25th of July from 2pm to 4pm. If you fancy a chat and some company, please do come along.

ALISON SPICER – In a very moving service at St. Anthony's church on the 14th of June tributes were given to Alison who died on the 25th of May aged 57 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Despite her concerns the weather was fine, and the church was absolutely full of people who had come to celebrate Alison's life and remember a wonderful lady. Her husband Barry read an emotional eulogy in which he spoke of their first meeting when he immediately and completely fell in love with her. This was followed by memories from their children Sian, Ben and Jack to a wonderful mother and a tribute from Irene Barnard to friendship. Barry and Alison moved to Alkham in the 1980's and lived close to the village green with the inevitable result that the house was occasionally hit by an errant cricket ball. Alison was an expert on plants, although she wouldn't admit it, and helped numerous people with their gardening problems. A truly lovely person who will be missed by all who had the privilege to know her.

FILM NIGHT – The film this month is 'Stan and Ollie' about Laurel and Hardy's twilight tour of Britain and Ireland. John C Reilly and Steve Coogan are exceptional in the lead parts.

FILM NIGHT

June 25

Stan and Ollie
With Steve Coogan

July 30

Green Book

Village Hall 7.30pm
Please bring your own refreshments

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ALL ABOUT ALKHAM FACEBOOK PAGE exists for Alkham residents to share whatever you want and comment as freely as you choose, within the bounds of reasonable decorum. Currently, All About Alkham reaches around 1,000 and engages around 200 people per month. That seems more people than live in Alkham but many who follow are friends and relatives of Alkham residents. Think of a notice board where you can share news of events you are organizing or attending in or outside Alkham, services you provide, goods you produce, items you are selling or want to dispose of and may be useful to others, but only if you live in Alkham. Share your good times, anniversaries, family achievements. When times are rough share that too. Share your hobbies. Post photos of Alkham through the seasons. Share what makes you proud of Alkham. Express your concerns. Say what you want Alkham to be. Say what you want of your Parish Council, Alkham's District and County councillors. All About Alkham cannot replace Alkham's Newsletter which is guaranteed to reach every Alkham household every month. All about Alkham does not and there may be months when nothing is posted. The newsletter has to be brief and is expertly edited. All about Alkham, you can post as long or short as you like and there is no editing. All About Alkham recognizes there will be differing views, some strongly held. If you are advertising a business or organising an event, best to notify Alkham Newsletter than follow up with reminders and additional information on All About Alkham. Within the bounds of reasonable decorum, comment as you want. **Martin Scherer**

HOLISTIC FAIR 13th July 11-4 Alkham Village Hall £3 entrance. The prices are up to £15 for 20 minutes of aromatherapy/massages or reflexology, Reiki, gel nails, spray tan and makeovers. There is a creche plus a raffle/auction and beverages and cakes. Come along for a friendly welcome while you join our worthy cause: Everglow, The Rebecca Kruza Foundation Campaign to improve support services, provide respite for mothers and their babies suffering Post Natal Depression symptoms and to prevent maternal suicide. To learn about why please visit Facebook; Everglow The Rebecca Kruza Foundation or contact Lyn Richardson on 07879 627373. Any kind donations please make through or on the day.

GARDEN TALK - We meet on Friday 19th July at Halton Court in the centre of the Village. Irene & Den are our hosts from 7.30p.m.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our meeting in June was an enjoyable one at which the speaker was veterinary surgeon Tony Barnes talking about how things have changed. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 9th July and the speaker will be Clive Nuttman talking about primates of Uganda. Hostesses are Janet Adamson and Gina Daniels, Raffle Debbie Griggs and VOT Debbie Griggs. All new members welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL is proposing to install a puffin crossing on the Alkham Valley road between Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens. A consultation on the proposals was launched on the 30th May and will be open for comments until 24 June 2019. Funding for the proposed crossing has been secured from government funding via Kent County Council's Local Transport Plan. The scheme is proposed to be implemented in the this financial year and for more information, and to have your say, visit the KCC Consultations website.

AN OVERNIGHT CLOSURE of part of Alkham Valley road at Kearsney, is planned for Tuesday 2nd July from 11.00 pm to 6.00 am.

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

Visit our new houseplant section which has a great selection of traditional/unusual plants. Summer flowering bulbs, potatoes and onion packs now in stock.

Our new garden and gift areas are full with unusual/practical gifts for the garden & home. Why not visit our tearooms for a Big Valley Breakfast, Lunch or afternoon Tea. Our homemade cakes are delicious!

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LOCAL WOOD TURNER - All the wood I get is either from fallen trees through bad weather, trees that have been cut down for safety reasons, like standing dead wood at the side of a road for example, or wood that has been in someone's shed for a long time. The drinks

tumblers are treated with a non-toxic food safe glaze that really gives them a superb finish. They are available in a variety of colours using non-toxic wood dyes or just in the natural wood colour itself. If you would like to design one yourself with a particular colour scheme inside and/or outside of the cup, then let me know so I can put a quote together for you. Christmas decorations tend to be from the paler wood with Christmas trees being carved from discarded Christmas tree trunks thus giving them a further life. If you have something else in mind, then let me have the details; I'm always looking to make something different. Albert Beaver-Less burning, more turning.... albertbeaver@outlook.com



OZ on ALLHALLOWS – After a particularly busy period recently, we both felt the need for a holiday, not too long and not too far away. In the end, we chose four days in a caravan at Allhallows Leisure Park, with a view to exploring Rochester, the Hoo Peninsula and the Isle of Grain. The name Hoo Allhallows is derived from Old English for 'spur' + 'all saints'. In 1932 the Southern Railway opened up a branch line to the area in order to develop it as a holiday resort, "four times the size of the one at Blackpool"; the terminus was named Allhallows-on-Sea. The project was abandoned because of the war and the closure of the line in 1961, but the name Allhallows-on-Sea for the caravan park remained. On the second day of the holiday we visited Rochester Cathedral, England's second oldest, having been founded in AD 604 by Bishop Justus, and still free to enter. Across the road is Tiny Tim's Tearooms, a reminder of the many locations featured in the works of Charles Dickens. On the third day, we drove out to Cooling Church, the setting for the opening scene from Great Expectations. The view from the caravan across the Thames to Canvey Island and Southend was stunning, with boats, both large and small, plying up and down, not as many as sixty years ago perhaps, but equally evocative. The other time-consuming occupation involved two free i-phone apps, one called VesselFinder, which, when you click on a vessel, reveals everything there is to know about it, and another called Planes Live, which does the same with planes. This, combined, with the lure of the penny arcades, is why we need another two short holidays to explore the Hoo Peninsula further and the nearby Isle of Grain. **Steve Osborn**



THE PAINTING of the village hall has begun and the new colour can be seen in person on the wall leading to the entrance doors. The colour is forest green, which is not so bright as

the existing paint, and may satisfy those who were hoping for a grey.

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ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates Please ring Tracey or Shirley for information 01304 828098 In exceptional circumstances the key is available from Brian on 824969			
Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm		
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm		
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am		
Other Events in the village hall			
Tuesday	2	Whitecliffs Metal Detectors 7.30pm	
Saturday	6	Sam's Sweet Charity – see page 1	
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm	
Saturday	13	SEKAS 7pm to 9pm	
Thursday	25	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm see page 1	
Tuesday	30	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1	
CHURCH SERVICES			
DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 7th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 13th	Messy church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 21st	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 28th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
BUS TIMES To Dover 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 To Folkestone 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			

FROM THE VICARAGE - The Old Testament prophet Isaiah looked forward to a time when the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. In later life my father suffered from hearing loss; and a couple of years ago I realised that it was happening to me, too. It was while teaching in school one day that I addressed a girl as Kayleigh. She wasn't Kayleigh, she explained gently, but Katie. This and similar incidents showed that I wasn't hearing the 't' sound. I saw my GP, was referred to Audiology, diagnosed as a "textbook case of age-related hearing loss" and given hearing aids. They're great, but don't solve every problem, especially not in busy classrooms. Another occasion, when a girl had to repeat the same thing to me three times, finally convinced me that it was time to lay down my whiteboard marker. Mind you, perhaps there are compensations. I once met someone who had been taught by the late, great and profoundly deaf Professor William Barclay, Church of Scotland minister, one-time Professor of Divinity at the University of Glasgow and, in his day, popular writer and broadcaster who had a reputation for turning his hearing aid off when writing. He recalled Barclay's words to his students: I would remind you that I wear a hearing aid – and I'm not obliged to listen to rubbish! I still cope with tutoring pupils individually, and with most other situations, so please don't let anyone feel that they need to shout slowly or wave their arms for me to understand them – not yet, anyway. I'm certainly not despondent – in Heaven, after all, my ears will be unstopped...

Brian Williams

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MIDSUMMER BARN DANCE

Well, what a treat! The weather was beautiful, the evening was warm - perhaps a little too warm for some - the surroundings were spectacular - Greenwood Farm looking better than Wimbledon - the

music was great, and the dancing was even better. Over 100 people came together to enjoy an evening of social dancing and lively chat. In particular I would like to thank John and Ann Huggins, who, when I proposed the event to them, immediately said yes, to members of their family, Ed, Paul and Joanne who helped with the bar, to Izara for helping with the raffle, to Contraband for providing the wonderfully lively music, to Mike Fountain and Ken and Sandy Spencer for their help before, throughout and after the evening, and to my wife, Charlotte for the same. Most of all I would like to thank those who attended and joined in so enthusiastically. Thanks to you all we raised over £1100 for the Demelza Children's Hospice which is a super total. Look out in the newsletter for the next dance in October. There will only be 65 tickets on sale so it will be first come first served. **Graham Bissett**

DRAMA IN ST ANTHONY'S! - Never let it be said that nothing happens in Alkham. After helping to set up the church ready for the evening's Guitar Concert on 29th June, I was carrying out a last-minute check including giving the toilet a final once over. All was OK except I couldn't open the toilet door to get out. After a bit of shoving, obviously the door was just a bit stiff, so my superior strength was going to force the issue, but no! It would not open. After a few minutes of this I summoned up the courage gained in bravery I'd shown in fighting in two world wars and started crying and calling for my mum. What was I going to do? Then a miracle happened (well I was in a church after all). Now, as my family will tell you, I never carry my mobile phone with me ever, but for some reason had it in my pocket on this occasion so, frantically, I phoned Irene and recounted my predicament. Irene immediately snapped into action and rented out my room on Air B&B. After she had finished watching 'Housewives of Orange County' she enlisted Brian Wimsett and Ken Hammond to see what they could do. After unscrewing the handle and some more pushing and shoving we were getting nowhere, and I distinctly heard Irene say that it would not be a problem if they couldn't get me out as she could easily get married again. Brute force finally won the day and on my release, I was surprised to see that there were no press or television coverage of my 20 minute ordeal. Please do not pass this on as I don't want the rest of the village to find out. **Den Barnard**

SAM'S SWEET CHARITY variety show in Alkham Village hall on the 6th of July was a great success and raised £755 for Alzheimer's and the British Heart Foundation. Many thanks to all those who helped and to those who came on the night.

HGV's - A parishioner raised concerns about the number of HGV's on the Alkham Valley road and their speed. In 1994, after the completion of the new A20, the same concerns were raised and the then MP for this area wrote to all the known lorry companies. The replies were either conciliatory or negative because of the additional cost of using other roads and after a brief period things remained the same. Hopefully some TAG traffic calming proposals will be approved in the near future.

CAT - A pale ginger adult cat, with a white mask and front and two distinct nicks in its left ear has been staying in a garden in the centre of the village. It is friendly and is used to being around people so if you have lost such a cat please ring 01304 824969 for more details.

LIFE - Oz has written an article on page 3 about describing your life in 6 words and he invites you to join in. It would be great to receive some replies which can be named or anonymous.

FILM NIGHT

July 30

Green Book

August 27

A Star is born

Bradley Cooper Lady Gaga

Village Hall 7.30pm
Please bring your own refreshments

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THE FINAL GUITAR CONCERT - A packed church on 29th June was present for the final St Anthony's Summer Guitar Concert. Over the past nine years Jimmy d'Alton Bellas has brought his current guitar students and some of his old boys to perform in this beautiful setting and over £7000 has been raised for the Friends of St Anthony's to help maintain the fabric of the church. Once again in the first half of the concert, Jimmy's current pupils, some of whom have appeared in every concert since 2010, performed brilliantly and there were also some lovely tributes paid to Jimmy from some of the performers. The second half saw the return of mezzo soprano Emily Renshaw with songs from 'Matilda' and 'West Side Story'. One of Jimmy's former pupils Grant McFarlane Dowse, now a professional musician, closed the concert with the Bach Suite (1007) and The Danza Del Maiz Maduro. Grant has performed on the South Bank and has recorded in sessions with Oscar nominated film directors and has become a world authority on South American guitar music. He also thanked Jimmy for his help and guidance over the years. Grant has appeared in every one of the annual Alkham concerts. On behalf of the Friends of St Anthony's can I personally thank Jimmy for the hard work in setting up these concerts over the years and congratulate him on the quality that he has produced in his students. **Den Barnard**

PELICAN CROSSING – In last month's Newsletter there was an article about a Pelican crossing being installed between Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens at Temple Ewell because of the high volume of pedestrians that cross the road from the car park to Bushy Ruff. Some years ago, Alkham Parish Council tried to get a controlled crossing installed near the bus shelter by the village green. A count was carried out by KCC and the number of pedestrians didn't warrant having a crossing and it is likely that the same would apply today.

ONE WAY – At the Parish Council meeting there was some discussion about making White Hill/Chalky Hill one way. The latter is the steep hill off Slip Lane leading to Lydden, which is completely unsuitable for HGV's. Councillor Geoff Lymer is going to give some feedback on a similar scheme at Barham.

QUIZ – Pleased to report that all the tables for the Annual Quiz in the village hall on the 7th September are now taken.

VILLAGE HALL – The painting of the external walls of the village hall, in a forest green colour, is now complete. The work was carried out by Roberts from St. Margarets Bay who have done an excellent job.

GARDEN TALK - Our series of visits continues, when we are usually lucky with the weather. This month we meet on Friday 16th August at 4A, Newlyn Meadow, where

Liz & Larry Lambourne are our hosts, from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our July meeting was a talk about primates of Uganda which was very interesting. Our next meeting will be on the 13th of August and is a members' fish and chip night followed by a Quiz by the two Debbie's; raffle prize Beryl King - new members always welcome. Please Note that any members who didn't come to our July meeting but would like fish and chips in August please let me know on 07796360473. **Debbie Griggs**

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 - ENGLISH as a FOREIGN LANGUAGE (EFL)
- Tracey Prince BSc (hons), PGCE, QTS, CELTA, CRB

OZ on BRIEF LIVES – While decluttering recently I came across an old yellow Post-it, on which Gillian had written eight anonymous autobiographies, each just six words in length. Intrigued, I did a Google search and discovered a new literary phenomenon. The story begins in the 1920s, when the writer Ernest Hemingway, at lunch in the Hotel Algonquin, Manhattan, was challenged to write a story in just six words. He won the bet with “For Sale: baby shoes, never worn.” This clever and sad narrative achieved a wider audience in November 2006, when Larry Smith and Rachel Fershleiser, editors of Smith Magazine, an American story telling magazine, invited their readers to submit their life stories in exactly six words. The project was a huge success, and Smith’s “Not Quite What I Was Planning”, sub-titled “Six-word Memoirs from Writers Famous & Obscure”, was published in early 2008. Since then Smith’s have published three more Six-Word Memoir books; a sequel to Life Story; on Love & Heartbreak; and I Can’t Keep My Own Secrets. The Post-it Six-word Memoirs were originally transcribed, from a 2008 BBC Radio 4 programme report on the phenomenon, as follows: Not quite finished, tell you later. / Any chance I could start again? / Too many sausages, not enough sex. / Age crept up and mugged me. / Blankets, books, bottles, books, blankets. / Ditched the map, found better route. / Conceived, implored, employed, adored, retired, ignored. / Slow lane, fast lane, hard shoulder. My attempt is “Milk, fizz, beer, whisky, wine, water”. Readers are invited to submit their own life stories, in exactly six words, to me at steveaosborn@hotmail.com by Wednesday 14 August, for inclusion in the September 2019 Newsletter. Let me know if you want your entries to be anonymous. No prizes, but local fame guaranteed. **Steve Osborn**

SEWAGE – In the June Newsletter there was an article about septic tanks which, although informative, didn’t mention that there are penalties or fines for not complying with the new legislation that comes into effect in Jan 2020. All sellers of property will also have to complete a legal sellers pack in which they state what type of sewage drainage/disposal the property has and the maintenance records, including emptying details. Although the following is not an option for house owners at present another email was received regarding anaerobic digestion of sewage. In Norfolk there is a site that requires approximately 35,000 tons of plant material per annum, which is primarily local maize, hybrid rye, wildflowers and grass. The natural process uses harmless bacteria to digest biomass into a stream of biogas and a sludgy fibrous material in sealed tanks so as to capture the biogas and the fibrous material and produces methane and carbon dioxide plus organic fertilizer. The biogas is then upgraded into biomethane suitable for injection into the national gas grid, to be used by consumers both industrial and domestic nationwide equivalent to a 2MW electrical plant which can provide enough gas to heat 2,500 homes during the winter and up to 40,000 homes during the summer. Approximately 25,000 tons of high-quality organic fertiliser is produced to spread on local land.

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ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates Please ring Tracey or Shirley for information 01304 828098 In exceptional circumstances the key is available from Brian on 824969			
Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm		
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm		
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am		
Other Events in the village hall			
Tuesday	6	Whitecliffs Metal Detectors 7.30pm	
Saturday	10	SEKAS 7pm to 9pm	
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm	
Tuesday	27	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1	
Thursday	29	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm	
CHURCH SERVICES			
DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 4th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 10th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11th	Benefice Eucharist St Laurence 10.00 am		
Sunday 18th	Benefice Eucharist St Radigunds 10.00 am		
Sunday 25th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
BUS TIMES To Dover 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 To Folkestone 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			

FROM THE VICARAGE - I write this not long after attending this year's Memorial Day at Capel's National Memorial to the Few. I remember the first one that I attended: several veterans of the Battle of Britain were present. On spotting my collar one, Tony Pickering, told me proudly that he had been churchwarden at his local parish church. He and several of his comrades have since departed this life; just one, Paul Farnes, was there this year, one of the few remaining witnesses to events that are slipping from living memory into history. Consequently, an appeal was made for relatives to share their departed loved ones' stories. That reminded me of the one I was told as a boy, about my Uncle Will. My other uncles told me that he had flown Hurricanes in the Battle of Crete, dying from his injuries after baling out. Years later, I sent for his records; the truth had been rather different. He had indeed been on Crete and had indeed died on active service – only not as a pilot, but while operating the new-fangled (and top secret) radar. I once visited a family whose mother had recently died. She had been very musical, they told me, unlike her late husband. Despite being tone deaf he had nevertheless built an electronic organ for her, tuning it with her help. A telephone engineer by trade, electronics had been his hobby. This interest had come in handy during his war service in the desert, when he had managed to modify radios so that British tanks could communicate without being overheard by the enemy... This unsung hero's skill and ingenuity must have saved many lives. An amazing story – which I would love to think could be true...!

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
 DDC – Jamie Rose 07802 428353
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www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

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Telephone 01304 824969

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HARVEST BARN DANCE - As trailed in last month's newsletter, there will be a Harvest Barn Dance held in Alkham Village Hall on Saturday 5th October. Dancing to Spring Barley from 19:30 to 23:00. Tickets are £10 each and include a Ploughman's Supper; bring your own drinks. Tickets are available from Graham Bissett 07789 690786 or at graham.bissett@talk21.com. There will only be 65 tickets available on a first come first served basis. **Graham Bissett**

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING This year's coffee morning is planned for Saturday 21st September 10am - 12 noon. It will be held in Alkham village hall and as in previous years there will be a variety of stalls including a tombola. This coffee morning is in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, a very worthwhile charity that as well as providing nursing care, also gives practical, financial and emotional support to cancer sufferers and their families. This has become a fantastic community event and I am always overwhelmed at the generosity of all those who support the coffee morning and those who help on the day. 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.

THE HARVEST SUPPER - will be held on Monday 14th October and tickets will be £7.00 per person. Any help would be much appreciated; for instance, large cottage pies and fruit pies or crumbles to feed about 8 persons. If you have anything for the raffle that would be a bonus. We will also need volunteers on the night for serving and washing up etc. so if you can help in any way, or to book your tickets, please ring Carol on 01304 826514; hurry as they normally go very quickly. **Carol Mannall**

FLY IN - A charity Fly In is being held at Greenwood Farm in Alkham on the 15th September; invitations have been sent to flying clubs and airfields inviting plane owners to fly to Greenwood Farm where there will be a barbecue. The event starts at 1pm and costs £5 per person with all profits, plus the £10 landing fee, going to the Martha Trust. Tickets are available from Anne Huggins on 824340.

ANNUAL ALKHAM QUIZ - For those people who have booked tables for the Quiz on the 7th September, please be at Alkham village hall by 7pm so we can start promptly at 7.30pm. All the tables have been booked and don't forget to bring your refreshments and nibbles and think of a team name. We look forward to seeing you. **Debbie Griggs and Debbie Saunders**

TEA & A CHAT is on the last Thursday of each month at 2.00pm and it's an opportunity to meet new friends and have a chat in convivial surroundings; please do come along and join us.

THE ALKHAM PARISH SLOW WORM WATCH

(try saying that 3 times quickly!) I would like to start



collecting sightings of these lovely creatures from around the parish. Please send me details of locations, dates and times that you spot them and include a photo if you can. (I am always happy to receive photos of any other fabulous Alkham wildlife too!) If you would like any more information about slow worms you can visit <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/reptiles/slow-worm> and I will leave an informative poster on the village hall notice board. **Tracey Prince** tracey.prince@hotmail.co.uk

A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING is being held on the 9th September from 7.30pm in the village hall when a report will also be given on the progress of the Parish Plan; everyone is welcome to attend.

VILLAGE HALL TABLES - If the hall is booked for an event the tables and chairs can be used free of charge but otherwise tables and chairs must be booked with the Booking Secretary and there is a charge of 50p per chair and £6 per table; however, if the event is for an agreed charitable purpose there will be no charge.

FILM NIGHT

September 24	Fisherman's Friends
August 27	A Star is born Bradley Cooper Lady Gaga

Village Hall 7.30pm
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PRINCE TUTORING will be holding a series of fund-raising activities between now and Christmas to raise money for much needed repairs to the Alkham Christmas tree display on the meadow. The first of the activities will be a monthly raffle with a £25 cash prize. Tickets are £1 a strip and the first winner will be announced at the end of August. Tickets can be purchased from Tracey Prince and will also be available at various village clubs over the next few weeks. **Tracey Prince**



FOR SALE - Antique Regency Mahogany Pembroke table, on a turned pedestal base. 2 folding leaves, extending to 114cms by 95cms. Offers. Contact: 01303 893413

SIGHTLOSS GROUP - The Folkestone Macular Society Support Group meets on the last Friday each month from 10:30am to noon at The View Hotel 30-32 Clifton Rd Folkestone CT20 2EF. All welcome. Meeting other people with macular disease helps you understand your condition, share information about treatments and stay independent. For more information call Margaret on 01303 226 877 or email help@macularsociety.org. If it is of interest, please keep a note of these details as a short reminder will be on the back page of the newsletter.

HOLISTIC FAIR 13th JULY - A big thank you to Alkham Village Hall baking team: Rachel, Katie, Helen, Sue and Shelley for their tasty and really appreciated efforts of a variety of delicious cakes and biscuits, including those for gluten free folk. We raised a respectable £493 and still have some donations to come, which with the Psychic Fair totals £956 + towards our campaign for better services and respite for mothers and their babies. **Lyn Richardson**

GARDEN TALK - On Friday 13th September we meet at Thorn Cottage, Meggett Lane from 7.00 p.m. where Rosemary & Geoff are our hosts for the evening. We are already looking at venues for next year, so offers would be welcome. For further details please contact **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our August meeting was a member's night so we treated ourselves to fish and chips from seafarers in Cheriton, Folkestone which we would certainly recommend, and this was followed by a Quiz. The next meeting is on September 10th and our speaker will be Mark Woollard who will be talking about bee keeping. Hostesses are Janet Gibbons and Margaret Shepherd, raffle Shelley Jackson and VOT Beryl King. New members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**



HAY COLLECTION

Nowadays we see a tractor and baler going around the field and leaving bales of hay behind. In 1928 things were a bit different at Wolverton Court in

Alkham, as shown in the photo. The car being used as a hay cart is probably a 1912 Bullnose Morris.

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THE SUMP opposite the village hall has been recently cleaned out as it was full of silt. The photo on the left was taken about a hundred years ago, at almost the same location, and shows the pond which

was used by the vicarage, local farms and villagers. This too silted up and in 1926 a dyke was dug across what is now the village green to alleviate the flooding caused by the Nailbourne and heavy rain. There is no doubt that the cleared-out sump will fill with silt again, which is caused by the large run-off from Slip and Hogbrook Lane and the ditch itself from the west. KCC are of the opinion that the dyke needs to be cleaned out and lowered to the east, removing nearly 100 years of build up, so that the water can flow away.

OZ on SHIRLEY – Last month, the Alkham Film Night audience was treated to a stunning 2018 film, Green Book, an American comedy-drama directed by Peter Farrelly. It's a true story about the 1962 tour of America's Deep South by 'Doctor' Don Shirley, an African American pianist, and his driver and bodyguard, an Italian American called Frank 'Tony Lip' Vallelonga. The title comes from the Negro Motorist Green Book, a guidebook to the law for African American road-users, which was abolished shortly after the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The subject matter is difficult, but as the film unfolded the audience became captivated by its pace, attention holding and sensitivity, and at the end there was spontaneous and sincere applause. I don't intend to write much more here about the actual film for fear of boring those who've seen it, and spoiling it for those who haven't; just a little more about Shirley himself. Shirley was born in 1927 in Pensacola, Florida, to Jamaican immigrants. He began to play the piano aged two, and studied in a variety of locations until he received his music degree in Washington in 1953. Disillusioned by the lack of opportunities for classical black pianists, Shirley worked briefly as a psychologist before returning to music. In late 1950s and 1960s he achieved success with a jazz/classical amalgam and made a stream of albums for Cadence Records. After working with the Civil Rights Movement, Shirley returned to classical music, writing symphonies and performing both nationally and internationally. He died at home in Manhattan in 2013, aged 86. If you haven't seen the film, watch it at once; if you have, watch it again. For me Green Book is up there with my favourite films; The Wizard of Oz, The Battle of the River Plate and Lawrence of Arabia. **(Steve Osborn)**

BRIEF LIVES RESULTS – Two anonymous readers submitted entries for August's Brief Lives competition, in which readers were invited to write their life story in six words. **Anon1** hilariously describes a drinking/medical life in "Castor Oil, Corona, Double Diamond, Party 7, Guinness, Finasteride"; **Anon 2** a singing life with "Lullabies, Hymns, Reggae, Musicals, Oratorios, Requiems." I've decided to award joint first place to each, one for complying with, and the other for courageously breaking, the six-word rule. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am
Last Friday	Sightloss group View Hotel Folkestone 1030 to noon

Other Events in the village hall		
Saturday	7	W.I. Quiz Night
Monday	9	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm all welcome
Saturday	14	SEKAS 7pm to 9pm
Saturday	21	Macmillan Coffee morning 10 to 12 noon – see p1
Tuesday	24	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1
Thursday	26	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm see page 1

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

BUS TIMES To Dover 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
To Folkestone 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

FROM THE VICARAGE - Sitting in a lecture at university last year, I remember how shocked and surprised we were when our lecturer told us excitedly that he had tickets for a Roy Orbison concert - "The Big O," after all, having died in 1988! Technology, he went on to explain, would enable him to enjoy Orbison's music in all its digitally remastered glory while watching a hologram of the 60's pop star performing on stage. It all sounded like something out of Star Trek. We wondered: could he really claim to be going to a Roy Orbison concert? It's tempting, sometimes, to look back at the past through rose-tinted spectacles – especially if we weren't there. As I write, the first Spitfire flight of the day has just droned past on its way along the White Cliffs. Someone has paid handsomely for the experience, and they will indeed be able to say that they have flown in a Spitfire – but they will only be able to imagine 1940, and I suspect without choosing to imagine too many of the horrors that went with it. Church buildings also offer opportunities to imagine – the older ones are steeped in history and often have associations for people, as some of the entries in the visitors' books show. The challenge is to avoid giving the impression that they are only about the past. Faith draws on the past but belongs to the present and looks to the future; churches are living places, not museums. I hope to be around for a while yet. But when I do finally go, I hope that I will be replaced by a living, breathing human being. Please, no holograms accompanied by digitally remastered sermons.
Brian Williams

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FLOOD – Part of the road to Everden, which is to the north of the village, regularly flooded. In the past there were grips from the side of the road into the adjacent field, but these were filled in as the landowner, quite reasonably, didn't want a flooded field. After

some complaints KCC has addressed the problem by drilling a 150mm diameter hole 20 metres deep to the underlying chalk with a small sump on top. Visually it is not clear how the water gets into the hole, but the next downpour should show if it works.

A HARVEST BARN DANCE will be held in Alkham Village Hall on Saturday 5th October. Dancing to Spring Barley from 19:30 to 23:00. Tickets are £10 each and include a Ploughman's Supper; bring your own drinks. Tickets are available from Graham Bissett 07789 690786 or at graham.bissett@talk21.com. There will only be 65 tickets available on a first come first served basis. **Graham Bissett**

HARVEST FESTIVAL - St Anthony's church in Alkham is being dressed for the Harvest Festival by the community. Can we invite any and all to come join in the fun either with assistance or materials for Friday October 11th between 10 and 1 pm and again Saturday 12th between 10 and midday. Tea, coffee and cakes supplied. Any questions contact catie@thewebbers.org.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL is taking part in the NHT Public Satisfaction Survey on highways and transport services and have web-based surveys on specific issues: Highway maintenance; Accessibility; Walking and cycling; Public transport; Road safety; Tackling congestion. These surveys are publicly available online, and may be accessed via our website using this link: https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Nationaltransportsurvey2019_20/consultationHome.

ALKHAM QUIZ in the village hall on the 7th September was a great success with 15 tables taking part. The quiz master was Tony Holman, who is the postman for the centre of Alkham, and the winning team of 6 was Meggett Minds from Meggett Lane.

ALKHAM PARISH is a member of Thanet Community Transport - a door to door service for the whole community, individuals and groups. Typically used for medical appointments, shopping trips and days out. Registered to accommodate wheelchairs to transport disabled and elderly. Price Alkham to Dover: £4.50 single, £9 return. To register on Alkham Parish account. Telephone: 01843 602030 Email: transport@transportinthanet.co.uk. **Ruth Marczin-Bundy**

RAFFLE – Many thanks to all those who supported the August Christmas lights raffle which was won by Wendy Burrows. I'm pleased to report that the electrics are now safe and certified. **Tracey Prince**

STEPS - I would like to thank Heather Waller (Public Rights of Way Officer) for organising, arranging and supplying materials for the new steps at the gate exiting Vicarage Meadow on to Hogbrook Hill Lane. Thanks, also, to the volunteer group that installed them. **Anthony Barrier (Footpath Warden)**

SLOW WORMS - Tracey Prince has received 5 sightings of slow worms in Alkham but would like more before they nod off for winter – please email tracey.prince@hotmail.com.

ALKHAM GARDEN CENTRE has Christmas gifts and decorations from the 1st October; Christmas Trees will arrive on 22nd November; A Christmas Fair Sat/Sun 23rd/24th November 10.00am – 4.00pm and late-night opening from 28th November till 8pm.

ART CLASS – On Tuesday mornings between 10am and 1pm a group of amateur artists get together in Alkham village hall. They are keen to get more members, so if you'd like to join a friendly group to draw or paint please drop in on the day.

FILM NIGHT

October 29

Rocketman

September 24

Fisherman's Friends

Village Hall 7.30pm
Please bring your own refreshments

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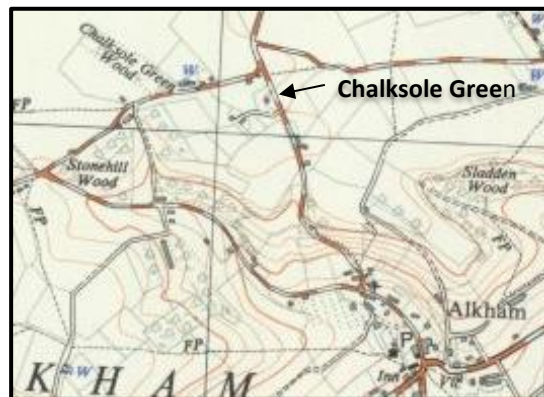
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CHALKSOLE GREEN

In the 17th century some common land, that is land that all could use, stretched across the hill behind Alkham and continued through Chalksole. Gradually this land became enclosed and divided by Government Acts such



that plots were then owned by someone and a small area of land at the top of White Hill was given to the Alkham church wardens. This land eventually passed to the Parish Council and until 2003 was officially the village green, although the last time it was used as such was for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. In 2005 some work was carried out with one of the ponds being puddled such that it held water, but the land has become overgrown again. The good news is that Parish Councillor Tracey Prince is looking into options to bring the historic site back into use and would be grateful for suggestions as to what should be done with the land. **editor**

MARQUIS - When we bought our house in Alkham in 2017, all that was missing from the village was a proper local pub. Thankfully, under Nadine & Will's stewardship of The Marquis of Granby, we've now got one and I write this after an excellent paella night. The food, cooked by Harry, was delicious and with a good choice of Spanish wine and a superb Spanish guitar player, you could almost have been in a Spanish taverna on this balmy evening. Meanwhile, on Monday, as it's the first Monday in the month, I'm looking forward to postman Tony's pub quiz. While I might be new to the village, I've worked in the pub sector for over 25 years and with three pubs a day closing their doors for good, I know how much local pubs rely on the support of the local community. Nadine and Will tell me they are looking to do more special evenings like the paella night – I do hope that many of you will join in, or come along to the quiz, and help them put the pub at the heart of the community where it belongs. **Georgina – Short Lane**

TOKENS – Good news, Temple Ewell Primary School has been chosen by Waitrose in Canterbury to be a Community Matter for September (you are given a token at the till to deposit in the charity box).

GARDEN TALK - Our next gathering is on Friday 4th October, when we meet at 18 Newlyn Meadow. Catie will welcome us from 6.00p.m. so that we can view the garden in daylight. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our September meeting was an enjoyable one; it was about bee keeping and we all enjoyed the talk by Mark Woollard. Our next meeting will be on the 8th October and it will be our 91st birthday. We will be celebrating with members from different W.I.'s. plus we will be having the East Kent choir and Paul Harris from the radio. **Debbie Griggs** ... and we'd just like to say thank you to everyone who came to the quiz and hope everyone enjoyed themselves. We would also like to thank the Marquis of Granby and Alkham Valley Garden Centre for their lovely raffle prizes. **Debbie Griggs and Debbie Saunders**

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

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MARGARET GOES TO THE FRINGE - This year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival held special significance—not to mention excitement—for me and fellow East Kent 'Rockies', all members of "Rock Choir", the country's leading choir/singing organisation. We had been invited to take part in Rock Choir's contribution to the festival. In all there were 3700 Rockies from various areas of the U.K. descending on Edinburgh to take part. Of the 61 performances, the East Kent choirs had 4 slots. The weather was kind to us as we went through line-up and marshalling procedures outside to get us ready for a slick entry and exit from the concert venue. Timing was crucial and the Edinburgh Rockie team soon had us smartened up like professional troopers! Once on stage we poured our hearts into the singing of our ten songs, one of which was video-streamed for a live broadcast. We had a fantastic time singing for a really appreciative audience. Apart from the buzz we got from our own show, it was such an amazing experience to be part of this happy gathering of enthusiastic artists, entertainers and spectators. I think this has got to be an annual pilgrimage for me now! **Margaret Danstead**

OZ on KING OF HAY – The man who almost single-handedly put Hay-on-Wye on the map died on 20 August this year. Richard George William Pitt Booth was born in Plymouth on 12 September 1938, and educated at Rugby school and Oxford University. He grew up in the Welsh Borders after his father inherited the Brynmelyn estate in Cusop, near Hay-on-Wye. In 1961, Richard bought Hay's defunct fire station to house his first second-hand bookshop, stocked partly with redundant books imported in containers from the United States, where public libraries were closing. The abandoned cinema was similarly used in 1965, together with free parking, disabled access, and 'dogs welcome.' Currently the Hay Cinema stocks about 200,000 books on every subject under the sun, together with new film facilities installed in 2012. By the time my wife and I visited Hay in 1977, most shops in the town had been converted to second-hand bookshops including the greengrocer's, which sold books by the pound, priced according to quality, and weighed on old-fashioned Avery scales. On April Fools' Day 1977, Richard proclaimed himself King of Hay, declared Hay-on-Wye to be an independent sovereign state, and appointed his horse as Prime Minister. Among other initiatives he issued rice-paper currency and set up an intelligence agency called 'C.I.Hay'. This cultivated eccentricity ran alongside serious political convictions, namely a concern for the Welsh economy and a hatred of bureaucracy in all its forms. Perhaps the most lasting economic legacy of Richard's life will be the Hay Literary Festival, created in 1988 by festival director Peter Florence, Peter's parents, and friends. Although not directly involved, Richard created the vision and environment for this international event, now in its 31st year. As many booklovers and commentators across the world have commented on hearing this news: "The King is Dead. Long Live the Kingdom." **Steve Osborn**

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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Last Friday	Sightloss group View Hotel Folkestone 1030 to noon
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Other Events in the village hall

Saturday	5	Barn Dance starts 7.30pm
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Monday	14	Harvest Supper in evening
Thursday	24	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm
Tuesday	29	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 6th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 12th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Harvest Festival 11 am	Harvest Festival Village hall 4.00 pm
Sunday 20th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 27th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 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
To Folkestone 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

FROM THE VICARAGE - While visiting Durham recently even I was surprised to encounter a funeral procession, apparently making its way through a shopping centre. In fact, it was a full-size bronze sculpture of some monks carrying the body of St Cuthbert. Cuthbert led a life of prayer and simplicity on Lindisfarne, just off the Northumbrian coast. When he died in 687 his brother monks buried his body at the monastery there. Now when it comes to sending someone on their way from this world many settle for some kind words and tracks from a favourite CD – but not these monks! They soon built Cuthbert a splendid new tomb, and on moving his body found that it had not decayed at all – a sure sign of great saintliness. Pilgrims began flocking to his shrine – but so, too, did Viking raiders. The monks fled, taking their most precious possessions - including Cuthbert's body – first to Chester-Le-Street, then to Ripon. The story goes that as they were returning to Chester-Le-Street the saint appeared to one of the brothers in a vision, demanding that his remains be buried on the spot overlooking the River Wear where Durham Cathedral now stands. There's a charming video online, worth watching, which uses LEGO figures to tell the story of Cuthbert and Durham Cathedral. It's a great story, but one that I find humbling - it reminds me that my own attempts at prayer, simplicity and saintliness are still very much works in progress. Mind you, I do like the thought of my sorrowing parishioners carrying my remains around the parish when I finally go to my Eternal Home, waiting for a sign as to which churchyard to bury it in. But they're more likely to just make a cup of tea, and go home... **Brian Williams**

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Hall booking Tracey Prince 828098
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
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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WEBS www.alkham.org & www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 310 November 2019

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WHAT A PERFECT DAY – The sun shone all day and twenty-two planes landed, the furthest coming from near Paris. Everyone said what a fantastic time they had, and the amount raised for Martha trust was £1,200. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event

and helped on the day especially our family and Paul and Sarah who did the food and BBQ. **John & Anne Huggins**

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING - A very big thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning, held in the village hall, on Saturday 21st September. Once again so many kind people brought along a wonderful selection of homemade cakes and preserves to sell and so many other items were provided for the various stalls. Thank you to everyone who helped in so many ways on the day and to all who gave me donations before, during and after the event. A big thank you to the ladies of our village keep fit group who also gave a very generous donation. Your support was overwhelming and I am delighted to say that together we have raised £1,037 for this deserving charity. Thank you everyone. **Sue Ross**

CHALKSOLE COTTAGE GOODBYE - After 16 happy years in Alkham we will soon be moving to Surrey closer to our daughters and grandchildren. As always, we have more “stuff” than we need and will be having a Garage Sale on Saturday 26th October at midday. Even if you don't want to buy anything, do come and say goodbye over a glass of wine. Car parking in our field. **Linda and Geoff Gaskill 01304 823100**

HAVING a Christmas present problem for the person who has everything? Why not give them a certificate of sponsorship to replace a tile on the roof of St. Anthony's Church Alkham. The Friends of St. Anthony's are concerned only with the preservation of this beautiful building and would like to contribute to the £15,000 needed to remove and re-fix the tiles on the south elevation of the nave roof. This work is required due to nail rot in the battens, which has caused many tiles to slip. It is estimated that in excess of 6000 tiles are needed to be replaced and we ask your help, please, [Christmas present or any other reason] for this necessary work. Sponsorship of one tile is £5.00 and the certificate will have the appropriate name and state the number of tiles sponsored. Contact Susannah Tapsell 01304 822295, Den Barnard 01304 824845 or Brian Wimsett 01304 824969.

FOLKESTONE PUBLIC LIBRARY now closes on a Wednesday but is open on Sundays from 10:00 to 16:00 hours.

EVERDEN ROAD FLOODING

The borehole reported in last months' Newsletter was to determine the soakage rate and if the results are positive a soakaway and a sump will be constructed.

PCSO - The new Police Community Support Officer for Alkham is Megan Keehner and she has booked the village hall on Friday 15th November between 2 and 3pm to hold a surgery for residents to raise concerns and meet their new local PCSO.

BREAK IN – In late September a shed in upper Slip Lane was broken into by removing the 13 screws on the door's hinges but nothing major was taken. In addition, another person in the same area phoned to say that a suspicious person had been loitering near their house.

THE FINANCIAL year for the Newsletter ended in September. The cost of producing 340 copies (1360 A4 sheets) per month is about £30 plus £13 for posting and £36 per year for alkham.org web site giving a total of about £550. The revenue from adverts was slightly less but manageable.

TEA AND A CHAT – The date in the last Newsletter was wrong and it should have read October 31st. If you'd like to have a chat and a cuppa between 2 and 4pm on the 28th November, please do come along.

FILM NIGHT

November 26

Land of Mine

October 29

Rocketman

Village Hall 7.30pm
Please bring your own refreshments

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TRAFFIC CALMING? Perhaps the Victorians had the right idea about traffic going along the Alkham Valley in 1856. Initially a 4-foot trench was dug across the road at Bushy Ruff and when this was filled in a gate was installed, but not for the same reasons as today. A toll was briefly charged at the gate and if today we had congestion charging cameras at Temple Ewell this would be a successful, but unpopular, solution to traffic going along the valley. The Valley Road, then described as very wretched, used to be on the higher ground at Bushy Ruff but because of the building of a paper mill people started using the lower ground where the road is now. The landowner took exception to this and hence the trench and the gate. Various litigation ensued but, in the end, it was ruled as a highway and that the Highway Surveyor was bound to keep it free from obstruction. The Surveyor had been taken to court by John Collard who was the first owner of the Marquis of Granby. *(The details are from an article by J. G. Harman in a 1986 Bygone Kent and thanks go to Jo Walker for providing the copy).* **Brian Wimsett**

SUE ROSS - Knowing Sue would be writing to thank the helpers at the recent Macmillan coffee morning, I thought perhaps a few words should be written about her. Sue is another one of those friends who, when you meet is instantly likeable, and within a short time, her kindness and generous soul shine through. She is a very valued and genuine friend and neighbour to many in Alkham and will often be seen walking their adorable dog Tilly up and over the hills. Sue worked as a family liaison officer in her local school while also tirelessly volunteering in many areas which included St Johns Ambulance, PCC secretary to All Souls Church, WI member and school governor to name a few. Sue has true understanding of other's needs, is non-judgmental and is happy and content. Like I said, Sue is so nice she never kills a spider (I do) and even puts water bowls in the garden during heatwaves for the insects (I don't)!! Of course, Sue doesn't know I'm writing this article but I'm sure with her kind heart I will be forgiven! **Irene Barnard**

MAY I suggest that person or persons unknown who find it necessary to drive over the small piece of garden at the entrance to the footpath leading to the church put their names forward for the next run of advertisements for Specsavers. **Bert Wall - Church Hill House**



GARDEN TALK - We are planning for our Christmas get together, to be held in the evening of Friday 6th December. Could those intending to come contact me - so that we have an idea of numbers, and to plan food, drink etc. I need to know by 22nd November. Many thanks Janet Adamson (01303 893413) or email: janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com

ALKHAM W.I. - Our October meeting was celebrating our 91st birthday and we had members from each local WI to help us celebrate; we also had East Kent Choir and Paul Harris from the radio show. Our next meeting, which is our AGM, will be on the 12th November and this will be followed by an auction, so please would all members bring something that you don't need i.e. any unwanted gifts etc. Hostesses are Debbie Griggs and Beryl King, raffle Helen Price. New members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

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

ALKHAM CHARITY BRIDGE DAY which was held on the 5th October supported two local charities, Dover Foodbank and Community Table – both of these charities are managed and staffed completely by volunteers. Foodbank has been running, and sadly very successfully, for several years now and its numbers increase annually by about 8% - this year it fed 3363 people in crisis of which 36% were children – when they came to pick up the donations on Saturday they were overwhelmed by the kindness and support shown to them and their cause. Community Table, which receives no government or grant aid has been running for just 19 months but is filling a very large gap in our midst – this wonderful volunteer labour force provide, every Sunday, coffee and biscuits on arrival followed by a home cooked dinner and pudding and coffee or tea to the homeless people of Dover who are then welcome to stay and play board games or cards for the remainder of the afternoon – their numbers have risen dramatically – when they first opened their doors they had 19 for dinner – now they feed between 40 and 50 weekly and the numbers are expected to rise with the onset of winter. We raised over £1000 and would like to thank those generous people and companies who donated vouchers or money for the event. I can't name all of those kind people but would like to say a special thank you to the Alkham Valley Garden Centre, the Alkham Ladies keep fit group, The Lydden Bell, Howfield Manor Hotel, DFDS Ferries and the Aylesham Butcher. Thank you for reading this – it gives me untold pleasure to be able to offer some assistance to both of these charities which are close to my heart. **Jane Tapsell**

OZ on SINGULARS AND PLURALS – For many years as an amateur grammar policeman, I've obsessed at times over the rule about singular subjects taking singular verbs and plural subjects taking plural verbs, as in "the boy sings" and "those boys sing". It's easy to find transgressions in everyday speech, as witness some examples from respectable sources such as newspaper and books - "...the history of the railways are...", "...there was collisions...", "...there's no tricks...". And now a headmaster speaking: "Somebody in that family have had to work hard." That mistake was due to identifying 'family' as the subject rather than 'somebody'; the phrase 'in that family' is a descriptive sub-clause that doesn't alter the verb. Another problem is that of choosing between a singular or plural verb with a collection of subjects that are linked by other words, such as 'and', 'or', 'some', 'neither', 'nor', 'along with', 'the majority of', and so on. There are advanced rules for this aspect, but these are sometimes complex and dependent on style and context, so that the usual advice is "if things get too difficult just rewrite the sentence." As with many grammar and spelling problems, there is usually a long and respectable history. Shakespeare, for example, often combined a singular subject with a plural verb, sometimes for stylistic reasons and sometimes because the rule on singular and plural verbs in English was not finally established until the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. As for recent excuses for getting it wrong, people often blame the computerised spell-checkers that allegedly always attach verbs to the immediately preceding noun, not necessarily the subject. The other day a young person informed me that "... 'there's' is always right because it's easier to say than 'there are' or 'there're'.", to which I could only reply "!". **(Steve Osborn)**

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Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Last Friday Sightloss group View Hotel Folkestone 1030 to noon

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	5	White Cliffs Metal Detectors 7.30pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Tuesday	26	Film Night 7.30pm – please see page 1
Thursday	28	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm
Saturday	30	Beekeepers 2pm to 5pm

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 3rd	Praise 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 9th	Messy Church St. Radigund's 3.00pm – 5pm		

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 10th	10.15 am	10.15 am	10.30 am
Sunday 17th	Service 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 24th	United Parish Eucharist with Prayer Ministry 10.00 am Capel		

BUS TIMES To Dover 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

To Folkestone 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

FROM THE VICARAGE - I've just been reading about a curate who, on discovering that her local tea shop had booked a medium to give a talk, assembled her congregation on the pavement outside. There they caused a bit of a stir by praying so loudly against the Powers of Darkness that those inside could scarcely hear each other, let alone anyone from the Other Side. At this time of year shops are filling with pumpkins, costumes and Hallowe'en treats – an excuse for some harmless fun as far as many people are concerned, perhaps, but no laughing matter to others. Those who brought Christianity to these shores found that some of the locals were lighting bonfires, dressing up and feasting so as not to offend the spirits of the dead, so worried were they about what the departed might get up to as winter approached. St Paul, who wrote much of the New Testament, taught that we are surrounded by unseen dangers - but that faith in Christ, while not necessarily making bad things go away, does offer a way of dealing with them. So, as November began, the Church started keeping All Saints Day and then All Souls Day, celebrating the promise that the departed are safe in God's keeping. In our own time ghoulies, ghosties, long-legged beasties, and things that go bump in the night don't seem to bother most people very much, though as we have seen some take them seriously. Probably most of us find that life summons up other things for us to worry about – and again, some find that faith in Christ offers a way of dealing with those, too. I'm not planning any pavement demonstrations – not at the moment, anyway. But I do wish you a Happy All Saints Day. **Brian Williams**

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Jamie Rose 07802 428353

WEBS www.alkham.org &
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To contact the Parish Clerk or Councillors phone 01622 737749 or email alkham.pc@outlook.com

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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THE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS will be switched on at 4.45pm on Saturday 7th December. Father Christmas has promised to be there, and we will sing a few carols accompanied by Graham Bissett on the accordion. Will and Nadine have also invited everybody to Marquis of Granby afterwards

for mulled wine and mince pies to get the village party season started. See you there – especially you children. **Den Barnard**

WHAT'S ON over the Christmas period at The Marquis of Granby.

On the 7th December the village is invited to come and enjoy mince pies provided by us (see above). Christmas parties will be from the 1st to the 23rd December with our offering being a 3-course meal for £30 per person. On Boxing Day there is Bottomless brunch for £35 which includes a 2-course brunch with as much prosecco as you would like for 2 hours. If you feel that you have already consumed enough alcohol over the Christmas period, come and enjoy the brunch from £15. Our New Year's Eve party will start from 6.30pm and will include a champagne and canape reception, music entertainment and a 3-course meal all for £70; please book directly with the pub in order to reserve your table. Our doors will be open from 9.30pm for drinkers if they would like to join us in counting down to 2020! There is a Quiz Night on the first Monday of every month from 7.30pm, £3 per person and teams of up to 6. A Burger and Pie night every Monday, £10 from 6pm and a Steak night from 6pm starting at £17 every Thursday.

ALKHAM GARDEN CENTRE - Christmas Trees will arrive on 22nd November and a Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday and Sunday 23rd/24th November from 10.00am to 4.00pm (local woodturner as well) and late-night opening from 28th November till 8pm.



PARISH PLAN PROGRESS as of 4/11/19 - The Parish Plan team continue to meet regularly and have agreed the format of each individual areas that were identified from the village Open Day and the village questionnaire. The template has been taken from the standard used by other Parish Plans. Team members are now drafting their allocated sections ready for discussion, and so far about half of the twelve areas have been completed. As a reminder the twelve areas are: Conservation, Environment, Heritage, Housing, Community Buildings, Local Governance, Health and Social, Young and Old, Sport and Recreation, Economy, Business and Employment, Roads and Infrastructure, Public Transport. When completed the draft will be circulated to the full Parish Council for final review. As always, the team welcome any input, and assistance, and would like to remind everybody that the success of the Parish Plan will depend on the number of volunteers putting themselves forward to put the plan into practice. **Den Barnard**



WHITE HILL runs from Slip Lane to Chalksole and is narrow and steep. There have been several accidents and HGV's are a problem as satnav directs them up Warren Lane. At the Slip Lane junction, the lorries have caused significant damage and a petition with 20 signatures from villagers was presented at the recent Parish Council meeting for White Hill to be made one way from Slip Lane.

GEESE – Four white geese are available for rehoming. Please phone Patsy on 07764183781 at Hogbrook Farm for further details.

SEASONED LOGS & Kindling, 5 Bags logs 60x46 £20, 7 Bags kindling 60x36 £20. Free delivery 15 miles radius Dover tel: 07795 190598.

TEA AND A CHAT – October's Tea and a Chat welcomed 15 local people, including several new faces new faces, for free tea and biscuits. All are welcome to come along to these informal gatherings at the Village Hall on the last Thursday afternoon of the month between 2 and 4 pm but there will no Tea and a Chat in December because of the festive period.

FILM NIGHT

November 26	Land of Mine
December	No film this month

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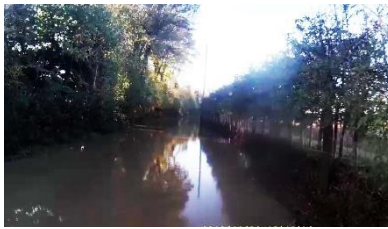
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EVERDEN – It is highly unlikely that a proposed soakaway could deal with the 6th November flood on Little Everden Road. Alkham cyclists use this road and the latest flood, probably 60m long, was the biggest they had ever seen.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY - The co-option policy for new councillors was agreed and Billy Roberts was co-opted and welcomed on to the Parish Council. The problem of the untidy piles of road salt in the car park – the Chairman was willing to supply bags and when filled, remove them, volunteers are now required to fill them. Notification has been received from DDC concerning the celebration of VE day next year. The Dover Council representative informed the meeting that the head of DDC, Keith Morris, has suddenly resigned and has been replaced by Trevor Bartlett. He reported that Charlie Elphick has replied to the Alkham TIG Team and stated that the TIG report had been well received. He added that money has now been sanctioned for the widening of the A2 down to the docks. The Dover District Plan team had reviewed the housing situation and discussions will be held with each Parish Council. The Parish Plan Team have now started to draft a report for each area identified at the Open Day and Village Questionnaire. There was no further news regarding the bus shelter at Ewell Minnis and the ownership of the land is to be investigated. Several areas of drainage work are being carried out in the village and riparian owners were asked to ensure their respective areas of the ditch are cleared before the winter. The Chalksole Green area and discussions have been held with Natural England on what can be done including the possibility of having a pathway. Kearsney Abbey and Gardens should be completed by next year and will probably be available for weddings etc. Full minutes of the meeting will be available on the Council website. The question and answer session is now held at the start of Parish Council meetings. **Den Barnard**

TEMPLE EWELL Primary School have been chosen for another round of the Co-op Community Fund. The monies this time are going towards the playground markings on the King George V playground and areas around the school used by all. Please can you choose Temple Ewell School again as your chosen charity as the current round has finished. Please go to <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/35432> to choose us again. Many thanks to those that supported us last time round - we managed to raise a massive £2,097.28. **Nichola Church**

BORDER FORCE is holding training courses for new Customs officers, which involves a lot of practical exercises, and is seeking volunteers to play a passenger for them. Training takes place at their hub in Folkestone or a local hotel between 09:00 and 17:00. Volunteers are urgently needed for courses up to March 2020 and beyond and there are lots of dates coming up. For more information or to register an interest, please contact the Admin team by email HRLCTTrainingAdminTeamFolkestone@homeoffice.gov.uk or phone 01303 299030.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our November meeting was our AGM meeting and Helen Scopes remains our president which is lovely as she does such a good job. We don't have a December meeting as we are having our Christmas meal on the 10th December at the Marquis which we are all looking forward to. Those members that weren't at November meeting please be at the Marquis at 6.30pm for 7pm. **Debbie Griggs**

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Dates for your diary: - Now in stock- a wide range of Christmas food and treats. Christmas gift and decoration shop open from the 1st October. Christmas Trees – arriving 22nd November. Christmas Fair – Sat/Sun 23rd/24th November 10.00am – 4.00pm. Late Night Opening 28th November till 8pm. A new range of books and puzzles will be on sale very soon.

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A BIG THANK you to the community for decorating St Anthony's for harvest festival. We had 10 people on Friday 11th and another 4 on Saturday all braving terrible weather. Locals pillaged their gardens and hedgerows for beautiful vegetables and flowers, berried branches, autumn coloured leaves and glossy greenery.


Savvy savers brought dried teasles and seed heads which we carefully spray painted in between thunderous downpours in bright orange, red and yellow. Plus, we had donations of wheat sheaths, lavender and the loan of several lovely baskets to display everything. Debbie Saunders and her granddaughter continued a long-standing family tradition making the ornamental harvest loaf. It proved the adage of "many hands make light work". More importantly, we had fun together. You only realise St Anthony's is big when you try to cover it in fresh greenery. The harvest loaf and several arrangements were auctioned off at the very enjoyable Harvest Supper on Monday 14th October. I only hope we can do similar community decorations for St Anthony's for Christmas on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th December 10-12 midday. I promise to reward labour with homemade cake and cookies again.



Catie Webber catie@thewebbers.org

OZ on FLOWERS – In recent years much has been written about the mathematician Alan Turing and his role in developing algorithms to decipher the German Enigma codes during World War II. Less well-known is the man who built Colossus, the world's first programmable electric computer, to help Turing in his task. Thomas Harold Flowers, or "Tommy", as he was known, was born in Poplar, in London's East End, in 1905. While working as a mechanical engineering apprentice at Woolwich Arsenal, he gained a B.Sc. in electrical engineering at the University of London in the evenings. In 1926 Tommy joined the telecommunications branch of the General Post Office, and in 1930 moved to their research station, where he began researching valve-based electronics for telephone exchanges. In February 1941, Alan Turing, working at Bletchley Park, needed an electronic decoder, and his director sent for Tommy, starting a remarkable partnership. The project was cancelled, but in 1943 Turing introduced Tommy to Max Newman, the team-leader trying to crack the 'Lorenz Cipher', a code much more complex than Enigma. During 1943 Tommy worked on his Colossus 1 Project, involving 1,500 valves. It was opposed by the Bletchley Park management for "squandering good valves" and Tommy was obliged to provide his own funds. However, his work was appreciated by the GPO and by the government, who awarded Tommy the OBE in June 1943. In February 1944, Tommy started work on Colossus 2, a 2,400 valve machine that was commissioned on 1 June 1944 and used for the D-Day landings five days later. After the war, Tommy returned to electronic telephone exchanges and the design of ERNIE, the National Lottery machine, retiring in 1969. His work was declassified in the 1970s after which he received many awards, both before and after his death in 1992. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Last Friday	Sightloss group View Hotel Folkestone 1030 to noon
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Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm	
Thursday	12	General election vote	
Saturday	14	SEKAS 7pm	
Saturday	28	Beekeepers 2pm to 5pm	

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 1st	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 pm	Carols VH 5.00 pm
Saturday 14th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 15th	Worship 11.00 am	Carols VH 3.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Saturday 21st		Carols 7.30pm	
Sunday 22nd	9 Lessons and Carols 6.30 pm	Eucharist 10.00 am	
Tuesday 24th	Crib service 4.30 pm; Midnight Mass 11.30pm		
Wednesday 25th			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 29th		Eucharist 10 am	

BUS TIMES To Dover 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
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 Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32, 18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I hadn't been a curate very long when it was decided that I should try my hand at christenings. A date was fixed, and as instructed I contacted the family and arranged to meet them to discuss the service. I made sure that I was at the house in good time. Arriving at the front door, I heard sounds coming from inside. Someone inside was evidently upset about something or other and was giving vent to their frustration - waiting seemed like a good idea. Eventually the tirade subsided and, thinking that it was all over, I rang the doorbell - just as it started again. Then, in panicked tones, another voice: THE VICAR! HE'S HERE ALREADY! I know myself that there's nothing worse than the plumber you were expecting half an hour later arriving early just as you are stepping into the shower, and I've since worked out that, in the same way, the vicar arriving early doesn't work for everyone. Perhaps Christmas is a bit like that. Although, as my sister always says, it's at the same time each year, I often feel as though it's here before I'm quite ready for it - a bit like when the doorbell rings before you've had a chance to clear the sweet wrappers and biscuit crumbs away. It often seems to me that Advent easily gets lost in all the excitement leading up to Christmas. Though many people associate it with Advent calendars and chocolate, for Christians it is a solemn time when we have a spiritual declutter in readiness for welcoming Jesus at Christmas. So I wish you a good declutter for Advent - and a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas to you and yours when it finally arrives. **Brian Williams**

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