

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 312 January 2020

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CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH ON - A fantastic turnout of over eighty villagers sang carols on the village green on the 7th December accompanied by Graham Bissett on accordion followed by the switch on by Nancy and Rupert Beaney and George Chittenden. After Father Christmas distributed chocolates, we were all invited to The Marquis of Granby for mulled wine and mince pies. A cheerful start to the party season in the village! A big thank you to all involved



including Tracey Prince who raised over £150 for the lights fund, to Leigh Taylor for upgrading the electrics and to Nadine, Will, Huw and the Marquis of Granby staff and finally to Kevin Rolfe who made sure Father Christmas knew how to get to Alkham. **Den Barnard**

THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY would like to thank the community for its support in its first year; we are pleased that the changes we have made to the pub have been embraced by the community and look forward to many more years of hosting you all. A few important updates; The Marquis of Granby will be closed for minor refurbishments on the following dates: January 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th. To that end, we will be hosting our first quiz of 2020 on Monday 13th January from 7.30pm. Although all of our dining spaces are now full for New Year's Eve, we would love to host you from 9pm for drinks to celebrate the New Year with us.

MANY THANKS to the staff at the Marquis of Granby for being so kind to Sue Lees. Sue and her family moved to Alkham in the 1970's and until 2005 she was a very effective Parish Clerk and also the parish historian with copious records which will be archived. Sue recently developed dementia, but she visits the Marquis every day where they treat her with kindness and understanding and makes sure she gets home safely. **From Helen and friends**

ROOF REPAIRS - The church in Alkham is a Grade 1 listed building and should be preserved for future generations to be used for social or religious purposes. It is estimated that in excess of 6000 tiles are needed to be replaced on the roof at a cost of £15,000 and following the last appeal £285 has been received. The Friends of St. Anthony will donate some of the money and if you would like to donate to this worthwhile cause please contact Susannah Tapsell 01304 822295, Den Barnard 01304 824845 or Brian Wimsett 01304 824969.

CONGRATULATIONS to Tracey Prince and Sam on the birth of their son who weighed in at a healthy 9lbs 10ozs on the 11th December.



CONGRATULATIONS to David Beaney who won the Young Councillor of the Year at the Achievement Awards held in the Royal Horseguards Hotel Westminster on the 5th November. This award reflects the amount of work he has carried out since he became a councillor for Dover Downs and River in May 2019. David is also a Parish Councillor for Alkham and has been very active in resolving local problems. **Laurence Jones**

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE - For those of you who have already visited the church you will see how exceptionally beautiful it is this year. It's the grandest and tallest tree we have ever had and needed to be placed on the floor instead of the usual tabletop. Our thanks and enormous appreciation to **Alkham Garden Centre** for providing and delivering. The owners and team of our garden centre never waver in supporting St Anthony's and other events throughout the year and I personally can recommend the tea rooms, especially the cakes. **Irene Barnard**

FILM NIGHT

December	No film this month
January 28 th	Downton Abbey

Village Hall 7.30pm
Please bring your own refreshments

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ON THE DOORSTEP – OZ's article on page 3 about the Lydden and Temple Ewell Nature Reserve, where the wart-biter bush cricket can be found, was first published here as Country Notes in October 1999. This location could make a festive breath of fresh air. The reserve lies on a south facing

slope between Temple Ewell and Lydden and is very steep in places and not suitable for wheelchair access. In addition, the adjacent roads, such as the old A2 past Lydden, have Roadside Nature Reserves which are managed by the Kent Wildlife Trust. On the main road at Temple Ewell there used to be pub on the northern side just to the Dover side of the village shop and behind the pub there is a free car park and access to the reserve. **Editor**

ALKHAM VALLEY after WW1 was described as delightful by a man who walked its length; a two pipe walk of sheer pleasure at any time of the year from Kearsney to the peaceful village of Alkham. He walked by road but, further to the article above, a two pipe walk from Ewell Minnis to Scotland Common at Kearsney is also delightful.

THE GREENING OF ALKHAM - Once again Brian sets the pace. Not far from Alkham's red letterbox in Slip Lane are the newly painted green doors of The Old Post Office. How smart are we? This repaint was carried out in spite of speeding vehicles so thank you, Brian, for saying goodbye to buttercup yellow. Looks grand! **Jo Walker**

POPPY APPEAL - Another bumper year for the Poppy Appeal in Alkham and Ewell Minnis - £801.74. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously. I must thank my helpers who collected in some pretty dodgy weather. And thanks too to all the local businesses that had Poppies. **Rachel Fountain**

THANKS - On 29th November at around 5.00 pm near the top of Warren Lane we punctured a front nearside tyre. I stopped (as it happened the right) passing car and the young man driving could not have been more kind or helpful - he looked at the situation, went home for better tools and a good torch (ours was very poor) and returned to change the wheel for us - he even directed me to the best option for a new tyre! this took him time and he got very dirty to boot. When I offered him well earned money for his trouble, he refused to take it. My husband and I are so very grateful to you - you are our 'knight of the road'. You know who you are and I will not embarrass you by mentioning your name but would like to say a great big thank you for all that you did not only in assisting with the tyre but by giving us both peace of mind. May I take this opportunity of wish you and yours the very best of seasonal compliments and a very happy and healthy 2020. **Jane Tapsell**

PCSO – On the 21st of November our Police Community Support Officer held a surgery at the village hall to which 6 people turned up. Her name is Megan Keehner and she confirmed that if you needed to report something you should dial 101 when you will also be given a reference number so you can check on progress if necessary. She is also contactable by email Megankeehner@kent.police.co.uk but stresses that if she is on holiday then the email might not be read and that is why it's best to phone 101. She is also the PCSO for River, Hougham, Temple Ewell and Capel-le-Ferne.

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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB – To mark their centenary an article was printed in the *Dover Express* in June 1939 and the following is a digest.

According to a very old copy of the original rules in the Marquis of Granby, the club was first formed on 1st July 1839. Early fixtures were played on any day of the week, and usually commenced in the morning. The players had dinner at the Marquis, and a long afternoon's cricket was followed by tea and a singsong in the pub. There was no pavilion, but a tent built of poles and hurdles, covered with tarpaulin was erected for the players to change. Around 1900 a pavilion was erected in Newlyn's Meadow which in 1932 was transported on rollers to Vicarage Meadow. Level ground was very limited, and this was reduced when the main road was widened and in 1938 further reduced when a dyke was constructed to divert the nailbourne from the main road. The Club moved to Vicarage Meadow in 1932 and when the nailbourne flowed it flooded such that in 1937 the ground was transformed into a beautiful lake. The Club relies entirely on local players and has a useful nursery in the village school, but young men are leaving the village nowadays, many joining H.M. Forces. There are 13 rules and 3 rules are particularly interesting: Rule 10 "That any member who shall be guilty of swearing shall be fined one penny, and every time he repeats the offence the fine shall be double"; Rule 11 "That any member who shall misconduct himself quarrelling or drunkenness shall be fined sixpence; Rule 12 "That all fines shall be paid to the Treasurer within ten days, or double the amount inflicted."

COUNTRY NOTES - It was gratifying to learn last month [September 1999] that Kent Wildlife Trust had succeeded in its appeal for resources to buy another area of land at Lydden Temple Ewell Down. The land is necessary in order to save several endangered species, including the wart-biter bush cricket. A reference from 1829 states that "In Sweden warts are destroyed by the *Gryllus verrucivorus* or wart-eating grasshopper." A.H. Swinton, in *Insect Variety* (1880) refers to "The Great Green Leaf-cricket, or Wart-biter." Fifty years ago the wart-biter was common on the chalk downlands of Kent. As with many other species it then went into a rapid decline under severe environmental pressures and was finally declared extinct in Kent in 1976. In 1993, 20 adult wart-biters were re-introduced onto Lydden Temple Ewell Down. Currently, the population, although still expanding, remains vulnerable, which is why the extra land is needed. Gilbert White, the author of *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*, was, when not investigating owl sounds, fascinated by crickets. Writing in the late eighteenth century, he devoted three long and consecutive letters to this topic. In the second one, he refers to house crickets (*Gryllus domesticus*) as "...noisome pests... like Pharaoh's plague of frogs..." and goes on to say that they "may be destroyed, like wasps, by phials half filled with beer ...for, being always eager to drink, they will crowd in till the bottles are full." We've been destroying slugs that way for some years now, the best bait being a dark, sweet, mild beer, purchased in 2-litre brown plastic bottles from a local supermarket. It's amazingly successful, killing thousands during the season. Most people accept that it works, but occasionally I get that wary, disbelieving look that sometimes greets the news of the wart-biters. **(Steve Osborn – first published here October 1999)**

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ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates Please ring 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		
Last Friday	Sightloss group View Hotel Folkestone 1030 to noon		
Other Events in the village hall			
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm	
Saturday	11	SEKAS 7pm	
Tuesday	23	Village Hall committee meeting 2pm	
Tuesday	30	Film Night 7.30pm – please see page 1	
CHURCH SERVICES			
DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Saturday 4 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 5 th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Sunday 12 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 19 th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 26 th	United Parish Eucharist, Capel 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 - As I write, Christmas is still ahead of us and, like everyone else I know I am feverishly working my way through a list of things to be done before 25th December. By Boxing Day some people seem to regard Christmas as already over. But there are Twelve Days of Christmas, as the song reminds us, and five are in January. Not until 6th January, when the New Year festivities are over and everyone is back at work, does the Church celebrate Epiphany, the wise men arriving at the crib with their gifts for Jesus almost unnoticed, at least as far as the UK is concerned. But in other parts of the world the arrival of these mysterious travellers in Bethlehem after following a star from the mysterious East is widely celebrated, and their story has inspired other legends. One concerns Baboushka, an old woman who, in the depth of a Russian winter, offers shelter from the bitter weather to three travellers who explain that they are following a star to find a new-born king. When the weather clears they invite her to join them, but she tells them she must finish her chores and find a gift for the baby first. By the time she is ready to leave fresh snow has covered their tracks. When she eventually reaches Bethlehem, not only have the Wise Men already left, but the baby too. They say that Baboushka is still looking for that baby. Every year, at the time that the Wise Men came, she is said to go around giving presents to the children – just in case one of them happens to be *the* child. A story of kindness and generosity that makes Christmas last a bit longer, perhaps? **Brian Williams**

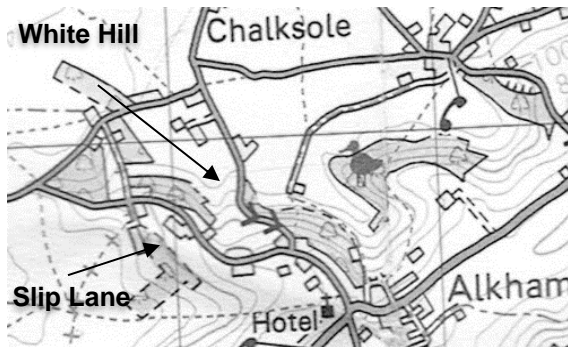
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WHITE HILL ONE-WAY

Further to the proposal to make White Hill one-way, a letter was given to the Parish Council saying

that whilst there is a great deal of sympathy for those whose property has been damaged it is not considered that the making of White Hill one-way will solve the problem. A lot of horse riders, walkers and cyclists use Slip Lane and the increased traffic of both HGV and other vehicles could make it a major safety risk. Additionally, further damage will be caused to the fabric of the verges/banks of Slip Lane when HGV's realise they can't get through and try to turn round. It is also likely that vehicles will speed up White Hill when it's one way causing problems for residents, walkers and riders. It is thought that making these roads 'access only' and further 'Unsuitable for HGV's' signs, as recently installed at Lydden, would help reduce the problem. The Parish Council said they will wait to see what the findings of Kent County Councillor Geoff Lymer are before making any decisions.

WEIGHT LIMIT - Glyn Jones, Speedwatch and Lorry Watch Co-ordinator, has suggested to the Parish Council that they consider a policy to campaign for a 7.5 t vehicle limit through the whole parish AONB, except for access. This happens in many areas and would be supported by the law and reduce the need for excessive advisory signage in the AONB, making the AV road safer, reduce vibration damage to adjacent houses and reduce road surface and sewer damages.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE - Each subject area of the village plan has now been drafted by the Plan Team and reviewed. The analysis and action plan from these reports have now been documented after an all-day workshop in the Village Hall. The overall structure of the Parish Plan document has also been agreed and will be subject to final review and checking by the team in the next few weeks. The completed draft document will then be reviewed by the Parish Council and the Dover District Local Planning representative. After two years work – we're nearly there! **Den Barnard**



JACK – Local resident Jack was delighted with his Christmas present

ALKHAM FETE MEETING - There will be a fete meeting on Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 8 pm in the Village Hall to start making arrangements for the 2020 Fete (date to be confirmed but probably 11th July); please come along if you would like to be involved in any way and/or have any queries you'd like to raise. All welcome! See you there. **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

TEA AND A CHAT in the village hall on Thursday 30th January and February 27th from 2.00pm till 4.00pm. All are welcome to come along for free tea and biscuits and friendly chat amongst friends.

THE VILLAGE HALL has a new boiler, which can be remotely controlled, and this should solve previous heating problems.

FILM NIGHT	
January 28 th	Downton Abbey
February 25	Judy Renee Zellweger
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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A GOOD EVENING – The photo shows 30 keen gardeners who turned out for the annual Christmas Supper in the village hall on December 6th.

GARDEN TALK - With thoughts of spring, the programme of visits to gardens within the village is being prepared. We would be grateful for offers of residents who are prepared to host an evening, usually a Friday, when we can enjoy the garden and talk about gardening over a convivial drink. Please contact me if you wish to take part. **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**

KEEP US FLYING HIGH Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex. Would you like to know more about us or get involved? Learn about how the charity works, innovates and saves lives with one of our informative talks. Book one of our volunteer speakers to visit your group for free and find out more about our life-saving work. Contact Talks @aakss.org.uk, call 01634 471957. To volunteer go to [volunteering @aakss.org.uk](http://volunteering@aakss.org.uk) or ring 01634 471900. If you'd like to find out more, please get in touch.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our January meeting was an enjoyable one with a talk about Great Ormond Street Hospital. Our next meeting is on February 11th with Mark Moynan talking about how he started his work as a butler plus many other stories. Hostesses are Debbie Saunders and Christine Peel, Raffle Janet Barrow and VOT Helen Scopes. **Debbie Griggs**

NEWSLETTER – If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, or have something included, please contact me as both would be very welcome. The latter can be left in the 'Local Mail' box at the top of the rear drive to the Old Post Office or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK - I'm thinking of doing a further update of the Brief History of Alkham. If you would like something changed or added please contact me as above. At present Rose Cottage and Church Cottages have been added plus tithes, wells and further details of the Parish Council. The Marquis has also been revised. **Brian Wimsett**

SUE LEES – As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, Sue is suffering from dementia and has moved into a care home called Pelham House. The home is just off the main Folkestone to Hythe road and approaching from the Hythe direction it is the first turning on the left after you have driven up Sandgate hill. The address is 5-6 Pelham Gardens, Folkestone CT20 2LF, telephone 01303 252145 and her son says that they are quite happy to have visitors and can be contacted via email at [hello @pelhamhousecarehome.co.uk](mailto:hello@pelhamhousecarehome.co.uk).

OFF ROADERS are churning up Pimlico Way again. Not only are they damaging the byway surface, but vehicles have trespassed into the crater despite the steep embankments which were constructed. This results in the 4x4's crossing the byway and causing further erosion which will eventually make the byway impassable to others. For this reason, Pimlico Way and the adjacent byway to Everden were closed to motor vehicles (except trikes and trail bikes) on the 10th January by KCC for 21 days but this order is expected to be extended.

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

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


OZ on HYPHENS – Last month the editor emailed me the exasperated query “Any idea why Word insists on putting a dash between words which are not normally hyphenated?” I explained that the main concern of hyphen use, as with most punctuation, is to avoid ambiguity. For instance, a man eating shark is one thing, a man-eating shark quite another. Before replying, I looked up various authorities on English usage, and discovered, as usual, a minefield. John Benbow, former editor of the Oxford University Press, said “If you take hyphens seriously, you will surely go mad.” Sir Ernest Gowers, in *The Complete Plain Words*, points out the difficulty of dealing with “fried fish merchant”. That problem is dealt with in *Fowler's Modern English Usage*, where R W Burchfield advocates rewriting when the hyphen burden becomes too great, as in ‘poets of the early nineteenth century’ rather than ‘early-nineteenth-century poets’. The most thorough account is to be found in *Hart's Rules for Compositors and Readers*, published by the OUP, a useful little book I've kept close at hand for the last twenty years. Under the heading Hyphenated and Non-hyphenated Words *Hart* lists eight rules, with five pages of examples. Perhaps the most confusing of these is the distinction between sentences such as “These are the most up-to-date records” and “The records are not up to date”, depending on the position of ‘up to date’. The answer to the editor's question is probably that language evolves and that Word aims to eventually reflect those changes. For example, the fifth word of this story would, twenty years ago, have been ‘electronically mailed’, ‘e mailed’ or ‘e-mailed’; now it would be unthinkable to be anything other than ‘emailed’. Finally, when in doubt, I have three options: consult a good dictionary, phone a friend, and/or rewrite the sentence. **Steve Osborn**

In the year 2000 a Databox was prepared for Alkham to record people's lives and activities in the parish. To mark 20 years passing various extracts will be included in the newsletter...

THRESHING WWII – Steve Matcham had two threshing machines during the war for which he was paid so much per year. He went from farm to farm threshing. He did well because the farmers had little choice. Dockets were signed by farmers and sent back to the Ministry of Agriculture to record how much was threshed during the year. The thresher was hired for £1 per hr. When threshing at Flegg's Court with his son Steve and seven men, a doodle bug came straight for them, so he pulled in the clutch and yelled at the men to dive for the ground. The doodlebug took of the chimney pots of the house and landed on its belly north of Hawkinge Church. The bomb didn't explode so they had to leave it for the army/air force to deal with. They were off work three days, but they were compensated for the lost work. Today it is the norm for farmers to own their own machinery whereas in the past you had labourers who hired themselves to farms for the season.

COMMUNITY LED HOUSING FORUM – Dover District Council are holding sessions for people who are interested in community housing or self build. At a previous conference the people attending found it very useful to chat with like-minded people and because of this DDC have organised free forums. There are forums on the 19th February and 26th of March from 6pm to 7.30pm at DDC offices in Whitfield (CT16 3PJ). You can email communityhousing@dover.gov.uk or access their web site <http://dover.gov.uk>.

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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	11	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm	
Tuesday	25	Film Night 7.30pm – please see page 1	
Thursday	27	Tea and a chat 2pm to 4pm	
Saturday	29	Beekeepers in afternoon	
CHURCH SERVICES			
DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
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	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
26th	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 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 - Cold, miserable February has never been my favourite month. But when I was a student and still discovering church, I encountered something that happens every 2nd February that changed all that. Church would be worth a visit that evening, others had told me. I walked in from a bustling South London Street as the organ sounded the first notes of a hymn. Before long I was in the middle of a procession, clutching a hymn book in one hand and a candle in the other, following everyone else around the church. Candlelight flooded the place, incense hung in the air – it was a celebration unlike anything I had ever experienced before, and I found myself wanting to go back for more. The Gospel read during the Candlemas service, forty days after Christmas, recalls Mary and Joseph taking the infant Jesus to the Temple and being met by the old priest Simeon. Seeing the child, he knows that his days are done: Now, Lord, let your servant depart in peace; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel...’ No sadness for Simeon at the prospect of leaving the world, or not seeing the child grow up. Simply joy at holding the Light of the World in his arms who from then on would light the way for him and the rest of humanity through this world and into the next. Joy, too, at the prospect of departing in peace. I’ve seen the commercials on TV for simple, fuss-free funerals. They might suit some, but I’m with Simeon – for me, the prospect of leaving this world with joy and hope is worth making some fuss about... **Brian Williams**

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 Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
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www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 314 March 2020

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PLEASE SAVE THE ALKHAM FETE - We had a low turnout for the February meeting so we are having a further meeting on Wednesday 18th March at 8 pm in the Village Hall to see if there is sufficient support to enable us to have a Fete this year. Please could all stallholders, helpers and volunteers either come to the meeting or get in touch with me by Monday 16th March to confirm that they are available on Saturday 11th July and let me know what they are willing to do. Thank you, and we really hope to see you on the 18th. **Paul Tapsell 07947 016697**

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB – “The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated!” We are pleased to announce that the Alkham Cricket Club is planning a return to the meadow later this year and, indeed, a revival of cricket in the village; we have been holding nets at the Three Hills centre over the winter and are looking forward to several matches this year (mostly evening T20-type matches) but including the regular Hackers Match on Saturday 20th June. If you would like more information, to join us for nets, join the Club or just make a donation, please give me a call. **Paul Tapsell 07947 016697**

OPINIONS – Our Parish Councillors should be thanked for the unpaid work they do for the community but because of the council’s new rules, for a reason that will become apparent, I have been asked to include two opinions in the newsletter.

The Parish Council meetings for many years were relaxed with parishioners holding their hands up to interrupt. Now the meetings follow Parish Council rules where no comments are allowed from the floor and you must wait for the interval to say something; a person attending recently gave up after an hour and a half and went home as the interval was still some way distant. This has been countered by having an interval at the beginning of the meeting which rather negates its purpose and the number of parishioners attending has dropped considerably. Recently, regarding the matter of traffic calming, studies, surveys, public questionnaires and reports highlighted the problem of traffic volumes and speed through the village. The Parish Council subsequently had meetings with KCC regarding the matter and the results of these discussions have not been made public such that parishioners will not be able to comment before any final decisions are made and it is felt there is no reason for this secrecy. There also appears to be a problem in contacting the Parish Council with regards to payments as it’s almost impossible to get any response. **editor**

GORDON ADAMSON - It was with great sadness I learned of Gordon’s passing. He was a quiet and helpful friend to all those who knew him. Always ready to give advice on matters of growing fruit and vegetables, and only too happy to keep an eye on gardens and animals when owners were absent. His one great passion, and to the pleasure for many of us, was his skill and perfection in making country wines. The wine tasting contests associated with the first ‘Garden Talk’ meetings of the year were always keenly enjoyed. Thank you, Gordon. We’ll miss you. **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM WI JUMBLE SALE

in the Village Hall 25th April 2020
10.30 - 12 pm Entrance 25p.

ALKHAM WI COFFEE MORNING

in the Village Hall 7th March 2020
10.30. - 12.30 pm
Homemade cakes, raffle, bric-a-brac, etc.

WANTED volunteers to plant trees to make hedges at Upper Standen Farm, Standen Lane, Hawkinge, CT187AS on Saturday 29th February from 10 – 4pm. Booking is essential so please phone 03000 410 900 or email: stour@kent.gov.uk. Wear sensible shoes, dress for the weather and bring a packed lunch. Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership are planting hedgerows in order to ‘Slow The Flow’ and are planting 6000 trees.



FILM NIGHT

February 25

Judy
Renee Zellweger

March 31

In Search of Mozart

Village Hall 7.30pm
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LISTED BUILDINGS – A further page has been added to the Alkham History book giving details of the listed buildings that are around Alkham. In the centre of the village there are 12 with St. Anthony's church being Grade I and the others being Grade II which



includes the Marquis of Granby (photo) and the granary at Hogbrook Farm. In addition, the walls and gate piers to the Old Rectory and a monument plus 14 headstones in the churchyard are also Grade II listed. At South Alkham, Upton Farmhouse, Hopton Manor and Brook House are also listed as Grade II. **Brian Wimssett**

THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY is thrilled to be in the top three of the Kent Taste Awards for Kent Dining Pub or Bistro of the year, all before completing our first year of trading. Building on what we have already established, we are hosting some fantastic events in March and April with St Patrick's day and Mother's Day fast approaching. But don't just wait for our events..... Our ever-changing lunch menu and seasonal specials are always in demand from our customers both near and afar. With spring around the corner, The Marquis of Granby is already preparing the terrace for some fantastic outside dining and entertaining. With a fully functioning bar and barbecues every Sunday coming into play from May, the 90 seats outside will be the perfect spot to enjoy a wonderful view of the Alkham valley and our renowned offering. As we look to celebrate our first year, we will be hosting our first monthly Marquis dining club on April 7th. Menu details and timings will follow in the April newsletter but worth saving the date as we would love to celebrate with our locals.

KCC COUNCILLOR Geoffrey Lymer reports that Kent Highways crews are finding, and fixing potholes caused by the extensive rain over the last few weeks and ensuring dangerous potholes are filled immediately. Potholes not considered to be dangerous are placed into a programme and will be filled in within 28 days and KCC encourages residents that spot potholes to report them online via Kent.gov.uk. Dover District Council says that the street light that failed in Slip Lane is included in their programme but they are experiencing some difficulty with the box that the cable feeds into as it is too dangerous for the lighting engineers to isolate and are discussing whether they need to upgrade the cable.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our February meeting was speaker Mark Moyan and what an excellent talk he gave us about what the butler saw; we didn't realise how much work was involved on becoming a butler. Our next meeting is March 10th when the speaker is Susan Howell talking about Laura Ashley clothes. Hostesses are Sue Ross and Alison Warnock, Raffle Susannah Tapsell, VOT Debbie Griggs. **Debbie Griggs**

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ALKHAM HEROES - After about fifteen years of intermittent research I have decided to end my investigations into the lives of the men whose names are inscribed on the village war memorial. I'm pleased to say that there is far more information on each of the men than was the case when I began this project. I'd like to thank the many people who have kindly given information, time and expertise to add to the overall picture. The investigation led to several events in the village hall, trips to the battlefields and cemeteries of the First World War and the placing of the crosses on the wall at the bottom of Slip Lane as we marked the recent centenary of the war. I will remove the crosses at the end of March and update the website with all the information that I have. Should anyone wish to add information at a later date I'm sure that Brian will facilitate this. We will remember them. **Mark Robson**

OZ on HENLEY – Recently I spent a night in hospital after a routine 'procedure' that was quick and effective. While convalescing I read a narrative about someone who suffered for much longer. William Ernest Henley was an influential English writer, born in Gloucester in 1849 to Mary Morgan and bookseller William Henley. At the age of twelve, he began study at the Crypt School, Gloucester, at the same time as developing the tuberculosis of the bone that resulted in the loss of his left leg in 1868 and the start of a lifelong battle to save the other leg. After the operation Henley moved to London and started work as a journalist and publisher. By 1873, his right leg had become critical, and Henley sought treatment from the famous surgeon Joseph Lister at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Lister's skills eventually saved the leg, but at the cost of Henley spending twenty months in hospital before discharge in 1875. During that time, Henley had written much, including twenty-eight poems dealing specifically with life in the hospital and published as a collection entitled *In Hospital*. The poems are early experiments in free verse, dealing with the hospital environment, the other patients and his own fears and feelings. Among Henley's frequent visitors to the hospital was his friend Robert Louis Stevenson, who later revealed that the character Long John Silver, in Stevenson's novel *Treasure Island*, was inspired by Henley and his wooden leg. After discharge Henley returned to life in journalism. In 1878, while working as editor of *The London Magazine*, Henley married Hannah Boyle, and went on to produce a stream of poems, plays, translations, criticism and editing. Henley died tragically young in 1903 after a fall from a railway carriage the year before had caused the return of his latent tuberculosis. **(Steve Osborn)**

Dover Telegraph 25th July 1846 - Robbing Hives - On Friday night, or early the following morning, the honey from stocks of bees was stolen from the hives of a poor man named William Moslin, at Alkham. From a fragment of card found near the spot, it was pretty certain that a man named Edmund Baxter, of Charlton, labourer, was concerned in the robbery. A search warrant was obtained, and on the officers entering the house the wife smashed two or three pans containing about 1 cwt of honey, which covered the floor of the cellar, whilst Baxter, who caught sight of the officers, jumped upon a pony, and rode off as hard as he could go, and has not been seen since.

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Saturday	14	SEKAS 7.00pm
Wednesday	18	Fete meeting 8pm
Thursday	26	Tea and a chat 2pm to 4pm
Saturday	28	Beekeepers in afternoon
Tuesday	31	Film Night please see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Wed 26 th Feb	United Parish Eucharist Capel 7.00 pm		
Sunday 1 st	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
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	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	Worship 11am
Sunday 29 th	United Parish Eucharist at St Mary's (weather permitting) 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32

Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I must admit that I do enjoy visiting cathedrals

– especially ones that I haven't visited before. Visiting Gloucester not long after Christmas, I took the opportunity to have a proper look around the Cathedral. I discovered that it contains the tomb of King Edward II. He became king when his father, Edward I, died while campaigning against the Scots in 1307. His father had been widely respected. Not so Edward, who seems to be remembered mainly for falling out with powerful barons, losing the Battle of Bannockburn to Robert the Bruce, and lavishing gifts on his favourites at court while neglecting his wife, Princess Isabella of France. She took her revenge when she returned from a diplomatic visit to her brother with not only her lover, a nobleman whom Edward had exiled, but also an army. Supported by several nobles who shared her low opinion of her husband, she deposed him in January 1327 and had their son, also Edward, crowned in his place. A sign next to the once-magnificent tomb that Edward III had built for his father in the Cathedral tells visitors that Edward was imprisoned in Berkeley Castle and probably murdered there soon afterwards. It goes on: Edward's poor judgement lost him the confidence of his people and the throne. How can we help others find a way forward in life when everything seems to have gone wrong? An interesting thought. We may not have thrones to lose, but I suspect that most of us can probably think of times when we've made mistakes too, and perhaps wish that we had done things differently. St Paul wrote in I Corinthians 13 that "Love keeps no score of wrongs." God, he reminds us, never gets tired of our new beginnings.

Brian Williams

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IF anybody has self-isolated and needs some assistance please ring 01304 824969 and someone will be found to help you.

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 Saturday 20th June 2020. 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 graham.bissett@talk21.com. All proceeds from the event will be given to a local charity to be decided by John and Ann. **Graham Bissett**

WITH THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY close to completing its first year, we are pleased to announce that we made it in to the top 3 dining pubs and bistro in Kent with the Taste of Kent awards. Thank you to all that voted for us and for your continued support. We are pleased to offer a monthly dining club known as The Contemporary Dining club. Our first event for this will be held on Tuesday the 28th April of which there will be a glass of champagne on arrival and a chef's showcase 4 course menu. We are offering this to the local community and friends and family first, please call 01304 873410 or email info@marquisofgranby.co.uk to enquire further and to make your reservation. Our terrace will also be in full swing with the outside bar being fully functional from May.

CHURCHYARD - A dog accompanying a visitor to Alkham foraged behind the church and was later diagnosed as having eaten poison. Brian Williams, the Benefice vicar, warned people and posted notices about the poisoning and contacted the relevant authorities who recommended that he employ a pest control company to carry out a survey of the churchyard. Their report states that nothing was found to suggest that there were any poisons present in the churchyard at that time, nor any foodstuffs that might have been used to administer poison. The good news is that the dog recovered completely.

THANKS AND AN OFFER - What a great community there is in Alkham. I am so grateful for all the messages, cards and flowers that I have received since Gordon died; as well as the practical support and advice in making his service, and the whole day so stress-free for me. Throughout the 17 years since we bought 'Sunrise' we have felt welcomed in the village - and not just because of Gordon's wine making expertise. If anyone has a use for clean glass demi-johns, airlocks, plastic buckets etc. please get in touch. **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**

LESLIE HOYLE died on the 17th of February, aged 69, after a brave fight against a serious illness. Les lived with his wife for many years in the centre of Alkham and was a self-employed plumber and expert tiler who could often be seen driving a pick-up with his beloved Jack Russell on the front seat. Les was a great fellow and liked by all who knew him, and sympathy goes to his wife Moira, daughter Josie, who was marvellous during his illness, and the rest of the family. The funeral service at Hawkinge on the 5th of March was packed with people which showed the affection in which he was held.

ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK has been updated and reprinted again on 100gsm silk paper and now has 52 pages. It is A4 in size with photos on almost every page and as the Alkham Fund is in good shape, it now costs £2.50. If you'd like a copy, please contact brianwimsett@hotmail.com or 824969.

TEA AND A CHAT and FILM NIGHT have been cancelled until further notice because of the coronavirus problem.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE A.G.M.

The Annual meeting of the Management Committee running your local Village Hall will be held, in the Village Hall, on Tuesday 21st April, starting at 7.00 p.m. Anyone from the village, or from any of the organisations using the Hall is welcome to attend to hear what your Committee has been doing, and to offer suggestions for the future use of the facilities. **Janet Adamson**

OUR PCSO is holding a surgery in the village hall on Saturday 11th April from 10 to 11am.

FILM NIGHT	
March 31	Cancelled
April 28	Cancelled

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PARISH PLAN UPDATE - At the Parish Council meeting on 2nd March the draft Parish Plan was discussed. The councillors had only one week to read it apart from all the other council documents to be studied so a more detailed discussion will be held at the next meeting. There was some immediate feedback concerning the volume of recommendations in the plan and some concern over the timescales for some of the actions. The amount of volunteers required was considered a problem although it was made clear that this was a Community Led Plan and this meant that, whilst the Parish Council would coordinate and lead on the actions, the villagers would need to take an active part and if they didn't this would not reflect on the Council. It was agreed for the Planning Team and the Parish Council (which includes three of the Planning Team) to have a workshop to agree on the way forward. **Den Barnard**

CONSERVATION AREA, ALKHAM - A few residents seem to be unaware that most of the centre of Alkham is in a Conservation Area and has been so since the 1970s. This means that trees in the area are protected from felling without the permission of the Dover District Council. A Planning Application to take the tree/trees down must be made to the DDC. Once the Council has given permission, nothing may be done to the tree trees before the DDC has placed an official notice of intent on the tree/trees. This gives the all-important opportunity for objections or support by the public for action to be taken and is the legal situation in a conservation area. **J Walker sec. Alkham Valley Society**

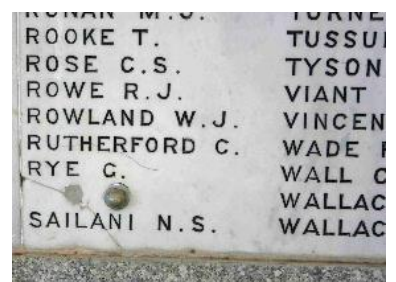
GARDEN TALK - The Programme of visits for this year is nearly arranged. The meeting on Friday 27th March at 8 Newlyn Meadow has been cancelled due to coronavirus. Should anyone not on the mailing list wish to join us, please contact me. **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our March meeting was about the story of Laura Ashley which was enjoyable. Our next meeting is April 14th which will be a games night hosted by Debbie Saunders and Eileen West.

Hostesses are Beryl King and Janet Gibbons, raffle Mari Jones. All new members are welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

QUIZ - On the 2nd May the W.I. are having a quiz night and if you would like a table please phone Debbie Griggs on 07796360473 or Debbie Saunders on 07810890637. Tables are for 6 to 8 people at £3 per person and bring refreshments for a fun evening.

GEORGE RYE was one of our Alkham Heroes who had emigrated to Western Australia at the outbreak of the WW1 and was the son of William and Ann Rye of Chilton Farm. He enlisted on 11th January 1916 as a Private in the 44th Battalion, Australian Infantry. George's unit embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia, on board H.M.A.T. A9 Shropshire on 31st March 1916. At the time of enlisting George was single but by the time of his death (just over a year later) he was married to Lucy Louisa Rye from 3 Burrow Road, Folkestone. George was 'killed in action' on Wednesday, 14th March 1917 aged 26. Whilst on holiday in Perth a few weeks ago Irene and I visited the Australian war memorial in Kings Park Perth and found George's name. There is a one-minute silence daily held at the memorial. We will remember them. **Den Barnard**



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OZ on JIGSAWS – For some years now my 81-year old girlfriend and I have been resisting the lure of the jigsaw puzzle. On principle we would never have bought one, but last year she won a 1000-piece specimen in an AgeUK raffle. We continued our resistance until the middle of March, finally capitulating after the first week of voluntary isolation from the current virus. It has been a heady reminder of childhoods past, with the old disciplines of doing the outside first, then the sky, artificial things next, and foliage last, and all the time looking for the 'sticky-outies' and the 'sticky-inies', all with a fair degree of rivalry. The answers to the questions of when and where the jigsaw phenomenon started are known exactly. John Spilsbury, a London engraver and cartographer, produced the first jigsaw in 1762, when he mounted maps on hardwood sheets. He then cut around the boundaries of countries, using a marquetry saw, forming a 'dissected map' that was used for teaching geography. From about 1880 the puzzles were called 'jigsaws', mistakenly, because they were actually cut by a fretsaw, not a jigsaw, which is a tool for cutting larger awkward things. From 1890 onwards the modern paperboard puzzles began to take over and reached a peak during the Great Depression because of their cheapness and the fact that they could be used over and over again. In early 1933 Parker Brothers were selling 10 million puzzles per week. Post-war the jigsaw puzzles continued to hold their own as popular interests, in spite of the twin attacks from television and rock'n'roll. Now puzzles are increasingly presented on-line, including such refinements as multi-dimensional puzzles. For us, until isolation is over, we'll just content ourselves with the 3000-piece puzzle from the 1970s that my son lent me last week. **(Steve Osborn)**

GREAT STORMS – In 1362 it is recorded that many steeples and towers were blown down and in 1658 the whole of Europe was visited by a great storm. But it is the storms of 1703 and 1780 that were so well attested by contemporaries. Daniel Defoe experienced the storm of 7/8 December 1703 and was inspired to invite reports from all parts of the country by inserting a notice in The Gazette. He received many replies and, summarised, they comprise 'The Storm' published in 1704 and subtitled "Remarkable Casualties and Disasters Which Happened in the Late Dreadful Tempest, both by Sea and Land." His testimony has the merit of scientific support by two reverend gentlemen, both amateur meteorologists, who carefully recorded their barometer readings (as low as 28.5) at Townley (Lancs.) and Upminster during the night of the storm. Curiously, little rain fell during the storm and the noise of the gale drowned the thunder. Sir Walter Besant, commented in 1902, that 'The Great Storm of 26/27 November has happily had no successor and had no predecessor.' From Defoe's 'Storm': "... (in London) the streets were covered with the slates and tiles from the roofs; practically all the roofs were stripped of their tiles. So great was the demand that the price of tiles went up from 21s to 120s per thousand while bricklayers' labour rose to 5s per day. All the winter long a great number of houses remained uncovered and exposed to the wet and cold while a great many buildings were covered with deal boards and so continued for many years ... two thousand stacks of chimnies were ... destroyed ... the lead on the roofs of churches was simply rolled up like skins of parchment. Westminster Abbey thus lost its leaden roof. **Jackie Grebby** (Slip Lane, Alkham)

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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	11	PCSO surgery 10am to 11am
Saturday	11	SEKAS 7.00pm
Tuesday	21	Village Hall AGM 7pm
Saturday	25	W.I. jumble sale 10.30 to mid-day

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Service 11am
Thursday 9th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 7.00 pm		
Friday 10th	Good Friday Benefice Service Alkham 10.00 am		
Saturday 11th	Messy Church. St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 7.00 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 19th	Worship 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 p.m.	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 26th	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11, 10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

Sat: 9.11, 10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32

Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32, 18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - First there were floods. Then a plague which, if not Biblical, looks like it will make it into the history books. And when it comes to soap and toilet rolls, a famine, too. Perhaps it takes Coronavirus to bring home to us how comfortable life has been for most of us in the recent past – we haven't had to cope with things like cholera, as people living in Victorian London did and others around the world still do, or the plague, which is mercifully a thing of the past. When we do, people start behaving strangely - we end up with doctors appealing for those visiting hospitals to leave the sanitizer intended for the use of medical staff alone! Wading through the emails that have arrived in my inbox over the past week about the precautions that churches must now take made me wonder: if I was asked to preach a sermon about Coronavirus, where would I start? I thought that I might start with John the Baptist, the one who the gospels say appeared in the desert to prepare the way for Jesus. Crowds went out to the River Jordan to hear him speak. What was coming, he warned them, was a crisis that would demand something of them. When the crowds ask what they should do, he replies: Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise. A crisis is best met with generosity: John would have urged us to share, not hoard. Easter is approaching. For many, it's about chocolate and bunnies – but for Christians the story represents the triumph of love and life over death and despair, and offers hope when life seems uncertain. Stay safe, and God bless you this Easter.
Brian Williams

POLICE 999 or 101

Newsletter

brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Hall booking Tracey Prince 828098

W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

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AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784

MP Natalie Elphicke - 01304 379669

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

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 316 May 2020

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FETE - I'm sure it will come as no surprise that we have decided to cancel the Fete this year; the uncertainty and issues regarding Covid-19 have made the decision for us! We will, however, be having a Fete next year so please mark it in your diaries for the 10th July 2021 as I don't want anyone to be arranging weddings, birthday parties or cruises for that weekend! We are hoping to be able to arrange some sort of mini-Fete in late August/September, assuming that the all-clear has been given and life has started to return to a "new normal" by then, so keep an eye out for something in future newsletters. I suspect we'll all need a little something to lift our communal spirits by then! In the meantime, from everyone on the Fete Committee, please keep safe! **Paul Tapsell**

BARN DANCE – Because of the current restrictions the barn dance scheduled for the 20th June has been cancelled and postponed indefinitely until matters become clear.

ISOLATION – In last month's newsletter there was an article saying that if anybody has self-isolated and needs some assistance to ring 01304 824969 and someone will be found to help you; this still applies. Please to report that no one has asked for assistance but 6 people from the village, Chilton and Ewell Minnis, have volunteered to help if anyone does.

KCC - If you are vulnerable and have an urgent need for supplies and medication you can contact the Kent Together helpline at www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether or by call 03000 41 92 92 (24-hour service).

THERE are pharmacies that deliver prescriptions and one of those is in River but there are others. It would be necessary to have the chosen pharmacy on your prescription which can be done by contacting your surgery.

A LOCAL resident contacted to say that she drove through the village on the 30th March at 5.45pm to get essential shopping and saw a large group of people picnicking on the village green. Enraged by their disregard of the virus rules she beeped the horn and shook her head and later phoned the police who did not answer. Hopefully they got the message.

FISH - Folkestone Trawlers have recently delivered fish to a person in Alkham. To find out if they still do, and if there is a minimum order, their phone number is 01303 254608 ... also Alkham Valley Garden Centre may be able to do local deliveries; please see www.alkhamvalley.com for more details.



A WORK OF ART

Ben Spicer has made a seat which he has placed in St. Anthony's churchyard close to his mother's grave. It really is superb and a fitting tribute to Alison who

died in June 2019. Ben has carried out other works in the village to the same high standard such as the path behind the hall and steps to the cottages and if you'd like to contact him regarding the seat or anything else please phone 07554 737149.

THE TANKERS on the village car park have been continually sucking out the ground water that has risen because of the Nailbourne running which blocked the sewer system coming down Hogbrook Lane from the main road.

PROWLER – Evidently there is a prowler going around the properties at Ewell Minnis and this has been reported to the police who have taken items away for fingerprinting.

TREES – In last month's newsletter it said you had to have planning permission to remove trees in a conservation area. This was incorrect but you must notify the council, and then wait six weeks and if the council has not responded in that time you are free to proceed.

NEWLETTER – It does look unlikely that there will be a newsletter for next month as most events in the parish have been cancelled because of the Covid-19 virus.

FILM NIGHT

Film Night is cancelled until further notice

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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - Our weekly nets sessions and plans for a busy season of evening games and a big bash for the Hackers match in June have, obviously, been put on hold for the moment. However, with so many people now doing an hour of outdoor exercise every day we are confident that when the lockdown is lifted we will be inundated with lots of eager players keen to maintain their heightened levels of fitness and activity, and/or to join us for a well-earned pint after a game! Obviously places for players will be limited and there will have to be a robust selection process, so if you'd like to pay your subs and confirm your membership to improve your chances of being picked to play, please give me a call and I'll give you the Club's bank details! Finally, more so than ever before, please remember the Club's motto and "Just Stay In!". **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**



GARDEN TALK - We are looking forward to being able to visit local gardens later in the year but have cancelled until the end of June. Meanwhile, we are taking this opportunity to cultivate, weed and plant - encouraged by the local deliveries being organised from the Alkham Garden Centre and you can enter your details on their website www.alkhamvalley.com. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM W.I. - The ladies of Alkham W.I. would like to wish a speedy recovery for all the people that have the coronavirus in the parish and a big thank you to the NHS for all their hard work during this difficult time. We wish you all a happy Easter and stay safe.
Debbie Griggs

VE DAY 75 ANNIVERSARY 8th MAY - As the VE Day community celebrations have been cancelled or postponed because of the virus the Pageant Master says that the following provides a suitable tribute:
Friday 8th May – VE Day at 2.55pm live on TV and Radio, a pre-recorded lone Piper plays "Battle's O'er"; **3pm** - speech by Churchill live on TV, Radio and through social media, the recording of the famous speech made by Prime Minister Churchill, announcing the end of the war in Europe. Following the speech and led by the Prime Minister the hundreds of millions of individuals and families throughout the UK would be encouraged to raise their glass/cup of refreshment of their choice and undertake the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW II'.

ENERGY DEAL – Collective Energy Switch Scheme Dover District Council has worked in partnership with iChoosr since 2013 and achieved a total saving of £262,326.66 for residents in our district by using the combined buying power to access highly competitive tariffs. To join the hundreds of other residents that have cut their energy bills through this scheme register for the May 2020 auction. It is free and you are under no obligation to switch. Register online at www.dover.gov.uk Cut your energy bills, or www.energydealswitch.com; call 0800 048 8439 (May 2020 auction only) or 01304 872428. Energy companies then try and under-bid one another to provide you with the cheapest tariff auction and after the auction you will be contacted by email/ letter with your personal energy offer. If you are happy to accept and switch you will be supported through the process by iChoosr. There are two further auctions in October and February if your tariff end date isn't soon.

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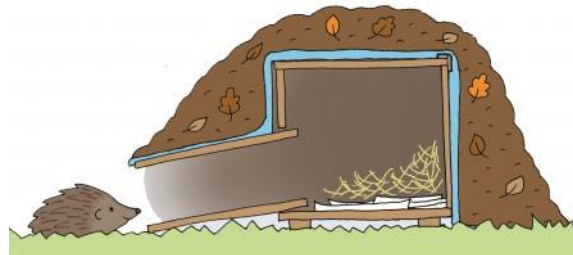
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OZ on CAMUS – One way that people are coping with the current lockdown is in seeking reassurance in literature from the past. Among the most impressive stories is that written by Albert Camus, in his 1947 novel *The Plague (La Peste)*. The book describes the impact of bubonic plague on an Algerian town in the early 1940s but is based on an 1849 cholera epidemic in Oran, Algeria. Camus was born in 1913 in Mondovi, Algeria, to Catherine Camus; he never saw his father, Lucien, as he was killed at the Battle of the Marne in 1914. I need here to correct the popular myth that “Albert Camus was goalkeeper for the Algerian football team.” Football was always important to him, but the truth is that, while at secondary school, he was goalkeeper for a local club, the Racing Universitaire d’Alger junior team, from 1928 to 1930, when his footballing career was ended by a tuberculosis diagnosis. In 1936, Camus gained his Licence de Philosophie at the University of Algiers and started work as journalist, philosopher and writer. When the anti-fascist newspaper, *Alger Republicain*, was banned in 1940 Camus moved to Paris briefly to edit *Paris-Soir*. After the fall of France, Camus joined the French Resistance and edited their newspaper *Combat* under the nom-de-guerre Beauchard. From then on, he was on the move; to Lyons, where he married Francine Faure; to Algeria teaching; and to the French Alps, all the time working for the Resistance. After the war Camus and Francine returned to Paris where they produced twins in 1945. Camus then embarked on a hugely successful writing and political career that was rewarded in 1957 with the Nobel Prize in Literature. Only three years later Camus tragically died, one of two victims in a car crash in Villeblevin, north-central France. **Steve Osborn**

KENT WILDLIFE TRUST says there are fewer than 1 million hedgehogs left in Britain and suggest making a home for them in your garden. The graphic shows such a home which is about 300mm



by 400mm in size with a 300mm long 130mm wide by 170mm high entrance tunnel. A hosepipe can be connected into the back of the box to add

some extra ventilation. Pick a shady, quiet spot for the hedgehog house, lift the lid off the house and put newspaper, leaves and dry grass in and then cover with polythene sheeting (making sure it's still accessible for cleaning later on), and pack soil and dead leaves around the outside, leaving the entrance and air pipe free of debris. Clear out the hedgehog house once a year (late March – early April) to prevent the build-up of pests but do not clean it out if a hedgehog is in residence. Making log pile or compost heap are also good options for providing space for hedgehogs to nest and have the added bonus of attracting lots of insects for them to eat.

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Tuesday

Wednesday

Friday

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Last Friday

Other Events in the village hall

Saturday

Saturday

Tuesday

Saturday

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CHURCH SERVICES

DATE

ALKHAM

CAPEL

HOUGHAM

There are no church services but the vicar, Brian Williams, has put something on-line at
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BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11, 10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

Sat: 9.11, 10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32

Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32, 18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I remember her well; there I would be, standing in front of the class waiting to start the lesson while she chatted and laughed with her mates, my blood pressure probably soaring. Time passed. She and her mates left school, and I didn't see her again. Not until, that is, a few years later when I lay in a hospital bed having undergone surgery for bowel cancer. She had swapped her school uniform for that of a student nurse; I remember waking briefly around 2 in the morning and recognising her. She was standing next to me, checking my vital signs. Almost ten years on I still remember her, Jess, Amy, Gary, Emily, the two Elaine's and all the others who cared for me – especially Rebecca, the junior doctor who, when things were going wrong, kept me from going to my Eternal Home. The NHS was as wonderful then as it is now – perhaps it's taken the coronavirus crisis to make us realise that we've tended to take those who work in it, along with so many others whose work makes everyday life possible, for granted. For me, the past decade has been a bonus – I've learned how easily things in this life – and life itself – are taken for granted. In this country, decent sanitation and modern medical science have protected us from what the Prayer Book calls the 'pestilence' that our ancestors so dreaded – until now. No doubt treatments and vaccines will be developed that will defeat this particular pestilence. But I wonder – when it does, will we go back to our old ways of taking things for granted and complaining when things go wrong? Or will we have learned the value of 'Thank You?' Stay safe, and God bless you this Eastertide. **Brian Williams**

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No. 317 June 2020

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IN LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER I said that it was unlikely that there would be a June edition because of the virus. However, several people contacted me and said that they would provide some items which are included in this edition. Next month will probably be the same so please email articles to brianwimsett@hotmail.com or phone 01304 824969.



V.E. DAY – Bunting was put around the end of the village green by the valley road and opposite along the front of Halton Court to remember V.E. Day in Alkham on May 8th.

COVID 19 - What an experience! I think I can echo everyone's voice when I say this situation can't be over quick enough. Perhaps though it has brought the best out of us. We have always had wonderful camaraderie in Alkham and feel that these past weeks have showed deeper compassion and care for others. No one has been rushing anywhere with no time to chat, the roads and lanes have been remarkably quiet and life seems to have taken a slower pace. We have been truly blessed with so much fabulous weather, so gardens are looking amazing with landscaping, newly dug ponds and refurbished garden furniture. Being in lockdown, and using our daily exercise time, we have been able to explore areas of Alkham, and discovered more walks, woods and bridle ways than we knew about. I think the Thursday night clap is a wonderful national event and thank goodness for Zoom, Skype and Facetime. It's been deeply upsetting hearing daily number of deaths, being reminded of those struggling financially, and all of us who have been deprived of visiting family and friends. I cannot comprehend how families without gardens have managed, and very relieved that outside areas are now open again. As we move forward, I can only hope that we will finally come through better people. I hope the kindness, caring and compassion remains. For sure, this pandemic has humbled me, opened my eyes even wider and allowed me to stand still and breathe. **Irene Barnard**

RIDE ON MOWER - Larry cuts a lot of grass around the centre of the village and his old ride on mower has been scrapped and he would like to get another. If you have one for sale or know of one, please ring him on 01304 822365

A POEM written by Jo Cooke who is a consultant at William Harvey Hospital and sent by Ruth Marczin-Bundy.

Corona used to be a beer,
They garnished it with limes,
But now it's filled the world with fear,
These days are scary times.

Cease from travel, cease from flying,
Shops stripped bare by panic buying,
No shaking hands, no social hugs
They've even closed the clubs and pubs.

Keep your distance, stay away,
Now's not the time for simple play,
Stay indoors, self-isolate,
More stringent measures, well they await.

But never fear, for we are here,
Your frontline team, a healthcare dream,
With PPE, gown, gloves, face shields,
Onwards we venture, to the battlefield.

Come on you virus, bring it on,
Do your worst, we'll take you on,
For we have spirit, compassion and love,
We shall destroy you and rise above.

Months, years from now, you'll be no more,
A mere memory of what passed through our shore,
Carry on we will, the human race,
Supporting each other, our saving grace.

And another from Gail Swainston, The Minnis

I am sparrowhawk
Sometimes I hit the hedge
And yet I miss
So open up your heart
To my last kiss
The flying arrow that
Betokens bliss
Will take you to another
Part of this.



And some further comments from the Minnis regarding lockdown.

I'm living the dream.

I love it. I'm starting to appreciate the little things in life.

Is it too late to prune a hydrangea?

It's all right. At least we're painting our gates.

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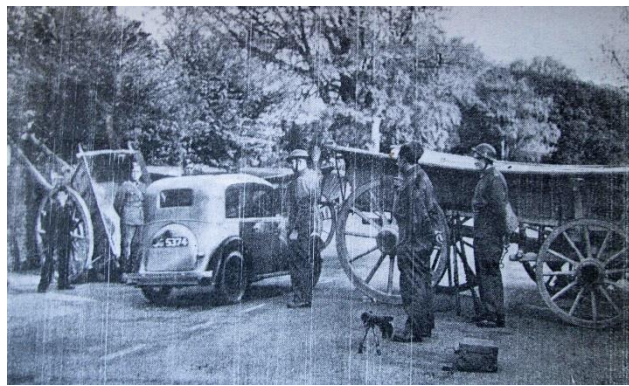


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CHECKPOINT on the Alkham Valley Road at Kearsney at the outbreak of WWII from Sue Lee's records. Identity cards are inspected, and a machine gun is ready just in case.

ALKHAM HEROES - I have finally been able to update the village website page (alkham.org) on the men whose names are inscribed on the war memorial. Although I am intending to step back from this project, I am sure more information will come to light to add to the individual stories and Brian has kindly agreed to update as required in the future. I have come to feel a connection to these men and have been pleased to be able to add a bit more colour to their story than a simple inscription on a monument can do. "We will remember them". **Mark Robson**

BUSES - A resident says she has been told that the village bus service (No 91) is still running, but every 2 hours at present - i.e. 9.30, 11.30, 13.30 etc. from The Marquis to Folkestone.

BRIAN CROUCHER writes that on **New Year's Eve 2009** they had been in Alkham since that October and were thinking what a lovely quiet little village Alkham was, tucked away between Dover and Folkestone with no HGV 's travelling along the valley road. They had not met anyone but had several welcoming cards although no one really knew they were there, not even the Inland Revenue let alone the Old Bill. Their kids went out partying and they were about to switch on Jools and Hootenanny but decided to pop down to the Marquis for a quick one before midnight instead. There was nobody they knew, and no hellos so after a swift one they walked home via St Anthony's church and passing the open door voices were heard shouting 'Hop it', 'On your way' and 'Begone'. With that they moved on a bit sharpish and later learnt the bell ringers were shouting the old year out followed by the bells ushering in the New Year. Arriving back at midnight and having a Hogmanay night cap there was a sudden rat tat tat at the front door and standing there were Bruce and Sue from the manor, Dr Ian and his wife Lucy and Ben and Jaques their neighbours down from London for the holidays. They were practicing the old Scot's custom of 'first footing' and carrying three items, one representing sustenance as a piece of bread, a piece of coal for warmth and three a penny for wealth plus Bruce had a few bottles of booze. Jaques 'first footed' as a tall dark stranger across the threshold and they partied on till all the booze was consumed. They now consider that they are truly part of the village and Sue and Bruce remain close friends to this day.

ELDERFLOWER CORDIAL - When elderflowers are fully open, and in full sunshine, pick 24 flowerheads. Put 3lbs sugar in a large bowl or bucket (not metal) and pour on 3 pints boiling water to dissolve and then add a 50g tub of citric acid (from Wilco or pharmacy), stir and cool. Grate the rind of 3 lemons, slice lemons, shake flowerheads to remove insects and add pushing down well. Cover and leave for 24 hours, stirring occasionally then strain through nylon sieve. It freezes well and keeps in fridge for about 7 days; dilute to taste. **Janet Adamson**

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OZ on FURLOUGH – No, the title isn't a description of my current status, just the meanings and derivation of the word 'furlough'. At the end of March this year the UK government introduced the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, part of which subsidized many employers to pay workers during lockdown; the ancient word 'furlough' was resurrected to describe this action. The word derives from the German military 'verlaub', meaning 'for leave' in the Middle Ages, and later from the Dutch as 'verlof'. After the English language imported the word, the number of spelling variants and meanings grew. For example, in 1631, Ben Jonson, in his play *The Staple of News*, declares: "The deed...is a thing of greater consequence, than to be borne about in a black boxe, Like a Low-countray vorlofffe, or Welsh-briefe." The first modern spelling of the word is recorded in the *Oxford English Dictionary* as that of Nathaniel Greene in a 1738 letter to George Washington: "The Northern Army does not choose to be furloughed." Britain caught up with America on both spelling and meaning in 1804 when the Duke of Wellington ordered that "Officers not on furlough...are to join their corps without delay." Nowadays, in both the UK and the US, the word is used as a euphemistic term for enforced leave, sometimes without pay, as with business failure or misdemeanour, or with pay, as with the pandemic legislation. In the UK, compulsory paid leave before termination of employment is often referred to as 'gardening leave', an informal euphemism traditionally used in the Civil Service, and popularized in 1986 in the BBC sitcom *Yes, Prime Minister*. Recently the current coronavirus furlough was extended from July 31st to October 31st. Like the virus, the word 'furlough' will be with us for quite a while yet. **(Steve Osborn)**

WI MEMORIES - I joined the Alkham WI in February 2003 when my friend Mandy Summers invited me along to one of the meetings which took place on the second Tuesday of every month. Everyone made you feel so welcome and I remember our president then was Rosemary Crothall, secretary Betty Neely and treasurer Christine Tapsell with Grace Stacey and 6 other members on the committee. Doreen Wilks used to have a table selling fresh produce grown from her garden and Barbara Palmer used to make all the jams and marmalade plus she would always make me a plum jam for my mum. Mandy and Debbie Saunders went with their mums to Bruges to see the Christmas market but couldn't find it so ended up seeing the ice sculptures instead followed by a vodka in ice cups. I'll never forget the evening when Pam Sayers came to the meeting and said that someone kept whistling at her, but it turned out to be her hearing aid. I remember the village fete when all the WI ladies would make the cakes along with other villager which always sold out. Whatever the job was the WI ladies have always done us proud. Stay safe everyone. **Debbie Griggs**

THE NEW KENT & MEDWAY Medical School is asking residents to complete a survey to help them make sure they train their students to be the doctors we want to treat us in the future. They wish to become a first-class medical education and research centre in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Kent and will welcome its first 100 students this year. For the survey please go to <https://t.co/nz6AKAMKYk>.

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Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

OUR CHURCHYARD - I'm sure that everyone will have admired the photograph of Ben Spicer's bench made in memory of his mother in the last edition of the Newsletter – but did you know that rather in the same way that you need planning permission to extend your home, there are some things in churchyards that need special permission? These can include not just benches, but even things like some flower containers. The good news is that with Ben's help we have now been able to prepare and submit the paperwork that will hopefully lead to his bench being made official, and we're hoping for a decision before too long. In the meantime, if anyone is thinking of putting something on a plot or introducing anything else into the churchyard I'm happy to help – just have a word with me for free before you spend any money. **Brian Williams**

FROM THE VICARAGE - The past few weeks have been full of surprises. In the first few weeks of the year, before the lockdown, church services were going on much as they always had, Sunday by Sunday. Across three village churches our regulars, visitors and others were turning up – usually somewhere between twenty-five and thirty-five people on average - and it was always a joy to see them. Then came coronavirus. The point in the service where we exchanged The Peace – greeting each other warmly with a handshake – was the first casualty, and for a few short weeks we made do with smiling and waving at each other instead. Hand sanitizer appeared alongside the collection plate. Then came the lockdown, services were called off, and us priests were told to stay out of our churches. The thing about the Church of England is that we are always there - not just for those who want us but also for those who don't at the moment but might do one day. So, how to keep things going? My tiny office became a studio, and I gave myself a crash course in filming, editing, and posting video services online – something I had never done before. So, at the moment, I'm writing scripts instead of sermons (you can see what I've managed to produce on our Facebook page – BeneficeofACH). One surprise has been the emails from those who, having lost loved ones, have asked me to pray and light candles at the time of the funeral they couldn't attend – people I wouldn't have heard from otherwise. The other surprise is that if the number of online views is anything to go by, the numbers of those coming to church by video have almost quadrupled our congregation...The new normal? We'll see... **Brian Williams**

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THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY is pleased to inform the community that we will be opening our doors from the 4th July subject to Government announcements and rulings. It has been a challenging few months for all of us however we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel and look forward to hosting you all again soon. With this in mind, amendments have to be made in order for us to keep our customers and staff safe! Will and I have been busy creating comfortable dining space in line with current government information both with the terrace and the main indoor dining areas. Hygiene is at the forefront of our minds so signs, anti-spacing measures and hand sanitiser units will be in use as well as strict cleaning regimes for the staff to abide by and keep you all safe. We envisage that relaxing measures will take place outside before inside dining is permitted. Our terrace has ample heating and cover, with three areas being completely sheltered from the elements and will be bookable via the website, email or telephone as done previously. We will also be offering recipe boxes and takeaway dishes so you can enjoy our hospitality from your own home! We would also like to put to the community of Alkham if a delivery service would help those who would still like to enjoy our lovely dishes from the comfort of their home without having to leave the house? If we could gauge some feedback from you, please could I ask you to email manager@marquisofgranby.co.uk - In the meantime, I hope you are all doing well and have been able to keep yourselves safe through these unprecedented times! With some positive news, the latest addition to the Marquis family will be joining us in mid-July with Nadine and Will expecting their first child! **Hugh Thompson Manager**

THE ALKHAM GARDEN CENTRE – A parishioner has said that the Garden Centre is now be doing take away food & drinks, sandwiches, scones, cakes etc. They hope to open an outside seating area, with waitress service from 15th June.

PORT LYMPNE RESERVE is open from 15th June, but all non-concession tickets must be purchased online in advance and park members and season ticket holders must also pre-book such that visitor numbers can be responsibly managed.

TOGETHER 4 DOVER COVID 19 SUPPORT can do shopping, and prescription deliveries for isolated residents who do not have the support of family or friends from Monday to Saturday between 9am and 5pm. Please ring 01304 892519 or email help@together4dover.org.uk. For referrals to our Food Support, Laundry Help and Counselling Support call DDC Community Hub on 01304 821199.

VILLAGE HALL – During the lock down the inside of the hall is getting a new coat of paint and the floor has been polished thanks to Shirley Prince. We are also awaiting a quote to fill the sunken area in front of the hall which floods with water. The erosion is caused by traffic running over the car park and the superficial covering will be protected by three half barrel planters which can be replaced if damaged.



ON OUR REGULAR WALKS we have noticed an increasing number of water bowls put out for thirsty canines, especially along Slip Lane. These are most welcome, and on behalf of my own walking buddy, we extend our appreciative thanks. We have, of course, reciprocated and there is a water bowl outside our gates too. From a grateful dog walker. (Name and address supplied)

NEWSLETTER – If you would like to write an article for the newsletter please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

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EVERY HEDGE COUNTS and other things we can all do to help slow flooding. Kent County Council will help fund hedge/ tree planting and restoration in the Alkham Valley to 'Slow the Flow' of water running down hillsides. Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership have been working with KCC to implement Natural Flood Management in areas of Kent experiencing episodes of flash flooding. Natural Flood Management is about putting back the natural processes into the countryside, which we have lost. Intense rainfall events with excessive volumes is in part due to hotter summers increasing evaporation. Loss of trees, hedges, ponds, wetlands and floodplains, straightened rivers and streams, soils depleted of organic matter, bare soils and compacted soils means this larger volume of water moves faster through the landscape. The drains and enclosed streams and rivers cannot cope. We have paved over gardens, filled in ponds, removed hedges and trees and built on our soils. Putting back the natural processes 'Slows The Flow' of water, provides habitat for our declining wildlife and can make farming more resilient to future climate issues. We want to put in hedges, trees and ponds, re-create wetlands and restore rivers and streams wherever it is possible. We have funding to work in areas particularly struggling with flooding. In Alkham we have added some hedging into the landscape. We would like to do more of this. Adding permeable surfaces to driveways and paved areas allows water to infiltrate into the ground. Putting in rain gardens, green roofs, hedges, ponds and water collection butts will all slow the flow of water. Farmers and landowners are working to improve the health of soils which means better infiltration of water as well as other measures. They are adding cover crops, increasing soil organic matter, trying to reduce soil compaction, planting hedges and trees and putting in ponds; see www.nffn.org.uk, Nature Friendly Farming Network. We can give advice on how to hold water on your property to benefit the wildlife and reduce flooding. Every hedge counts. For further information contact Partnership Officer, Annie Thurgarland at Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership annie.thurgarland@kent.gov.uk or phone 03000 410900.



THINGS have changed a bit since the 1930's when this photo of St. Anthony's church choir was taken in the school playground with the (Old) Post Office behind. At the back right are Charlie and Gordon Preston and Gordon worked at Hogbrook Farm having to milk their cows in Newlyn's Meadow before school. He then delivered milk in a pail round the village which was dispensed with a measure and because there was always spillage he had, by law, to give an extra splash. Charlie went on to be a shepherd and both were great characters.

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ROB LEES was a great character who lived in Alkham and he wrote the article below in 2010 which is whimsical and amusing.

GIVING UP GOLF - The first tee at Sene Valley Golf Club and I've sliced badly again. I gaze out across Hythe to Dungeness, the sun glinting off St. Mary's Bay, and I wonder. Just manage to beat 90 for the round, but other



than finding a few blackberries I'm not happy. The week before, taking advantage of spring low tides, I was driven to Sene Valley and out to Greatstone. A nice bay of cockles on the incoming tide, a few pints at the New Romney Tavern, then, on the way home, found some mushrooms in Donkey Street. The following day on the first tee at Kingsdown and this time I hook. Sunlit sea below me, Deal to the left, ferries off Dover to the right, and I wonder again. Beat 90 (just) but no blackberries and not happy. The week before I was driven to Kingsdown but dropped with prawn net at the base of the cliffs below the Golf Club. A few happy hours in the sea and rock pools, and I wander along the beach with a nice bag of prawns to The Rising Sun pub, where I happily drink beer, waiting for my lift; drinking and playing dominoes with guests from Heathrow in The Marquis that night. Even on shift work, able to play weekdays all over the South East, all our handicaps are still ridiculous. So we drink more beer and try to win some money. Not easy at only 2p a point. That night I have a dream. A dream from youth, where I seem to spend every summer day on the beach and every other moment in the Temperance Billiard Hall drinking Bovril. It's an omen. So I pack up golf (I hated it in the winter anyway), join a snooker club, and add winkles to the free seafood from Abbots Cliff or Ramsgate Bay!

OZ on SUMMERTIME – I wrote this poem in July 2018 to celebrate that summer's extraordinary heatwave. It recycles some ideas from my August 2000 story on the PROMS and looks forward to a more normal summer in 2021.

At the solstice, summertime starts
and the days shorten to autumn.
Strange that the temperature rises
as the time to enjoy it decreases.

It's a season of sun, sea and sand,
a time for beer, wine and ice cream,
pasties, fish and chips alfresco,
and a seat at the Albert Hall Proms.

I'll know that autumn is here when
committee agendas fall like
leaves through the letterbox and the
Last Night of the Proms is over.

Steve Osborn

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CHURCH SERVICES

There are no church services but the vicar, Brian Williams, has put something on-line at
<https://www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH/>

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32

Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - As I write, the statue of a former Tory MP, philanthropist and slave trader has just been fished out of Bristol Docks, and the fate of other statues is under review. Recent events have led to soul searching not just in the USA but also here in the UK, and we have to reckon with the fact that not everything that Britannia got up to when she ruled the waves was universally appreciated by the rest of the world. But where does it end? For example, Charles Dickens is remembered as a fine novelist and tireless campaigner for social justice – but a rotten husband. Does he deserve a statue? Does anyone? *All have sinned, and fallen short of the glory of God*, wrote St Paul to the church in Rome. Nobody's perfect. Tucked away in the New Testament is a personal note from Paul to his friend Philemon. It concerns Onesimus, thought to be Philemon's runaway slave. While with Paul, Onesimus had come to faith, and Paul had grown fond of him: *I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, he wrote, whose father I have become*. Paul was sending Onesimus back to Philemon, offering to make good any loss that he had suffered, and urging him to receive Onesimus *no longer as a slave but... as a beloved brother*. No doubt the debate about which statues should stay and which should go will go on. I'm not sure that Paul would have been very interested. Rather, he might have encouraged us to stop and think about how we look upon others – and challenged us to change the world for the better by receiving them as if they were our sons or daughters, or beloved brothers or sisters. What a world *that* would be... **Brian Williams**

AS FAR AS the reopening of churches is concerned, it's nothing like a return to business as usual. We have a lengthy risk assessment to carry out, and I gather that the practicalities are such that some churches are deciding to remain closed for the moment. We are looking at what might be feasible before deciding what to do. I will let you know once we know what we are doing. **Brian Williams**

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A CAT has been visiting a house in Newlyn's Meadow on a regular basis and is being fed by the owner, as can be seen in the photograph. It is thought that the cat may be a stray so if anyone recognizes it please ring 824969 or email brian.wimsett@hotmail.com.

VILLAGE HALL – Tai Chi classes are to resume in the village hall on Wednesday nights subject to the following of government guidelines. In addition, hirers must sign a form to confirm that they will follow the rules as set down in the Conditions of Use which the hall has just introduced because of the Covid 19 virus. These include the requirements that the hirer must sanitise all affected surfaces in the hall at the end of the session with the cleaning products provided and that the use of the kitchen is not allowed. Other groups of up to 6 people are permitted to book the hall subject to social distancing, following government guidelines and agreeing to the Conditions of Use. The hall has carried out a safety audit, put up the necessary signs and anti-bacterial wipes are provided at the entrance for hand use and cleaning purposes. The hall is run by a small group of unpaid volunteers and does not have the resources of private gyms but wants to help the local community as much as it can to get back to some semblance of normality.

TRACEY PRINCE, local private tutor and qualified teacher, is pleased to announce that her yearly Kent Test summer workshops will proceed this year as normal from the 23rd July. Every Monday and Thursday morning through the summer. Year 4s and 5s welcome. Please ring 07814354122.

CAN I JUST say a big thank you to Southern Equestrian Supplies for staying open during the Covid 19 lockdown. They also stock horse feed and dog food the one that is kept in stock is Chudleys working dog crunch and Chudleys classic. If anyone has chickens they also sell layers pellets, mixed corn and layers crumble. I would also like to wish all businesses in Alkham all the very best and urge all people in Alkham to support their local businesses during these hard times. **Debbie Griggs**

BECAUSE of these strange times I was not able to get round to saying goodbye to everyone. So here goes, to all the keep-fit ladies, the book club ladies and to all the good friends I have made over the years, thank you for your friendship, how lucky we are to live in Alkham! Best wishes **Shelley Jackson**.

FROM THE VICARAGE - I am very sorry to have learned that some people were offended by my article in the July Newsletter. It was certainly not my intention to offend anyone, and I apologise unreservedly for any distress that my writing may have caused.

Brian Williams

THE MARQUIS reports that their terrace has been a godsend and the local support has been brilliant! They are going to put their recipe boxes and takeaway offering on hold for a few more weeks whilst they get to grips with the changes that have been made due to Covid 19 virus.

GARDEN TALK - Despite everyone being very busy in their garden, and some looking lovely at present, unfortunately we have not been able to meet this year so far - and will not be able to do so before September, at the earliest. However, home visits are already being rescheduled for next year, which gives us something to look forward to. **Janet Adamson**

CHURCH ROOF – St. Anthony's church needs about 6000 tiles replacing at a cost of £15,000. It is a Grade 1 listed building and needs to be preserved for future generations for religious or secular purposes. To try and raise the money 'buy a tile' was started at £5 per tile. To date 18 people have donated £615 and if anyone else would like to buy a tile please phone Susannah on 01304 822295, Den on 01304 824845 or Brian on 01304 824969.

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PIMLICO WAY – The byway which runs from South Alkham and across the top to Slip Lane is called Pimlico Way and at the point where the latter diverges to the right and a byway continues to Everden there is a brick foundation. Sue Lees records it as

a pond where the water coming down the hill runs into it and Brenda Trundell, who lives in South Alkham, remembers it as a pond when she was a girl. However, KCC Heritage maps have marked it with a red dot which means an archaeological site and building. It goes on to say it is brick-built, roofless structure rectangular (approx. 2m x 2.5m) protruding about 50cm above the ground. Removal of surface scrub has revealed a concrete ramp with surface ridges leading into the structure. The ramp and location suggest the possibility that this is a Second World War gun emplacement, although the wall is thin compared to other examples. If anyone has any further information, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

DATA BOX – In the year 2000 a Data Box was produced for Alkham to include details of Alkham and recollections; these are two of them:
Wally Sharp's grandparents and father (bn 1898) lived on Great Everden Farm and when his granny wanted to go to Dover she had the long walk across fields and down the hill to Alkham where she rode in a Landau which carried 4 passengers, run by "Two-fisted Miller". Wally thought the price of the journey was 4 pence (about £1.30 today) and Two-fisted Miller also brought the Landau out on a Sunday to run pleasure trips. Wally's father attended school at Hawkinge where both boys and girls were taught to sew in those days. Later his father was to become a farm labourer and told this tale of ploughing time. He worked with the more senior ploughman, Mike Childs, who sent him downhill to The Carpenters Arms at South Alkham to buy a stone jar of beer for himself and wine for Mike. These were tied to the plough and they would take a swig each time they ended a furrow.

Gordon Preston – When Hawkinge aerodrome was being built before WWII, Gordon was 16 ½ year's old and he and, two brothers named Dougie and Harold Richards, went there looking for work. The foreman said "follow me" and gave them the work of fixing girders together for the hangers some 70ft in the air and they got over their fear of height in a few days. At that time a labourer was earning 9 ½d per hour and a skilled man 10 ½ d so when they were paid ½ d they thought they were rich – they discovered much later that they should have been paid far more as danger money.



This photo of the Alkham Cricket Club was taken in 1965. Gordon is in the middle of the back row and was also in the choir picture in last month's newsletter. Wally is front right in the photo, and both were great village characters.

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THE KENT DOWNS Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty invite you to participate in the public consultation on their Draft Management Plan 2020-2025. The plan will provide the strategy for conserving and enhancing this nationally protected landscape and provides a bold vision for the future and welcome you to take part in the consultation and help shape the plan before it is finalised and published. Highlights include building climate resilience, mitigating climate change, nature recovery and biodiversity enhancements, sustainable development, access and inclusivity, and supporting health and wellbeing for all. The Draft Plan was prepared before the Covid-19 pandemic and it will be important to consider how it should respond to the crisis. Please go to www.kentdowns.org.uk to take part in the survey. You can comment on the Alkham Facebook page as well.

OZ on CHOIRS – I was amused by last month's newsletter photograph of St Anthony's church choir in the 1930s, because it reminded me of similar scenes from the 1940s and 1950s. In 1947 I enrolled in the choir of St Andrew's Church, Deal, joined two years later by my younger brother. It was a useful introduction to choral singing, with eight boy trebles, and about the same number of adult voices. In 1950 the Royal Marines School of Music returned to Deal from the Isle of Man, where they had been evacuated since 1940. The choirmaster of the Royal Marine Depot Church of St Michael and all Angels, a retired Marine music professor, recruited boys, ladies, and male voices from all over Deal, including my brother and me, to supplement the Marine personnel in the choirstalls. It was a magnificent choir of some forty voices, singing at three services each Sunday, and at rehearsals on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Rehearsals were followed by free and optional use of Marine leisure facilities such as the swimming pool, boxing ring and gloves, table tennis, darts and snooker, all supervised by Marine instructors. That was a long time ago. Since then I've continued singing with other choirs in East Kent until March this year when the Covid-19 virus struck. From being a recipe for good health, especially in the frail and aged, singing in public as well as talking, shouting and playing brass instruments, are at the moment regarded as extremely dangerous to health. Some people dispute this, but I find the evidence to be sufficiently convincing to stay off the stage for as long as it takes to eliminate the virus. **Steve Osborn**

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The sun steeds are saddled

Their harness set shining

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Please see the article on page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2 nd	Prayer 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Sunday 9 th	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 16 th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
Sunday 23 rd	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 30 th	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32

Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Churches can reopen; so there I was, kneeling on the floor. *Training for ministry never covered this*, I told myself. Not that I needed training to use a tape measure to lay strips of masking tape on the floor of a church 2 metres apart. Being there on my hands and knees brought back a memory from my student days in South London, where I first became involved with the Church. The then Bishop of Southwark lived in the parish and would sometimes invite himself to take part in services at the church where I had become an altar server. Positioned centrally in the church was a plinth. On this stood a large altar upon which, at the appropriate point in the service, the bread and wine for communion would be placed. It was at that point on the day in question that the Bishop, flanked on either side by a server, approached the altar. Suddenly, there was a resounding crack. The wooden surround to the plinth gave way beneath his right foot and for a moment Bishop, robes and accompanying accoutrements seemed destined to land in an undignified heap in front of the altar. Miraculously, the servers intervened and somehow retrieved the situation. Then I remembered my own narrow escape at a funeral in a muddy, rain-soaked churchyard. While in full flow, I found myself sliding sideways down the bank that I had been standing on and surprised myself, not to mention the mourners, by somehow staying upright. I stood up and looked down at the floor. *Memories are strange things - what will people say about me in years to come?* I asked myself. *Do you remember Reverend Brian? How he used to stick masking tape everywhere....?* **Brian Williams**

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MP Natalie Elphicke - 01304 379669

KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929

DDC – Jamie Rose 07802 428353

WEBS www.alkham.org &

www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 320 September 2020

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RESPONSES TO LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER ARTICLES



THE CAT which was featured as a possible stray is owned by a person in Alkham. It is a popular cat as it visits at least 5 other people around the village, one of whom emailed the photo; the look of contentment says it all.

FUND RAISING – Further to the article about St. Anthony's church needing 6000 tiles replacing at a cost of £15,000, Barrie Matcham has suggested that if there was a Garage Safari and a Boot Fair in Alkham then that would be a good way of raising some money. To find out if the proposals are viable please ring 01304 826100 or email tinamatcham@yahoo.co.uk.

CRICKET PHOTO - Barrie Matcham named all the people in the photo of the cricket team of which he was third left and John Richards emailed to say he was third from the right also in the back row. The others in the photo are from the back; Chris Dodds, Malcolm Norris, Bill Harvey – who provided the photo, Ron Prescott, Denis Jarvis, Stephen Matcham and Mike Goldfinch.

A DRONE has been flying above properties in Ewell Minnis and the police have been informed. If you have any information, please ring 101 to contact our PCSO.

KEEP FIT - Just before lockdown the Keep fit ladies had booked a celebratory lunch at the Marquis. We were going to celebrate 20 years of meeting every Wednesday and enjoying keeping fit, through music, exercises, dance and good company. I started keep fit in 2000 following a heart bypass, on the premise that if I had to do cardiac exercises then maybe others would like to join in, strictly for charity... They did and following a few hiccoughs while I had another bypass, stents and angioplasty, keep fit has gone from strength to strength. Over the last few years, we have donated approximately £500 a year to all manner of local and international charities just by enjoying ourselves. Sadly, Covid has temporarily brought us to a halt and I think we should wait until more certain times to resume, especially as I would find breathing and exercising in a mask just one dance step too far!! So, I wish you well and keep doing those routines in your own space. **Susannah Tapsell**

A SMALL ICE CREAM cornet and no chocolate toppings please. Happy to report that Jack, who lives in Alkham, got his wish.



FISH AND CHIPS – A mobile van will be coming to Alkham, as an experiment, and parking by village hall on Friday 25th September between 4.45pm and 6.00pm. The menu includes freshly cooked cod, haddock, scampi, sausage, burgers as well as veggie food and gluten free. Children are also catered for and please pre order (if possible) on 07955 926 835 by 4.00pm or by emailing hotchef1968@hotmail.com.

GREAT EVERDEN MANOR – This was originally Great Everden Farm, which is to the west of Alkham, and is now a special occasion holiday house costing £2000 a night or £10,000 per week. It is very well appointed and a lovely location but locals have complained to Dover District Council's Environmental Health about the loud noises, which could be heard in Ellinge, Chalksole and upper Slip Lane and elsewhere, caused by a recent booking which continued into the early hours of the morning.

GARDEN TALK - Our need to enjoy our gardens continues at this time, even if we cannot all meet together. Following the precedent set by Rosemary & Geoff Hillier in July, in September Catie & Harlan Webber would be pleased to see anyone wishing to view their colourful garden at 18, Newlyn Meadow any time between the 7th and 11th September. Prior booking essential - please contact Catie by text or phone: 07976 649726 or email:Catie@TheWebbers.org



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PIMLICO WAY – In last month's newsletter there was an article about a brick foundation on Pimlico way which was thought to be either a pond or a gun emplacement. Two ladies who were children in the 1930's thought that it was a pond but Martin Scherer who owns the land says that the site was originally a quarrymen's hut for flint used to build Pimlico and some South Alkham properties. In WW2 the authorities were concerned the Germans would land somewhere between Hythe and Dungeness and race up the coast to take Folkestone Harbour from behind and then up the Alkham Valley to take Dover from behind. They therefore dug out the site of the quarryman's hut to take a tank and erected earth retaining walls made of brick, hence the ramp with ridges; the hut was then put back on top. In addition, 'Dad's Army' dug foxholes one of which was thought to be a Saxon grave, but Martin was advised that it was a fox hole. Martin will restore these sites and erect information boards to tell the history of Pimlico for the public to see if funding becomes available...

THE HISTORY – Just past the garden centre and almost opposite Meggett Lane is Pimlico Way which is about ¾ of a mile long and runs across the hill to Slip Lane. Roughly halfway along was the hamlet of Pimlico whose name originates from the colonisation of North America and an indigenous tribe called Pamlico. The land to the south of Buckingham Palace leading down to the river Thames was known as 'Five Fields', a market garden that supplied London with fresh food. This area is now known as Pimlico and its name came from a man called Ben Pimlico who in the 17th century owned several public houses in the area, one of which was called 'Olde Ben's Pimlico Tavern'. Ben Pimlico was born in the Dover area and the hamlet near Alkham was probably named after him. It consisted of two houses, which were last occupied in the 1950's and in the 1970's the council refused planning permission to restore them, so they were demolished. It is possible that Pimlico Way was used by pilgrims to walk from St. John's Commandery, just outside the parish, to St. Radigund's which is diametrically opposite on the other side of the valley.

The above information is from a 'Short History of Alkham' which includes photos of Pimlico. The book is A4 with photos on just about all the 52 pages and costs £2.50. If you would like a copy, please see contact details in the newsletter heading on the previous page.

SNAKES - The grass snake is non-venomous, over a metre long and is usually a grey-green colour with a black and yellow collar behind the head. Adders are not an aggressive species and rarely bite people unless disturbed, but any bites should be immediately checked at a hospital or vets. They are shorter but stockier than a grass snake and are usually grey-brown with a distinctive zig-zag pattern along the back. Slow worms are often mistaken for snakes but are a lizard and much smaller than adult snakes and have eyelids (unlike snakes) and a fatter, less forked tongue. **Kent Wildlife Trust** (edit)

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL says that solar panels are a good investment and are holding an auction on 6th October when the pre-vetted solar installers will bid for the work. Registration opens on 1st September and if you would like to take part go to www.solartogether.co.uk/dover and they will give you a personal recommendation from 26th October for you to decide. If you have any questions ring Solar Together for free on 0800 014 8721.

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SPOONER - It sometimes happens that individuals, by their actions, donate their surnames to the language as uncapitalized everyday words, as in 'sandwich', 'wellington' and 'boycott'. Another such word is 'spoonerism', defined by *Chambers Dictionary* as "a transposition of initial sounds of spoken words - eg 'shoving leopard' for 'loving shepherd'. From



Rev W A Spooner...a noted perpetrator." William Archibald Spooner was, for over sixty continuous years, a member of New College, Oxford, first as a scholar, then Fellow, and, finally, Warden from 1903 to 1924. He was a tiny albino, with an unusually large head and pale blue eyes. William Hayter wrote that "All his life, Spooner looked like a white-haired baby. His appearance hardly changed." Spooner was, in his own words, never more than "a moderately useful man" and, arguably, would have remained unnoticed save for the spoonerisms. Many of these, such as 'tasted a whole worm', 'hissed my mystery lectures', and 'half-warmed fish', are now regarded as apocryphal, invented by undergraduates and colleagues to tease their beloved 'Spoo', although he did once admit to announcing a hymn as 'Kinquering Kongs'. Of more lasting interest are the well-documented examples of Spooner's transpositions of ideas. After a puzzling sermon, he remounted the pulpit to say, "In the sermon I have just preached, whenever I said Aristotle, I meant St Paul." Eleanor Jourdain recalled that once, at dinner, Spooner upset a salt-cellar and then dripped claret on the salt "until he had produced the purple mound which would have been the end-product if he had spilled claret...and had then cast a heap of salt on the pool to absorb it." Spooner died peacefully in 1930. For epitaph, we need only his words, comparing his misattributions with those of Homer and Shakespeare: "I err in very good company." **Steve Osborn**

Gail Swainston lives in Ewell Minnis and like Steve Osborn is a fan of poetry.

Your body's lean
Still eyes serene
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you have seen?

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You must succeed
You have a family to feed
And a life to lead.
But can you leave that horror
Endless squalor
Far behind you now you follow
Your new tomorrow?
Your body's lean
Still eyes serene
Who knows what nightmares
you have seen?
Welcome to your dream.

Gail Swainston

PLANNING – If you wish to comment on the Government's planning proposals to streamline the process go to www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future, email planningforthefuture@communities.gov.uk or write to Planning for the Future Consultation, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 3rd floor, Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF. **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL** is taking part in the NHT Public Satisfaction Survey on highways and transport services and six web-based surveys on specific issues: Highway maintenance; Accessibility; Walking and cycling; Public transport; Road safety; Tackling congestion. Go to kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consultationHome

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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6 th	Prayer 6.30 pm		United Parish Eucharist 10.0am
Sunday 13 th	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 20 th	Worship 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 27 th	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

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Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - My first experience of the world of work was a summer vacation job as a bus conductor during my student days – a long time ago now. Bus conductors are now extinct. If you don't remember them, watching an episode of the 1970's TV sitcom *On The Buses*, which still appears on TV from time to time, will explain all. Watch out for Jack. I did what he does in the show, though without being a chain-smoking womaniser (honest!) or persecuting bus inspectors (at least, not deliberately). I remember one character who claimed to be one of the longest serving conductors with the company – at least at our depot. He might even have started before the war, returning to the job as others did after serving his country. With horn-rimmed glasses and trademark white cap, he was notoriously loud - and somewhat eccentric. He came up in conversation once when I was sitting with another crew in the canteen. *You know he was a Japanese POW*, someone said. As I led the service at the Battle of Britain Memorial marking the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, I suddenly remembered him. A mist descended, swirling around as we kept silence, remembering a generation now all but gone, the stories they told passing into history. My memories of youth are of college, friends, a vacation job that I enjoyed and dreams of a future that lay ahead. I suddenly realised that his must have been of jungle warfare, fallen comrades, the brutality of a POW camp and dreams of home. I led the prayers, and then we committed ourselves to work for peace and for the relief of want and suffering. I hope that perhaps he might have liked that... **Brian Williams**

THE SALT BIN outside the lychgate to the church is being used as a bin for dog poo bags. If anyone is using it for that purpose, please stop as a local will have to clear the bin. This also applies to the beer cans and other detritus left there.

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No. 321 October 2020

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FLINTS – Bev Hubbard of Greenwood Manor, Slip Lane, recently had the first MOT on his car and all 4 tyres, which were visibly in good condition, were found to have cuts to the tread which on 3 of them went through to the cords making them illegal. The Volvo Dealership confirmed that the cuts were more than likely have been made by flints. The flints mainly come from Pimlico Way at its eastern end where it slopes down to Slip Lane and water erosion and use by trail bike users has caused the surface to break up so much that after any rainfall flints are washed onto the lane. Flints also arise from the erosion of the lane's banks, probably caused by large vehicles, and at least 8 other people who use Slip Lane have had 14 tyres replaced because of flints. If anybody else has suffered punctures or cuts to their tyres please email Bev on bev@btinternet.com to help him understand the size of the problem and the impact the damage and costs incurred has had on residents and users of the lane, for his discussions with Kent County Council.

FLINTS – Further to the above article Bev has been in contact with Kent Rights of Way manager regarding the matter who acknowledges there is a problem but with a tight budget cannot promise that he can resolve the situation. He did arrange for Kent Highways to clean the lane with a JCB using the bucket to scrape and clear the surface of Slip Lane. This is to be applauded but the only long-term solution is to pave the slope and hopefully funds will be found.

NEW RESIDENTS IN DRELLINGORE - We have recently been fortunate enough to be able to take ownership of the barns which were once part of Little Drellingore Farm (just past the pumping station on the valley road). We're excited to be creating an environmentally and ecologically friendly family home for our two daughters (aged 11 and 7). Although we live a little further down the M20 in Ashford, as newcomers to Alkham we're keen to learn as much as we can about the site, the area and the community, and also hope to use local materials and expertise once work commences. If you have any information about the history of the site, the ecology of the area, or know someone with vernacular building skills, we'd love to hear from you via family@drellingorebarns.com. One thing we're especially keen to find out about is the natural, pre-agricultural plant life. Here's hoping that we get to know you soon! **Jeanette and Daniel**

ROAD CLOSURE – Little Everden Road will be closed between the 14th September and 11th October. This is part of the road which goes from the top of Slip Lane to Hawkinge and markings on the road indicate it is a new soakaway where the road floods. The diversion is via Lockering Lane.

VALLEY VEG BOX has been successfully operating during lockdown and continues to provide quality local fruit and vegetables in your area, direct from our Kentish farmers and growers. We supply seasonal produce happily doing our bit in helping to keep Britain farming. Please check our website for details on collection and delivery: www.valleyvegbox.com. We are soon to be opening a farm shop in the Alkham Valley Garden Centre which will make a trip more worthwhile; whether you are shopping for plants, having lunch or coffee with friends, looking for that special gift or buying your essential horsey gear and feed from Southern Equestrian Supplies, you will now be able to incorporate your weekly produce shop! We will update you on our progress via our website and we so look forward to hearing from you and seeing you – SOON!' (one-off free article)

FOR SALE - French dresser with open shelves, cupboards and drawers and original fixtures. Painted but left unwaxed so easily changed to preferred choice. Length 188cm, Height 183cm, Depth 51cm, bargain at £200 and buyer collects. Also for sale, collection of Blue and White China - Copeland, Spode etc. **Irene 01304 824845**

DOGS – Please will people who walk their dogs along the bottom of Short Lane clean up after the dogs have fouled. Part of the road is owned by the householders and one owner encountered 5 piles of dog poo while strimming.

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A MARKER POST was unearthed in the garden of Catherine Cottages, opposite Glebelands, with the inscription DP and dated 1798. It is an old parish boundary marker, presumably Dover Parish, and in the past the 'beating of the bounds' took place by progressing round the parish and beating each boundary marker. It was important to define the boundary to prevent encroachment by neighbouring parishes and because the parish was responsible for the poor and other matters.

SPEEDWATCH – Kent police, who are legally responsible for health and safety, will not allow Speedwatch to take place in Alkham because of the Covid 19 virus. The reason for this is that most of the group carrying out the watch are over 70 and considered to be in an extremely vulnerable category should a passing driver stop and confront them. However, if younger and fit people joined the group it may be allowed. To report speeding or any topic related to Alkham Valley traffic at present e-mail alkham.hgvincident@btinternet.com.

LORRY WATCH - If you would like to report something about lorries the e-mail address is as above. **Glyn Jones**

AT PRESENT there are only 6 registered members in the Speedwatch and Lorrywatch group so a roadside observation team cannot be fielded. If anyone is interested in helping please email glynmarine1@btinternet.com. **Glyn Jones**

PIMLICO – Martin Scherer has given the approval for one person to use a metal detector on his land adjacent to Pimlico Way, but it appears there are other detectorists doing the same. Martin is concerned that historical artefacts will be removed without his knowledge so if anyone sees a detectorist on the land please let him know by emailing Martin@ABACAN-Consultants.net. If you have a camera, please take a photo and let Martin know.

NOSTALGIA - In the past when driving down from the north you knew that you were in Kent when the lovely burgundy and cream buses came into view. Brian Williams, our vicar, wrote about being a bus conductor and John Vince has contacted



to say that he too was a bus conductor in his university vacations based at Folkestone bus garage and thoroughly enjoyed it. With the advent of large companies with bland paintwork and driver only buses this is a thing of the past as are other holiday jobs such as working at Brocks Fireworks in the 1960's and filling wooden crates to be sent to Kampala for the Ugandan independence celebrations. There was a possibility of being blown up doing the latter and if you have similar nostalgic memories, please let me know. **editor**

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OZ has sent a poem this month and the events occurred in May 2011 on a Russian cruise ship and he wrote the poem in March 2017.

YAROSLAVL

A noisy night on the Nikolay Chernyevsky,
Fuelled by vodka, stories and sweet songs.

Deep sleep and silence followed, as we

Scraped through the last lime-encrusted lock before Moscow.

Dawn rose with velvet fog-swirl

Over guerrilla-green fields,

We tumbled tousled and yawning into Yaroslavl,

Babylon-like city of grey-cemented walls,

Entwined with icon-lined Byzantine monasteries,

And a myriad of churches with green and gold onion roofs.

As I crossed the town square in late afternoon

A sudden fierce wind corkscrewed the road-dust into the air

And all the church bells jangled wildly for 5pm prayer.

My brain exploded for a moment, and then suddenly,

mysteriously, all was well.

Steve Osborn.

Rob Lees, who was not a fan of the Alkham Cycle club, wrote an amusing story about his cycle trip to France

BIKING TO BOULOGNE - Motley crew of ten cyclists assemble at Eastern Docks, no sign of lycra or helmets, and embark for Calais. Breakfast at Yvettes on Place D'armes of croque m'sieur (posh cheese on toast) and pernod. Scenic ramble to Ardres, forest, canals etc., and back to Wissant including all the cafés. Decide against climbing Cap Gris, Cap Nez (been there) and have a few beers instead. Amble on to Ambleteuse and a couple of beers before wandering on to Wimereux. Main stop of day, get it right. Swim first before it becomes dangerous with too much booze, then lunch of moules frites washed down with copious carafés. Climb back to coast road for descent to Boulogne. Minor disaster on descent – clownish colleague knocks me flying and I have to limp last kilometre to Hengist. Arrive on car deck to find nine

bikes but no bodies. Finally manage to stagger and crawl alone up to passenger deck. About to moan at colleagues and order beer when some idiot announces 'Point Alpha' (15 minutes to dock) and have to start climbing down again. Arrive at Folkestone. Colleagues disappear again so have to limp alone to pub, where, a little later, I forgive everyone after all. Total distance covered about 50k, time 10 hours. Must do it properly next time, take it seriously, dress up in all the fancy gear, make a race of it, and spoil the fun.

MASQUERADE

In the street when we meet
Each other smile and greet
I wear my mask.

With leisure a pleasure
The friends that I treasure
I wear my mask.

When I pop to the shop
Precious things I forgot
I wear my mask.

Is it fear? Blink a tear
You must not come too near
I wear my mask.

See the eyes no disguise
You tell me no more lies
But I wear my mask.

Gail Swainston

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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4 th	Prayer 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 11 th	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 18 th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am followed by Annual Church Meeting (APCM)		
Sunday 25 th	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11, 10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

Sat: 9.11, 10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32

Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32, 18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Yes, it's true! Since last month, Yours Truly has been a victim of crime! For the first time ever, the plum tree in the Vicarage garden had surprised us by producing a decent amount of fruit. We returned home one afternoon to find it stripped - not a single plum left, nothing even lying on the grass. Admittedly, it was hardly the Crime of the Century - people suffer far worse, as indeed we have ourselves in the past - but there was still the sense of disbelief, violation, sadness and uneasiness at the thought of someone having been there uninvited. Harvest, when we give thanks for God's goodness to us, is approaching. It would be wrong to be selfish over our small part of it – after all, in Ancient Israel it was the custom, when the harvest was gathered in, to leaving some of it for the those who really needed it. Had someone called at the door and asked if they could have had a handful of plums, the answer would have been yes. But we hadn't got as far as gathering in our harvest, and nothing was left for us or anyone else, whether they needed it or not. When I was teaching, I met plenty of children for whom a handful of plums would have been a rare treat. I would like to think that our plums went to someone like that. Of course, it may be that someone, somewhere, is conscious of what the Prayer Book calls 'misdoings.' They might even be 'heartily sorry' and find the remembrance of their misdoings 'grievous' and the 'burden of them intolerable'. In which case, they could always try easing their conscience with a donation towards the St Mary's Lychgate Appeal... **Brian Williams**

POLICE 999 or 101

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brianwimsett@hotmail.com

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AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784

MP Natalie Elphicke - 01304 379669

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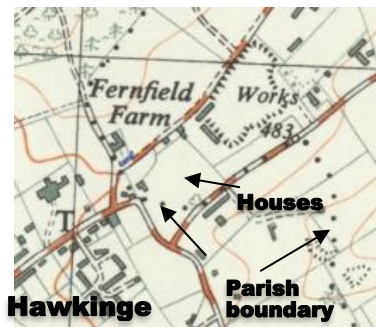
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DOG FOULING – Further to the article in last month's newsletter about dog fouling an email was received to say there has been an increase in dog poo on the green and on the football pitch area. Most of this has been in the bottom corner near the footbridge but some was found near the playground, which is a danger to children from roundworm eggs which causes blindness in over 100 cases. It is also illegal not to clear up after a dog. The Parish Council has been asked if they would contact DDC to see whether a bin could be installed in Alkham.

TEA & A CHAT – Pleased to report that Tea & a Chat will start again on the last Thursday of each month at 2pm the first being October 29th. To comply with Covid rules please bring your own tea and biscuits and maintain the social distancing.

HOUSES – The parish of Alkham extends to the outskirts of Hawkinge and a piece of land adjacent to Hawkinge and opposite Fernfield Farm has outline planning consent for houses. It is under offer and when the houses are built the majority will be in Alkham parish.



CHILTON FARMYARD B&B OPEN! - After 20 years as tenant dairy farmers in Winchester, Susannah and Keith Mannerings moved to Chilton Farm 3 years ago. To make the small farm viable, a degree of diversification was needed. Following a lot of planning and hard work, four renovated redundant farm buildings are now opening as Chilton Farmyard B&B. This small group of charming flint buildings can cater for up to 11 people, ideal for families or friends to get away and explore this lovely part of Kent. There is also a spacious breakfast room which they hope will be used for small groups for 'out of town' meetings. "This has been a huge ambition of ours and it's hard to believe we have got to the point of welcoming guests to Chilton Farm. We would be only too happy to show any interested persons round." www.chiltonfarmyardbandb.co.uk - 01304 268621.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER - All being well, assuming no further lockdowns, there will be a Remembrance service at Alkham Church, at 10.30 followed by remembering the fallen from Alkham and two minutes silence at the war memorial at 11.00. There will be social distancing in both the church and churchyard, and masks should be worn. **Rachel Fountain**

MOBILE FISH & CHIPS - Just thought that we would pen a few words as four happy customers in Short Lane who have just had a lovely Friday night fish supper from the fish and chip van. The food was excellent - our three large haddocks and a large rock were delicious, and it was all ready and waiting at the time agreed. We will definitely be going back, and thoroughly recommend it to anyone who missed out. **Georgina Wald**

MOBILE FISH & CHIPS will be back on Friday 30th October at the village hall car park from 4.45pm to 6.15pm and will return on the last Friday of each month, except for December, at this time. The menu includes freshly cooked cod, haddock, scampi, sausage, burgers as well as veggie food and gluten free. Children are also catered for and please pre-order (if possible) on 07955 926 835 by 4.00pm or by emailing hotchef1968@hotmail.com.

POPPY APPEAL 2020 - Sadly, there will be no house-to-house Poppy collections this year. These are extraordinary times and we have had to adjust to doing things differently. There will still be Poppies available at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre and Tea Rooms, and in Southern Equestrian Supplies. They will also be at the Marquis of Granby and the Alkhamhurst Kennels. So do pop along to get your poppies from them. The larger out of town stores will also have manned Poppy collection tables. If you would like to find out more about how the British Legion are fundraising this year, or if you would like to make a donation, please go to britishlegion.org.uk. **Rachel Fountain**

CHALK - If anybody wants some chalk to use for a driveway, hard standing or yard, any amount large or small can be collected. Call Mike 07905 206702.

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HARVEST FESTIVAL - Despite coronavirus hampering gatherings, we put together a display for the Church at the last minute. We were given lots of flowers, greenery, and many very handsome bunches of grapes by Janet Adamson together with a bottle of homemade wine. Jo Walker brought lovely hops to drape over the font and Mark and Liza Loveday supplied beautiful hydrangeas. Martin Scherer sacrificed an entire corn stalk as well as some beautiful flowers. Debbie Saunders and her lovely granddaughter Amy Bennet made a Harvest Loaf with 3 decorative mice: kudos and many thanks to Debbie and Amy. Mairi and Glynn Jones supplied a very handsome monster pumpkin, Avi Munn magicked up 3 truly stunning flower and seed head displays, and Brenda Smith brought a lovely lantern and grass stalks. Brenda, Jo Walker and I spent a lot of time decorating the porch, Font and Alter. The Church was a little eerie and silent late Thursday as I fumbled together a pedestal arrangement of vegetables and fruit. I used skewers found neglected at the back of the kitchen drawer. Fortunately, Den Barnard was an angel and cleaned up after us all. On Sunday 11th morning, as we few trickled in to sign our track and trace register, the Church gleamed with polish and looked loved and lovely. Brian Williams delivered a thoughtful sermon about cheerful giving. Indeed, many Alkham residents cheerfully gave of their time and produce. We paraded out to the organ playing "An English Country Garden" in great delight. I only wish more of you could have joined in as I doubt my photos do it justice. With luck we will still be able to observe Remembrance Day and then Advent. Until then, stay safe. Regards **Catie Webber**

STORMY WEATHER - The persistent rain and strong winds we have been experiencing since the latter part of September have caused considerable damage in Ewell Minnis. By the morning of Friday 2nd October there was no BT telephone, no Wifi, and no power, as a telegraph pole on Wolverton Hill had snapped in half, bringing down all the lines together. The lines had already been supporting the weight of fallen branches from one side of the road. A tree that crashed down from the Neck Wood side was the final straw! Another pole further up the hill was split by the force of the impact, so that two poles have had to be replaced, even though they were only about 11 years old. The Hill was closed while all this work was carried out, and now you cannot really appreciate the extent of the chaos, but walkers will be able to identify the new poles by their smell! **Gail Swainston**

NEWSLETTER FINANCES – For the year September 2019 to August 2020 the cost of printing 320 newsletter per month was about £270, posting to 22 people was £158 and hosting alkham.org website £36 giving a total of £464. The revenue from adverts was £454.

ADDERS – An article in the Daily Telegraph said that adders could become extinct as they are being killed by pheasants. Most of the pheasants are a result of the breeding for shooting and those that are not shot escape to the countryside. There is a judicial review being carried out into game bird shooting and RSPB is going to end its neutrality, but gamekeepers say breeding keeps rare animals alive.

LASHED BY G - I've recently moved to Ewell Minnis and started a business from home called Lashed By G. I offer a range of semi-permanent eyelash extensions starting from just £20 and an at home salon experience if preferred! Please see my page on Facebook or Instagram or send me a message on 07860172817. **Georgia**

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BUS – In last month's newsletter there was a photo of a bus. John Vince emailed to say that it was a Dennis Lancet single decker that used to ply through the Alkham Valley on route 91 until the late 1950's. Before the bus garage

was built the buses parked in Bouverie Square as shown above.

APOSTROPHES – Recently I adjudicated for a friend over the placing of an apostrophe in the title of a new organization, and became fascinated by the origins of this useful but exasperating mark. Most European, especially Latin-based, languages have used apostrophes to denote omissions, as in 'wish'd' for 'wished'. In the 17th century, English printers began to use the apostrophe before an 's' in words denoting ownership, such as 'dog's dinner' for 'dinner belonging to the dog'. This derived from the Old English syllable '-es' that was added to words to denote possession. However, a word like 'doges' looks strange on the page, so printers used the apostrophe to omit the 'e', giving the familiar 'dog's dinner'. This did not solve all the problems, and by the 18th century printers were distinguishing between the dinner of one dog and the dinners of many dogs by placing the apostrophe after the plural, as in 'dogs' dinners.' It was now possible to cause the maximum confusion, between 'dog's dinner', 'dog's dinners', 'dogs' dinner' and 'dogs' dinners.' Thus was born the phrase 'greengrocer's (or greengrocers') apostrophe', from the incorrect forming of plurals, such as onion's and apple's. It's all rather unfair to greengrocers, when other shops often advertise "Ice Cream's", "Tea's" and even "Xma's Tree's". Lynne Truss, in her hilarious book on punctuation, *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, points out also that greengrocers have a particularly hard time deciding how to describe more than one thing ending in a vowel, giving rise incorrectly to "mango's" and "tomato's". She adds the story of a Somerset market gardener unfortunately named Carrott, noting that "the sign said "Carrott's" at the top but then listed other vegetables and fruits spelled and punctuated perfectly correctly." That's the apostrophe for you – tricky but capable of great precision.

When I saw her
Leap into his arms
I remembered what I had forgotten.
When I saw his
Feet matching her steps
I remembered what I had forgotten.
When I saw two
Meet becoming one
I remembered what I had forgotten.
When I saw life
Beat in front of me
I remembered what I had forgotten. And who I used to be.
Gail Swainston who recently went to a ballet at Rye.

Steve Osborn

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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1 st	Praise 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 8 th Remembrance	10.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am 10.30 am	10.30 am
Sunday 15 th	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 22 nd	Worship 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 29 th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32

Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - My mother had two brothers. Both served in the Forces during the war; afterwards, the family relocated from London to Ramsgate. But the younger of the two took a job at a hotel in the Lake District, met and married my aunt, and settled at the opposite end of England to the rest of the family. Each summer they would visit, and for my sister and I there would be outings and trips to the beach with our cousins. Our uncle was the best kind of uncle – kind, funny, and full of stories about his adventures as a lorry driver, delivering flour in and around Cumbria. Sadly, those adventures ended when he became ill. He lived just long enough to see his first granddaughter. By then I had passed my driving test. The annual visits continued, now usually in the opposite direction. However, my aunt travelled to Kent when I married, and for my ordination – she liked the idea of her nephew being a priest. But as the years passed, age and the onset of ill health took their toll. It was during one of our visits that the inevitable conversation took place: yes, I would assist at her funeral when the time came. Following her ninetieth birthday infirmity confined her first to her flat and then to her bed. Then came the pandemic and all that it has carried with it and finally, last month. There could be no funeral service as such; I wouldn't be able to keep my promise. On All Saints Sunday, the first Sunday of November, I will join with others in giving thanks for those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light. Then I shall light a candle, and think of her... **Brian Williams**

PLEASED to report that as of the beginning of October Sue Lees is physically very well and living in Pelham House.

THE NEW soakaway in Little Everden road, which was scheduled to finish on the 11th October, is still being constructed and there is still a fair amount of work to do.

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Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors
clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
Hall booking Tracey Prince 828098
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669
KCC Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
DDC Jamie Rose 07802 428353

WEBS www.alkham.org &
www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 323 December 2020

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THE CAR PARK to the village hall was regularly run over by passing vehicles with the result that large puddles formed. Road planings have been rolled into the puddles and half barrels put on top.

THE PARISH COUNCIL is hoping to set up a register of vulnerable people in our community. If you would like to be on that register or if you need assistance, please email: alkham.assist@outlook.com. We will reply as soon as we can and will direct you to organisations who may be able to assist you during the Covid pandemic. The Parish Council would also like to collect a register of professionals or ex-professionals in the village who could be called on in an emergency. So, if you are, or were, a doctor, nurse, registered first aider, paramedic, police or fire officer please send your details to alkham.assist@outlook.com.

CALL FOR A CHAT with Ruth - If you are on your own or feeling isolated and would like a chat Councillor Ruth Marczin-Bundy is happy to hear from you on 07906 213716. Please note that this is not relating to parish council matters or medical concerns, but Ruth would like to offer a friendly conversation with anyone who would like to chat.

MARQUIS - With another lockdown coming in to play for a month, the Marquis of Granby is having to close its doors once again. Where the support has been overwhelming since re-opening in July, it is our time to give back and support our community in Alkham and assist where we can by offering free "school meals" and help to feed the over 70s and vulnerable throughout the national lockdown who are unable to leave their homes within the village. In order for us to be able to offer this, we ask that you call or email manager@marquisofgranby.co.uk with an address and information stating if this is a "school meal" or for an over 70s individual(s). We will be delivering the food for the elderly and vulnerable on a Friday afternoon and ask that one parent accompanies their children on a Friday at the time agreed by both parties for you to pick up your meal. **Hugh Thompson**

CLAGGY WALKING - muddy shoes? If so, there is an excellent shoe scraper by the church porch, preferable and more efficient than the bar of the wooden bench along the footpath to the open fields and the benches in the lychgate. **Jo Walker**



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS - The lights on the village Christmas tree will be switched on early in December and unfortunately, we won't be having our usual gathering and party - we'll make up for it next year! As always thanks to all our supporters including Tracey Prince, Will and Nadine and all the Marquis of Granby staff, Ken Spencer, Brian Wimsett and Leigh Taylor.

Den Barnard

CHRISTMAS CRIB SCENE

We probably won't have the usual delightful crib service at St Anthony's, so let's try a socially distanced one. From December 1st we will organise a cork board in the open air porch of St Anthony's Alkham for children to come and pin up their cut out figures of drawings from crib scenes and they can rearrange the crib scene to their liking. We are sure there are budding artists who can knock up great sheep, donkeys, Joseph, Mary, the star, wisemen etc. Remember baby Jesus doesn't arrive until Christmas morning and remember to treat other people's prior drawings with respect when moving them around. Please also observe the usual social distancing rules and stay safe. For up to date details about Christmas please go to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH.



Looking forward to seeing great Christmas spirit despite COVID. **Catie Webber & Reverend Brian Williams**

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WALL – A vehicle, probably a lorry which didn't stop, hit the flint wall to Halton Court at the bottom of Slip Lane causing the wall to collapse and block one side of the road.

The intention is to rebuild the wall as it was originally.

BIN – The bins owned by the village hall were stored outside with a piece of wood across and someone removed the bar and stole the recycling bin. A more secure bin store has been made and a new bin ordered.

PIMLICO WAY and the connection to Everden have been closed to 4 wheeled vehicles for 6 months from the 9th November.

THE SOAKAWAY on Little Everden road has been completed with gullies to take the water and appears to be working.

CONSERVATION AREA - If you want to cut down, top or lop trees in a conservation area you must notify your local planning authority six weeks before work begins; the authority will then consider whether a TPO is necessary. If you want to demolish your building, you will need Planning Permission and Permitted Development rights are different. This means you need to make planning applications for some forms of development such as two-storey extensions and dormer windows. See www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk for details.

TYRE DAMAGE - Further to the article requesting information from local residents to be sent to me regarding damage caused to their tyres from flints on Slip Lane, I can report that 9 residents, including myself, have within the past 12 months had to replace 22 tyres at a cost of some £3,500. This number is likely to increase as drivers will not realise that they have any tyre damage until they either have a puncture or fail their MOT due to deep flint cuts in the treads. A further 5 residents have informed me that in the past two years they have had to replace 6 tyres with a total cost of £900 which means that within the past two years 14 Alkham residents have had 28 tyres replaced due to cuts from flints on Slip lane with a total cost of £4,400, which is totally unacceptable. These flints have been deposited on the lane from the damaged surface on the lower part of byway ER25 due to lack of regular maintenance by Kent County Council Public Rights of Way, who blame lack of funds. Residents of Slip lane who have suffered the most tyre damage and costs have canvassed Kent PROW regularly but regrettably so far without success. Public safety concern for all drivers that use Slip Lane should be that they could be driving with damaged tyres and that a tyre could "blow" at any time possibly resulting in a major accident and regrettably, even a fatality. The postman whose round is the top part of Slip Lane down as far as Malmains Manor, has been questioned more than once by his bosses within the past year about the number of punctures that his vehicle has suffered and residents are now concerned about the financial justification of this round and the possibility of our postal delivery service being curtailed due to the damage caused to Post Office vehicles using Slip Lane. **Bev Hubbard**

TEMPLE EWELL Primary School Reception 2021 - If you are looking for an outstanding school for your child please call the school on 01304 822665 and they can send you a virtual tour. In 2017 Ofsted said that the pupils were happy, safe and exceptionally well cared for.

TAI CHI – Anna Dashwood runs a Tai Chi class in Alkham village hall on Wednesday evening from 6pm to 7pm and she would like more members. For details please see www.pfstaichi.com or phone 01304 205405, 7736849194 or e-mail anna@pfstaichi.com.



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BOTANY LABOTOMY

On an outing to a botanical garden with a friend it struck us that the names of the plants were similar to those of diseases and this piece of nonsense was my friend's result:

Do you suffer from Plumbago?
Is your back a little sore?
Or perhaps it's Pyracanthus
That you caught in Singapore?
You've a nasty little Hosta,
Which I think I'll have to lance,
And I notice your Spirea
Has been leading you a dance!
Are you getting quite forgetful?
Is Nemesia the cause?
Does your Antirrhinum pain you
When you're walking out of doors?
You've had Skimmia Rubella,
I can see that by your nose,
And Cornus Capitosa
Has played havoc with your toes.
How is your Viburnum Tinus?
Have you lost your sense of smell?
Use a Syringa Reflexa,
That should help to make it well.
I'm afraid your Macrocarpus
Isn't really up to scratch,
And DO avoid Nigella
It's a nasty thing to catch.
Still, I think you're doing nicely,
Watch that Quercus in your knees.
Take your Berberis twice nightly.
Cheerio! Next patient please.

Jackie Grebby

HEROES – An email was received regarding Edwin Alberic Musk who has a Commonwealth War Grave in St. Anthony's churchyard. He was a leading signaller in WWII and died aged 45 on the 27th January 1946. He is not listed in the Alkham Heroes page on the alkham.org web site and therefore assume that he died of injuries sustained during the war. If anybody has further details, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

OZ on MAYHEW - At school in the 50's, my favourite reading matter in the library was the many bound volumes of *Punch* from the 19th century and onwards. *Punch* was a satirical magazine, started in 1841 by Henry Mayhew and Mark Lemon. Henry was born in London in 1812 to Joshua Mayhew, a wealthy solicitor, and grew up in a huge family of sixteen other siblings. While still at Westminster School, Mayhew ran away to sea, working as a midshipman for the East India Company. After his return, he worked with his father as a solicitor, and then as a dramatist and journalist. During this time, he wrote many plays, some very successful, and books on science, religion, education and travel. Of special mention are the books on Germany, where he lived briefly in 1865. In 1846, as one of the founders of *Punch*, Mayhew fell out with others and left abruptly. By 1849, Mayhew had begun to publish *London Labour and the London Poor*, an ambitious survey in 82 monthly instalments, the last issued in 1851. By 1856 Mayhew started another new venture to publish *The Great World of London* in monthly sections, 9 of which were brought together in a volume at the end of the year. He then incorporated this with *The Criminal Prisons of London* to form *The Criminal Prisons of London and Scenes of Prison Life (1862)*, which he considered to be the most important work of social criticism he had written. In that book, by revealing the starvation, disease and daily threat of transportation, in both the poor and prison occupants, his plain but harrowing descriptions, often in the words of those he spoke with, did much to stir the public conscience towards reform. Mayhew died on 25th. July 1887. **(Steve Osborn and Gillian Heywood)**

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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
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I have not produced a schedule of services for December, as at the moment it remains to be seen whether the current restrictions will have eased by then. I will do my best to ensure that up-to-date information is available via our website, Facebook page, and on church noticeboards. **Brian Williams**

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FROM THE VICARAGE

- As December approaches, Advent Calendars and chocolate are the first things that come to mind for many. Beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, Advent is a time of reflection and spiritual preparation for Christians. In church, the readings recall God's promises spoken by the prophets; John the Baptist at the river, warning the crowds to prepare for the coming of one who is greater than he is; and Mary accepting God's invitation to be the mother of Jesus. It is intended to be a solemn time, and accordingly on the first Sunday of Advent the church is bereft of flowers, the hangings are a sombre purple, the winter gloom pierced only by the first candle on the Advent Ring. However, this time of watching and waiting – just over three short weeks -tends to get cut short. Week One, and the rest of the world is already busily shopping, partying, and wishing everyone a Happy Christmas. Week Two, and a Christmas tree has replaced the church flowers. Week Three, and pleas that it's still too early to sing carols risk being met with accusations of unseasonal grumpiness. Week Four, and the place is festooned with cards, bottles, toffees, and biscuits from those who have already set off to spend Christmas with family elsewhere. That, of course, is what usually happens. As I write, Lockdown 2 is under way, and I'm meeting enquiries about Christmas services this year with more of a sense of hope than expectation - but then I remember that I



succeeded in celebrating Easter by lighting the Paschal Candle at the Easter Garden on the Vicarage drive. Maybe the solemnity of Advent will seem longer than usual this year – but Christmas will happen! A Happy Christmas, and a Peaceful New Year.

Brian Williams

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