

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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to the Parish of
Alkham**

LOCAL PLAN - Dover District Council is to consult with residents, community groups, local businesses, and key stakeholders early in the New Year on the first draft of its new Local Plan. This will start on the 20th January 2021 and it is likely that some of the proposals will affect Alkham and details of how to access the plan will be given in a later edition. On page 2 of this newsletter there are articles from Geoff Lymer regarding new housing at Whitfield plus a lorry park which could also have a significant effect on Alkham.

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 ...

REPORT a problem on a road or pavement please go to www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem. You can report non-urgent issues online including: streetlight faults; potholes; drainage; traffic signal faults; overgrown vegetation (including hedges and grass). Please use this service as any problems reported are automatically logged for the attention of the Highways Steward. You will be given an incident number and you can log in again to see the progress.

LOST FOOTPATHS REGISTRATION 2026 DEADLINE - Do you know of any lost Public Rights of Way (PROWs) in the parish? Any that are not identified, mapped and application made for legal recognition before 1st January 2026 will be lost forever. If you know of any paths that are lost please report them to the clerk, clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk or me at antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk. All recognised PROWs can be seen on the copy of the definitive map noticeboard opposite the village hall. The Ramblers are the leading group running this campaign - for more information go to ramblers.org.uk - don't lose your way - find out more. **Anthony Barrier**

CHICKENS were culled at a farm in Deal because of bird flu and the chief vets in Britain have decreed that all hens, turkeys and other captive birds will have to be kept indoors from the 14th December to prevent the spread of the bird flu.



ST. ANTHONY'S ALKHAM - A service will be held on Christmas Eve at 10.00 pm and anyone wishing to attend will need to wear a face covering and associate only with members of their own households or 'Christmas bubbles'.

CHRISTMAS ON THE MINNIS - Once again, David Beaney has gladdened the hearts of the residents of Ewell Minnis by providing and setting up a magnificent Christmas tree at the top of Wolverton Hill. Next to the red telephone box and covered in twinkling lights it is bringing seasonal cheer to us all at this very strange Christmas time. Well done! **Gail Swainston**

FISH AND CHIPS - The mobile fish and chip van has proved so popular that they are changing days and giving us more time when visiting Alkham. The van will park on the village hall car park between 4.45pm and 6.45pm on Saturday 16th January and then monthly; for these dates, please ask the operators. Please pre order (if possible) on 07955 926 835 by 4.00pm or by emailing hotchef1968@hotmail.com.

NHS Gift - Conditions at local A&E's are strapped. The best Christmas gift you'll give this year is not catching Covid. If you can, stay home. Don't travel. Don't extend your bubble. Don't catch Covid. Don't overrun the NHS. I know it's hard. But fighting Covid is harder. Happy Christmas and a better New Year. Regards **Catie Webber**

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The articles below are an edit from an email from our Kent County Councillor, Geoffrey Lymer.

The Government is overhauling its planning algorithm used to determine where a swathe of new homes will be built across England and hopefully this will mean building more houses on brownfield urban sites in the Midlands and the North and lead DDC to have a rethink regarding their unrealistic strategy of intending to build thousands of new houses in Whitfield when the surrounding areas do not have the infrastructure or number of jobs to cater for such an increase in population. As a result, the government is giving Dover District Council £16 million to build a Dover Rapid Bus Transport System. The idea is to take shoppers and commuters from villages north of the A2 down to the rail station and shoppers to the shops quicker than they reckon could be done currently on a bus by saving up to 10 minutes on journey time. The Rapid Bus Scheme is to be put in place ready to accept the occupants of thousands of new houses expected to be built in Whitfield and the government is offering £16 million for the projected £40 million to build and that £24 million could be put to better use improving the town centre.

A Customs Transit lorry park is projected to be built by the government at the rear of the B&Q site on the White Cliffs Enterprise park Whitfield. The lorry park will be roughly two and a half times larger than the entire current business park stretching from B&Q right to Whitfield roundabout. Natalie Elphicke the local MP states she wants to keep the roads around Dover clear as we transit from the EU but this lorry park is simply not going to do that with the result that main roads and rural lanes will become grid locked. You will be told that this will create 160 new jobs which is not accurate, for currently HM Customs operate a Custom Handling Import and Export Facility, employing a similar number of staff that will be closed. Our area will be damaged by these HGVs unless you can try to stop it now, by emailing the Under Transport Minister Rachel Maclean on rachel.maclean@dft.gov.uk, your local MP Natalie Elphicke on email address natalie.elphicke.mp@parliament.uk and the leader of Dover District Council Cllr Trevor Bartlett on Cllr-Trevor.Bartlett@DOVER.GOV.UK. I would be appreciative if you would be so kind as to copy me into your emails to ensure you receive replies to your objections. **Geoffrey Lymer**

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.

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

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THE VICTORIANS AND THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS

In an anonymous book published in 1871, the author advocated the use of flowers as superior to writing love letters because: "Written love-letters would often be inadequate to convey the idea of the feelings which are thus expressed through the medium of flowers. Thus orange-blossoms signify hope; marigolds, despair; roses, beauty." If a young man decided that he wanted to pursue a young lady he might tell her this by sending her a bouquet made up of ivy (friendliness), snowdrops (hope), and roses (love). Conversely, if a young lady wanted to send a similar message to a gentleman that his attentions are indeed not repulsive to her, she might dress her hair with these flowers. If two young lovers wanted to meet in private and in secret the message could be conveyed with flowers. This bouquet would be comprised of sweet peas (meeting); convolvulus (night) and forget-me-not (Do not forget). A gentleman could tell a lady that he loved her simply by sending her one red rose. A lady could show that he returned his affection by wearing that rose. Much of the language of flowers originated in the romantic myths that give the flowers their names or in the superstitions that are associated with the flowers. For instance, the anemone, which signifies withered hopes and being forsaken derives its name from the Greek word from wind. Anemones are also known as Windflowers. There were different meanings ascribed to the same flowers (and lovers could have an understanding between themselves as to what a particular flower would mean). **Jackie Grebby LITTLE EVERDEN ROAD** – The soakaway and gullies that the Highway Authority installed on the road appear to be working. Now that the road is not flooded it's interesting to see that the water is coming from the adjacent field, however the landowner is not responsible for water run-off from his land.

THE SPARROWHAWK

Stalking the hedgerows
Close by twigs by rustling leaves
Silent as breath -

The sparrow dives, flies,
Tries to escape
Too late. With arrowed wings
I am the arc of death.

Nip and rip
Tug and tear
Sunday lunch
Lies flat
On its back
Right there
Where
I brought it down
And stripped it bare.

Gail Swainston

GARDEN ENTHUSIASTS -

One of the few positive signs of the past year has been the interest shown in gardening and growing our own fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers. Time spent outside has paid dividends to our mental health. So, I expect that many gardens in the village will be a blaze of colour in 2021. Our local group is always welcoming those who are keen to host a visit to their garden, possibly with some refreshment and lots of chat. I am intending to prepare a programme for our Garden Talk Group for this coming summer - please contact me if you are able to participate, or just want details of the events as they are arranged.
Janet Adamson 01303 893413
janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com

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Sadly, because of the pandemic and the need to keep everyone safe, our Carol Services and Crib Services have to be online this year: please visit our Facebook page (see below). **If you choose to come to a service in church,** please remember to wear a **face covering,** use **sanitizer** on arrival, maintain **social distancing** and **keep to the rules** that apply to the Tier that we find ourselves in about who you can interact with.

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 20 th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
Online Carol Service www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH from Saturday 19th.			
Online Crib Service www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH from Tuesday 22nd.			
Thursday 24 th	Midnight Mass 10 pm	Midnight Mass 11.30pm	
Online Christmas Service www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH from Thursday 24th.			
Friday 25 th			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 27 th		Eucharist 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 - Doing my other job, like everything else just now, is proving tricky. I was a supply teacher working in secondary schools until a couple of years ago. Now I work with children who, for one reason or another, find school tricky, usually spending an hour or two working alongside them in their homes. That worked until the pandemic came along - home tuition and social distancing don't really go together. Going through my school bag the other day I came across some books that I had been lent to me by one of the schools I work with to use with one of my proteges. We had finished with them and the school probably needed them – so I rang up to see when I could drop them in. Reception answered. Covid had struck; their pupils had all been sent home and only a skeleton staff remained on site – please would I hang onto the books until after Christmas? Needless to say, Christmas itself promises to be rather different this year. Having a good loud sing, even carol singing, presents risks. And how do you explain sanitizer, social distancing, and the dangers of spreading infection by touching the crib figures to a small child? So reluctantly, like other churches up and down the country, we shall celebrate much of Christmas online. There will be services at Alkham and Capel on Christmas Eve, and at Hougham on Christmas morning – socially distanced, of course. For Christians, behind Christmas lies the conviction that in a time no less troubled than our own, God walked the earth as one of us. Whatever 2021 brings, we need not feel that we must face it alone. So I wish you and yours a Happy Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.

Brian Williams

POLICE 999 or 101

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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
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WEBS www.alkham.org &
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PIMLICO WAY – Despite the byway being closed to off road vehicles 4x4's are still using Pimlico Way and have made it almost impassable for walkers and very difficult for horse riders. Bev Hubbard has asked the Kent Police Rural Task Force if it is possible to have a visible police presence on occasions to try and stop further damage to the

byway by this blatant illegal use of 4x4's on the byways. One of the 4x4's came down Pimlico Way at the Slip Lane end and continued up the byway on the opposite side. The adjoining house owner tried to speak to one of the drivers but was knocked over and suffered bruising; the vehicles registration number was taken, and the police have been informed. Trail bikes can use Pimlico Way but groups of more than 12 riders require police approval. At least 26 trail bikes came down the byway recently and were told of the rule as they passed by, but an earthy response was received. The feeling is that the byway requires urgent closure.

HOUSING - Dover District Council has welcomed the government's decision to scrap plans to revise housing targets, which would have seen the number of new homes targeted for development in the Dover district rise from 596 to 1,279 a year. The original target placed too much pressure on rural and coastal communities and would have ultimately led to poor quality development and loss of green space. The National Planning Policy Framework requires local authorities to plan for the minimum number of homes needed, based on the Standard Method calculation set out in national planning guidance. For the Dover district, this currently equates to delivering 596 new homes a year or a minimum of 11,920 new homes over a 20-year period. Dover District Council will now press ahead with the first round of public consultation on its draft Local Plan which launches online on 20 January for eight weeks.

TETRA PAK – From the 16th of January Dover District Council will no longer recycle Tetra Pak in their household collection bins. They are most commonly used for long-life milk, fruit juices, soups and ice lolly cartons and they are made of wood, aluminium and plastic, which are difficult to separate. These cartons should no longer be put in recycling bins but with the rest of the non-recyclable household waste, allowing it to be used for generating electricity. It will not be sent to landfill.

CLIVE BATCHELDOR – It is very sad to report that Clive died after a short illness at his home in Alkham on the 28th of December a month before his 76th birthday; he was a good man and liked by all who knew him. Clive involved himself with many village activities such as the Alkham Recycling scheme in the early 2000's and used his banking skills as the village fete treasurer for a number of years. He was a trustee of the village hall and an accomplished bell ringer and rang at many weddings, funerals and services at St. Anthony's church. His wife Margaret is also a bell ringer. He will be missed by his fellow walkers from Alkham who sometimes took the bus to a town or village and walked back, generally with a stop for lunch at a pub. Clive will be buried in the churchyard on the 25th of January at St. Anthony's with the preceding funeral service in the church at 2pm but because of the virus this is restricted to a maximum of 30 people.

EXPLOSIONS – On New Year's Eve there were two very loud explosions above Slip Lane followed by a further one at midnight. There appeared to be no fireworks associated with the bangs and it is thought that they were launched from the south side of the valley road. Whoever was responsible please think before you do it again as they terrified dogs and horses and woke a number of people.

LITTLE EVERDEN ROAD – With the continual rain the new soakaway on Little Everden Road had reached capacity and was flooding the road again. The water should soak away but it does highlight the problem of run-off of water from the adjacent fields. It would be interesting to know if it occurred in times gone by when there were numerous ponds, slightly raised hedges and ditches.

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“HOW’S YOUR LOCKDOWN LIFE?” - Are you fed-up and bored or are you becoming overburdened with all those new skills, resurrected hobbies or DIY projects you’ve finally got time for? Perhaps you’ve become a Jack-of-all-trades... Personally, on top of my normal activities of ‘night owl reading’ and choir singing (via the incredible Zoom) I seem somehow to have grown into a Jill of all Hobbies (master of none? never let it be said!!). With the first Lockdown—after rushing out to arm myself with wool and cardigan pattern, for fear of housebound syndrome—I was happy to have catch-up time for some long-neglected clearing and sorting jobs. In the course of clearing (soon abandoned as charity shop drop-offs banned) I came across some material I’d intended to use for a skirt and straightway began cutting and pinning. Then I heard the call for volunteers to make hospital ‘Scrubs’. With my trusty machine staring at my conscience, what could I do? Skirt just had to wait again. Some weeks later when the Scrubs project ended, said skirt got completed! Next came my knitting phase! I surprised myself by actually enjoying knitting a cardigan, it being years since I’d made adult-sized woollies. However, I didn’t expect my twiddling fingers to demand to go on knitting when the job was done (Ha-ha is this addiction?) and discovered “Winwick Mum”, a delightful lady running a Facebook group for sock-knitters. When I read about free patterns, tutorial videos and helpful members, I was hooked! After a bit of trial and error on sizing, I produced three decent pairs to give away as Christmas presents. Knitting is all very well, but not too good for keeping anything but fingers in good physical shape. The fitness gurus have had a fine old time cajoling us to get on the move. I’m fascinated by the great variety of schemes that appear on the screen and in newspapers, all claiming to have the answer to getting us active, healthy and trim. Being the indecisive person that I am I tend to jump (not literally) from one idea to another—morning stretches, pilates, yoga poses, squat & lift, cycling, walking.....not forgetting some ‘recovery’ days! I must mention brain training—that’s where I’m a dedicated addict! For years I’ve made use of the Duolingo app. to sharpen up language skills in Danish (my late husband’s Mother tongue), but now I’ve added French (Not too taxing) and Scottish Gaelic (very taxing) just to guard against brain rot. I’m not altogether sure that it’s working. Here I am stretching my memory with the intricacies of Gaelic spelling, whilst forgetting people’s names or which day of the week it is! Enough said about my goings-on; it would be really interesting to hear how the rest of you are faring. Incidentally, if you want to kick-start a hobby, there are plenty of tuition videos available through YouTube or Google —Music, Art, Handwork are all there. Until we get vaccines, stay safe, keep occupied and enjoy the freedom we have in our village community to get our ration of fresh air without crowds. **Margaret Danstead**
MANY THANKS to Margaret and all the other people who have contributed to this newsletter. **Brian**

ELECTRIC CHARGING - Dover District Council is to install 49 electric vehicle charging points at 18 locations in Dover, Deal and Sandwich, including both DDC-owned, public car parks and on-street. In Dover they will be at Albany Place, Fishmongers Lane (Bench Street) and Maison Dieu Road car parks. The charging points are planned to be installed by March this year.

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OPEN LETTERS – Two residents have written open letters to Alkham Parish Council regarding Pimlico Way. Gill Butler who lives at South Alkham says that she rode her horse up Pimlico Way recently and was shocked with the condition and had never seen the tracks on the byway so deeply carved into the ground. Irrespective of the ban she asks the council to stop the 4x4's driving at speed, which is the main cause of the rutting, and repair the surface. Jackie Grebby who lives by Slip Lane asks that the Parish Council take an extremely serious view of the current situation regarding the two byways currently with closure notices for 4 x 4 vehicles; since there are no obstructions preventing access by said vehicles the prohibition is a joke. The byways are now unusable for pedestrians and cyclists and provide serious difficulty for horse riders and she asks the council to put pressure upon the KCC PROW team to accept that there is now a serious need to prioritise these routes on a basis of public safety. Jackie proposes that removable bollards be installed at the entrances to the byways stating that this is not a new idea as they have been installed elsewhere and suggests that the Parish Council offer a contribution from their contingency fund.



DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL has secured funding to install a fully funded gas connection first-time gas central heating system and other insulation measures for homeowners or private-renting tenants living in the district. To be eligible, the homeowner/occupier must be in receipt of benefits, or on a low income living with someone in the household who is suffering from a health condition that is impacted by living in a cold home. Households heated by storage heaters, electric radiators, or solid fuel fires are encouraged to apply. Eligible homes will be checked/surveyed to ensure they are in close proximity to the mains gas network. This scheme is free to those residents who qualify. For further information please email Amanda.martin@dover.gov.uk.

In August 1727 Benjamin Bayshee, a sailor, began to keep a Common Place Book.

Benjamin Bayshee's Phisicall Directions for January and February.

January:

Warm meats this month convenient be.

White wines also as wholesome is:

Flee sloth, sweet drinks, be Rules by me,

Bleed not, but bathe, forgett not this.

February:

Now diverse secret agues breed.

Be Choice of food, beware of Cold:

Abstaine from Milk, no vein let bleed

In taking medicines be not to Bold.

Personally, I doubt if these directions would alleviate the current medical crisis.

Jackie Grebby

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If you come to a service please remember to bring a face covering, use sanitizer when you arrive, leave contact details, observe social distancing at all times, and mix only with members of your household or support bubble. Thank you!

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7 th	Prayer 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am
Sunday 14 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am	
Wednesday 17 th	United Parish Eucharist 7.00 pm		
Sunday 21 st	Prayer 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 28 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 - I can still remember the sound of footsteps on the garden path before dawn; milk bottles rattling, more footsteps, then the whine of the motor as the milk float drew away. Then the same sounds repeated, only further along the street. The milkman was on his rounds, and all was well. But as it became cheaper and easier to buy milk with the rest of the shopping those once familiar sounds all but disappeared. A newspaper article I that read recently said that churches are now in the same bind as our High Streets. Just as the pandemic and online shopping has left many High Street stores struggling without their customers, so many churches are struggling to get by without their usual congregations. When the pandemic first struck and churches were closed, like many others I took my camera and turned to putting services online as a way of keeping things going – temporarily, as I thought. I never expected that many more would be joining us online than ever came through the church door on Sunday mornings, or that my congregation would ever be able to attend church while in bed with a cup of tea, fast forward to the best bits, or switch off without the upset that would usually go with walking out of a service! So to my online congregation, bless you, you're welcome, and I'll keep going for as long as you keep watching. But I do hope that this isn't the new normal. Standing in front of a camera lens instead of a live congregation - it's just not the same... Will the sound of church bells in the English countryside eventually go the same way as that of the morning milk round? I hope not... **Brian Williams**

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Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors

clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

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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. 326 March 2021

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FLOODING – John Huggins is to be congratulated for the works that he has carried out to his field by Slip Lane adjacent to the ditch that he previously dug. Small trees, hawthorn, field maple and hazel have been planted next to faggots of sticks by the edge of the field which should, in time, form a partial barrier to the water.

DOVER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN - The public consultation period for the plan lasts for 6 weeks, finishing on the 17th of March and the details can be found on their website www.doverdistrictlocalplan.co.uk. It is a well-designed site with a lot of information on but clicking 'Where I Live' and then 'view proposed sites' will take you to a page with Alkham on. Land to the east of Short Lane is shown as an area for possible housing but this area was shown on their 2010 plan and there is the possible extension of the gypsy site at South Alkham. There are seven other headings which can be commented on.

FLY TIPPING – In this time of lockdown there has been an increase in despicable fly tipping. The photo shows a Slip Lane layby on the 23rd of January which was reported to Country Eye by Jackie Grebby.



TRUSTEES - Alkham Village Hall is held on a charitable trust by Trustees, who are its legal owners, on behalf of the Parish and the day to day running of the Hall is in the hands of a Management Committee. The main responsibilities of the Trustees are: 1. To deal with any matters arising with third parties from the legal ownership of the Hall. 2. To ensure that any proposals of the Management Committee do not run counter to the Charitable Trust upon which the Hall is held. 3. To comply with any requirements of the Charity Commission and to deliver to it an Annual Return. For legal reasons, the bare number of Trustees is two, but a comfortable number would be four. Due to the unfortunate demise of Clive, we are looking for at least one committed person in the village to take on the role of Trustee. Official appointment is by Deed and necessitates the transfer of ownership of the land, which is dealt with by a solicitor. Anyone interested in taking on the role of Trustee please contact the Secretary Janet Adamson, in the first instance, at janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com.



WE HAVE DONE something to make people happy during lockdown. We have set up a trail of kindness rocks for people to find all around the village! We hope that it will really encourage people to feel happy during the difficult lockdown. If you want to add your own, this is what to do: 1. Get some good shaped rocks; 2. wash the rocks with soap and water; 3. Once they are dry, grab some paint pens or acrylic paint; 4. Draw on the rocks with the paint pens in whatever pattern you would like to do - make sure it's kind; 5. Paint them with some gloopy PVA glue mixed with water and leave them to dry so they don't wash off in the rain; 6. Leave them out around the village for people to find! That is what you do.

Nina (age 7) and Robin (age 4½)

A SEVEN FOOT high snowman was built in front of a house in Alkham and this too added some lockdown cheer. It's unlikely that the dog helped with the build, but she is looking pretty pleased with herself.



NOT IN COMPETITION but added appreciative voice: the refuse collectors, postmen, all those who are woven into our lives with their service. Thank you. **Jo Walker**

COLOUR – If you would like to see this newsletter in colour then either email brianwimsett@hotmail.com or go on the website www.alkham.org.

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CALLING ALKHAM KNITTERS - From Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) around the UK a big thank you, which I would like to pass on to all those involved, was received this week from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Glasgow for the recent parcel we sent, and the email stated that they have enough hats but would like more blankets if possible. There are several patterns for NICU blankets online, but they should be made small enough to fit in an incubator i.e. about 12 x 18 ins or 18 x24 in and not have any patterned holes which little feet or fingers can get tangled in. If anyone has time and spare wool and would like to get involved, please phone me. **Mairi Jones 07766410442**

WHAT IS FAIRTRADE? - Fairtrade is a simple way each one of use can make a difference through our everyday choices. It is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. Fairtrade aims to enable the poorest farmers and workers to improve their position and have more control over their lives. The Fairtrade mark means that: A minimum price is paid to Fairtrade producers covering their costs of production; the producers receive an additional Fairtrade premium, an extra amount of money to invest in their communities on economic, social or environments projects; workers on farms also get rights under Fairtrade like decent wages and they are allowed to join unions; The Producers in Fairtrade co-operative always get a democratic say in decisions – women included. By supporting Fairtrade in your weekly shop, it benefits others considerably; and also demonstrates a better understanding of where our food (and other Fairtrade products) come from. Both Dover Deal have Fairtrade town status and it is very important that we continue to work with the Community to maintain this status; our aim is to have a Fairtrade District. We have the support of both town councils and DDC. As it is Fairtrade Fortnight From 27/2/21 to 7/3/21 our activities will include a virtual meeting with a speaker on 3 March 2021 – anyone interested in attending and /or wanting to know more about our Fairtrade groups please contact pambrivio@ntlworld.com. Additionally, we have donations of Fairtrade Footballs to make and if anyone has contact with youth groups who would be interested in receiving a couple, please get in contact. Thanks

A CONSULTATION Directory provides a full list of KCC's past, current and planned consultations. It will help to let them know what you think about the local services and policies that matter to you and also look at planned, current and past consultations and look at the results. If you register and tell them the issues you are interested in, they will contact you when an activity is due to take place, or you can join in as and when they happen. You can also register to be emailed when the feedback for a particular consultation or involvement activity is published on this website. To access the consultation document, go to <https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/>.

NEW TOILETS are now open daily from 8am to 4pm in Kearsney Abbey and the new visitor facilities will be opened when the lockdown restrictions are eased. The car park is open along with a temporary café. Further details are on their web site www.kearsneyparks.co.uk.

PIZZA – A local resident said there was a good pizza delivery to Alkham and to let people know; Google 'Alkham Valley Pizza Project' to access their site.



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BOOK – Steve Osborn has been writing a 300 word monthly article in this newsletter for the last twenty years and an A5 size book that contains the articles for the first 10 years has been printed. It has a glossy cover and is printed on 100gsm silk finish paper, has 124 pages and each article has a small picture depicting the theme. The book costs £2 and if you would like a copy please contact me by ringing 01304

824969 or emailing brianwimsett@hotmail.com. **Brian**

FEEDBACK – Barry Sheppard emailed to say that he has lived at Ellinge for 38 years and the Christmas/New Year period was the worst he has ever known for transgressions by 4x4s, motor bikers, horse riders and pedestrians which is continuing. In addition, a van arrived in Slip Lane and deposited motorbikes and riders who then rode up Pimlico Way. John Richards, whose grandma lived in Upton Cottages at the bottom of Pilgrims Way, played as a boy on the byway and emailed to say that he was appalled at what the 4x4's were doing to Pimlico Way and that something needs to be done. His grandmother lived opposite Prescott's milking parlour and John has strong images of George Prescott crossing the road with a yoke and two churns of milk on his shoulder.



THE ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - The bird nesting season is officially from February until August and tree or hedge cutting should be done outside of the nesting season. The busiest time for nesting birds is from 1st March until 31st July which varies according to species.

HANDFORTH – If you missed the Parish Council meeting on the media it can be seen on <https://youtu.be/IgGmYeAm0jk>. It's chaotic and amusing and don't argue with the person who is controlling Zoom. It was also good to get a bit of light relief in these difficult times.

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Instead you hear voice-over and a text
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doubt

That one grew thinner and the other
stout.

At last you can relax and take a breath,
Whatever's shown it wasn't instant
death.

Some kinds of agony you recognize
As forming part of life before your
eyes.

It's breathless without hope that's
hard to face,

That suffering denied a last embrace.

Gail Swainston

Benjamin Bayshee's 1727 Physical Directions for March and April

March

March in Mans body breeds
humors great,
and divers dolours* that
dangerous be:

Then give heed to that ye
shall eat,
yet bleed and Bath with
modesty.

*Divers dolours: various sorrows

April

This moneth all things thier
strength Reneue
the pores are oppen and
Bloud abounds:
by letting bloud you shall not
Rue,
off purging also no harm
Redounds.

Jackie Grebby

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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 - As I write, it's a Sunday afternoon and I'm feeling slightly the worse for wear. No, I didn't have a wild night last night - but I did have my first Covid vaccination yesterday. Aspirin got me through two services this morning, and I'm telling myself that short-term pain is worth the long-term gain - which I'm sure it is. It was in March of last year, during Lent, that the first lockdown began and everything suddenly changed. Mothering Sunday services didn't happen; by Palm Sunday I was filming myself making paper palm crosses for others to try making at home; and the Easter Garden took shape on the vicarage driveway, hurriedly decorated with a tray of pansies from a supermarket. Most just shrivelled up in the spring sunshine, but a couple of them seemed to celebrate the hope and joy of Easter by not just surviving but blooming all the way into October. As I write, Lent is just about to begin. Forty days and nights, not just without cake, chocolate and other such things, but without things that usually make everyday life what it is. This Mothering Sunday will probably be another of those occasions when we would normally be with family and friends but may well end up sending flowers through the post and chatting on Skype instead. So here's some hope and encouragement for Lent: think of those pansies - they wouldn't have grown on the vicarage driveway had it not been for the pandemic. Perhaps in the same way, we'll look back on this time in years to come and find that there are things that we've gained as well as lost - perhaps small things, like the pansies, easy to miss for the moment- but still growing, all the same. **Brian Williams**

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No. 327 April 2021

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SNOW SCENE – Marian Barber emailed this lovely photo of the village green which she took in February.

MARQUIS - With life returning to some sort of normality, we are pleased to announce we will be re-opening our outside terrace on the 12th of April with additional heating and wind protection being installed to make everyone feel as comfortable as possible. And what a few months it has been for us... When lockdown restrictions came into place in November, we decided to do our bit for the local community by offering complimentary meals to the vulnerable and children that weren't able to take advantage of school meals during this time, totalling 263 mouths fed during the November and December period. On the 23rd of December 2020, we teamed up with the Hythe Imperial to make 1000 "packed lunches" for the lorry drivers that were stuck on the A2 and unable to travel to the continent during that festive period. And from January we adapted our offering to cater to those that still wanted a taste of the Marquis menu with fully prepared boxes to cook at home of which we have received overwhelming praise - we would like to thank those of you that helped support us through these last few months! We are incredibly excited to be opening our doors and seeing some familiar faces once again. Our kitchen will be open lunchtimes throughout the week with drinks available well into the evening. Dinner services will initially be available on a Friday and Saturday with bookings being taken until 7pm and with Sunday lunch finishing at 5pm. Of course, we cannot wait to welcome you inside as of the 17th of May but be rest assured, we've got your comfort covered outside. **Hugh Thompson**

GEOFF HILLIER – It is sad to report that Geoff died on the 5th of March aged 82. He was taken from his house in London to St. Thomas's hospital late last year suffering from the Covid virus and was eventually sent home but was later readmitted having contracted pneumonitis which was found not to be treatable and he was therefore discharged to palliative care. Geoff lived with his wife Rosemary at South Alkham and was very involved with the village and instrumental in getting the stage reconstructed in the village hall which was used for a variety of entertainment. He was chairman of the Village Hall Committee and started Film Night in the hall, which proved to be very popular, as was Tea and a Chat. Geoff was a Parish Councillor for several years and apart from other activities which included linking Alkham into the Kent Police and Community Speedwatch scheme, he led the Traffic Action Group set up in response to widespread village concern. Rosemary says that until his illness Geoff was also deeply concerned to establish effective management of the Nailbourne along its entire course from Drellingore to Short Lane which, as an engineer, he recognised as an ever-growing hazard to both health and safety of the village and the cherished village hall. He gave his time generously to all these matters out of his fondness for Alkham and the exceptional friendliness of so many here. He did it all with a lightness of touch and his characteristic good humour. As was his wish his funeral will be at 1.30 at St. Anthony's Church on 31st March, followed by committal at Hawkinge Crematorium.

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BARBARA PALMER - Sadly Barbara passed away on 22nd February shortly before her 95th birthday. She spent her early years in Suffolk going into service at 13 as was the custom in 1939. Barbara served in the Women's Land Army 1943-1950 in Suffolk as a relief milk worker amongst other things. She met Bob in a pub when he was home on a month's army leave from Egypt. Four years later in 1951, they married. Barbara joined Bob living in Tripoli, Libya, for three years, with three children under five years of age, before being posted back to Ashford where their fourth child was born. Barbara, following her husband Bob's retirement from the Ministry of Environment, moved to Slip Lane, Alkham in 1989. Barbara was a huge champion of the village for 30 years: an active WI member, Alkham cricket team supporter especially the cricket teas, stall holder at fetes and fayres running the jewellery and cake stalls, holding charitable coffee mornings with Bob in their beautiful gardens to name just some of the activities Barbara was involved in. Barbara was a keen and knowledgeable gardener and her baking and jam making were legendary, especially known for her cakes, Date and Walnut loaf, apple pies and marmalade. She will be remembered with great fondness as a stylish lady with generosity, wit, humour, legendary resilience and a sparkle in her eye! **Beverley Mann**

WILDLIFE – Bread was put on the tree trunk behind the house and disappeared overnight. I bought an Apeman camera, and it first recorded a mouse and a fox then the next night a badger. **Brian**



WEB SITES – It appears that the Parish Council web site has been terminated, so it is no longer included in this newsletter. The other web site alkham.org is still running where you can see the Alkham Newsletter in colour. It's not the most modern site but it does have local details which may be of interest to those searching for Alkham.

REGARDING Kearsney and Russell Gardens, in 1929 Hilton Russell was present at a celebration of the Klassical Konfraternity of Kongenial Konfreres a club for locals over the age of eighty years, of which there were 83 members in attendance and a further 800 who could not make the celebration. They received vouchers which they could exchange for goods. Evidently there are about 6800 people over 80 in the area now. **Jo Walker**

ILLEGAL use by 4x4's on Pimlico Way continues and it's now almost impassable for horses and walkers. A local resident has put up a sign to say the byway is closed to motor vehicles and that it is in a very dangerous condition for horse riders and walkers.

TANKERS – As a result of the wet weather and the underlying chalk becoming saturated the sewer which goes down Hogbrook Lane becomes flooded and overflows through some manhole covers. Because of this, tankers which have been seen on the car parks near the village hall, are sucking some of the excess out of the sewers to help the flow. In the flood of 2001, the toilets in the village hall and adjacent properties could not be used.

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RECONNECT WITH NATURE: Chilton Farm and Awesome Valley.

What a winter we had! As many of you know the COVID pandemic has affected our family life in many ways especially with members of the family working frontline in leading national hospitals and having high risk and elderly members. Among these difficulties, how lucky we are to live in this beautiful area of natural beauty and having the opportunity of spending time even during the lockdown walking through the vast fields of Chilton Farm, listening to the wind in the ancient woodland and even enjoying sledging on the gentle slopes for the few days of snow we had in February. We feel that not all members of the community are lucky enough to ease the pressures of the lockdown and the consequences of the pandemic. I and my family feel it an inner and moral duty to share these opportunities with the community. In this current time when the lockdown and restrictions are gradually easing, we would like to offer our outdoor amenities and invite members of Alkham Parish to take a peaceful stroll, away from the crowds around the perimeter of the field at Chilton Farm, and the accessible part of the woodland with beautiful views stretching across the wonderful Alkham Valley. For some of you it can be a peaceful time of reflection on the past year's events, being grateful for successes in overcoming the pandemic. For those of you who have lost loved ones, you can reflect and give thanks for their life. We would like to offer you to dedicate a sapling as a memorial for people that you would like to remember, that have sadly left us or that you feel have made a difference in your life of difficulty or contributed to helping others. The perimeter walk is about a 2 km circuit with flat footpaths, also hills to raise your heart rate! There are bridleways through Chilton Farm that link to the field or there is an area where you can park. Please call 07906213716 to book your free private walk. **Ruth Marczin-Bundy**



Kent in English Proverbs

If you would know your county

Hear what the proverbs say;

Take note of some old sayings

Recalled from yesterday

Parts of Kent have wealth and health,

And parts have only wealth;

Parts have neither wealth nor health,

And parts have only health.

Knight of Cales,* or Knight of Vales

Or lord of north country,

Kentish yeoman has the rent

To buy them out all three.

Once, 'tis said, the devil gave

Daughter fair in marriage;

With her too, they say, he gave

Dover, Deal, and Harwich.

Naughty Ashford, surly Wye,

Poor Kennington hard by;

But where prospect all around

More blessed to the eye?

* Knights of Cales (Cadiz, formerly Cales, in Spain) were made by Robert, Earl of Essex, following the capture of the City in 1596. Many were said to be of low fortune.

If you'd see a church mis-went, **

Go at once to Cuckstone;

If you'd speak at Dover Court,

Don't, for none will listen. ***

What was a Jack of Dover?

A dish, they say of old,

That must have been twice heated,

And must have been twice cold.

One more thing they also said,

When they spoke of Dover:

When it's dark on Shakespeare Cliff,

It's dark the whole world over.

Such are old English proverbs,

All well remembered still;

Such are old English sayings,

Make of them what you will.

** **Of unusual proportion.**

*** It was said that in Dover Court all were speakers, none hearers.

Jackie Grebby

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If you come to a service please remember to bring a face covering, use sanitizer when you arrive, leave contact details, observe social distancing at all times, and mix only with members of your household or support bubble. Thank you!

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Thursday 1st	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 7.00 pm		
Friday 2 nd	Good Friday Service Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 4 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 8.00 am	Eucharist 11.am
Sunday 11 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am	
Sunday 18 th	Prayer 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 25 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 - During Lent many people give up something like chocolate or biscuits or take on something like joining a Lent Group. Lent Groups usually involve meeting with others for tea and discussion – difficult this year, since it is difficult for any of us to meet at all. My chosen solution? Record videos that people can watch, think, and pray about and post them on Facebook. But how to keep them interesting? Why not add some photographs taken when I visited the Holy Land some years ago? One photo showed my fellow pilgrims crammed into a cave – social distancing didn't matter back then. Tradition has it that it was there, beneath the Paternoster church near Jerusalem, that Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them to pray. His teaching – the Our Father or Lord's Prayer – appears on the walls of the church in more than 140 languages. They were to ask forgiveness for their sins and forgive those who sinned against them - Jesus knowing full well that forgiveness is something that most of us struggle with. We all know what it is like to be sinned against – and how tempting it is, when it happens, to take to social media, tell all to the world and get others to take our side. But Jesus taught forgiveness. Make no mistake, forgiveness excuses nothing. Rather, it faces up to whatever has happened and bears the cost of mending what would otherwise stay broken. As Easter approaches, Holy Week and the cross point to the cost of forgiveness, and Easter morning and the empty tomb to its reward. A soft option? St Augustine thought that by bearing grudges, we hurt ourselves far more than we could ever hurt anyone else. Forgiving others, then, is good for us after all...

Brian Williams

POLICE 999 or 101

Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors

clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Hall booking Shirley 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

Web site www.alkham.org

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 328 May 2021

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LOCAL ELECTIONS are being held on the 6th of May in Alkham Village Hall for KCC Councillors and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Those standing for the KCC Councillor post are David Beaney, who lives in Ewell Minnis, for the Conservative Party, Rick Blackwell for the Democrats, Pamela Brivio for Labour and Cooperative Party and Nicolas Shread for the Green Party. Three people are standing for the post of Police Commissioner and they are Graham Colley Liberal Democrat, Matthew Scott Conservative and Lola Oyewusi Labour.

PARISH COUNCIL - Our new website will be live on Monday 19th of April and if you need to contact the parish council my email address remains unchanged: clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. The next meeting of the council will be on Wednesday 5th of May at 7pm via Zoom and please check the website near to the time for the agenda. **Irene Bowie Clerk to Alkham Parish Council**

STOMBERS LANE – An email was received regarding Stomers Lane which is the road at the bottom of the dip by the valley road close to the 1930's pumping station. The road is generally one lane wide and in some places in poor condition. Irrespective of the this it is being used as a rat run to Hawkinge with some people driving at speed and this can only get worse when the new houses are built near the top of the road. The Parish Council have been asked if they would contact the Highway Authority to erect signs to say that the road is only for resident's use and deliveries (access only). The writer also thinks there should be a width restriction at the entrances to the village and a 20mph speed limit. This was echoed in the Traffic Action Group questionnaire results presented to the Parish Council 2 years ago and a progress report is still awaited.

FREE FIREWOOD - Pimlico vineyard has been planted with over 500 walnut, hazel, elder, and sweet chestnut. Beside commercial sales these will feed wildlife, reduce flooding risk and even make a small contribution to fighting global warming risks. Sadly, it seems Pimlico will lose most of its mature Ash trees to Ash dieback. The dead trees standing will be felled. The main trunks will be planked but that will leave loads of branches. If you want firewood, have a saw and trailer or means to cart away all you want, then send an e-mail to Martin@Pimlico-Way.Co.UK . **Martin Scherer**

PILGRIMS HOSPICE – Mike Moore who lives at Drelligore is running in the Folkestone 10K on the 30th of May and is raising money for the Pilgrims Hospice. If you would like to find more about what their amazing staff and volunteers do and also donate money for the hospice, please go to the Just Giving page on <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mike-moore11>.

GEOFF HILLIER – Charlotte and I wish to convey our deep gratitude and appreciation for the contributions, and hours, even days, of dedication that so many put into making St. Anthony's church so extra beautiful for Geoff's funeral. Particular thanks go to Catie Webber and Shirley and Tracy Prince for their special input which was generously supported by a very large number of other Alkham friends. From exquisite arrangements to simple bunches of glowing spring bulbs, they demonstrated for us the affection and respect in which Geoff was held, sentiments which I know he had felt in equal measure for our Alkham friends. We would also like to thank those who, prevented by government restrictions from entering the church for the service, nevertheless attended by their presence outside. Thank you all so very much. In addition to this, we have also received so many cards and letters of condolence which have been heartwarming and comforting in our dreadful loss of Geoff. Our thanks go out to everyone for their support at this desperate time. **Rosemary Hillier**

VILLAGE HALL – To help prevent transmission of the Covid virus as the restrictions ease on the opening of venues it will be necessary for people who come to Alkham village hall to enter their details. This can be done by scanning the QR code poster that is displayed at the entrance or if the latter is not possible to enter their name and contact details in the folder provided. This is to make sure that they can receive public health advice if they may have been exposed to Covid 19.

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FILM NIGHT – People have been asking if Film Night will start again in the village hall when the Government allows. Geoff Hillier and I ran the event and I generally set things up and took the money on the door but didn't stay for a number of films. Therefore, I will not start Film Night by myself so please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com or ring 01304 824969 if you would like to help. **Brian Wimsett**

TAI CHI will be restarting in the village hall from Wednesday 19 May from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. If you would like further details, please contact Anna Dashwood on 01304 205 405 or 07736 849 194 or go to the web site www.pfstaichi.com.

BUS RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM

- Dover District Council has been awarded £15.8m

to support the development of a Bus Rapid

Transit System between Whitfield and

Dover and the Priory railway station. This

has arisen from the building of

many houses in Whitfield and those

proposed at the old Connaught Barracks

which could amount to 6,250 new homes in

total. The road will run from Whitfield across a new bus, cyclist and

pedestrian bridge over the A2 and through the business park past

Tescos and on to the improved Dover Road which runs past the

Connaught Barrack site. The junction at the top of Castle Hill will be

improved as will others into the town and those to the Priory station.

It will take some years to complete and it's unlikely to have an effect on

the number of new drivers coming down the valley.



ANIMALS – Last month there were photos from my Apeman camera. During the night the fox, badger and mice arrive with the mice being the most active and the badger coming a bit late. **Brian Wimsett**

SUMMER GRANTS SCHEME 2021

- Local community groups looking for funding are encouraged to apply to Dover District Council's

Community Grants Scheme. Building on the success of previous years'

schemes, the Council has increased the Annual Community Grants

Fund to £130,000 this year to help local community groups deliver

projects in a Covid-safe way. The grant has been split into two rounds

for the summer and winter and £65,000 is now available for the

summer round. Community groups who benefit the local area can bid

for grants from £100 up to £2,000. Bids will be accepted from

Monday 12 April 2021 until 12 noon on Monday 24 May 2021 and

successful applicants will be notified in early July. Community groups

and charities can apply for a community grant online at

website www.dover.gov.uk/Community. For more information,

please call: 01304 872277 or email: communitygrants@dover.gov.uk.

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ADDERS – Bev Hubbard sent an article written by Rodger McPhail about adders and this adds to previous articles in the newsletter. In early April having spent the winter months underground the adder slithers into the weak spring sunshine having not eaten for six months, but food is not on their minds; it is the mating season. Rival males indulge in spectacular ritual combat, rearing up side by side and twisting and wrestling at great speed. After mating the snakes disperse and spend the summer in solitary pursuit of mice, voles, lizards, frogs and fledglings. Adders never use more energy than is necessary and spend a lot of their time basking getting a great deal of their energy directly from the sun, and so efficient is their metabolism that they only require six to ten meals a year. Most snakes live in climates that are hot enough to incubate their eggs. The adder insures against our northern summer by basking at every opportunity and incubating the developing embryos inside her body, eventually giving birth to between six and 20 live young in August or September. This adaptation has allowed the adder to range further north than any other reptile. The young adders are dark brick-red, except for the end of the tail which is lime yellow which can be wriggled like a little maggot to entice froglets and baby lizards. Adders are surprisingly vulnerable and are preyed upon by birds, badgers and hedgehogs. Disturbance and loss of habitat has caused the adder to disappear from many places where it was once common resulting in isolation, leading to inbreeding and congenital weakness. In the past decade, the adder population has declined by more than half and could be extinct in Britain in 20 years. Humans have a primal and deep-rooted mistrust of snakes. From Genesis to *Harry Potter*, they've had a bad press. Now, at last, we are treating this much-maligned snake with sympathy, and naturalists are doing their best to halt its decline. **(edited article)**

LA BELLE DAME

I met an angel on the train

Travelling with High Speed One

St. Pancras, Dover, down the line

Till journey's done.

I felt protected, safe but free,

She spread her pearly sheltering wing

I knew whatever she might be

The birds would sing.

I heard a gentle feathery sound

That hung and shimmered in the air

Her voice from nowhere, all around

Caressed my hair.

Then I awoke, a flash of pain

The seats quite empty, she had gone.

But knowing we might meet again

I'm not alone.

Gail Swainston

UP TO £200 Micro Grants available for creative groups in Kent to start or restart creative activities in local community centres or village halls once restrictions allow. Funding Aims: Get creative, bring people back together, reduce loneliness & share skills. Applications to be submitted by 9pm 30th May 2021. To apply, you can fill in the online form via <http://bit.ly/GC-Kent> or charlotte@vaengland.org for more information and to receive the application form.

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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2 nd	Prayer 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am
Sunday 9 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am	
Sunday 13 th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 7.00 pm		
Sunday 16 th	Prayer 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 23 rd	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 30 th	United Parish Eucharist at St Mary's 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 - Sitting with a cup of tea and clicking through the channels with the TV remote, I came across an old film that I hadn't seen in years. And since Emperor of the North features spectacular landscapes and steam trains, my cup of tea lasted much longer than intended. Set during the Great Depression in 1930s Oregon, the plot features a battle of wills between a crazed train conductor (Ernest Borgnine) who will stop at nothing to see that no one ever gets a free ride aboard his train, and a tramp (Lee Marvin), whose reputation for outwitting Borgnine has led other tramps to dub him Emperor of the North. Another, younger man (Keith Carradine) attaches himself to Marvin. Jumping aboard moving trains and hiding in freight cars, the older man looks out for the younger one as they face trial and tribulation together. But the partnership crumbles; the young man is interested only in himself, and in stealing his mentor's crown. When Marvin and Borgnine finally fight it out aboard a flat wagon, he just stands and watches. It's a temptation almost as old as time itself. We depend on each other for so many things in life - but at the same time the thought of being the one who gets noticed, takes the credit and wins the admiration of others is so enticing. The New Testament tells us that even Jesus' disciples struggled with it; more than once he had to remind them that for them, true greatness lay in serving others rather than in being served themselves. A similar point, perhaps, to Marvin's parting shot to his selfish protégé in the film's final scene as he throws him from the train into a pond: You had the juice, kid, but not the heart... **Brian Williams**

POLICE 999 or 101

Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com

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clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Hall booking Shirley 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

Web site www.alkham.org

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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No. 329 June 2021

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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KEEP FIT – It's great to see things getting back to some normality as the lady's keep fit class resumes on the football pitch on a sunny day with beautiful trees and Alkham in the background.

FILM NIGHT – It was very encouraging to get an offer of help with Film Night from someone who has recently moved into the village. In addition, two other people offered to help so I will start it again. In the summer we found that the number of people coming to the films dropped considerably because of holidays and other factors so the first Film Night will be in September assuming that the government regulations allow it. **Brian Wimsett**

GARDEN TALK - During this last year we have been spending more time in our own gardens. We have really enjoyed the vibrant seasonal colour despite a wet winter and cold dry spring and are now planning ahead for the summer.



The Garden Group had to cancel all arranged meetings in 2020 and, unfortunately, the take up on individual booked visits was very poor, despite the effort put in by the owners. So now seems the right time to consider the way ahead. Could any villager who is willing to host a gathering to view their garden in an afternoon or evening, with possibly some light refreshment, or who is prepared to arrange a programme of events, please contact me? Janet Adamson 01303 893413 email: janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com

WEB SITE – The new Parish Council web site is up and running and can be accessed by going to www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. It has a lot of useful information which includes Planning Applications, the Local Plan, Alkham Community Plan and Lorry Watch and various other topics relating to Alkham.

CONGRATULATIONS to David Beaney on becoming our KCC Councillor following the recent elections. David lives in Ewell Minnis and takes over from Geoffrey Lymer who should be thanked for all the work he did for the community. Geoff was not afraid of controversy and was also quite happy to criticise his own political party putting the community and those without a voice before the party he was supposed to support. Matthew Scott was re-elected as the Police Commissioner.

RUBBISH - On our many village walks, recently we've noticed rubbish strewn across the green within yards of the nearest bin! On more than two occasions bags of dog waste. No trees nearby to hang it in but 2 yards from the bin! Can we all try to be more considerate through our lovely village. Thank you. **Brenda Smith**

BUS - The 8 o'clock 91 bus to Dover is now the 91a as it seems that a lot of school children are picked up from Hawkinge before coming down the Alkham Valley Road, hence the bus has, rather inflexibly, been designated for children only. Tough on people who have to use this bus to reach work. The matter has been referred to the Alkham Parish Council, so we expect a firm and timely response. The advantage is that if you miss the bus, you have another hour to admire the Barnards' wonderful panoply of seasonal flowers. For which, much thanks. **Jo Walker**

SURGERY diagnosed with empty waiting room syndrome: Lovely for Staff? But are we fed up with remote control medicine and peremptory services? To the barricades! **Citizen-client Walker**

FOUND In a black squashy case, a pair of blue framed, probably prescription spectacles in Slip Lane area. Please ring 01304 821641.

HOLIDAY LET available on small local farm with garden, patio and barbecue. There is a large utility room, a farmhouse range, 2 beds plus a sofa bed and spa bath. Dogs are welcome. For further details please ring Angela Peddle 07760224174

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A LOVELY PHOTO of the fox taken in my
garden by the Apeman camera. With this
picture in mind, it is pleasing to hear that
government has promised to make any
necessary changes to UK law to
recognise that animals can feel pain. This
can be described by the word sentient
which is the capacity to be aware of
feelings and sensations. As owners know,

their pet has a personality of its own and is aware of feelings and this
applies to all animals. Sheep graze in the field as a flock for the inevitable
but a local pet sheep startled my dog some years ago when it was intent
on giving her a head butt. It will be interesting to see what any legislation
achieves. **Brian Wimsett** fox in colour alkham.org

ADDERS - Further to the article last month about
adders, Trevor Johns sent an email with the
adjacent photo and said it gave him a hell of a shock
when he "appeared" on top of our side gate right
next to the house.



SPLATOMETRIST – Continuing with the nature theme, Kent Wildlife
Trust is carrying out a bug survey. Before making a journey in a vehicle
clean the number plate and when you reach your destination count the
bugs squashed on the number plate using a splatometer grid. The latter
is provided by the Trust when you sign up by going to
kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/bugs-matter and runs from June to August.

DDC COUNCILLOR – A suggestion has been made that if there are any
matters regarding the Alkham Valley that result in communication with
Kent County Council, Dover District Council or Alkham Parish Council
that a copy be sent to our Dover District Councillor Jamie Rose to
update him. His email is cldr-jamie.rose@dover.gov.uk, and hopefully
he can exert pressure on those concerned and also see how well he
responds regarding representing Alkham and its residents.

BROADBAND – The Parish Council have been asked if they can help
with the problem of low Broadband speed on upper Slip Lane and the
Ellinge area. In central Alkham a speed of 35mbps or better can be
achieved but in upper Slip Lane it is generally 8mbps and at Ellinge it can
be as low as 0.5mbps. It was pointed out that Ewell Minnis, a similar rural
location, is supplied via a separate Openreach fibre line and is probably
receiving up to 80mbps. If you would like to give evidence of slow speed,
go to www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-broadband-for-very-hard-to-reach-premises which finishes on the 11th of June.

PIMLICO WAY - The byway closure is due to expire on 9th of May
unless KCC decide to extend it because of the problem with off-
roaders. In the past the track was just used by horses and carts and
then in the 20th century by tractors. At the bottom of Pimlico Way on
the south side is the valley road which in the middle ages ran as a river.
Because of this the track was sometimes used by the pilgrims walking
from St. John's Commandery near Swingfield Street to St. Radigunds
on the other side of the valley as the river was shallower at South
Alkham and then continuing up Meggett Lane. Their usual route was
down Slip Lane and across what is now the village green, along Short
Lane and then up the byway known as the Priest's walk.

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CONQUERING SEASICKNESS on cross-channel ferries - The South Eastern and Continental Steam Packet Company was formed when the South Eastern Railway reached Dover in 1845 and, with the French Northern Railway, a scheduled service from London to Paris became a reality. The fleet comprised of ten small paddle steamers, each 140 feet long. Those early ferries, over 175 years ago, had a remarkable turn of speed but, coupled with being very small paddle steamers, it made them very uncomfortable. The arrival of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway brought competition, faster ferries, and more discomfort! In the mid-1870s, an attempt was made to provide a service offering comfort in an enormous ship with four paddle wheels and a length of 350 feet. But at low speeds it became difficult to control and, on her trials, she crashed into the wooden pier at Calais, demolishing about 50 yards of it. The failure of the Bessemer was soon followed by the arrival at Dover of the catamaran Castalia. The English Channel Steam Ship Company was formed to promote this strange newcomer to the great cause of reducing the horrors of sea-sickness. Throughout her short career everyone agreed that there was hardly any problem with sea-sickness. When the Castalia was retired she was purchased in the early 1880's by the Government for use as an isolation hospital. **Jackie Grebby**



RUSSELL GARDENS - A natural play area which includes a play hut, log climbing frame, cantilever swing, seesaw, and balance beams along with boulder play and natural pea shingle safety surfacing has opened at Kearsney.

SPRINGTIME

It's time to give up the past
Nothing can last

For ever

It's time to give up the past

You know whatever

You do

To keep it true

To keep it just

Like you remember

That what you thought

You knew

Just tangles up

Life's a dissembler

So

It's time to give up the past

Nothing can last

For ever

Gail Swainston

A FOWLHOUSE THEFT AT ALKHAM

At the Dover Police Court Patrick Kane, tramp tinker, was charged with stealing 18 ducks' eggs and 8 china nest eggs, value 2s 6d, the property of Charles Newlyn, of Alkham, on the night of April 29/30 1907 plus an overcoat from Upton Farm. Mrs. Martha Ribbens, wife of the landlord of the Carpenters' Arms, South Alkham, said: I saw the prisoner last Tuesday, April 30th, about 7.30 in the morning. He came to the bar and had half a pint of beer. He started talking about eggs, and produced a duck's egg from his pocket, and asked if I would give him 2d for it and said that if I put it under a hen, I should soon have a duck. I told him he had better keep it. The prisoner denied all knowledge of the theft, but seven china nest eggs were handed over as having been found his possession and he was remanded in custody.

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If you come to a service please remember to bring a face covering, use sanitizer when you arrive, leave contact details, observe social distancing at all times, and mix only with members of your household or support bubble. Thank you!

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6 th	Prayer 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am
Sunday 13 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am	
Sunday 20 th	Prayer 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 27 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

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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 can still remember the Sunday morning when I climbed into the pulpit and began my sermon with a tale of three vicars. I hadn't been in the parish long and was still in the process of discovering what I had taken on. There were three vicars, I began, who had bats in the belfry... Suddenly someone spoke: So have you! I haven't told that story since. According to the Book of Genesis, among the things that God made on the fifth day of Creation was everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And it was good. Our modern church at Capel – St Radigund's – might attract the odd ant or spider, but not much more than that. Medieval churches, however, seem to be the ones that bring us closest to nature. It was as a curate that I discovered that bluebottles could navigate towards communion wine from the other end of a church with pinpoint accuracy. I was once taking a service in another church and discovered a bluebottle that had already taken the plunge – I lost sight of it as it crawled under the altar, presumably looking for somewhere to sober up. Spring has been chillier than usual this year, and apart from a few dead wasps nothing much had appeared until I came to light a candle the other day and found a ladybird sleeping next to the wick. I went to another candle – and there was another ladybird. When I came to extinguish the candle at the end of the service, another ladybird was already crawling up it, heading for home. Yes - it's taken me twenty years to discover that church candles attract ladybirds. Everything that creeps upon the ground seems to be in a church somewhere...

Brian Williams

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 330 July 2021

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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ELECTION - Jamie Rose resigned his position as councillor for the Alkham and Capel-le-Ferne Ward of Dover District Council due to a possible conflict of interest. If the post is contested an election will take place on the 22nd of July and because the village hall is booked the polling station will be in St Anthony's Church Alkham.

THE PARISH COUNCIL is actively progressing a solution to the litter on the Village Green with Dover District Council. We originally purchased the existing bins but they were 'adopted' by DDC and it is their responsibility to ensure they are emptied regularly. We have commissioned and paid for 13 new 'Not Suitable for HGV's signs that will be sited on key roads within the village. KCC Highways will not progress any traffic calming measures until they have conducted an official Speed Survey; we have asked for this to be undertaken. All Highways matters are dealt with via a KCC Highways Improvement Plan (HIP). KCC Highways will agree two Highway Improvements per parish council per year and there is no specific funding allocation for this. Therefore, it is very likely that the parish council will have to fund any works or surveys. We have incorporated much of the TAG report into our HIP. Thank you for the many positive comments regarding the new parish council website, the cost of which was covered by a grant from the Kent Association of Local Councils. The new website is available at: <https://alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk/> . **Irene Bowie Parish Clerk**

MESSY DEVELOPMENTAL PLAY is coming to Alkham Village Hall, CT15 7BU for September and October. We will be combining messy play, songs and stories to create fantastic sensory learning experiences. The benefits of messy play are huge!! Your baby will get to explore new sensations whilst laying the foundations for independent play. What's even better...they get to make the mess and I clear up! All play will be thematic and use edible and baby safe materials including food stuffs, paint, materials and heuristic props. This is a 7 week block for the first Autumn term and spaces are limited to ensure the best experience for all. Book early to avoid disappointment and secure your place for September. www.botreebabywellness.co.uk/book-online. First class starts Thursday 9th September at 10:30 - 11:30, suitable for babies from 6 months onwards. All messy play provided in individual play trays and following Covid-19 safety guidance. Sessions delivered by an experienced primary and EYFS lead teacher. Free parking, refreshments and opposite play area.

FOR SALE £50 a wheelchair which is as new and only used twice. It folds up and has its own travel bag. Please ring 01304 824030.

VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- It is hoped to be able to hold the postponed Annual Meeting on Tuesday 20th July at 7.00p.m. in the Village Hall. All welcome to come along and find out what this village amenity can offer. Also to give your input on what developments, improvements and events you would like to see, as we plan ahead after such a long break.

Janet Adamson - Secretary

WILD FLOWER MEADOW - I would like to congratulate John Huggins on the beautiful wild flower meadow he has created on his strip of land that stretches from Pimlico Way to the top of Slip Lane. It has now been there for a few years and has seeded to create a wonderful area for all kinds of pollinators and butterflies. I have walked along it on many occasions, my favourite time is early in the morning and it is at its very best in June. Thank you John for thinking of our insects and butterflies who really need our help when so many meadows have been lost. **Sue Ross**

TEA N' CHAT - We hope to resume the popular informal afternoon get togethers from 29th July in the Village Hall. These are regular opportunities (last Thursday of each month from 2.30-4.00p.m.) for relaxed company with free refreshments, and nice biscuits. Just come along and meet up with residents old and new. All welcome.

PILATES - Pilate classes which are currently on Friday mornings from 10am to 11am will also be on Tuesdays at the same time.

THE ART CLASS will start again in the village hall on Tuesdays 11am to 2pm.

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SAILING – A person in the village has built a radio controlled toy yacht for his grandchildren and the maiden voyage was in the lake at Kearsney on June the 11th. He put his bike camera in the stern and a suitable size sailor in the boat and the recording that has been made is mesmerizing. The video has been uploaded to YouTube and can be accessed by going to <https://youtu.be/tGB2B6vMpVY>.



WILDLIFE – Previous newsletters have shown the fox and the badger getting fed and not to be outdone a pheasant regularly visits a house in Alkham and goes to the patio door demanding his oats whilst his partner stands on one leg



drying out. At a relative's house in the village a bat was seen recently hanging in a tree and



was rescued by the owners. However, it did not survive and was collected by a wildlife organization which said there had been a number of mortalities because of a shortage of insect food. I upload the newsletter to alkham.org where the photos can be seen in colour. If you would like a regular colour copy, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com. In addition to animals there is a sea of Ox Eye daisies on the

large area of non-cultivated land to the left of the footpath as you go up the path behind the church to Ellinge. **Brian Wimsett**

RUBBISH – In last month's newsletter there was an article about rubbish being strewn across the ground opposite the village hall. A nearby resident says that our feral fox is partly to blame as it scavenges in the bin. Also, probably visitors, are leaving disposable barbecue kits which are a particular danger to children and pets.

AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

At Brook, which is halfway between Ashford and Wye, there is an agricultural museum which has just about all the items from when the horse was the power round the farm. The main collection is housed in a Grade 1



listed barn and is worth a visit just to see the building. Behind the barn is a 19th century almost intact oast house with a large variety of items associated with hop growing. On the second floor of the oast is a varied selection of implements and small objects relating to farming. There is a large grassed area where people can picnic, toilets and a room which has numerous models of carts and wagons. The museum is open at the weekend between 2pm and 5pm until mid-September and the cost of entry is £2.50 (concession £1.50) and children under 14 are free. **Brian Wimsett** curator

W.I. – The meeting scheduled for July has been cancelled due to the current restrictions.

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RIOT AT DOVER - The following was reported in *The Times* on 29 May 1820. "On Wednesday the *Lively* excise cutter captured a smuggling galley, having on board 57 half-ankers of spirits and 37 bags of tea, which, with the crew, consisting of 11 persons, were landed here [Dover]; and 10 of them being fit for the Navy, the whole crew were committed to Dover gaol, until the 10 could be removed to some of HM's receiving ships. This morning was fixed for the removal of the 10; but it being thought, from the vast influx of ill-looking men into the town that a rescue would be attempted, every precaution was taken by the Mayor and Magistrates to guard against it... The mob... notwithstanding the Riot Act was twice read from the gaol, with crowbars, pickaxes, hammers, saws, etc. unroofed the top, and threw part of the side wall down, and not only released the whole 11 smugglers but several other prisoners... Since the release of the smugglers, who all belonged to Folkestone, the town remains tranquil." *The Times* reported the next day that "It is a fortunate circumstance that the Magistrates did not authorise the Military to fire, for, had they done so, great slaughter must have ensued, there being amongst the crowd numbers of women ... were the wives of the smugglers with 40 children all belonging to Folkestone." **Jackie Grebby**

MOONWALK – Jane Day, who lives at South Alkham, is raising money for a breast cancer charity and on the 15th May walked 26.2 miles for this charity which is called 'walkthewalk'. She has raised £1200 already and was wondering if any of the newsletter's lovely readers would like to donate. The walk normally takes place in London at night and is called the 'moonwalk' but due to Covid it was walked locally by women and men all over the UK. Over a million pounds has been raised for this worthy cause and if you'd like to donate please go to <https://walkthewalk.enthuse.com/pf/jane-day>

HARRY - MY SPARROWHAWK

A peaceful Sunday afternoon
Hawk eyes dozing in the broom
Little birdies all around
Pecking at the chalky ground.
Lightning fast without a sound
He drops and pierces. All around
Sunday peaceful afternoon -
Hawk eyes glitter in the broom.
Looping left and arcing right
Angling through the splintered light
Faster than the sense of sight
Ripping into fluttering flight
Gripping with his talons tight
Crushing daylight into night
Streaking red across my white
In his medieval might.

Gail Swainston

CHARITY RUN

Congratulations to Michael Moore, who lives at Drellingore, on completing his 10k run in aid of the Pilgrims Hospice on Sunday the 30th of May. Michael says he was chuffed with his time of 1 hour 37 seconds and has to date raised £215. The 10k run was along the seafront on a beautiful, but very hot sunny day.



A SPARROWHAWK



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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4 th	Prayer 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am
Sunday 11 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am	
Sunday 18 th	Prayer 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
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 - Say One For Me – it's the sort of remark that churchgoers sometimes hear as they set off for church on a Sunday morning, usually from a neighbour who's engaged in gardening or washing the car. It also inspired the title of a book that sits on my bookshelf about the fact that there are some people who may not choose to attend church themselves but are nevertheless glad that others do. For people of faith prayer is as natural as a conversation with a friend. Yet it can be surprisingly controversial. I have seen people bristle at the thought that someone might be praying for them. When Richard Dawkins, the celebrated biologist and outspoken critic of all things religious suffered a minor stroke a few years ago, the Church of England asked for prayers for his recovery on its website – only to be accused by some of 'trolling'! The discussion went on: if prayer works, great! If it's all nonsense, where's the harm? There are certainly those who are comforted by the thought that others are praying for them – we remember those who have asked for our prayers at our services, and others pray for them privately. But we live in strange times, and I've recently noticed something that I haven't noticed before: I've taken phone calls from people who I cannot recall ever having spoken to before, but who having been left stressed and anxious by the pandemic want to know that someone is praying for them. And judging by some of the messages I've received from them, it seems to be working...

Brian Williams

POLICE 999 or 101

Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors
clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
Hall booking Shirley 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 David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC No one at present
Web sites www.alkham.org and
www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 331 August 2021

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ALKHAM SPEEDWATCH VOLUNTEERS post covid restrictions return into full Operational Service on Wednesday 28th July, all being well. We have a new speed measuring device, new hi viz clothing and we welcome three new volunteers who will join us once fully trained. We welcome new volunteer operators and also are seeking one or two people who would like to help but do not want to work at the roadside to work at home to analyse data collected by the roadside teams and enter it into the Kent Police Speedwatch database within 36 hours of a monitoring session. Villagers may be interested to know that in the last 31 speed watch monitoring events in the village, 800 speeding motorists exceeding 35mph in the 30 mph limit were booked according to our police records. Although lots of people continue to raise concern with me, Lorry Watch has received only two reports of HGV problems in the Parish over the past 12 months and KCC will not take action without evidence of a problem; all parishioners are urged to advise alkham.hgvincident@btinternet.com every time they become aware of a problem. This may be dangerous turning, road damage, speeding, clearly lost, high vehicles heading towards Kearsney bridge, HGV's using unsuitable side lanes (unless for bona fide access reasons), overnight parking in unsafe places, etc. **Glyn Jones AWARD** - I attended the Alkham Parish Council meeting on the 28th of June 2021 and was delighted to be present to witness Brian Wimsett receive the Kent Association of Local Councillors (KALC) award for services to the local community. I am writing this article knowing Brian's modesty would not entertain notifying the local community of such a well-earned and well deserved award recognising the inordinate amount of time he gives each month to ensure the gathering of sufficient number of articles which have then to be edited to compose and print in the monthly Alkham newsletter. Brian has always worked tirelessly to promote the work of the parish council and that of the community in a selfless manner. "Congratulations Brian, you deserve it". **Geoff Lymer ...**



I WOULD like to thank the Parish Council for nominating me for this award and also thank the 11 people who deliver the newsletter each month around the parish some of whom have been doing it since I started in 1997. Also, many thanks to Steve Osborn (OZ) who has written a monthly article from 1999. **Brian Wimsett**

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE - Can I be the first person this year to mention Christmas! The tree is now thriving and getting taller which means that I will have to succumb to family pressure and ask if anyone would like to take over putting up the tree lights as I am not to be trusted up a ladder these days!



Den Barnard 01304 824845

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH - Last August there was an article in the newsletter regarding the replacing of 6000 Kent peg tiles on the roof of St. Anthony's church. 'A buy a tile' fund was started at £5 a tile and 23 people responded with £980 being raised which was placed in the Friends of St. Anthony bank account. The cost of the roof work has increased but the Friends are giving £12,500 towards the works with the church providing the rest.

SIGNS - The 13 'Not Suitable for HGV's' signs paid for by the Parish Council have been erected by the minor roads off the Valley Road around Alkham. This is to be commended as they have listened to parishioner's comments and hopefully the signs will also deter some drivers using these roads as short cuts.

FILM NIGHT could start again in September but there doesn't appear to be any suitable films that have recently been released to DVD. The only one that could appeal is 'Peter Pan goes wrong' but only lasts an hour. Please let me know what you think of the latter or suggest a film that we could show - brianwimsett@hotmail.com or 824969.

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ALKHAM COMMUNITY LED PLAN - You have not heard much on this subject for some time but with the improving news this month it is a good moment to remind everybody where we are on producing the plan. It seems an age ago when the village hall was packed at the Community Plan Open Day. Over 150 villagers attended and about 800 comments, ideas, thoughts and feelings were put forward. The Planning Team (Cllr Tracey Prince, Cllr Dave Beaney, Cllr Martin Hibbert, Rachel Fountain, Jo Walker, Glyn Jones, Steve Edwards and Den Barnard) had taken advice from KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils), Dover Council Planning, Kent County Council and many other sources on how to go about producing a CLP. The Village Survey followed and after many iterations a draft plan was put forward early last year when other priorities took over. With some sort of normality now returning the team will be reconvening after feedback from the Parish Council and the next steps will be reported at the next Parish Council meeting. As always this is a good time to remind us all that although the Parish Council instigated the project, as the name implies, it is Community led so we will be needing volunteers and all types of help to make it a success. We have a list of volunteers obtained from the village survey and if you would like to add your name to that list please let any of the team know or email denbarnard@yahoo.com. For any newcomers to the village we can supply full details of the work done so far. **Den Barnard**

GEOFFREY LYMER sent an article for publication in which he expressed his concern about a few people who are aggressive at Parish Council meetings. He wishes to remind these people that the councillors are volunteers and they should be treated with respect and the Parish Clerk who has also done a great job with the Parish Council website. He was also critical about the role of the Alkham Valley Society and considers it to have no mandate in Parish Council affairs.



IN LAST month's newsletter the abundance of Ox Eye daisies on the hill behind the church was mentioned and Marian Barber sent a photo which shows this sea of daisies. Evidently Ox Eye daisies are particularly rampant on fertile land.

The photo on the right is amusing and evidently the dog is thinking 'the farmer should get some new glasses as goodness knows where the ram is.'



ALEC AND Marie who live in the centre of Alkham visited the Agricultural Museum at Brook (TN25 5PF) and found it fascinating. They thought the barn roof was awesome, and the oast house was of great interest as well. If you'd like to visit the museum, it is open at the weekends from 2pm to 5pm until mid-September and entrance costs £2.50 (concession £1.50) with most children free. **Brian Wimsett**

W.I. - Our WI meeting will be on Tuesday the 10th of August. It will be an informal meeting and I have promised to do a quiz to round the evening off. Hostesses are Sue Koo and Katie and Raffle Beryl King. Looking forward to seeing you all there and new members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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CASTALIA – In the June edition of the newsletter there was an article about a revolutionary catamaran which was used in 1870 as a cross channel paddle steamer. When the Castalia was retired she was handed over to the Metropolitan Asylum



Board and converted into a hospital. Five large wards were made in the old cabin arrangement covering the whole mid-ship section and another five above. Separate rooms were provided for isolating patients who may have been sent under a mistaken diagnosis of small-pox but proved to be suffering from measles, fever, etc. Small-pox was such a terrible and infectious disease that it was evidently thought desirable to isolate the isolation hospital that dealt with such cases. A completely self-contained floating hospital complex was certainly unusual, and the organisation seems to have been very well thought out. Before the arrival of the re-built Castalia it consisted of two large ex-sailing ships; the Atlas, which accommodated the patients, and the Endymion, which housed the staff and services such as the laundry. With the arrival of Castalia, the Atlas was given over to the female patients, and all the male patients were treated aboard Castalia. The functions of Endymion remained as before. The whole complex was anchored well out in the river between Purfleet and Dartford. Castalia remained a part of this floating hospital for over twenty years and was then broken up. **Jackie Grebby**

CRAFT CLASS – There used to be an Art Class on Tuesday mornings in the village hall and this will commence again as a Craft Class which can include any other craft or hobby. If you would like to join them the first class is on Tuesday 3rd of August from 11am to 1pm.

THE HUNTER

There are those that hunt forever

In the camouflage of light

Blending black stripe white together

Tiger like.

On occasion there's a hunter

One who waits until the night

Blending shadows with the rock face

Leopard like.

But avoiding confrontation

There is danger out of sight

Mythic fearsome reputation

Cobra like.

Breathing in with every heartbeat

Breathing out as you let go

Blending with your own persona

To and fro.

With a strike that came from nowhere

Nothing you had seen before

Shock so violent in your bloodstream

To the core.

Gail Swainston

WOLVERTON WOOD

The 12 acre wood, which is adjacent to the Alkham Valley road roughly opposite Alkhamhurst Kennels, is for sale again at £85,000 pounds and the agents say that there may be potential to erect forestry barns or wildlife hides subject to consent. It is encouraging to see that the agents are being realistic regarding the use of the site which suggests it is purely for nature purposes.

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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday - Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Tuesday	Craft class 11am to 1pm (check on day)
Wednesday	Tai Chi 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Other events in the village hall assuming no changes

Tuesday	3	White Cliffs Metal Detectors 7.30pm
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Saturday	14	SEKAS 7pm All events subject to Covid
Thursday	26	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Prayer 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am
Sunday 8th	Patronal Festival Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 15th	Patronal Festival at St Mary's Capel 10.00 am		
Sunday 22nd	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 29th	United Parish Eucharist St Radigund's 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - I read that in Britain, more than three million pets were bought during lockdown. It's easy to understand why – many of us look to our pets for love and companionship. We have a family of cockatiels, who seem to find someone arriving home as exciting as anything you can imagine. Of course, the downside of pet ownership is that inevitably the moment comes when we have to say goodbye. More than once when I was teaching in school, I was asked by a grief-stricken child whether their much-loved pet might have gone to heaven. And frustratingly, nothing – not even the Bible - offers a clear answer. We had a goodbye of our own recently. At ten years old, Peter Rabbit – the name that the pet shop gave him always stuck – was ancient by bunny standards. In later life he had needed almost monthly visits to the vet to have his teeth fixed. Arriving home, he would be sleepy for a day or so and then normal service would resume – eating, being stroked, and running over my foot. But then age finally caught up with him, and we laid him to rest in the garden where his hutch used to stand. It was after dark one evening about a week later when I noticed that something had triggered the light outside the front door. I investigated – and there, playing on the garden path, was a young wild rabbit. At one point it stretched up the door and looked through into the porch. But before I could fetch my camera, it hopped off across the garden and disappeared. Bunny heaven? I used to tell children that I believe that God loves our pets just as much as we do - and I still do. **Brian Williams**

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
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No. 332 September 2021

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AFTER twenty years of leading the Keep Fit Girls each Wednesday in the village hall, Susannah has finally decided to take life easier. We are all very grateful to her commitment, leadership and dance routines, enabling us all to maintain more flexibility. We all enjoyed a wonderful coffee morning, with great thanks to Sue Koo for hosting, to wish Susannah well. **Irene Barnard.**

AN EXCITING DAY when film crews arrived at Greenwood farm, on the 19th of July with Joanna Lumley. They filmed Joanna taking off in a microlight to fly over the white cliffs of Dover for a program to be shown in September or November. The photo shows Joanna with our 7 year old grandson Vinnie. **Anne Huggins**



MEET AND GREET COFFEE MORNING - It's been a while since the last event, and as we see many new families in and around Alkham, thought it about time to do another. This coffee morning is relaxed and a way to meet new friends and neighbours - especially for those who have moved into the village during the past year. Please come along from 10 - 12.30 and enjoy free refreshments and treats for the children on Saturday 23rd October in the village hall. Hopefully many villagers will come along to meet the newcomers and enjoy a pleasant Saturday morning. The cost for this event is being met by The Brian Wimsett Alkham Fund. **Irene Barnard**

VILLAGE HALL - It is heartening to see that many of our regular events are resuming after the Hall has been out of use for over a year. Our recent AGM was well supported and has meant that we now have two new members on the Committee, a new Trustee and we are pleased that Brian Wimsett is now Chairman of the Management Committee. Precautionary cleansing and safety measures are still in place but we welcome ideas for future functions in the Hall. (booking details on back page). **Janet Adamson**
I WOULD like to take the opportunity to thank all the residents that turned out to vote at the recent DDC ward by-election for Alkham & Capel le Ferne. As the winning candidate, I promised to listen to you all and fight for the issues that matter most to you. My job will be to ensure that the interests of the ward communities are fully represented and I will work hard to get things done on your behalf.
Cllr Martin Hibbert Alkham and Capel le Ferne

A COFFEE MORNING in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support is being held in the village hall on Saturday the 25th of September from 10am to 12 noon. There will be a number of stalls selling cakes, plants, jewellery and bric-a-brac plus a tombola stall. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available with seats and tables laid out in the hall.

TEA N' CHAT - The Village Hall is open, on the last Thursday of the month, for an informal get-together with refreshments, biscuits and sometimes cake! A chance for villagers to meet up, reminisce, swop books, magazines and stories. All welcome between 2.30 and 4.00p.m.

FILM NIGHT

Tuesday 28th September 7.30pm

Fairy Tale: A True Story

Starring Paul McGann, Harvey Keitel, Peter O'Toole and Bill Nighy about two girls in 1917 who say they have seen fairies and produce photographs which are authenticated by an expert. Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated.

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY wishes it to be known that it was founded in 1977 with the sole purpose of preserving the beauty of the Valley and to conserve its surroundings and has no mandate in Parish Council affairs and does not interfere with the business of the Parish Council. **Mark Loveday**

FISH & CHIPS - The ladies apologise for the non-appearance of the van in July, as it broke down; new leaflets are being distributed. The next dates are Saturdays 28th August and 18th September, by the Village Hall. To preorder: 07955 926 835.

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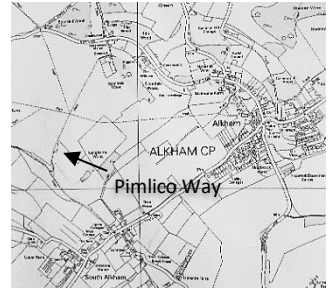
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SOMETHING GOOD which has come out of the pandemic has been the Slip Lane sunflower competition, which was started by Vernon and myself when we received a free pack of Sunflowers in the post on the first lockdown. Vernon popped 10 in and shared the seedlings with Apple Tree cottage and Shortlands and the rest we kept ourselves. In 2020 Ken and Sandie won and this year we now have a trophy and this was presented on Sunday to Ang and Kev

from Shortlands who won by growing a sunflower 3.3 metres high. Next year we have the intention of opening this fiercely fought contest to the entire village to take part. We shall be keeping some of the seeds back and using them for providing seedlings to anyone wishing to take part next year for the now renamed Alkham Sunflower Cup, details to follow. **Anita James**

HERE IS a free garden refuse disposal site for Alkham residents. At the top of Pimlico Way from the Alkham Valley Road, on the branch to the right, there is a section now called The Poo Store. This is private land, on which there is horse manure, just before the gate. There, and until the council's collection or November 1st, Alkham residents may dump the same as the council collected and can be put on a compost heap including grass cuttings, twigs and leaves, prunings and hedge clippings, flowers and plants, weeds (except Japanese Knotweed and ragwort), turf and topsoil. Do not dump rubble or stones, cooked foods or kitchen waste, wood of any kind, non-organic waste, garden chemicals, pet litter/bedding. This free service will be stopped if abused. Your vehicle registration will be recorded by CCTV and you may be asked to prove you are an Alkham resident, so carry a utility bill in your glove compartment. **Martin Scherer**



FOLLOWING the splendid display of Oxeye Daisies in the both the meadow above the church and the meadow strip running beside the sheep field between Pimlico Way and Slip Lane, the latter is now full of wonderful grasses, yarrow, and scabious all accompanied by moths, butterflies and these rather interesting 6-spot burnet. **Jackie Grebby**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our August meeting was just an informal one and it was lovely to see all members again. Our next meeting will be on the 14th of September at 7.30pm and we will be having fish and chips followed by a short quiz by the 2 Debbie's. Please would all members bring your own refreshments and any members that weren't at the last meeting but would like fish and chips please let me know by 3rd September; my number is 07796360473. Raffle prize Gina Daniels. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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CHRISTINA BALIT has illustrated over 20 children's books and been short listed for the Kate Greenaway Medal twice winning the Commended award for *Ishtar and Tammuz* in 1996. One of her books, *Atlantis - The Legend of a Lost City* and *Escape from Pompeii* is now extensively used throughout the UK in primary schools and other illustrations are in five huge anthologies for National Geographic. Christina's latest book 'The Corinthian Girl' is the story of young girl in Ancient Greece, who despite being abandoned by her father in a

marketplace to be discarded - or picked up by someone else in case she was of any use - ends up becoming a champion at Olympia. It's especially suitable for children in class three to five of primary school and written specifically to show what life might have been like for a real child in the Ancient World. If anyone in the village fancies purchasing a copy it is available at booksellers or from Christina at the Old Granary, Slip Lane, Alkham. If a teacher would like her to visit their class, she is happy to do so, at no charge - so long as it's not too far away. You can contact her directly on Instagram or via the website www.christinabalit.com.

SHOPPING – At the beginning of the 20th century most people in Alkham walked to Dover to get their weekly supplies. There was some transport available but the Alkham Valley road was rough and unsurfaced and made for an uncomfortable



journey. The photo shows Mr Balcombe with his wagonette, probably at Kearsney, which left Alkham at 9am and arrived in Dover around noon and returned at 3pm with one shilling being charged (about £5 now). Another character called Fisty Miller drove a four-in-hand brake and later the Partridge family at Wolverton started a bus service. **editor**

SITTING

In the secret garden

In the very heart of Rye

Looking out for Henry James

And Benson strolling by.

Peaceful contemplation

Letting thoughts run wild and vast

Opening to freedom's dreams

The stillness of the marsh.

Gail Swaiston

WASTE COLLECTION – Veolia, who collects waste for DDC, is facing a number of challenges, including a national HGV driver shortage, and the need for staff to self-isolate. Veolia recently signed a new contract and changes to routes and collection days were introduced. DDC are aware of areas where collections have been missed, and these will be collected as soon as possible. Given the volume of enquiries please do not contact DDC about their collections. Please see the DDC website for the latest information.

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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday - Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Tuesday	Craft class 11am to 1pm (check on day)
Wednesday	Tai Chi 5.30pm to 6.30pm
Thursday	Mother and toddler group 10am to 12am

Other events in the village hall assuming no changes

Tuesday	7	White Cliffs Metal Detectors 7.30pm
Saturday	11	SEKAS 7pm All events subject to Covid
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Saturday	25	Macmillan coffee morning 10am to 12 noon
Tuesday	28	Film Night 7.30pm – please see page 1
Thursday	30	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Prayer 6.30 pm Alkham - Parish Eucharist 10.00 am Hougham		
Saturday 11th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 19th	Worship 11.00 am	Prayer 6pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 26th	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - While out shopping recently, we passed a young woman sitting in a doorway clutching a piece of paper: *I'm hungry, please help.* We gave her some change, knowing that she would soon be hungry again. Sadly, surviving on the charity of others becomes a way of life for some, and it is not always easy to know what to do for the best when approached. Once, on my way to a meeting in Canterbury – and so wearing my clerical collar - someone staggered up to me in the street. Someone had thumped him in the head the previous evening, he said, and he had had a headache ever since. The police had done nothing, and at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital he had been told to go to the QEQM Hospital at Margate. But how to get there? He was already late for his appointment and had no money. Yes, I know what you're thinking – I was being taken for the proverbial ride. But since *"On your bike"* was neither Christian nor practical in the circumstances, I walked him to the bus station, found a bus that was going to the QEQM Hospital, explained to the driver where he needed to get to and bought his ticket. But he didn't take a seat; now he needed to find his friend. He must have been one of the bus driver's regulars; thanking me on his behalf for his ticket, she scolded him: *"I've told you before about asking for money!"* I have no idea where he ended up. But the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews warns: *"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels."* So, maybe I did the right thing after all... **Brian Williams**

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Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors
clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
Hall booking Shirley 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 David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk
07796444860.
Web sites www.alkham.org and
www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 333 October 2021

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HARVEST SUPPER - I am arranging a Harvest Supper for Monday the 11th of October. As you all are aware our churches were closed during the pandemic and consequently we had no money coming in. For the upkeep of our beautiful churches, we need your money please. I think cottage pies and fruit crumbles are the way to go so if anyone can donate these, I would be most grateful and also anything for the auction or the raffle. We will start at 7.00pm in Alkham village hall and tickets will be £8.00 per person; please ring Carol Mannall on 01304 826514 or 07946106742.

ALL THINGS CHRISTMAS – With winter fast approaching we are now looking forward to Christmas, myself (Debbie) and Graham have decided to take over the mantle of all things Christmas in Alkham this year. We would like to thank Den and Irene for all their work over the years and their support this year. Hopefully, we can go a little way in filling their shoes. With that said we have two dates for the diary. The first being **Saturday 4th December** for the Christmas Party, all are welcome at the village hall from **7-11pm**. It will be a bring your own drink and we are also looking for contributions for a food sharing table. We will also be running a Christmas raffle, in support of our local village, donations welcome. Please contact us via **west_deborah@ymail.com** if you will be attending and/or bringing along food donations so we can ascertain numbers. We are also open to any party ideas or help on the day! Please join us for the Christmas Light switch-on at **4:45pm** on **Saturday 11th December**. Graham Bissett will be supporting us with a short carol service, weather permitting. Mince pies, mulled wine and squash for the children, will be served at our lovely local pub, The Marquis, straight after. We also have it on good authority that Santa may also be making an appearance! Keep an eye out for further details in November's newsletter. **Debbie West**

PANTOMIME – The actor Brian Croucher, who lives in Slip Lane, will be playing Baron Hardup in the pantomime Cinderella at the Lees Cliff Hall in Folkestone this year. The pantomime runs from the 10th of December to the 31st twice daily, except some Sundays which only have matinees at 2pm and there will be no shows on the 20th, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

MEET AND GREET COFFEE MORNING – Just a reminder that it will be on Saturday 23rd October in the village hall from 10 - 12.30 with free refreshments and treats for the children. It is a relaxed way to meet new friends and neighbours, especially for those who have moved into the village during the past year. Please come along and hopefully many villagers will come along to meet the newcomers and enjoy a pleasant Saturday morning. **Irene Barnard**

THE NEW bus shelter has now been installed at the bottom of Wolverton Hill and Alkham Valley Road. The



parish council has worked very closely with KCC Highways to provide a much needed shelter. Our thanks go to Geoff Lymer for funding the project from his KCC Members Grant. **Irene Bowie**

THERE IS A VACANCY on the parish council. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor or would like more information please email the Parish Clerk , Irene Bowie, on clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

JEANETTE AND DANIEL would love to know about heritage fruit varieties that may have been grown in Alkham Valley. They wish to restore the orchard that was once present at Drellingore Barns, and by replanting local varieties they can provide a benefit to both the ecology of the site and the sympathetic treatment of its heritage. Any insights or suggestions sent to family@drellingorebarns.com would be most gratefully received. **Daniel Jones**

FILM NIGHT

Tuesday 26th October 7.30pm

The hitman's wife's bodyguard

This is a comedy starring Ryan Reynolds and Samuel L Jackson.

September's film is Fairy Tale: A True Story

Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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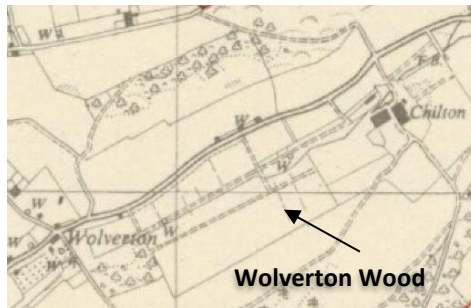
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WOLVERTON WOOD In the August newsletter there were details regarding the sale of Wolverton Wood and Reg Woodruff says that this wood used to be a nursery. Chris Tapsell confirmed this and provided further information regarding the

area that is now the wood which was part of the adjacent Chilton Farm. The access was from Chilton Farm which was owned by Clarkes who were the Dover nurserymen and they kept it until after WWII when the farm was sold to Mr. Dodd. He cultivated all the cultivatable land leaving the area where the nursery had their shrubs and trees to grow into what it is today and the above map shows the nursery as it was in the 1930's. The wood is currently for sale by auction with Clive Emson. **Editor**

IN THE AUGUST newsletter there was criticism about the role of the Alkham Valley Society which was unfair. They are a separate entity from the Alkham Parish Council and are free to express their concerns about events and actions happening in the Valley including expressing these opinions at Parish Council meetings. **Brian Wimsett**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our September meeting was our fish and chip night and we would like to thank Streez 2 Streez for cooking them for us; we would certainly recommend them. This was followed by a quiz by the 2 Debbie's. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday October 12th at 7.30pm and our speaker will be Shirley Prince on flower arranging. Hostesses Alison Warnock and Helen Price, raffle Sue Koo, V.O.T Helen Scopes. New members always welcome. All the ladies from Alkham WI would like to congratulate Debbie Holliman and Michael Bacon on their forthcoming wedding on the 24th of September. **Debbie Griggs**

SEAGULLS – The car was having an MOT at Halfords in Folkestone so I went walking and bought a sandwich in Asda and exited across the precinct below. Close to the coffee shop I was mugged by a seagull which bashed into the side of my head and flew off with the half sandwich which I wasn't particularly enjoying at the time. A neighbour related this story to his daughter in law on the seafront at Whitstable and shortly after she too was mugged by a seagull. **Brian Wimsett**



TEA N' CHAT - The Village Hall is open, on the last Thursday of the month, for an informal get-together with refreshments, biscuits and sometimes cake! A chance for villagers to meet up, reminisce, swop books, magazines and stories so please come and join us between 2.30 and 4.00p.m in the village hall.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS SERVICE is run by Kent Coast Volunteering, and you can become a volunteer befriender to support older, lonely, and isolated people in the local area. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to know more about the services they offer please phone 07816406350 or email katy.murray@kcv.org.uk.

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AN ELEPHANT

Hawk Moth
Caterpillar was
discovered in my
garden last
week. I have

never seen such a large caterpillar, nor one that looked back at me with such an unflinching gaze. Closer inspection revealed - of course - that what I had taken to be eyes were in fact on the back of the head as a means of scaring away potential predators out searching for a banquet. Just as I was beginning to feel a whole lot more relaxed about what I'd originally thought might be a small snake, it raised its trunk. It's not named 'The Elephant' for nothing. How common are these locally? Have you found one in your garden? **Gail Swainston**

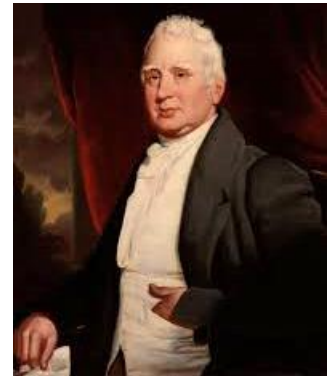
The photo above does give some food for thought as a caterpillar has very little intelligence so how would it know that a pair of false eyes on its rear would scare predators? **ed**

OZ ON RURAL RIDES - The writer of the Daily Telegraph article quoted from in 'Cold Spots' might be tickled to know that he reminded me somewhat of William Cobbett. Between 1822 and 1826 Cobbett made a number of fact-finding tours on horseback across the south and east of England, his accounts of which were published in 1830 as Rural Rides. On Monday 1st September 1823, he travelled from Folkestone to Dover, not via the Alkham Valley, but along the main road, known today as 'the old A20' or the B2011. He noted the valley "descending all the way to Dover, a distance of about six miles...each side of which may be about a mile and a half", concluding that "there are eighteen square miles of corn." This clarity of observation is matched only by Cobbett's vigorous prose style, described by William Hazlitt as "plain, broad, downright English", as witness his description of Dover itself: "...like other sea-port towns; but really, much more clean, and with less blackguard people in it than I have ever observed in any sea-port before." Cobbett was a fine example of the English 'radical patriot', fiercely loyal to his country, but determined to expose government mismanagement and corruption wherever they occurred. During his stay in Dover, he inspected the underground defences, and became incensed at what he saw as the colossal waste of money on "the only set of fortifications in the world ever framed for mere hiding." Uncertain whether to continue to France or along the coast to Thanet, Cobbett allowed his horse to decide, and stopped next at Deal, which he described as "a most villainous place full of filthy-looking people." As a Deal-born radical patriot, I feel obliged to say that Cobbett sometimes got it wrong. **Steve Osborn**

THE GARDEN GORGON

When you're pruning back the fuchsia Don't forget to look beneath her. Under those pink and purple skirts A fearsome garden monster lurks - As terrible as Old Godzilla The Elephant Hawk Moth Caterpillar!

Gail Swainston



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Saturday 9 th	Messy church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10 th	Harvest Eucharist		
Harvest Festival	9:30 am	11.00 am	4.00 pm
Sunday 17 th	Worship 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 24 th	United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am Alkham		
Sunday 31 st	St Mary's: Eucharist, 9.30 St Radigund's Thanksgiving Service, 11.00		

FROM THE VICARAGE - I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day...! Most of us will know Wizzard's Christmas song: first recorded in 1973, it has, apparently, made the charts each year since 2007. You don't recognise it? Don't worry – it's bound to be playing in a supermarket near you soon enough. Thankfully In church, it isn't Christmas every day! As I write, Harvest, All Saints, Remembrance Sunday and Advent are still to come, each with their own distinctive hymns, readings and prayers. Christmas every day would leave us bloated from too many mince pies; the different times and seasons of the Christian year offer a healthier. more varied diet of things to think about. All Saints arrives as leaves turn brown and days grow shorter. Before the Christmas rush begins, there comes a pause that reminds us that our home in this world is only temporary, holds out the hope of a better one to come, and encourages us to give thanks for those who have been lights of the world in their several generations, as the Prayer Book puts it. The pandemic deprived many of opportunities to say goodbye to their departed loved ones as they would have liked. So, this year we are planning to celebrate All Saints by holding Thanksgiving Services in each of our churches to which anyone who cares to come is welcome. Flowers or photographs can be brought along and arranged beforehand, candles lit for loved ones during the service, and light refreshments will be available afterwards. These will be at Alkham on 24th October at 10.00, St Radigund's Capel on 31st October at 11.00, and Hougham on 7th November at 11.00. If you want to come, please do – a phone call or email will help us to cater for everyone. **Brian Williams**

POLICE 999 or 101

Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors
clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
Hall booking Shirley 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 David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk
07796444860.
Web sites www.alkham.org and
www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 334 November 2021

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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NOVEMBER SOCIAL DANCE - I have provisionally booked the village hall on Friday 12th November to hold a social folk dance (i.e. barn dance) on that evening starting at 19.30 and finishing at 11.30. There will be a small charge of £3.00 per person to defray the costs of hiring the village hall and providing a ploughman's supper during the break in the dancing. I am hoping that there will be live music, but if not we will be dancing to pre-recorded music. I am aware that, in the current circumstances, folk may be nervous at the prospect of dancing with others so I propose the following: **1.** All attendees must be double vaccinated. You will be asked to provide proof of this on entry via the NHS app which is available for both iOS and Android mobile phones. Failing this a copy of your NHS vaccination certificate, which is available online, will suffice. **2.** A rapid flow test must be carried out before attending and the results recorded on the NHS app. **3.** Personal sanitisers should be carried. With regard to the dance itself, I am proposing that all the dances we do will not involve any changes of partner, unless all those attending are happy to do so. I recently called a dance at Sandwich Festival which was very successful and enjoyable, so it is, even in the pandemic, possible to let our hair down and enjoy ourselves again. If you would like to join us, please email me at graham.bissett@talk21.com stating how many places you would like. Payment can be made to me directly via bank transfer, or you can pop an envelope through our door at Bren Tor if you would prefer to use cash. **Graham Bissett**

MARQUIS - Although what summer we had is now behind us and it seems that Winter is fast approaching and the log bill will certainly be increasing, we want you, our community, to enjoy your pub as much as possible and want to give back what we can to make it your continued watering hole and second kitchen; don't worry we will do the cooking for you here! We are conscious of you being our neighbours and want to do something for you all so that you can enjoy your pub as Winter closes in. So, starting from the 21st October, we are offering a "locals night" which will include music entertainment and 10% off your food and drinks bill every Thursday! You'll have the chance to indulge off of our new Autumn Menu, with some great pub classics and seasonal produce cooked to perfection. We are also want to host a quiz night on the last Monday of every month from 7pm - we realise this has been a tough year for everyone and although we are all returning to normal, we want you all to know that we are pub first and foremost and want you to socialise as much as you feel comfortable here with us. Everyone is always welcome for a drink or a meal and we have some new faces here both in the kitchen and out front, don't worry, Will, Nadine and myself are always around and look forward to seeing some of you soon!" **Hugh Thompson General Manager**

PARISH COUNCIL - There are currently two vacancies on the parish council. If you would like to become involved in shaping and representing your community, please have a look on our website where there is additional information about the role. You can also contact Irene, the parish clerk via clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk and arrange an informal chat.

HARVEST SUPPER - A big thankyou to all those who generously supported the supper with a grand total of £712 being raised for church funds. **Carol Mannall**

MAGIC GARDEN - At October half term why not join the adventures at Chilton Magic Garden? Details on www.chiltonmagicgarden.com or email chiltonmagicgarden@gmail.com.

JP'S BARBER and hairdressing bus is coming to Alkham starting on the 18th of October and then once a month, details on Facebook page. It will be in the village hall car park at 2.30pm and to contact either call 07500 504788 or email jpsbarberbus@gmail.com.

TEMPLE EWELL Primary School is having Open Mornings for children starting in Reception in September on the 17th and 18th November between 9.30am and 11am. To book a place please ring 01304 822665.

PLEASE NOTE that the film for October has been changed to Dream Horse which is a feel good film.

FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm

Tuesday 30th November

Nomadland with Frances McDormand

Tuesday 26th October

Dream Horse with Damian Lewis

Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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Alkham Village Hall

contact Anna Dashwood

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www.pfstaichi.com



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING - A huge thank you to everyone who supported our coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support, held in the village hall on Saturday 25th September. Once again so many kind people provided a wonderful selection of homemade cakes and preserves to sell and donated so many other items for the various stalls. Thank you to everyone who helped in so many ways on the day and to all who gave me such generous donations before and during the event. It was such an enjoyable morning, and so great to be able to meet up once again with such wonderful friends and neighbours. I am delighted to say that together we have raised £1,310 for this deserving Charity. Thank you so much to everyone. **Sue Ross**

A NUMBER of people in the course of conversation have admired the new wall alongside Stansfield, Slip Lane. It really is very good and a pleasure to pass. It is in a salute to Stan Couchman, that the name for this house has been retained by the present owners. Stan served as a navigator on the Lancaster planes during the Berlin Airlift, and was present at the atomic bomb trials on Bikini. Lots of history there, so thank you James and Nina Bellas for your contribution to our environment. **Jo Walker (sec AVS)**

ALKHAM COUNCIL ELECTIONS - You may not be aware but one of my Ward councillor tasks is to help contribute to open government and encourage all sections of the community to participate in the democratic process. The recent councillor vacancies arising within the Alkham Parish Council provides me with that opportunity. Parish councils are the first tier of local government and play a vital role in the democratic framework as they represent the interests of the local community. In these challenging times it is more important than ever for councils to engage with communities in a positive and proactive manner, acting on communities needs and aspirations as best they can via the devolved powers they have. Post pandemic, this is no time to sit on the fence or offer views from the side lines. All councils want to build back better. Parish councils need active, interested, and committed people to serve and get involved with their work and local issues. Becoming a councillor does not mean you are expected to have all the solutions for your community, but to be viewed as a positive opportunity to help make a difference by influencing decisions that affect your community. Also, it gives the opportunity to work together in a diverse team with a range of skills to enable the job to get done – with an essential open-mindedness. Being a councillor will be challenging, exciting and at times frustrating! But always with the personal satisfaction of knowing that you have made a difference. If you are considering putting yourself forward, I would recommend visiting the Alkham Parish Council website where there is posted an excellent video titled on What is Parish/Town councillor, and a PDF The Good Councillor's Guide. Good Luck. **Cllr Martin Hibbert Alkham and Capel le Ferne Ward**

ALKHAM W.I. - The October meeting was an enjoyable evening and our speaker Shirley Prince showed us how easy it was to do flower arranging and also how easy it was to do a hand tied bouquet. Our next meeting is on Tuesday the 9th of November which is our AGM meeting followed by an auction organised by Lucy McKenzie and Debbie Griggs; so any members that have any unwanted items please bring them along (no clothes). Hostesses Sue Ross and Margaret Batchelor, Raffle Sue Ross. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

ON THE LEFT is a photo taken at the Harvest Festival service on the 10th of October in St. Anthony's church by Catie Webber.

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SMUGGLER'S BROADSTAIRS - My esteemed colleague, Steve Osborn, in his article 'OZ on Rural Rides', commented that William Cobbett was uncertain whether to continue from Dover to Thanet, or travel to France. Stopping at Deal, he cast its residents in a disparaging light. Had he continued to Thanet and discovered the coastal area north of Broadstairs towards the Foreland at Kingsgate, he may well have encountered the notorious local smuggler, 'Joss Snelling', who seemed to have a mafia style influence over the local residents and who gave his name to 'Joss Bay'. By all accounts Joss Snelling was a tricky customer. He was born in 1741 at St Peters-in-Thanet. Although he was seldom caught in the act, he was a prolific rum runner. Joss recruited his gang from the local pubs; notable among them was the Fig Tree Inn, which is now a private residence. He also had connections with Stone House, on North Foreland Avenue, which had a vast cellar and was one of his secret storehouses. There was an underground tunnel leading from the cellar to the tide-washed foreshore off the Foreland, ideal for unloading small boats at night. He had another hideaway for his goods in caves situated between the Fig Tree Inn and Joss Bay. The caves, now largely obscured by overgrowth, may sometimes be seen in the sunken part of the front garden of the 'Thatched Cottage', in Elmwood Avenue, adjacent to the North Foreland Golf Course, and opposite Elmwood Farm. Joss lived in a cottage in Lanthorne Road which conveniently linked Stone House at one end with Fig Tree Inn at the other. His contraband comprised mostly various liquors from France. Joss Snelling seemed able to evade detection by bribing or threatening the local inhabitants to keep quiet, but not always. In 1830 William Pitt the Younger's revenue men, supported by the 13th Light Dragoons cornered Joss's 'Callis Court Gang' between Kingsgate and Botany Bays. A fierce battle ensued with loss of life on both sides. In the aftermath the revenue men made a search of houses around the village of Reading Street and captured eight of Snelling's gang. All were tried and hanged, but Joss seemed to escape the gallows with a hefty £100 fine, because nobody would prove against him. He merrily paid the fine, avoided jail, and carried on smuggling until reaching the ripe old age of 96. **John Vince**

A REMEMBRANCE service is being held at Canterbury Cathedral on the 6th of November at 11.30am for anyone who has lost a baby in pregnancy, birth or early years at any time or have been unable to conceive.

WOLVERTON WOOD – The guide price for the wood was £85,000 but it sold for £101,500 at the Clive Emson auction on the 22nd of September.

CONSULTATION – The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner has launched a public consultation on a new police and crime plan and encourages all sections of the community to participate in the democratic process by going to www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ PCC2021/.

THIS POEM was sent by Tony Holman who is an Alkham postman

Autumn has arrived, the season of the fall

The nights are drawing in, the writings on the wall

The temperature is dropping, winters on its way

Bitter winds, snow and ice, will be the order of the day.

But by March it should be over, Spring is knocking at the door

The longer days and warmer sun, Winter is no more.

From Spring we enter Summer, with its hot and sunny days

Thunderstorms and lightning frequent this seasonal phase

The Summer sun has lost its heat, no longer will it burn

The trees are losing all their leaves, Autumn has returned

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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday - Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Tuesday	Craft class 11am to 1pm (check on day)
Wednesday	Tai Chi 5.30pm to 6.30pm
Thursday	Mother and toddler group 10am to 12am

Other events in the village hall assuming no changes

Monday	8	Alkham Valley Society 7pm
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Friday	12	Barn Dance – please see page 1
Saturday	13	SEKAS 7pm
Saturday	20	Beekeepers 2 to 5pm
Thursday	25	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4.00pm
Tuesday	30	Film Night 7.30pm – please see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am	Service 11.00 am
Saturday 13th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 14th Remembrance Day	10.15 am	10.15 am	10.30 am
Sunday 21st	Worship 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 28th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - My grandad lived with us when I was small. He was a keen gardener, and in summer the flowers he grew would be smothered in butterflies. I spent hours watching them, and a fascination grew that has stayed with me ever since. When a friend of mine became a priest, she chose to have her stole – the decorated strip of cloth that priests wear – embroidered with butterfly shapes. For Christians, the transformation from a caterpillar crawling on a leaf, through being a chrysalis hanging apparently lifelessly from a twig, to becoming a butterfly flying across the countryside recalls Jesus walking the earth, then lying in the tomb following his crucifixion, then his resurrection from the dead and all that has followed from it. It spoke to her of her journey through life, growing and changing through some dark times before reaching that moment when her new life as a priest could begin. By early November, butterflies have all but disappeared. Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells will have found a tree trunk, outhouse, or even a church for their winter sleep. The colder weather seems to catch out Red Admirals, leaving them lying on pavements, unable to fly and in danger of being trodden underfoot. Me being me, I must admit that I pick up any I find and move them - but that is all anyone can do for them. At church, November is a solemn month. With it comes All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance Sunday, celebrating and remembering those whom we love, but see no longer. The readings and prayers confront us with our mortality, but also offer words of hope, and a way through. For the moment, the cold, grey days of winter lie ahead. But beyond that, the spring – and more butterflies... **Brian Williams**

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AS CHRISTMAS is now fast approaching, we would like to give you some gentle reminders of dates for your diaries. Firstly, the Christmas party, which is booked in the village hall on the 4th of December, everyone is welcome and although we have had good response, please continue to email to let us know you are coming. Please contact us via west_deborah@ymail.com you just need to bring your own drink, we are also looking for contributions for a food sharing table, if you could support this that would be great. We will be running a Christmas raffle, in support of our local village, donations welcome. Finally, we are also open to any party ideas or help on the day! Secondly, please join us for the Christmas Light switch-on at **4:45pm on Saturday 11th December**. Mince pies, mulled wine, and squash for the children, will be served at our local pub, The Marquis of Granby, straight after. **Debbie West**
"AND THE BAND PLAYED ON...."

The "Gumboots Reggae Band" of Folkestone played live at the Marquis of Granby Alkham on Thursday, October 27. The numbers visiting the weekly live shows are really picking up. Make sure you fellow townspeople support our local pub and the local acts that appear there every Thursday night the next one being on the 2nd December. **Catie Webber ...**



MARQUIS OF GRANBY - I'd like to welcome our new Manager, Marina Stone who has just joined us and already doing a brilliant job! Marina has worked in some fantastic places and is a seasoned hospitality professional and will be here, along with myself, Nadine and Will to keep you entertained, watered and fed! With Christmas just around the corner now, and with the traditional lights turn-on being on the 11th of December, we look forward to welcoming you all for some mince pies and Plum "Mulled" Wine that evening. We have reserved a large section until 7:30pm when we will start to take table reservations should you wish to join us for some food. We will have a Christmas Set Menu running throughout December up until Christmas Eve to run alongside our A La Carte Menu. And lastly, we have some great entertainment in the form of a band and a magician on New Year's Eve and a fantastic menu created by Steve. We'd love to have you here and see the New Year in together, we have some space left so should this be of interest, details are on our website or feel free to contact us directly on 01304 873410 or info@marquisofgranby.co.uk. **Hugh Thompson**

THE CHRISTMAS walk by custom takes place on 27th December. This year it will be the same, leaving the Village Hall at 10.30 a.m. and lasting about 2 hours. It is not a strenuous walk but provides a chance for people to meet up during the holiday season. Dogs are welcome as well. **Jo Walker (sec AVS)**

*Merry
Christmas*

GOOD NEWS - Next January the surface of Pimlico Way will be repaired from its junction with Slip Lane up the rise by and past Etondale and along first part of Pimlico. The surface will be covered in higher grade hydraulically bound material (recycled materials and cement) and hopefully this will stop a lot of the debris and flints coming onto Slip Lane. They are also looking to divert runoff water from the top of Pimlico into the field and carry out minor repair work to the byway by Flintwood Lodge.



CLEANER - If you would like some help with your cleaning, please contact Shirley Prince on 01304 828098 or email at shirleyannprince@gmail.com.

FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm
Tuesday 30th November

Nomadland with Frances McDormand
There will not be a film in December

Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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Tai Chi

Wednesday, 5.30 – 6.30 PM
Alkham Village Hall
contact Anna Dashwood

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MEET AND GREET COFFEE MORNING - The recent coffee morning proved, once again, to be popular with more than seventy enjoying refreshments. A power cut right at the start didn't affect the enjoyment as the water boiler was piping hot and so we were able to continue until power was resumed. It was particularly nice to meet several new families and were able to introduce them to more established residents. It appears all seem to have settled nicely, even with the horrid interruption of the pandemic - with some expressing wishes to be more involved in the village with any future events. Thanks to Linda and Debbie for help and to Brian Wimsett's Alkham Fund. **Irene Barnard**

NEWSLETTER – The financial year for the Alkham Monthly Newsletter ended in August and with predicted income will break even. I print the 320 (1280 A4 sheets) newsletters each month on two laser printers using about £27 of toner. In addition to this is the paper, stamps for copies sent and £36 for the alkham.org web site. The advert revenue goes in the newsletter's club account which covers any profit or loss. **Brian Wimsett**

FASTTRACK – In the May edition of the newsletter there was an article about a bus rapid transport system which runs from Archers Court Road Whitfield to the Priory station in Dover. This requires a new bridge over the A2 and a section of carriageway from the roundabout at the end of road which goes past Tesco's to connect to the Old Dover Road. The route continues to the top of Castle Hill by Dover Castle where a roundabout will be built. This is now scheduled to start in April 2022 and will serve the housing development at Whitfield and 300 new homes at the Old Connaught barracks and use electric buses. Hopefully this will induce some drivers to use the train rather than the cars which will probably come down the Alkham Valley Road.



THE WORKS to the roof on St. Anthony's church in Alkham are complete at a cost of over £18,000. To preserve the building for future generations, whether religious or secular, the Friends of St. Anthony gave £12,914 and the church paid the remainder.

WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRY – It is very encouraging to know that Kent's Heritage Coast was placed 4th on a list of the world's best regions to visit in 2022 by the Lonely Planet ... and

KEARSNEY ABBEY and Russell Gardens have been awarded The Green Flag Award, the first parks owned and managed by Dover District Council (DDC) to receive the prestigious recognition. The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our November meeting was our AGM Meeting followed by an auction; thank you to Lucy McKenzie for all your help. We do not have a December meeting as it will be our Christmas Dinner at the Marquis of Granby. The ladies from Alkham WI would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. **Debbie Griggs**

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HEROES – On the alkham.org web site there is a 'Heroes' link where details of the men who lost their lives in WWI and WWII are given. There is also a separate link to 'About Alkham' where there is a photo taken around 1928 of a group of children in the playground adjacent to Alkham School. An email was recently received from John Fagg to say that in the photo second from right in the front row is his uncle Louis Fagg and in the centre is Henry Keeler both of whom later lost their lives in WWII and are listed on the 'Heroes' page. Louis was born at the Butt and Ben on Wolverton Hill and Henry was born at Pimlico South Alkham and it is sad to learn the connection between the two pages. **Brian Wimsett**

A TURNPIKE ROAD IN DOVER - Turnpike roads originated in the 17th century mainly due to parishes unwilling or unable to invest in roads. Run by a trust, they made charges on road users and were locally managed. The name originated from the pikes (long sticks) that blocked the way until the fare was paid. Eventually the pike became a toll house. The first two Turnpike Acts relating to Kent were passed in 1709 and 1711 and were in the west of the county. By 1753, the route from Dover to Barham Downs (part of the London Road) was turnpiked. The first tollhouse in Dover was opposite the Eagle Tavern on the London Road, Charlton. This marked the boundary of the town and was where the gallows were. The road followed the old road crossing the River Dour at Buckland where the brick bridge was financed by the toll money. Those wishing to avoid paying a toll would go along the old way through the ford at Bridge Street – until a tollgate appeared at Crabble Hill. The Charlton tollhouse was demolished in 1855 while Crabble Hill housed a Dover police constable collected dues on coal brought into Dover from Kearsney Station. **Jackie Grebby**



POPPY APPEAL - I'm very happy to say that this year, from Alkham and Ewell Minnis, we have collected a grand total of £718.13 - a figure that we can all be proud of. This will go towards helping members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Airforce, veterans and their families, when they need support. I'd like to thank my collectors Shirley, Helen, Larry, Georgina and Beverley. And also The Marquis of Granby, the Alkham Valley Garden Centre, Alkham Tea Rooms and Southern Equestrian, who all displayed Poppy collection boxes. And many thanks too, to all the residents and visitors who contributed. **Rachel Fountain**

FARE WELL

The swallows gather on the wire
Swoop down, circle higher,
So numerous it takes your breath away.

Fifty one and counting in a cloud,
A mist of delicate sound
Rising to vanish in the endless sky.

So very small prepared to fly so high -
Your heart is in your mouth, migrating south.

Gail Swainston



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Wednesday	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am: Tai Chi 5.30pm to 6.30pm
Thursday	Mother and toddler group 10am to 12am

Other events in the village hall assuming no changes

Tuesday	7	Metal detectors 7pm
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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 11th	Messy church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am <i>Carols at Capel Village Hall 3.00 pm</i>	<i>Carols at West Hougham Village Hall 5.00 pm</i>
Saturday 18th		Carols by Candle 7.00	
Sunday 19th	9 Lessons and Carols 6.30 pm		Eucharist 9.30 am
Friday 24th	Crib service 4.30 pm	Crib service 3.00 pm	
Christmas Eve	Mass 11.30 pm	Mass 11.30 pm	
Saturday 25th			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 26th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - Christmas is coming – and this year Christmas Day, when Christians celebrate God's gift of His Son to the world, falls on a Saturday. On the Sunday, however, the mood shifts, even before we've had a chance to recover from all those satsumas. It's the Feast of St Stephen. That's right! The day when, according to the carol, Good King Wenceslas looked out, saw a poor man gathering winter fuel, and was so filled with compassion that he and his page braved a blizzard to deliver pine logs and what we would now call a takeaway to where the man lived: Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing... What of Stephen himself? He, too, blessed the poor - the New Testament describes him as full of faith and the Holy Spirit, chosen for the task of caring for those in need. The signs and wonders he performed and the wisdom with which he spoke evidently brought him to the attention of the authorities. On trial for his life, he criticised them for having had Jesus killed. That led to him being dragged out of the city and stoned to death, the first of Jesus' followers to die as a martyr. His body was buried some distance from the city, and its location possibly forgotten. It so happens that the saintly King Wenceslas of Bohemia, whom the carol celebrates, also suffered martyrdom - his power-hungry brother had him murdered in September 935. And Stephen's tomb? It is said that in 415 its location was revealed in a dream to a Christian priest called Lucian as he slept in his church. Following their discovery the saint's remains were moved to Jerusalem on 26th December that year. Have a wonderful Christmas, and a peaceful New Year. **Brian Williams**

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