

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

## No. 334 January 2022

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

Non-profit &  
delivered free  
to the Parish of  
Alkham



**THE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS** were turned on at 5pm on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December by Ben Church who can be seen in the photo together with Father Christmas. Over 50 people came along and sung carols to music played on the accordion by Graham before a 10 second countdown when Ben turned on the lights to a loud cheer. The Marquis of Granby

kindly invited everyone to their inn afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies which rounded off a pleasant festive start to Christmas.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY** - What an absolute success the party was, not only a lot of people, but we had the pleasure of meeting new people. We want to say a massive thank you to everyone for the fantastic and huge amount of food provided and the very nice selection of raffle prizes donated. A big thank you to Graham Bissett, the music was fab, and everyone was on their feet. We would also like to thank Den and Irene for showing us the ropes and the Sit Fit ladies who made sure the hall was decorated before the party giving a lovely Christmas feel as soon as you walked into the hall. You will all be pleased to know we made £140 from the raffle and this money will go into the Alkham fund, to help with whatever comes next. **Deborah West**

**ALKHAM FUND** – Thanks to all the people who organised the above party and the £140 has gone into the fund which has just paid for two sets of new lights for the Alkham Christmas tree. The Garden Club also had a very successful evening in the hall and a further £72 was donated to the fund. If anyone in the village would like financial support for an Alkham related project or activity, please email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com).



**CONGRATULATIONS** – Reverend Brian Williams, who is currently an Assistant Curate, has been appointed Priest in Charge of Alkham with Capel Le Ferne and Hougham.

**CHRISTMAS WALK** – Just a reminder that the Christmas walk is on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December and if you'd

like to join in, please go to the village hall car park at 10.30am. The non-strenuous walk lasts about 2 hours and provides a chance for people and dogs to meet up during the holiday season.

**SHEEP** - There have been three attacks by a dog or dogs on sheep in Alkham leaving 15 sheep dead and others injured. The Police are appealing for witnesses to three incidents. On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December, at around 5.50pm, the owner of a farm between Alkham Valley Road and Ewell Minnis saw a grey, scraggy haired, lurcher type dog in amongst her sheep. She shouted and the dog ran away in the direction of Green Lane. Six of her sheep were dead and four were injured and continue to receive medical care. The following day, on 5 December in Wolverton Hill, seven sheep from another farm were found dead. It is believed they were attacked by an animal, but it is not clear when this took place. Overnight on 6 December the farm between Alkham Valley Road and Ewell Minnis reported a second attack in which two more sheep were killed and one was seriously injured. Anyone who witnessed anything suspicious or who has information regarding the dog sighting is asked to call Kent Police on 01843 222289 quoting references 04-1449 for Alkham Valley Road and 05-0416 for Wolverton Hill. **Peter Smith**

**MYSTERY GIFT** – A delicious pot of 2021 quince and lemon marmalade was put in Jane and Richard O'Rorke's post box recently and they would like to thank the person responsible so please phone them on 01304 825771.

**FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm**  
**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

**In the Heights**

A feel good musical

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

### **B P S window cleaner**

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### **Tai Chi**

Wednesday, 5.30 – 6.30 PM

Alkham Village Hall

contact Anna Dashwood

**01304 205 405 / 07736 849 194**

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**THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY (AVS)** held its 2021 AGM In the Village Hall on 8th November, followed by wine and delicious snacks. The Officers elected for the coming year were Richard O'Rorke (Chairman), Jane O'Rorke (Vice-Chair), Catie Webber (Hon Treasurer) and Joanna Walker (Hon Secretary). Two further members of the Society, Harlan Webber and Frances Marcus, also volunteered and were elected to serve as members of the Executive Committee. The finances of the AVS are in a healthy state. After a relatively inactive period due to various retirements and then the Covid 19 pandemic and lockdowns, the Society is now up and running again and ready for business. Under its Constitution the aims and purposes of the Society are as follows: - to stimulate public interest in the area; to promote high standards of planning and architecture in, or affecting, the area; to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area; to protect the surrounding countryside. Since its formation in 1977 the Society has campaigned on many fronts to preserve the beauty of the Alkham Valley. The role of the Society is as relevant today as it has ever been with issues, such as traffic calming, damage to Byways, preservation of woods, trees and hedgerows and the risks of uncontrolled development in Areas of Outstanding Beauty, needing to be watched and addressed to protect the Alkham Valley for future generations. The Society is keen to make membership interesting and stimulating fun, and so will be organising various events over the next year. The first of these is the traditional AVS Christmas Walk on Monday, 27 December 2021. Other events which have proved popular are talks on a topical subject and visits will include a talk on a topical subject and a visit to an interesting local site of historical, scientific or architectural interest. The Society's Constitution states that 'Membership is open to all who are interested in actively furthering the purposes of the Society'. There is an annual membership fee of £5 per person and £10 per household. We hope that those living in the Alkham Valley will wish to support the aims of the Society and become members. Please contact the Secretary, Jo Walker - email: [joannawalker777@gmail.com](mailto:joannawalker777@gmail.com) or address: Rectory Cottage, Slip Lane, Alkham, Dover, CT15 7DA.

**AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY Kent Surrey Sussex** - If you belong to a group or club and would like to learn about the life-saving care by your local Air Ambulance plus real life stories and how you can help support our work, you can book a talk with us, free of charge. During an interesting and inspiring presentation, you will get an insight into how we work, innovate and save lives. As a charity we would welcome an opportunity to raise awareness of our work and to explain how your members can get involved in supporting us. If you would like to know more, 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](mailto:talks@aakss.org.uk).

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Our next meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and it will be called the picture game. If possible, could all members bring a photo of themselves i.e., baby photo or a little older photo of themselves and will explain on the night of the meeting. Hostesses are Gina Daniels, Christine Peel, Raffle Debbie Griggs. New members always welcome. Don't forget on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December outside the village hall will be streetz 2streetz with the fish and chip van so why not treat yourself and pop along and see Jane and Jackie – check times ring 07955 926 835. **Debbie Griggs**

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**CHOUGHS** – A legend goes that when Thomas Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in 1190 the choughs walked in his blood and gave them red feet. After his death, Thomas was given a coat of arms featuring three choughs and in the 14<sup>th</sup> century the City of Canterbury adopted a coat of arms with three choughs and a royal lion. Choughs are part of the crow family and

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**PIMLICO WAY** is again heavily rutted by 4x4's and is considered unsafe for public use and locals have put a sign up by Slip Lane.

**KCC** - If you would like updates and news, information and guidance about their activities and services plus useful advice and suggestions on where to get help and support from Kent County Council you can sign up to the mailing list on their website [www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/residents-e-newsletter](http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/residents-e-newsletter).

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## THE ACTUARY OF LOVE

When you ponder if you can

Afford to make a forward plan -

When you calculate the cost

Of what is won and what is lost,

That valuation of the gain

Is set against all future pain.

The one subtracted from the other

Might reveal a lifelong lover

Yet weigh that plus or minus sign

Within the balance sheet of time.

**Gail Swainston**

**WE WOULD** like to say a big thankyou to those people that gave up their time to ring the church bells for Theo's christening on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November at St. Anthony's church; it was very much appreciated. Also to Brian Williams who had been forewarned that anything could and probably would happen during service. It was with great relief that in the end it was quite uneventful! All in all, a very special, happy day. **Shirley Prince**

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**Happy New Year**

**ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates**  
Please ring Shirley for information 01304 828098

**Regular events in the village hall**

<b>Tuesday - Friday</b>	Pilates 10am to 11am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am: Tai Chi 5.30pm to 6.30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Mother and toddler group 10am to 12am

**Other events in the village hall** assuming no changes

<b>Tuesday</b>	18	Village Hall Committee meeting 2pm
<b>Saturday</b>	29	Beekeepers 2pm to 5pm

**CHURCH SERVICES**

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	United Parish Eucharist and licensing of Revd. Brian Williams as Priest-in-Charge, Capel 10.00 am		
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Messy Church Christingle St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	United Parish Eucharist, Capel 10.00 am		

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - Every now and then, I find myself having a conversation with someone that begins: *"Mr Williams! You used to teach me..."* I'm usually in a supermarket aisle somewhere. We chat, and they usually tell me how life has been since they left school – about their jobs, families and so on. But once – I think this was in a coffee shop – the conversation continued: *"I always remember you saying..."* My former pupil went on to recount what I had said. I didn't remember saying it, or when I might have said it or even why – but evidently, he did, and fortunately it had struck him as worth remembering. Nevertheless, I cringe at the thought that some of my former pupils out there may still remember some of the *other* things that I've probably said... There's a story about a 4<sup>th</sup> Century Christian named Pambo, who joined a group of monks in the Egyptian desert. Another monk set out to teach him to from the scriptures. Pambo was inspired by words from Psalm 39 - *'I will watch how I behave, and not let my tongue lead me into sin'* – to speak no more than was **necessary**. He died thanking God that in all his years in the desert, he had never said anything that he had afterwards regretted. Not many of us will be able say that. But I suspect that it's easier to earn a reputation for wisdom and holiness if you're living among monks in a desert than if you're teaching a tricky Year 10 class on a wet and windy Friday afternoon. *'I will watch how I behave, and not let my tongue lead me into sin.'* Maybe I'll try that as a New Year Resolution...

**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

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**ACCIDENT** – In the early morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> of December there was a very serious traffic accident in Alkham near the Folkestone entry island to the village. Two cars collided with the result that one was thrown into the air and ended up in the entrance to the field opposite Valley Cottages and both drivers were badly injured. The Air Ambulance was called but because the field was muddy it was not able to land so ambulances were used to take them to an intensive care ward at Kings Hospital in London. The driver of one of the cars was an Alkham resident and she is now making steady progress and able to walk with some difficulty and she would like to thank everyone for their warm wishes, cards, gifts and a special lady who provided John with a cooked meal while she was in hospital.

## **NEW FOOTPATH**

Catie Webber would like a footpath to be installed between the path that runs behind the village hall to the path that leads into Newlyn Meadow as shown by the hedge line in the photograph. This route is used frequently by school children, but the grass is very muddy at times, and they have been crossing the Alkham Valley Road twice to get to the path behind the hall from where some again cross the road near the bus shelter to get to the Dover bus stop. Additionally, the streetlight by the Marquis of Granby is not working such that footpath crossing is not well illuminated and Catie has written to the Parish Council about this and funding for the footpath.



**TRAFFIC** – There has been numerous comments recently about the volume and speed of traffic on the Alkham Valley and if you wish to contact the Highway Authority about this it is probably best to go through the Parish Council by sending an email to [clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk). The matter will come up as an item on the agenda and a letter sent to KCC and if enough are received some notice may be taken. In the past KCC have always considered that the Alkham Valley Road is an essential route for emergency vehicles and are reluctant to install obstacles. **Ed.**

**MENU CHANGES** - We have been incredibly busy throughout December and am pretty certain the teams in our kitchens will be pleased to see the back of the roast Turkey for another 11 months! The chefs have been getting creative coming up with new dishes and am pleased to announce the launch of our new seasonal menu with daily specials being on offer throughout the week. You can see our new menu on our website, [www.marquisofgranby.co.uk](http://www.marquisofgranby.co.uk) or our social media platforms. **Hugh Thomson**

**ALKHAM GARDEN AND TEAROOMS**  
On behalf of all those who visited St Anthony's church during the festive period and saw the tall, beautiful Christmas tree, I would like to say thank you to Ian, Dave, and Paul, owners of the garden centre, for donating it. It looked rather impressive when dressed, as did the decorations and floral arrangements displayed by several Alkham ladies. **Irene Barnard**

**NEIGHBOURLY HELP** – Anita James, who lives in Slip Lane, is a keen walker and on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January slipped on the steps behind St. Anthony's and was unable to get up. She phoned a neighbour Nina Bellas who then stayed with her for 3 hours in the cold until the ambulance man arrived and other neighbours Alex Bristow and Caroline Harcourt assisted (aka Alkham Valley search and rescue society). Many thanks to all of them for helping and also to Ken Spencer for feeding the chickens whilst Anita is on crutches.

**THE MOBILE FISH & CHIP** van is returning to Alkham and will be in the village hall car park on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January from 5pm to 6.30pm and then monthly after that. Please see their advert on page 2 of this newsletter.

## **FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

**The Courier**

**Benedict Cumberbatch**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

**In the Heights**

**A feel good musical**

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

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### **Streetz2Streetz**

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Also cater for weddings, kid's parties, christenings, charity events, fish supper parties and boot fairs



**POSTCARD** – Pat Yeomans gave me the original postcard which is in the Alkham History book. The card was posted in Dover by Mary at 4pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1913 to her brother who lived in Rochdale, Lancashire. It is also relevant to

recent articles about Wolverton Wood which used to be Clarkes Nursery as she says that she didn't know what to buy their mother for her birthday, so Mary bought her a pink spiraea from the nursery which is sending it up to her early morning. The postcard shows the Alkham Valley Road adjacent to where Pat lives and on the left is what is now the village green, on the bend is the cattle shed to Halton Farm (Court) which is next to Little Garth and in the distance can be seen the tower of St. Anthony's church. Pat remembers having to drive down the valley road in the 1960's and it was difficult journey as the road was mostly single carriageway with numerous bends. **Brian Wimsett**

**TASTE OF KENT AWARDS** - Voting has now opened for the Taste of Kent Awards!! Both of our pubs are in the category "Kent Dining Pub Of The Year" and we would love your vote and support. The Marquis of Granby came runner up 2 years ago and we would love to have both of our pubs shortlisted and a Contemporary Pubs winner would be a huge accolade to receive for us and the team. To vote for us please do so by going to the web browser [www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk](http://www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk) and clicking on the category "Kent Dining Pub Of The Year". **Hugh Thomson**

**NUMBERS** - An email was received to say that I had used the same number in the masthead for the November, December and January edition, that being 334. I was grateful for this advice and pleased that he had noticed, and it does appear that 334 was wrong as well. The first edition of the newsletter was in September 1993 so for that year there would be 4 editions and from then it is 28 years making a total of 340.

**KENT'S POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER** Matthew Scott has launched his budget and thanks to a combination of council tax payer support and extra funding from the Government's Uplift Programme, police officer numbers have risen by 788 since 2016. Kent will soon have 3970 officers, with a further 185 to be recruited by March 2023. The county now has specialist teams working in both urban and rural communities, a dedicated squad to reduce burglary and another to tackle drug dealing gangs. To deliver this it will require about 84 pence per month more on your council tax and further efficiencies will be made to deliver a balanced budget. If you have any comments, please get in touch before Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at [haveyoursay@kent.police.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@kent.police.uk).

**DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL** regarding climate change - All new council housing built in the district will include solar Photovoltaics (PV), electric heating and additional insulation; the Council's Green Energy Grant Scheme is available for local businesses to help small businesses save carbon; 49 electric vehicle charging points have been installed; electric buses will operate on Dover Fastrack; Kearsney Abbey has been awarded The Green Flag Award; for National Tree Week native trees were planted to create a woodland walk at North Deal; 25 eco dog waste bins installed across the district by DDC; 14 trees have been planted in Sandwich and also 63 new fruit trees have been planted recently. **DDC**

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**THE LICENSING** - After nine years as our curate-in-charge, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas, Brian Williams was licensed by Justin, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury to become the priest-in-charge of the benefice. The licensing ceremony was carried out by an upbeat Darren, the Archdeacon of Ashford who kindly came to officiate. The tall, lively Archdeacon cut a splendid figure with mitre and gorgeously embroidered chasuble. The red-robed church choir, sung a rendering of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. The setting of this licensing was St Radigunds, Capel Le Ferne. This a comfortable, warm 1997 building, blessed with toilets and carpark. Brian's benefice, as well, as our own Alkham, contains Houghham and Capel-le Ferne. At the end the service the Archdeacon explained that Covid worship regulations would now give way to Hospitality regulations: tea or coffee was served accompanied by Dick's homemade fruit cake, sausage rolls and biscuits to round off the occasion. Brian is now "officially" Priest in Charge – congratulations Brian! **Tom Marcus**

**FOOTBALL MATCH** - On December 12, 1891, a local derby took place between Burnley and Blackburn on a bitterly cold day with fierce winds and heavy snowfalls and Blackburn became even more disheartened when they went 3-0 down. After half-time Blackburn were reluctant to return to the pitch and when they eventually did, things grew worse when a fight broke out between a Blackburn and Burnley player. Both men were sent off and the rest of the Blackburn team then walked off in protest, leaving only their goalie. In a scene worthy of Monty Python, play resumed with 11-man Burnley against the hapless keeper and Burnley quickly scored, only to have the goal disallowed for offside. The referee then abandoned the game. **(Times newspaper)**

**LACK OF WOODLAND** management in Britain is one reason wild species have declined and therefore the Kent Wildlife Trust are introducing bison to the wood at Blean near Herne Bay. European bison are being used because they are ecosystem engineers, meaning that they can change their environment through their natural behaviours. Bison can alter woodlands in a way that no other animal can as they eat bark and create dust baths which each have benefits for many plants and animals. These are functions that have been missing from our woodlands for thousands of years and bringing them back can help restore an abundance of wildlife.

## LOVE'S LAMENT

When beauty seats herself between your feet

Gazes at you combing her golden hair,

And your heart skips and misses out a beat

As you breathe in a look beyond compare,

You hear a voice that rises to the skies.

A sweet crescendo flying through the air,

A joy of joys that makes you realize

That there is nothing that you cannot dare.

Congratulate yourself, you've won a prize

That once you thought was far beyond your reach,

But listen carefully to that song, it sighs.

It tells of sailors stranded on a beach.

It sings of broken lovers far from home,

The sirens tell you that you're on your own.

**Gail Swainston.**



## THE PHOTO

above shows local dog Jack searching for his Christmas presents

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**Regular events in the village hall**

<b>Tuesday - Friday</b>	Pilates 10am to 11am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am
<b>Thursday</b>	Mother and toddler group 10am to 12am

**CHURCH SERVICES**

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Songs Of Praise 11.00 am</b>	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

*If you decide to come to a service please remember to bring a face covering and use sanitizer when you arrive. Thank you!*

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - Sunday morning, and the last echoes of the final hymn were dying away. The choir were making their way to the vestry, the organist quietly improvising as the congregation knelt in prayer. Suddenly, he threw in a tune that the younger choristers recognised instantly. The elderly retired priest who had taken the service had failed to spot the *Ghostbusters* theme and was therefore at a loss to understand why they were all sniggering helplessly. Having a strong sense of what was and was not proper at moments such as these, he was not amused - and said so in no uncertain terms. Organists have been known to get away with all kinds of things – I once heard of one who, tasked with playing at the wedding of a former boyfriend, slipped in a few bars of *Can't Stop Lovin' That Man of Mine* as he and his new wife left church. William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, famously asked why the devil should have all the best tunes and came up with new words to sing to the popular music hall songs of his time. Not much has changed - *The Dambusters March* has become a hymn tune as well as a film score. It's difficult to imagine church without music and singing – which is why, when we were told last year that singing in church had to stop because of the pandemic, it felt like a real hardship. So, to make up for it, St Anthony's is holding a *Songs of Praise* at 11.00 on 20<sup>th</sup> January. We can't promise a visit from Aled Jones, but we can promise that people will be able to choose their favourite hymns, perhaps say a few words about their choice - and come and have a good sing!

**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. 343 March 2022**

**Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council**

**Non-profit & delivered free  
to the Parish of  
Alkham**



## **HRH THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION**

To celebrate this unique occasion, we are holding a traditional street party on the Vicarage Meadow on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> from 1pm and it is for all who live in Alkham parish. We are hiring the village hall for table and chairs and toilet

facilities, and suggest you bring along gazebos, sunshades and picnic blankets as I'm sure the weather will be amazing! Should it not - then this event will transfer to the village hall. If there is anyone that needs a lift to the meadow, then give me a call, and I will arrange a pick up from someone who lives nearby. The aim is to have as many as possible sitting at the tables, especially children and seniors (but not you Den!), and thanks to the Parish Council and Brian Wimsett's Alkham Fund, I have recently purchased Union Jack bunting, tableware and balloons. To keep it simple the afternoon will be a bring your own food and drink, and there will be a children's fancy dress competition with prize, and a prize for best decorated cake. I do hope you will all come along and join in, and not leave me and Den sitting at the table like two lonely Larry's! **Irene Barnard 01304 824845**

## **THE VILLAGE HALL**

is also getting ready for the jubilee with the tubular railing on the hall side of Hogbrook Lane having a coat of white and black paint applied. The short fence on the car park



has also been repaired and thanks to Ben Spicer for doing this work. In addition, some troughs are being refurbished which will be put by the hall and red, white and blue plants put in them ready for the jubilee plus other decoration is proposed.

**AN ALKHAM** resident phoned to say that there was a suspicious group of men, possibly foreign, going round Newlyns Meadow and he thought that they might be intent on stealing items from cars or houses and to make other people aware of this.

**GARDEN CLUB** - The Alkham Garden Club is really an excuse for locals to meet and catch up and drink. We try to meet in each other's gardens once a calendar month usually on a Friday evening at 7:30pm from May - October. I'm taking over the planning this year and hoping to have the first one at mine on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Please email me at [catie@thewebbers.org](mailto:catie@thewebbers.org) and I will get back to you with further details.

**TEA AND A CHAT** - On the last Thursday of each month between 2pm and 4pm Tea and a Chat is held in the village hall. It is an opportunity to meet new friends and have a convivial chat so do please come along and join us.

**AUSSIES RULE?** - Perhaps you've noticed the over-representation of Australians and strong Australian connections in this village. We had a spur of the moment gathering at the Marquis on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January in celebration of Australia Day. Being an ex-penal colony, you won't be surprised to hear we plan to be repeat offenders next year! If you have Australian family connections too, please join us next year. Bonus points we livened up a quiet evening for the Marquis on a cold grey night. **Catie Webber**

## **FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

**The Good Liar**

Helen Mirren Ian McKellen

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
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Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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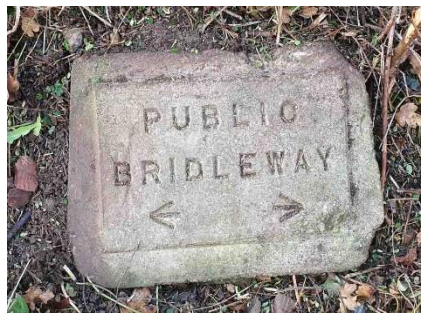
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**PIMLICO WAY** – Whilst clearing the overgrowth by Pimlico Way recently a stone with Bridleway inscribed on it was uncovered which begged the question as to how it was now a byway. At a Parish Council meeting in 1954 Pimlico Way was mentioned regarding the overgrown state of the

road and that the postman would not now deliver letters to the two houses at Pimlico. A 1950 act did review PROW's and it is likely that with the growth of car use an order was made to make the byway open to all traffic. There is no longer a hamlet at Pimlico and only one house at the Slip Lane end where the postman still rightly complains about the state of the byway. Reverting to bridleway status would seem sensible especially as it's generally closed for traffic in winter (as it is now) because of the off-road vehicles making it hazardous for other users. **Ed.**

### THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS WALK

took place on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2021. It was a damp, wet and drizzly morning, but eleven intrepid walkers, including the President, the Chair, the Deputy-Chair and the Hon



Treasurer and three dogs arrived at the Village Hall determined to keep the tradition going. The President gave a short welcoming speech and passed over to Anita James as the leader of the walk, who took the group up Common Hill, along the bridleway, left at the house on the corner towards Ewell Minnis, then left onto Ferne Lane, left onto Chalk Hill and right onto Chalksole Green Lane and past the Vineyard. At that point seven walkers went down the track to reach Slip Lane and scuttle back home, while Anita and the Chair, the Deputy-Chair and one other were braver and went on to Everden, down to the Alkham Valley Road and back. A good and bracing time was had by all despite the appalling weather." **Jo Walker, Hon Secretary of the AVS.**

**MARQUIS** - With 2021 now behind us, we can hopefully look forward to a year of more normality! But what a whirlwind of a year it has been for us at Contemporary Pubs; Staycations have been in high demand with our occupancy rate higher than previous years and the feedback has been positive to say the least. The success of this wouldn't have been possible without your continued support and our staff's continued dedication to the business. **Hugh Thomson**

**CONSTRUCTION** of Dover Fastrack, Kent's first zero-emission bus service connecting Whitfield with Dover town centre and Dover Priory railway station will start this month and construction is expected to take around 18 months. It includes a new bus, cycle and pedestrian-only bridge across the A2 at Whitfield, and a new link road from the B&Q roundabout in Whitfield to the Dover Road at Guston. The new link to Dover Priory railway station can be used for commuting, business, and leisure trips to and from London and also provide a quick and easy way to reach the town centre and Dover Castle.

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IDA BAILEY – An email was received from a nephew of Ida Bailey who was researching his past and asking if I had a picture of Little Drellingore Cottage, which I did, and he also sent a link to the Secret Army. In the months after Dunkirk in WWII it was decided to set up a secret army to outwit the Germans should they invade. An underground bunker was built in a wood (shown) at Drellingore with a chamber about 5 metres square and accessed by a hinged tree stump. Ida Bailey lived at Little Drellingore Cottage on the bend in the old Alkham Valley Road just past where the big white pumping station is. She used to walk her dog in that wood and accidentally came across someone accessing the bunker and it was decided that if the Germans invaded, she would be shot. However, the members of the secret army agreed that in the event they would put her on a train to London. Ida continued to live in the cottage and was unconcerned about ivy sprouting through the ceiling and died in 1994 aged 96. A little while later the house was demolished and a new vernacular house built in its place. **Brian Wimsett**



## THE RUNNER

The open air, the deeper breath,

A stretch across the moors

Where vistas reach beyond blue hills

The sweep of great outdoors.

The calm, the space, expansive place

Where all your thoughts are free,

Where light and night and tight and fright

Go floating out to sea.

Where you are running in the void

A shell of empty space

Of air around you pace by pace,

A clear and breathing grace

Extending wide to leave a trace

A footprint far behind.

**Gail Swainston**

## ALKHAM W.I.

Our February meeting was a fashion show and the first 1<sup>st</sup> prize was won by Christine Peel, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize was won by Sue Ross and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize by Sue Koo; thank you to all members who took part. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm and our speaker will be Jane Napper on chocolate tasting. Hostesses are Janet Adamson and Helen Price, Raffle Margaret Batcheldor and VOT Sue Ross. New members always welcome

**Debbie Griggs**



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Please ring Tracey for information on 01304 828098

#### Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday - Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Wednesday	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am

#### Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	24	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm

#### CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	United Parish Eucharist Capel 7.00 pm - Ash Wednesday		
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship 11am
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	Worship 11am
Mothering Sunday			

There is usually a Eucharist at St Radigund's, Capel at 11.00 on Thursday mornings.

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

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

**To Folkestone** 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32

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

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - As we chatted to a friend who told us that she had 'done Dry January' my wife told her that *He* (meaning me) *gives up cake for Lent*. That made me think: how to explain that there's more to Lent than just giving things up? I had to do just that one morning years ago when OFSTED arrived in the school where I was teaching. I was given the job of taking assembly. In front of me, not just those I taught but, at the back of the hall, three inspectors clutching clipboards, scribbling away furiously. The pressure was on. Lent happens between pancakes and Easter Eggs, I began. Then I moved on the Biblical story of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness – you may know it. On the screen above my head, a slide of a medieval painting showed Jesus, unfazed as the devil appears and tries to lead him astray. The artist had taken the story literally; I wondered aloud how many of them had ever seen anyone with horns and a tail. Then I showed them a modern painting by a Stanley Spencer, *Christ in the Wilderness – The Scorpion*. Christ sits alone in a barren landscape, looking down at a scorpion in his hand, deep in thought. I asked: what might Christ be thinking? About the person he really is, perhaps, and how to be his true self? For Christians, Lent is a time for taking time to think about the people we really are, and how to be our true selves. I finished by reading a traditional Lent prayer. The hall emptied. One of those at the back thanked me for showing the Spencer painting as another smiled over the top of his clipboard. Have a good Lent... **Brian Williams**

#### POLICE 999 or 101

**Newsletter** [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)  
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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. 334 April 2022**

**Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council**

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**THE PHOTO** sent by Bev Hubbard sums up the damage caused by the storm on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February when the trees in upper Slip Lane were blown down near

Pimlico Way and the road was still blocked on the following day. As people will know, other trees were blown down causing the power cuts and thanks should go to the engineers who worked through the rain and storm to restore the power.

## **THE 2022 VILLAGE SUNFLOWER COMPETITION IS HERE**

Who can grow the tallest one? This is a fun contest which has been extended to the entire village for 2022 from the mini Slip Lane sunflower competition between neighbours held on previous years. We will be sowing the sunflowers in April for anyone who would like to enter to collect at the end of May, they are totally free, or if contestants prefer, they can grow their own. Once collection of the seedlings has taken place there are no special growing rules, pop them in the garden and water them; grow them anyway you like. We will then have Sunflower measuring day which is the last Sunday of the School summer holiday in September. Winner wins the coveted Sunflower cup and bragging rights to the entire village. Anyone who would like to enter please let me know so that we can plant enough seeds or if you are growing your own and know you are a contestant. Please contact [anitajames163@gmail.com](mailto:anitajames163@gmail.com) with your name address and telephone number. Let's cover the place in sunflowers. **Anita James**



**SPEEDWATCH** – It's good to see the Speedwatch volunteers carrying out their work in Alkham to educate rather than prosecute drivers regarding dangerous speeding and driving. Offenders are sent letters which specifically target the driver based on various criteria such as age, type of car, speed and the measurement site. In the past three months they completed 22 sessions, recording 421 vehicles speeding and 333 letters were sent out by Kent police. Drivers who have been reported three times and those speeding above a certain criteria have their letters hand delivered by a Police Officer. Since Speedwatch started 1375 vehicles have been reported despite 2 years being lost to Covid problems. The fastest vehicle recorded in the last three months was measured by a Police Constable using his own camera to record a vehicle approaching Short Lane 30mph zone at 70mph; the driver has been prosecuted.

**VILLAGE HALL AGM** - The Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> of April at 7.00p.m. in the Village Hall. All villagers and anyone involved in using the Hall are welcome to attend. This is your opportunity to have your say about the Hall and any activities that take place and to make suggestions for the future. **Janet Adamson**

**JUBILEE** – Please contact Irene on 01304 824845 if you'd like to go to the Platinum Jubilee celebration in Alkham on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June.

**ALKHAM WI** are having a coffee morning and a Bring and Buy sale on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May at 11am in Alkham Village Hall, everyone welcome. **Debbie Griggs**  
**GARDEN CLUB** will have its first meeting for the year at Catie and Harlan Webber's on Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> 5-8 pm. Please bring whatever you like to drink. The earlier time is because of the short days. Please email me at [catie@thewebbers.org](mailto:catie@thewebbers.org) if you need more details. Existing club members should receive an email soon. We already have hosts/ venues for our May and June gatherings. But we are looking for more later in the year. 2021 provided a lot of challenges from a rough spring, dry summer, desperate need to keep ourselves occupied during the pandemic and Ash Dieback. I'm sure there's lots to see and talk about. And I will make sure there's lots to drink too, as is tradition. **Catie Webber**

**FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April  
West Side Story (2021)**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March  
The Good Liar**

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

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**MANY OF YOU** know the lovely Susannah Tapsell led Keep Fit classes in the Village Hall every Wednesday morning for 22 years. Whilst not formally trained, she had a wealth of knowledge and experience and designed an age appropriate programme. And she rewarded us with tea and chat afterwards. This has been a lifeline for many of the local ladies providing wisdom, camaraderie and motivation with the side effect of actually helping us feel better. I credit her with my rehabilitation. Many of you also know that I have now taken up the baton. I'm not formally trained either but have learned a lot from both Susannah and my NHS physio and osteopathic practitioners. Thanks to Covid and social distancing I have made changes to the programme that are perhaps worth mentioning. First of all we wear masks as we are a vulnerable crowd and we sign in as track and trace. We still do a thorough warm up which is vital as we get older and stiffer. We then move on to 12 minutes of seated exercises to music. That ensures we stay 2m apart. You might think that wouldn't break a sweat but it does. And then we do about 15 minutes light cardio standing on the spot so we keep 2m apart. With all the exercises there's an easy version and a harder version and if a particular exercise is contrary to your medical advice you are encouraged to sit that one out. We all have things we can't and shouldn't do. You won't be surprised to hear I always take the easy out! I'm far from the fittest. Because we hire the Village Hall we all pay £2 contribution towards the cost of coffee and hiring charges. We generally have a surplus which we give to a local charity chosen by the group. It's a wonderful Wednesday Alkham tradition. **Catie Webber**

**DRELLINGORE COTTAGE** – In last month's newsletter I wrote an article about Ida Bailey in which I said that her house had been demolished and a new one built. That was wrong as I have been told that the existing cottage was renovated and improved. Other emails were received about Ida and John Richards said that as a boy whenever he accompanied his mum to meet relatives along the road in Drellingore, Ida always seemed to be leaning on her gate with a sweet for him. His father, who lost an eye as a child, and couldn't get into the regular forces at the beginning of the WWII, was originally in the local force and he showed John not only the tunnel mentioned in the previous article but another across the small valley and said there were more around Alkham and Dover. Melvyn Kirby said Ida was a real character and after shopping regularly drunk a bottle of vinegar that she had bought. **Brian Wimsett**

**VILLAGE HALL** – The work continues to get the floral display ready for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and gardeners might be interested to know that pachysandra, euonymus, hydrangea, heuchera, pulmonaria, petunia, geraniums, white bacopa and ivies have been ordered.

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Our March meeting was very interesting all about making chocolate by Jane Napper and our next meeting is on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm when our speaker will be Clive Nutting talking about Madagascar the Enchanted Isle. Hostesses Beryl King and Janet Gibbons. For the raffle would all members bring a yellow raffle prize and also members that want to take part would they make an easter bonnet and bring on the night. VOT Debbie Griggs. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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An email was received regarding the above photo asking if we had a copy of it as it included their grandfather, and we were pleased to say we had. In July 1934 the Dover Cycling Club Annual Ride took place and they stopped in Alkham to have their photo taken on Vicarage Meadow which is now the village green. There is also another photo of Alkham taken in the 1930's from almost the same spot but in the opposite direction. **Brian Wimsett**



**BADGERS** – Bev Hubbard sent the Nature Notes from the Times in which it said that February was the main month for badger births which take place in a special nursery chamber in the sett and typically, they will stay underground for the first two months.

On my wildlife camera there is a badger that visits but usually comes later than the fox who has eaten most of the food which has been left.

## FORCE FIVE

Where harsh rocks suffer splashes from the sea

Rough stone is worn away from year to year  
So what seemed permanent, the great white cliffs,

Are elemental happenings, transient.

And as the seasons merge winter to spring

They crash into the ocean with a roar

Destroying landscape, tearing down the view.

Unseen for centuries, unsuspected,

The dragon's song bursts from his scaly heart

Spit, resin, blood, all streaming in the wind

Exposing a perspective quite unknown.

New life from old caresses and desires,

The snap, the crack, ballooning sail, force five,

Fresh breeze, waves dancing, glittering, alive.

**Gail Swaiston**

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Dog  
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## ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates

Please ring Tracey for information on 01304 828098

### Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday - Friday Pilates 10am to 11am

Wednesday Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am

### Other events in the village hall

Tuesday 12 W.I. meeting 7.30pm

Thursday 28 Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

### CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> March Mothering Sunday	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00am
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Building the Easter Garden at Messy Church 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Palm Sunday 11.00 am	
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 11.00 am	Eucharist 7.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		

There is usually a Eucharist at St Radigund's, Capel at 11.00 on Thursday mornings.

**BUS TIMES To Dover** 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** - Like most clergy, I have plenty of very weighty, very serious theological books on my shelves – but also others which, although lighter and rather less serious, nevertheless contain pearls of wisdom. I've been reading one which takes a sideways look at all things religious - including the increasingly popular idea that pictures our departed loved ones smiling as they look down at what we are doing from On High – rather like a celestial TV lounge, perhaps, with angels serving tea. It's not an idea supported by anything found in the New Testament, but many people nevertheless seem to find it attractive - although, as the book points out, it rather loses its appeal when you're in the shower or doing something that you know they would disapprove of. An inscription on an ancient headstone beside the path in the churchyard at Alkham takes a different view: *He is not dead but sleepeth*. The words come from the gospels, spoken by Jesus to a distraught father whose young daughter had just died, and who he was about to restore to life - words which once offered such hope and comfort to a grieving local family that they chose them to be carved on their loved one's memorial. For Christians Easter brings with it the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead and the hope of heaven for those who trust in Him. *What no eye has seen, wrote St Paul, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived... God has prepared for those who love him.* To me, that promises that Eternity will be a much more exciting prospect than simply being expected to look down and smile as what's left of my life savings is blown on computer games. I hope so, anyway... Happy Easter! **Brian Williams**

### POLICE 999 or 101

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**Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors**

[clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

Hall booking Shirley Prince 828098

**W.I. Secretary** – Janet Barrow 829585

**Footpaths** [antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk)

**AVS** [joannawalker777@gmail.com](mailto:joannawalker777@gmail.com) 821641

**Vicar** Brian Williams 01303 243784

**MP** Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669

**KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487

**DDC** [cllr-martin.hibbert@doover.gov.uk](mailto:cllr-martin.hibbert@doover.gov.uk)  
07796444860.

**Web sites** [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org) and  
[www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://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. 335 May 2022**

**Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council**

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to the Parish of  
Alkham**

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN - JUBILEE PARTY SUNDAY JUNE 5<sup>th</sup> VICARAGE MEADOW - 1PM** - Here's a reminder of the above village party which is proving to be very popular. We have tables and seating for 80 so please, if possible, bring along extra picnic tables and chairs. Still hoping for a dry weather day but any overhead cover will probably be a good idea too for a light shower - or as sun shade - but as mentioned before, we have the village hall booked as back up. As this event is a bring your own food and refreshments, there is no need to ring and let me know you are coming. Don't forget to get the children involved for the fancy dress competition from any decade in the last seventy, and hopefully you clever bakers are already planning your cake decoration. Finally, I'm planning traditional fun games for all such as egg and spoon, three legged and so on so should be a good afternoon. **Irene Barnard**

**TWO GIRLS** at Temple Ewell Primary School decided they wanted to raise funds for the Ukraine relief effort. They held a cake and craft sale in school and as part of that decorated some pebbles to sell. Some of those pebbles are now hidden around our village of Alkham. If you find one, please keep it, pass it on or re-hide it elsewhere. To date they have raised £388. **Nicola Church, Temple Ewell Primary School**

**SPEEDWATCH** - Further to last month's article regarding Speed Watch, Glyn Jones has asked the Parish Council to support the purchase of a new speed device and also the video equipment recommended by the police due to an increase in abusive and aggressive issues against some Speedwatch units (fortunately not Alkham to date). They have also submitted a paper to the Parish Council to consider when they review their Highway improvement Plan Policy and action for 2022/23, to include a 30mph limit from Hopton Manor to Wolverton bend and 20mph through the heart of the village with 40mph on the rest of the road between Standen cottages and Temple Ewell.

**ALKHAM WI** are having a coffee morning and a Bring and Buy sale on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May at 11am in Alkham Village Hall, all welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

**FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

**Marvellous - Toby Jones**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

**West Side Story (2021)**

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

**EDITH NEVE** - On the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, the parish of Alkham lost a much admired and respected member of the local community, Mrs Edith Neave. She was 86 years of age. Edith had lived with her late supportive husband, Vic, in Ewell Minnis having moved to the hamlet several decades ago from Wolverton, where she had operated a care home. When Edith moved to Ewell Minnis she integrated with the local community readily, often providing support to those who sought it, in the immediate area. It is as a result of this she was encouraged to stand for and was elected onto Alkham Parish Council. She served the Parish Council loyally for many years, retiring, due to the declining health of her husband in order she could care for him towards the end of his final days. Edith always had an enquiring mind and never ceased to amaze me with her many entrepreneurial ideas and schemes which she would run pass me on my many visits to see her. She enjoyed life to the full with the daily support of her daughter Coco. Edith was certainly a fun loving character and will be missed by those who knew her. Her spirit is reunited with her husband's, whom she adored and loved so much. **Geoffrey Lymer**

**CHRISSE ROSE** died on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April after being diagnosed with cancer in January and given a prognosis of only weeks. Apart from a spell in the hospice whilst they brought pain management under control, she had her wish of spending her last days at home. Chrissie and her husband Peter were resident in Slip Lane for some years and they were well liked and always ready to help and get involved with village activities.

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### **STEPS IN FIELD BEHIND THE CHURCH**

After the dire accident suffered in deepest, coldest January by a local resident (four hours prone on icy ground), people climbing these steps now, will find them much safer and easier to use, all repaired and strengthened by the KCC in late March. In addition, a new handrail

has been installed on the second upgoing set of steps. Thanks to the KCC response and Anthony Barrier's encouragement (our footpath warden) a good job has been done, and speedily too. **Jo Walker**

**MEMBERSHIP** – Someone gave £10 as membership to the Alkham Valley Society but a record of the name was not made. Please email Catherine Webber at [catiewebber@me.com](mailto:catiewebber@me.com) to register your name.

**LIGHTNING** – On the first of April there was an enormous flash of lightning followed by a similar size bang and it appears that the lightning struck the power line serving properties near Newlyn's Meadow and Hogbrook Lane causing a power surge that put at least 3 modems out of action plus some phones. The power surge caused damage to other properties' electrical equipment and the modem in the village hall was one casualty which was swiftly replaced by Plusnet.

**KENT VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIP** – You can change a person's life in Kent today by becoming a volunteer and if you'd like more information then go to the web site [www.kentvolunteers.org.uk](http://www.kentvolunteers.org.uk). You can search for volunteer opportunities across Kent, register your interest in volunteering opportunities that interest you or choose to allow organisations who want volunteers to contact you.

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**SNOWFLAKES** – Most people know about snowdrops which are the first flowers to bloom generally before or coinciding with the vernal equinox at the end of March and symbolises sympathy, consolation and hope. Another prevalent white flower which is not so well

known is the snowflake, or summer snowflake, and blooms in mid to late spring, just after the daffodils and resembles the snowdrop but is much taller. If you are interested in nature the Wildlife Trust has an annual challenge where they ask everyone to do one wild thing a day throughout the month of June and in 2021 saw over 760,000 people being involved. It is called **30 DAYS WILD** and if you'd like to sign up and receive a free pack to help you go wild, go to [wildlifetrusts.org/30days](http://wildlifetrusts.org/30days) wildlife site.



**EVER WANTED TO BE AN ARCHAEOLOGIST?** Now's your chance to get involved in a choice of community digs at Dover's Maison Dieu led by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. The first dig was in April and the other digs take place between 25-29 July, and 8-12 September, one near Biggin Hall and the other beneath a municipal flowerbed on the other side of the River Dour. Participants will be offered a choice of roles, from excavating and washing finds, to engaging with visitors or running a mini dig for families. The opportunity is open to anyone age 18 plus and full training will be given. Young people, age 18 to 25, are particularly welcome, including those currently unemployed or looking for work experience opportunities. Please contact Martin Crowther at [martin.crowther@dover.gov.uk](mailto:martin.crowther@dover.gov.uk) or phone 07596 889 668 or go to [www.maisondieudover.org.uk](http://www.maisondieudover.org.uk) for further details.

## THE CIRCLES OF HELL

I saw you once with Oscar  
His rounded eyes aglow  
With knowledge of all sorts of things  
That children shouldn't know.  
You showed him off so proudly  
Pretending all was well  
You needed me to love him  
In those sad surrounds of hell.

A multi-storey carpark  
The walls were grey and gloom  
You must have paid to enter  
And then there wasn't room.  
You had to circle driving down  
Looking for a space  
Hoping that you might find some  
And that he would find his place.

**Gail Swainston**

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Our meeting was a very interesting one at which we had Clive Nutting talking about Madagascar the Enchanted Isle. Our next meeting is on the 10<sup>th</sup> May which is resolutions followed by a quiz. Well done to Vanessa Oakley on winning 1<sup>st</sup> prize for her Easter Bonnet. Hostesses are Debbie Saunders and Janet Gibbons, raffle Helen Scopes. All new members welcome. **Debbie Griggs**



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Wednesday Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am

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Tuesday 10 W.I. meeting 7.30pm

Thursday 26 Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

### CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Praise 11.00 am
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Messy Church at St Radigund's Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Worship 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Ascension Day United Parish Eucharist Hougham 7.00 pm		
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	United Parish Eucharist at St Mary's Capel 10.00 am		

**BUS TIMES To Dover** 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 boarded the train and found a seat. The man sitting opposite smiled and asked if I had had a good day. I had, I replied, and I asked him how his day had been. Celtic had beaten Rangers 2-1! He and his friend's nephew had travelled to Scotland hoping to get tickets for the match but had ended up watching it on a big screen. They had celebrated the win, and his young friend was now sprawled across the seat next to him. As I reassured him that I wasn't a Rangers supporter, his friend suddenly began clapping and chanting in honour of the genius who had scored the winning goal. In all honesty, sport and I have never understood each other, and I'm no football fan. I remembered this when I came across this headline: *Revealed: The most boring person in the world is a religious data-entry worker who watches TV.* It was about a study from the University of Essex. It listed jobs and activities – religion counts as a hobby, apparently - that are often dismissed as boring. But on reading it I found that it didn't pretend, as the headline suggested, to identify the most boring people in the world. It was really about the negative effect that being branded as boring by others can have on our lives. I once read somewhere that anything can be interesting – it's just a matter of whether we see it that way.

Sport gives pleasure to millions of people – no doubt I'm missing out on something. I live with the constant challenge of how to reveal the interest in something that people sometimes dismiss. I'm no football fan – but I am a God supporter. And not boring. At least, I don't think so... **Brian Williams**

### POLICE 999 or 101

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07796444860.

**Web sites** [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org) and  
[www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

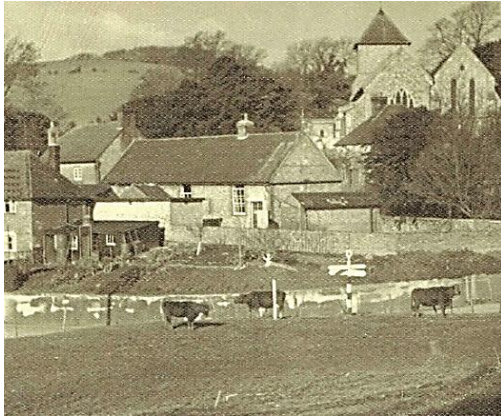
# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

**No. 336 June 2022**

**Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council**

**Non-profit &  
delivered free  
to the Parish of  
Alkham**



## **VICARAGE MEADOW**

In last month's newsletter a headline said that the Jubilee Party on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June is on Vicarage Meadow and a local has said that some people might not know this name. The 1930's photo shows the meadow, known as

glebe land as it provided revenue for the church which owned it, was behind the vicarage and therefore called Vicarage Meadow. The meadow was subsequently rented by the Parish Council to use as the village green, but the original village green was at the top of the steep hill off Slip Lane at Chalksole and it was last used for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. It is still owned by the parish but in 2003 the Parish Council bought Vicarage Meadow from the church and it became the official village green. **Editor**

**MARQUIS OF GRANBY** - May has given us a hint that Summer is around the corner and with that in mind, we have launched our new Summer Menu. We have included some more snacks and open sandwiches as well as kept our trademark A La Carte in keeping with our usual offering, giving our customers more flexibility. We have also introduced a monthly Dining Club with the next one coming on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, on a booking only basis. The first event was a huge success with a five course tasting menu and a Master of Wine hosting the event, pairing some great and obscure wines with the food, it was nice to see some familiar faces! All details are on our website, but should you wish to know more, please call us on 01304 873410 or email [info@marquisofgranby.co.uk](mailto:info@marquisofgranby.co.uk). In addition, with The Jubilee Weekend fast approaching what better way to celebrate the Queen's reign than with Pimm's, bunting and our favourite band, Gumboots on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of June! We will be open all day as usual with the event kicking off from 4pm and we would love to see the community come together for such a special occasion.  
**Hugh Thompson**  
General Manager

## **FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

**Still Life – Eddie Marsan**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

**Marvellous – Toby Jones**

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

## **JUBILEE VILLAGE PARTY - JUNE 5TH FROM 1PM ON VILLAGE GREEN**

Final prompt regarding this event which has been well advertised in previous newsletters so hopefully all will come along and enjoy BYO lunch/drinks and fun with friends and neighbours. Don't forget your gazebo's, parasols and picnic table and chairs - we only have seating for eighty. **Irene Barnard**

**TRAFFIC** – Glyn Jones and Speedwatch have set up an email address [alkhamvalleytraffic@btinternet.com](mailto:alkhamvalleytraffic@btinternet.com) for parishioners to report any road traffic incidents that they are aware of in the Alkham Valley as many incidents go unreported. It is important that they can produce an accurate list of accidents and other road safety incidents when asking for support from Kent Police and KCC officers. At present we appear to be experiencing an average of about one significant road traffic incident a week, but many go unreported into official statistics as the police do not attend. Hopefully a local record of actual incidents can be built and the information can be used to ensure that KCC prioritises road safety along the Alkham Valley Road.

## **THE SUNFLOWER COMPETITION**

which has been organised by Anita and Vernon James has attracted 18 entries. The winning entrant will receive a cup which will have to be relinquished at the end of the year but a friend of Anita, who is very artistic, is making a wooden plaque that they can keep. Sunflower plants are still available and if you'd like one, please email [anitajames163@gmail.com](mailto:anitajames163@gmail.com).



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**PIMLICO WAY** – A firm laid hydraulically bound material from its junction with Slip Lane to the top of the rise at the end of April but either the material wasn't laid or compacted correctly or was faulty and the contractor will return

to site to put things right. The material is being laid to make the byway safer and stop flints and other debris being washed down onto Slip Lane.

**NEW FOOTPATH** – In the February edition the need for a paved path linking the one at Newlyns Meadow to the path behind the village hall was mentioned. The Parish Council is applying for a KCC Members grant of £1500 towards the cost of the path and say that the maximum cost should be no more than £3500 and since this expenditure was not in the budget it will be funded from the parish council reserves.

**VILLAGE HALL** – For the last financial year the hall made a loss of £1500 and in the previous financial year a loss of £3400 was incurred. In addition to this there was capital spend which amounted to about £3000. However, the hall was given a small business grant under the Government's scheme for Covid and this has covered the loss incurred. Despite lower usage the running costs have to be paid and the hall's annual insurance is £850 and last year the utilities bill (gas, electricity and water/drainage) despite the reduced bookings came to £1250. In addition to this there is the hall cleaning which adds another £1200 plus Council rates, grass cutting, broadband and general maintenance.

**EASELS** – The Art Workshop has been held in the village hall for many years but has now had to cease and Margaret Danstead and Margaret Tovey, with help from Liz Lambourne, have kindly donated their 6 easels to the Harvey Grammar School for boys in Dover.

### THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

mentioned in last month's newsletter at Dover's Maison Dieu (or House of God) has produced some interesting finds. Maison Dieu was founded by Hubert de Burgh in the early 1200s as a place for poor pilgrims to stay the night on their way to the shrine of St Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral, or when travelling to the Continent. Pilgrims received free bed and board (weak beer and bread) from the Augustinian monks who looked after the building. The impressive Stone Hall was built circa 1290 and at the digs in April the most spectacular finds discovered by first time local volunteers were over 50 small fragments of decorated window glass found in a rubble layer beneath one of the Stone Hall's six medieval windows. Photographs of the glass have been seen by medieval stained-glass experts who believe the fragments date from the late 1200's or early 1300's and say are a very exciting find. Please contact Martin Crowther at martin.crowther@dover.gov.uk. or phone 07596 889 668 or go to www.maisondieudover.org.uk for details of future digs.



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**IN MAY 2023** district council seats will be up for election and anyone can apply as you don't have to be a member of a political party. If you'd like to find out more about being a councillor, on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 from 6pm to 9pm DDC are holding a Prospective Councillor Evening at their offices in Whitfield, CT16 3PJ and to book a place please phone 01304 872303/4/5 or email [democraticservices@dover.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@dover.gov.uk).

**MOSELING'S HOLE** – An email was received from Paul Reed asking if anyone in the parish knew if an archaeological assessment had been carried out on a local dene-hole. A dene-hole was a shaft which was dug into the ground in ancient times to extract chalk and a well-preserved dene-hole exists in a wood just on the parish boundary some 60 metres east of the footpath/bridle way leading to St. Radigunds's Abbey. It is on private land and is about 2 metres in diameter, 11.5 metres deep and has three shafts radiating off it and is marked on a map. Legend has it that it was called Moseling's Hole because a man of that name who lived in Alkham fell down it and when Paul was a boy, he and friends used to explore the area, but he didn't have the courage to go down it on the end of a rope. If anyone has any more information about the dene-hole, please email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com). **Brian Wimsett**



**NOW** the lighter evenings are here the seagulls and rooks take any food that is left outside. To get round this the food was left in a flowerpot and the animal camera shows the badger with his head in the pot with the fox looking on. The fox previously wouldn't put his head in the pot but on the next night, after some trepidation, he followed suit. Unfortunately, the rooks got the message as well and so the pot has been removed.

## PRIMA BALLERINA

Point the toe

Slipper on

Tie pink ribbons tight

Plait a binding

For today

That will last all night.

Ribbons press

Silken edge

Cuts the ankles sore

Knots and pressure

Building up

Rubbing flesh red raw.

Welcome smile

Graceful arms

Circle out the view.

Pain is pulsing

In the feet

Toes are bleeding through.

**Gail Swainston**

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Our May meeting was our resolutions meeting followed by a quiz. Our next meeting is on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June when our speaker will be Rosemary Crippin talking about Bags Beads and embroidered books. Hostesses Lucy McKenzie and Eileen West, Raffle Janet Barrow and VOT Helen Scopes; new members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**



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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** - You may have noticed that Archbishop Justin's Easter Day sermon got a bit of a reaction this year – certainly a bigger one than mine did, judging by the newspaper headlines it generated. Archbishops of Canterbury have a way of ruffling feathers, with three having come off especially badly: the Martyrdom in Canterbury Cathedral recalls how Thomas à Becket, having annoyed King Henry II, was murdered there by four of his knights. Thomas Cranmer and William Laud also met sticky ends, one burned on the orders of Mary Tudor, the other executed by Parliament during the English Civil War. Thankfully Archbishop Justin is still in one piece, at least as far as I know. Approached for a comment, one MP thundered: *The Archbishop... should not assume to know what God knows in my humble opinion.* This strikes me as odd – a bit like saying that a doctor should not presume to write prescriptions. Christians have always recognised praying and reading the Bible as a way of finding out what God thinks – they don't call the Bible *the Word of God* for nothing. In fact, the laws that govern the Church of England are made by Parliament and oblige its clergy, archbishops included, *not being let by sickness or some other urgent cause, to say daily the Morning and Evening Prayer, either privately or openly.* So, the law obliges me, and people like me, to read the Bible; and reading it is more likely to prick my conscience than confirm my opinions: I'm left asking whether I have loved God, and my neighbour as myself, or whether I have judged or condemned anyone, or whether I have forgiven others when I have needed to. So please spare a thought for Archbishop Justin. He's only doing his job. **Brian Williams**

### POLICE 999 or 101

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**Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors**

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

## No. 337 July 2022

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

Non-profit &  
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**JUBILEE VILLAGE PARTY** - It was so lovely to see so many friendly faces at the Jubilee lunch. Up until the morning, we were using Plan B and setting up in the village hall as the weather had been so miserable. Luck was on our side and the decision changed back to the village green which proved to be far more successful considering the high numbers. There was fun with the races and congratulations to Meadow for winning the fancy dress competition and Catie for first prize in the cake decoration competition. Huge thanks to Ken and Sandy, Kev, Sue and Andrew and Graham West for helping with bunting, and the hard task of moving tables and chairs from village hall to the green, and a special thank you to Graham Bissett for providing the music which created a wonderful atmosphere. Finally, this event was sponsored by Alkham Parish Council and Dover District Council. **Irene Barnard**

**MEN UNITED IN SONG** - Graham Bissett and I have signed up to the recent campaign that you may have seen advertised for forty men to create a male voice choir in support of Prostate Cancer UK. For 8 weeks we will be rehearsing under the musical direction of the Snowden Male Voice Choir and we will be performing at a Gala Concert on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00pm to 9.30pm in the Nye Hall at the Duke of York School in Dover. One in eight men are affected by Prostate Cancer and it kills more men annually than women from breast cancer, no research comes from government funding only public donations. While we're not directly asking for sponsorship, although it would be nice <https://www.justgiving.com/team/menunitedinsong>, we do hope that some of you will come along to the concert for a fun evening in support of a great cause. Please contact me if you'd like tickets and I will send details when they are released. **Kev Rolfe e: kev.rolfe@yahoo.com**

**A CRAFT FAIR** will be held in aid of the Air Ambulance on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July from 2pm to 4.30pm at Greenwood Farm, Alkham CT15 7EE.

**LOST** - A person in Glebelands has lost a blue Samsung A12 phone with a black see through case; please ring 01304 824969 if found.

### **MOBILE VANS in Village Hall Car Park**

The popular Mobile Fish and Chip Van will next be visiting Alkham on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July (not 9<sup>th</sup> July as previously arranged) between 5 and 6.30pm. Call 07955 926835 for booking and menu.

**The Refillable Van**, which includes a wide range of dry goods, household cleaning items, dental and beauty products has often been in the Car Park at the same time, but hours vary over the summer period. The next visits are on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July and Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August between 5.00 and 6.00p.m. This is a zero waste mobile refill shop, so bring your own bottles and containers.

**MARQUIS OF GRANBY** - We are so grateful to see so many local faces enjoy the Jubilee Sunday and support the pub, we are donating all proceeds from the Curious Defender outside bar and the barbecue towards a community project we have in mind, totalling £414.80. **SAVE THE DATE** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June!!! From 6.30pm we will be hosting a local's night, with 10% off all food and drink - we will also be doing some small bites for anyone able to attend and not wanting anything too substantial plus the local maestro Graham performing some pop classics from 7pm. Quiz night we are amending slightly moving forward to fuel those brains. We will be doing a chilli at an additional £7 should anyone wish." **Hugh Thompson**

### **FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

**The Duke** Jim Broadbent, Helen Mirren

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

**Still Life - Eddie Marsan**

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

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**JUBILEE VILLAGE PARTY** – There wasn't enough room on the front page to thank Irene Barnard for all her hard work in organising the party, it really was appreciated. Her house was also decked for the Jubilee and the front garden is a lovely welcoming sight as you come into the village.



**DUCKS** - Mr. Alan Latham and Mr. Wimsett spotted a mother duck and trio of ducklings taking a trip down Slip Lane in the ominous direction of



the Alkham Valley Road racetrack. These fearless heroes formed an unarmed guard and escorted the small family across the Red Sea and onto the village green which, as if in anticipation

of the visit, had been cheerfully decorated with jubilee bunting (thanks for that). The brood had probably been bigger and may have come from the direction of the marvellous Malmaims Manor lake. But Alkham can breathe again, thank you wildlife protectors. **Jo Walker**

**BIN N GONE** - The photo shows the result of a car backing into the bin on the village car park on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May. The suspect car's registration details were recorded and it is hoped that DDC will contact the driver for comment and that the very essential bin will be replaced.



**SPEED LIMIT** – At the Parish Council meeting in March the results of the three KCC Speed surveys commissioned by the parish council to support requests for 20mph speed limit and additional speed reduction initiatives were discussed. It was noted that because of these surveys KCC Highways did not consider it was necessary to take any further action as the speeds recorded were suitable for the road environment. There is little evidence to show that introducing a 20mph speed limit without any obvious change in the road environment will make any significant difference to the driven speeds. Also, there would be a need for a permanent system of street lighting, whilst there is none now. The speed limits recorded were considered, by KCC Highways, to be within the given parameters for the road, and shows good compliance for a 30mph limit. (extract from PC minutes)

**KENT PRIORITY SURVEY** – The police have a web address where there is a survey regarding the issues that may affect the local community and an opportunity to give an opinion on their performance. The web site is [www.survey.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/Survey](http://www.survey.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/Survey) and after logging in you should get details of how to report a non-urgent crime and to talk to them using LiveChat.

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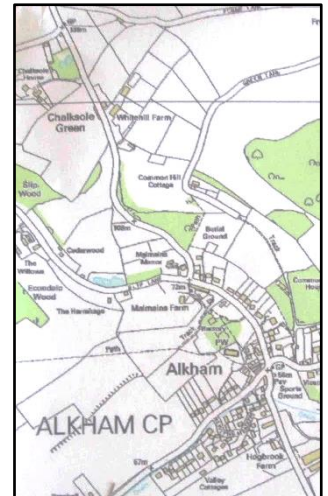
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**MOSELINGS HOLE** – John O'Shea sent the photo on the left taken when he and his wife Joanna went down the dene-hole mentioned in last month's newsletter. A dene-hole is a chalk mine with a small shaft that doesn't take up valuable farmland that an open cast pit would. In the 1960's boys from Alkham school went down Moselings Hole and Jim Matcham emailed to say that he was one of them with Boyce Preston, Malcolm Sharp, Leo McCann, Barry Solly plus others. It was visited in other eras and a boy, who doesn't wish to be named, had to be rescued by the fire brigade. **Ed**

**CHALKSOLE GREEN** was mentioned in the last newsletter and the picture on the right shows it at the top left hand corner. Until the 17<sup>th</sup> century common land belonged to the Lord of the Manor, but tenants would have been entitled to graze their animals on it. Government Acts enclosed this land and gave it to various people and the piece of land forming Chalksole Green was awarded to the Alkham Churchwardens. The land eventually passed to the Parish Council and became the village green and subordinate to village green by the valley road it still is. **Brian Wimsett**



## ALMOST OVERLAP

Jupiter came wandering by  
Wanted Venus to say Hi  
Venus said Wow, what a handsome  
How expensive is the ransome?  
He said No, it costs you nothing  
Be with me I'll give you something  
That you surely won't forget  
She said All life's one regret.

**Gail Swainston**

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Our June meeting was all about how Rosemary Crippin made bags, books, and beads; very talented. Our next meeting is on July 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm when our speaker will be Clive Nuttman talking about orchids. Hostesses are Gina Daniels, Alison Warnock, raffle Debbie Saunders and VOT Janet Adamson. All new members welcome  
**Debbie Griggs**



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**Andy Gee** - Gas Safe registered heating and plumbing engineer  
07807586902 or 01304 207378

## ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates

Please ring Tracey for information on 01304 828098

### Regular events in the village hall

**Tuesday - Friday** Pilates 10am to 11am

**Wednesday** Sit Fit 9.30am to 11.00am

### Other events in the village hall

**Monday 4** Parish Council meeting 7pm all welcome

**Saturday 9** SEKAS 7pm to 9pm

**Tuesday 12** W.I. meeting 7.30pm

**Tuesday 19** Village Hall meeting 2pm

**Thursday 28** Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

### CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Evensong 6.30 pm</b>	<b>Eucharist 9.30 am</b>	<b>Worship 11am</b>
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Messy Church Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm</b>		
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Eucharist 9.30 am</b>	<b>Songs/Praise 11am</b>	
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Worship 11.00 am</b>	<b>Evensong 6.00 pm</b>	<b>Eucharist 9.30 am</b>
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am</b>		
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am (St Mary's Capel)</b>		

**BUS TIMES To Dover** 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** - Think of when you last went to a wedding, and you may remember how, between arriving at the venue and the reception itself beginning, there was perhaps an interlude when people could mingle, chat, have a drink and relax. We attended a wedding reception not long ago and, as we waited to go in, a photographer wandered around, taking snaps of the guests as they chatted. Now it's one thing to have your photo taken when you've had the chance to comb your hair and straighten your tie, but it's quite another when you're snapped as you pulled a face at something that you were being told, and the result isn't guaranteed to be flattering. The photos duly circulated a few days later; *do I really look like that?* I wondered, looking at a snap of my open-mouthed self, my glasses perched on the end of my nose. 3<sup>rd</sup> July is the feast day of St Thomas - *Doubting Thomas* as he is often known from the unflattering snapshot of him in St John's gospel. You may know the story: Jesus, risen from the dead, appeared to his disciples when Thomas wasn't there. Later, they told Thomas what they had seen; he refused to believe it until a week later, when he saw Jesus for himself. But less well known is the tradition that

Thomas went on to travel to India where he founded several churches. He is rumoured to have been martyred near modern Chennai. In the end faith, rather than doubt, sustained him on his travels, and at the end. He became India's patron saint. Thomas and his doubts; me and my open mouth - it all goes to show just how misleading a single snapshot can be...

**Brian Williams**

## POLICE 999 or 101

**Newsletter** [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

**Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors**

[clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Hall booking** Shirley Prince 828098

**W.I. Secretary** Janet Barrow 829585

**Footpaths** [antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk)

**AVS** [joannawalker777@gmail.com](mailto:joannawalker777@gmail.com) 821641

**Vicar** Brian Williams 01303 243784

**MP** Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669

**KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487

**DDC** [cllr-martin.hibbert@doover.gov.uk](mailto:cllr-martin.hibbert@doover.gov.uk)

07796444860.

**Other sites** [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

[www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

[alkhamvalleytraffic@btinternet.com](mailto:alkhamvalleytraffic@btinternet.com)

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett  
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**No. 343 August 2022**

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**THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY** and the Alkham Cricket Club are hoping to team up for T20 cricket match on the August Bank Holiday, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> of August for a community Cricket game. We will have live entertainment back at the Marquis afterwards with two bands playing throughout the afternoon, a Sunday style lunch service and a Hog Roast to accompany. An outside bar will also be "on tap" and an auction will be held later in the afternoon with funds going towards a community project and those effected by the war in Ukraine. If anyone would like to contribute in the form of any prizes to help raise money for these two causes or want further information, please email me at ht@contemporarypubs.co.uk

**SPEED LIMIT** – In last month's newsletter there was an article regarding the speed through Alkham as recorded in the Parish Council minutes which resulted in a parishioner contacting the Parish Clerk. He was disappointed that only compliance with the 30mph was mentioned and that a permanent system of street lighting would be needed for a 20mph limit as there is none at present. The main concern was for the properties that are adjacent to the valley road just past the blind bend by the top of the village green. Vehicles and pedestrians emerging from these properties face a high risk of causing an accident and such actions can only be safely accomplished with extreme caution and preferably with assistance from an observer on the opposite footpath. The village centre also suffers from narrow defiles, lack of footpaths and defined crossing places together with an absence of warning signs regarding concealed exits, emerging traffic and pedestrians crossing the road. He says that nearly everyone he has spoken to comments on the alarming speed and danger of many vehicles coming round the blind bend. It is his opinion that it is irresponsible for the KCC Highways to make remote, bland, dismissive statements about the road environment and parameters without addressing the real, obvious and well-known dangers of the road through the village, particularly after the considerable concerns and prolonged discussions that have taken place on this matter... *please see page 2*

**SUNFLOWERS** - The day for measuring the sunflowers will be Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of August and we have borrowed a professional piece of equipment to do this, so all those taking part had better get the Miracle Grow out. Please may we be allowed access to the places where they are growing, on this day. If there are any problems or anyone is on holiday, please would they contact me on anitajames163@gmail.com. **Anita James**

## **EDWARD BEANEY**

It is with deep sadness I report the passing of Edward Beaney, known as Eddie, born on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1952 and died on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2022. Eddie was born at Cranbrook, near Tunbridge Wells, the family relocating to Ewell Minnis whilst in his infancy. He had nine sisters and brothers, George, Phoebe, Henry, Patience, Priscilla, Derek, David, Dolly and Gary. Eddie leaves two sons and a daughter, who still reside at Ewell Minnis. Eddie was an extremely popular man in the Alkham and Shepherdsweil parishes and though suffering a permanent eye injury from childhood was a formidable darts player taking on and beating a future national darts player for England. Eddie was highly respected for his integrity, being very popular and well-loved among the community, always with a dapper dress sense, who never really retired but was struck by failing health over the past few years. He was a man always there to help others, a wonderful, kind, caring man who is greatly missed. Eddie may have passed over, but his spirit will remain amongst us for some time to come. **Geoffrey Lymer**



## **GARAGE/BARN CONTENTS SALE**

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> of July there will be a sale of household, gardening, building, farming tools at 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane, South Alkham from 10.30a.m. A clearance of years of hoarding, with proceeds to Charity. Any reasonable offer accepted. Please enter by the farm gate (first on the right when entering the Lane) and park in the field where there is some hard standing. **Janet Adamson**

## **FILM NIGHT**

**August 30<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm**

**Goodbye Mr Chips**

**Martin Clunes**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

**The Duke**

**Jim Broadbent**

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**ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD** – About 30 years ago the Alkham Valley Road was classified as the B2060 but was downgraded to a C road so it didn't show as an orange route on maps and to dissuade drivers from using the road, but this had no effect and the volume of traffic continued to grow. At that time KCC Highways considered that the Alkham Valley Road was an important alternative route should there be problems on the A20, now A2020, and it is likely that this mind set has continued despite the new A20 dual carriageway being built and is therefore in direct conflict with the original aim. What does seem sensible is that there should at least be a 20mph speed limit from just before the Marquis of Granby through the narrow gap and continuing past the village green to the other side of the blind bend leading to Dover. KCC may consider that this would have little effect on driver speeds, but it would emphasise that Alkham is a village and should be treated as such. Perhaps the person from KCC who wrote the 20mph speed limit rejection letter would like to come to a public meeting in Alkham to explain and justify the reasons for refusal. **Editor SPEEDWATCH** – The email address for the Speedwatch team was hijacked and effectively destroyed and their new address is alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com.

**BIN** – After the bin on the car park was demolished some people have been leaving pooh bags on the bins at the village hall. Please stop doing this and find another authorized bin or take the bag home.

**CLEANER** required in central Alkham for 2 hours every two weeks. Please phone 07973341772.

**A NEW WEBSITE** www.kearsneyparks.co.uk is showcasing the district's most popular parks following completion of a £3.1 million programme of improvements at Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens. The website, which also covers Bushy Ruff, helps people to plan their visit and explore the upgraded visitor facilities, learn about the history, flora and fauna of the parks, keep up to date with the latest news, and find out ways to get involved through volunteering. Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens are the most significant heritage parks in the Dover district. Russell Gardens is Grade II listed in The Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England, whilst Kearsney Abbey contains many Grade II listed features and is the most popular public park in the district. Both parks are highly valued by the community and attract a significant number of visitors from outside the district.

**EDWARD BEANEY** – The obituary for Edward Beaney is on page 1 and below is a photo of his grave in Alkham churchyard. His coffin was brought to the church in a horse drawn carriage where there was a large number of people to commemorate his passing.



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**FILM NIGHT** – The latest Downton Abbey film will be shown at Film Night in September as some people may be away on holiday in August.

**GARDEN CLUB** - On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June the Garden Club met up in the Old Rectory by invitation of Mark Loveday. The reason is 'June - you should have seen them last week - roses' with which the Old Rectory is blessed. A good number of members attended without whose keen attendance there would be no garden club and were shown around the garden and encouraged to explore the grounds. The evening was warm but grew chillier. However, buoyed up by the splendid scents and sights as well as plentiful beverages, time was well and enjoyably spent. It does help a lot to have an enthusiastic gardener/owner partnership in a garden of this size. Original sketches for the garden made in the early 1960's were on display. With thanks to Mark Loveday, the garden club looks forward to further visits to gardens in and around Alkham. It would not be out of place to mention the absence of Catie Webber, whose father had died two days earlier. Our respects to her and her family at this sad and difficult time. **Jo Walker**



**KENT POLICE** sent an email regarding the theft of catalytic converters and says one was stolen from the Sandwich area on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June. They are targeted by thieves as they contain valuable metals and can be removed in less than a minute and thefts most frequently occurs in car parks and you can find advice regarding locks or guards that are approved by the vehicle manufacturer and tested to Sold Secure Gold. If you don't have a garage, park in an area that's well-lit and overlooked and try to park so that the converter can't be easily reached by thieves. You should also register your converter and mark it with a forensic marker, which will make it harder for thieves to dispose of.

## A MEETING IN THE PUB

In my past and in your past  
There is so much that's left unsaid  
So many years of happiness  
In other lives with other dreams.  
Misty edges shade our sight  
There is so much that's left unseen  
So many islands off the chart  
With rocky outfalls to the sea.  
So though we sit together  
Gazing closely at each other  
Over beer mugs on the table  
There's a distance comes between us.  
Rising up and rushing in  
Thick grey cloud across the skyline  
Wind has shifted daylight grazing  
Wooden table, our Atlantic.

**Gail Swainston**

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Our July meeting was a talk on orchids from Kent by Clive Nuttman. Our next meeting will be on the Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of August when we have no speaker, but all members get together for fish and chips. Any members that weren't at the last meeting please let me know on 07796360473 if you would like some ordered. Bring your own refreshments, there will be no hostesses. Every member to bring a raffle prize in the colour blue. New members always welcome.

**QUIZ NIGHT** coming up in September 2022; will let you know the date nearer the time. Hosted by Debbie Griggs and Debbie Saunders it will be tables of 6. **Debbie Griggs**



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#### Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday - Friday Pilates 10am to 11am

#### Other events in the village hall

Tuesday 9 W.I. meeting 7.30pm

Thursday 25 Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

#### CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am Hougham		
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Messy Church, followed by tea Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am Capel		
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Worship 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am Alkham		
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Evensong 6.30 pm	United Eucharist 10.00 am Hougham	

**BUS TIMES To Dover** 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** - Some years ago, while visiting relatives in Cumbria, I came across Long Meg and Her Daughters. Not friends of my cousins, you understand, but a prehistoric stone circle set among the hills a few miles from Penrith. Long Meg herself stands about 12 feet high, while her smaller daughters form a circle 350 feet across. Where did they come from? According to one legend they were a coven of witches, turned to stone as punishment for dancing on a Sunday. How times have changed! Dancing, playing football, shopping, running errands gardening, DIY – the list goes on. Nobody now seems to worry about being turned to stone for doing any of these things on a Sunday! Numbers attending our church services having slumped since the pandemic, I've been carrying out a survey, asking people what we could do to turn things around. Part of the picture that is emerging is that for many people, the day that used to be about time off for church and visiting family has become filled with other things. So much is going on, and we're all so busy. Jesus is recorded as having once told his disciples, when they had been so busy with everything that they had had no time to eat, to go with him to a quiet place by themselves and get some rest. He spoke of the Sabbath as a gift, rather than an imposition – a gift that only

benefits us if we make time to receive it. We're all so busy - but we may find that time spent with him in a quiet place by ourselves isn't time wasted, but stops us turning to stone inside. And if you want to take part in our survey, do please send me an email...

**Brian Williams**

#### POLICE 999 or 101

**Newsletter** [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors

[clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Hall booking** Shirley Prince 828098

**W.I. Secretary** Janet Barrow 829585

**Footpaths** [antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk)

**AVS** [joannawalker777@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk)  
07796444860.

**Other sites** [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

[www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

[alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com](mailto:alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com)



# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

**No. 344 September 2022**

**Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council**

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delivered free  
to the Parish of  
Alkham**

**THERE ARE** two articles about choirs, with the second on page 2, and having more than one group locally is a positive thing as people will attend several groups and it helps recruit new members.

**COME ALONG AND SING FOR FUN** - Following the success of the Men United in Song project there has been much talk of the health benefits of singing, just for fun. We are very fortunate that our own, musically talented, Graham Bissett has decided that he could start a Community Choir and with the support of Ken Spencer and Myself, we have already promoted him to Musical Director. Ken and I will attempt to assist Graham with a few organisational and secretarial duties and we have already recruited the services of our lovely wives to come along and take part. The community choir will be open to all ladies and gents regardless of ability and there are no auditions, so if you ever thought you'd like to sing with others, this is the opportunity. We will book the Alkham Village Hall as our venue for a weekday evening and we'd like to get a feel for how many might like to join so please do get in touch even if just to chat, you really are all welcome. Kev Rolfe e: kev.rolfe@yahoo.com Ken Spencer e: s33krs@gmail.com

**MARQUIS OF GRANBY** - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> of August is our community cricket match with live music, hog roast and a charity auction back at the Marquis with funds raised for those effected by the war in Ukraine and projects within the village. We would love to see as many of you there as possible, it'll be a great atmosphere and brilliant community spirit as well as an opportunity to raise some money for some great causes. Posty Tony has also moved the Marquis Quiz night this month, so the two dates don't clash to Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. **Hugh Thompson**

**THE CHURCH** is running a fete again at the Capel Garage Safari on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September at St Radigunds and since the pandemic we have very little money coming in. I am sure you would not like to see your beautiful old church go into disrepair and close as we need an awful lot of money to maintain it. We would like any donations of plants and bric-a-brac and also any raffle prize donations please. I hope we can rely on you all to buy tickets to support us. If you can help in any way, it would be much appreciated; please ring Carol Mannall on either 07946 106742 or 01304 826514 - thank you.

**CATIE WEBBER'S** father died whilst on a visit to Alkham. He lived in Australia and his family would like to acknowledge the marvellous support Alkham residents gave their family following Dick's death and could not have managed such a community spirited, uplifting service and wake in Brisbane. It was a splendid send-off.

**A BOOT FAIR** is being held at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of September, sellers to arrive at 6.30am and buyers from 8am. Cars £10, vans £15, no food vans.

**BARRY SHEPPARD** – It is sad to report that Barry died at the Ashford Pilgrims Hospice on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August. For many years Barry has spared time to put his energies and mind towards the support of the Alkham Valley, serving as chairman of the Alkham Valley Society from 2010 to 2017. He stood down from this not always easy position on grounds of ill health but remained at the wheel in many other ways. We will miss you Barry, your commitment and often humorous support. Thank you. Our deep sympathy to Margaret and to their sons and their families. **Jo Walker (sec Alkham Valley Society)**. Miss you, Barry

## **MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

This year's coffee morning is planned for Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 10am - 12noon. It will be held in the village hall and as in previous years there will be a variety of stalls, including a tombola and cake stall. The coffee morning is in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity that not only provides nursing care but also gives practical, financial and emotional care to cancer sufferers and their families. The coffee morning has always been a wonderful community event and has always been so well supported, it would be lovely to see you all there again this year. I would be so grateful to anyone who would be willing to bake a cake (large or individual) for the cake and refreshment stalls. For further information please contact Sue Ross on 01304 825736.

## **FILM NIGHT**

**September 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Downton Abbey: A New Era (2022)**

**August 30<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm**

**Goodbye Mr. Chips - Martin Clunes**

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

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**RIVER VOICES ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS** - Are you over 50 and have always wanted to sing? River voices meets in River Methodist Church on Thursday afternoons from 2.00 - 3.30, our next term starts on 15<sup>th</sup> September. We sing a wide range of musical material with the aim of enjoying singing together and learning to use our voices. There are no auditions, you do not need any previous musical experience or be able to read music. River Voices is run by Living Lively, a Kent based charity which runs singing groups for people over 50. We grew out of an NHS research project into the health benefits of singing and over 400 people attend one of our groups each week. For more information, please contact Matthew on 07951 572920 or [matthew@livinglively.org.uk](mailto:matthew@livinglively.org.uk)

**A HUGE THANK** you to our Alkham neighbours for their many kindnesses this past July. You all made my father's sudden death while visiting the UK a bit easier to bear and certainly gave him a tremendous send off. Thank you for decorating the Church, making food, attending the funeral and singing your hearts out and making the wake a celebration of his life and a genuine delight. Thank you too, for lending an ear whilst providing cups of tea/coffee/ wine with warmth, understanding and wisdom to all three of us - Harlan, Margaret and me. **Catie Webber**

**SOUTHERN EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES** at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre would like to invite you to discuss your equines Autumn/Winter feeding needs with Representatives from Spillers Horse Feed & Omega Equine Supplements. There will be special offers on the day throughout the shop! We look forward to seeing you!! (01303)891996

**MEN UNITED IN SONG** - On July 16<sup>th</sup> the gala concert of the MUIS choir took place in the Nye Hall at the Duke of York Military School in Dover. Over the 8 week rehearsal period Graham Bissett and myself were joined by Ken Spencer and the three of us all took part in the concert which we thoroughly enjoyed. At the time of writing the Choir had raised almost £35,000 for Prostate Cancer UK and still the money comes in. We'd like to thank everyone who has sponsored us and especially to those who came along to support us on the evening. It's not too late to get involved as there will soon be a DVD of the concert available to purchase and anyone who would like one can get in touch and we will let you know when the details are released. If you'd like a little taster, please take a look at the Kent Messenger TV report which can be found at [www.kentonline.co.uk/kmtv/video/amateur-male-choir-in-dover-raises-35-0000-in-aid-of-prostate-cancer-52590/](http://www.kentonline.co.uk/kmtv/video/amateur-male-choir-in-dover-raises-35-0000-in-aid-of-prostate-cancer-52590/). **THANK YOU ALL.**

**Kev Rolfe e: [kev.rolfe@yahoo.com](mailto:kev.rolfe@yahoo.com)**

**PIMLICO WAY** – The dry spell has helped to consolidate the byway and hard material has been laid from what used to be known as 5 ways where the path from Alkham meets the byway and continues to the wood at the Folkestone end. The part towards Dover appears to be firm and then the hard material continues down the slope to Slip Lane.

**159 BANK HOTLINE** – If you receive an unexpected, suspicious, or fraudulent call and are worried by it you can call 159 and between September last year and April this year 75000 calls have been made to that number. The number can also be used if you suspect a rogue trader and you can also report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

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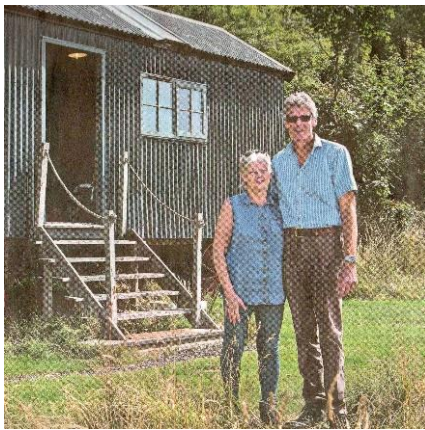
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**THE DAILY TELEGRAPH** on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August had a three quarter page article about Neil and Wendy Burrows who live in South Alkham. Neil is a farmer whose family have farmed in South Alkham for the past 57 years, and also has an award-winning farmhouse bed and breakfast which he runs with his wife Wendy. The newspaper article was about an abandoned late 1880's rusty shepherd's hut. Neil often drove

past the hut which was on Romney Marsh and realised there was the potential to make a modern use of history and turn the hut into a five-star retreat for glamorous camping now known as glamping. It took some time to do the conversion, which included many contemporary and period details, and they have since added another hut both of which are proving very popular. More details can be found on [greenhillglamping.co.uk](http://greenhillglamping.co.uk)

**IN JUNE 2022** at the South of England Show, Diana Smith of Sladden Farm had great success showing her pedigree Dexter cattle, helped by Matt Weiss. 'Magnolia' came first in her class, and her daughter 'Magenta' followed in her mother's hoof prints by also winning her class. Another of 'Magnolia's' offspring, Millie, maintained the family's high standards by coming second in the Maiden Heifer class. Sladden Farm gained many further awards at the Kent County Show in July. **Gail Swainston**

**CRAFT FAIR** - Thank you to everyone who supported craft fair at Greenwood Farm it was a beautiful day and enjoyed by all who came, unfortunately due to travel chaos in Dover and Folkestone some were unable to come so we were lower in numbers. The amount raised including donations was £550 which goes to Air ambulance. **Anne Huggins**

## Meditation on First Light

I am the bones  
I face the east  
Each morning I rise up  
And clatter my skeleton

The rattle flies  
Out, hits the sun  
Bounces back and echoes  
Over your wide expanse.

Your openness  
Quivers the sound  
But it can't hold me,  
I ripple out to your distant edges.

**Gail Swainston**

**ALKHAM WI** - On Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of August we had an enjoyable evening and had fish and chips which were from Seafarers in Cheriton Folkestone. Our next meeting is on September 13<sup>th</sup> and our speaker is Jane Muddle all about hats and bags. Hostesses Sue Ross, Margaret Batchelor, Raffle Alison Warnock and VOT Helen Scopes. All new members welcome **Debbie Griggs**

**QUIZ NIGHT** – On Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of September in Alkham village hall at 7.30pm. Anyone wishing to book a table please contact Debbie Griggs on 07796360473 and if you would like to donate a raffle prize that would be appreciated. Tables of 6 people £4 per person.



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**Wednesday** Keep Fit 9.30am to 11am

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**Thursday 29** Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

### CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Prayer 6.30 pm	Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am	
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00am	
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Worship 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30am
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

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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** - This month I have a confession to make; I've been spotted indulging in my latest guilty pleasure. Yes, my car was still parked on the drive, and yes, I really was standing at the bus stop. No, there was nothing wrong with the car. And yes, I really am old enough to have a bus pass! But I don't think of myself as getting old. It's not so long ago that I was still working in schools as a supply teacher. But when a girl pupil had to repeat herself to me no less than three times, I realised that I was reaching my sell-by date. Retirement came in the form of an appointment with the Audiology Department, and I was rewarded with a pair of hearing aids rather than a carriage clock for my long years of service. Not that I'm done yet. I'm heartened by the story of a bishop, new in post, who discovered that one of his priests had been running the same parish for over forty years and was still there, even though aged well over eighty. He wrote, thanking him for his years of faithful ministry and asking if he had thought of retiring. Back came the reply: nothing had ever been said about his being a temporary appointment until then! I still work with young people who have been excluded from school for one reason or another. My last protégé succeeded in producing a spectacular model of Dover Castle

and in gaining a Food Safety Certificate, among other things – he should be stating a college course soon. Having finished working with him, I was asked if I wanted to retire. I was tempted - until I read the Thank You card that he sent. So, maybe not just yet... **Brian Williams**

### POLICE 999 or 101

**Newsletter** [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

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[clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

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**W.I. Secretary** Janet Barrow 829585

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07796444860.

**Other sites** [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

[www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

[alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com](mailto:alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com)

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

**No. 345 October 2022**

**Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council**

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**MARQUIS OF GRANBY** - Thank you to everyone who made the bank holiday Monday so special! The cricket was a great success with only one run in it, Paul Tapsell has already confirmed a rematch is on the cards for next year..... What an atmosphere it was, both on the green and at The Marquis, the turnout from the village and further afield surpassed all expectations, great to see the community all come together. I'd like to also thank everyone who took part in the auction, we raised a grand total of £6570 which is a phenomenal amount! The majority of the funds will be going towards the World Central Kitchen with the rest of the money raised going towards community projects. I'd like to come to the next Parish Council meeting and discuss how we should spend this. On a separate note for the quiz goes, Tony has asked if we can move the quiz to Monday 19th September? If anyone has any hesitations on this, please email me at ht@contemporarypubs.co.uk. **Hugh Thompson**

**WHO HAS THE BIGGEST IN ALKHAM?** (Sunflower that is). 18 households gallantly started the now Annual Alkham Sunflower competition, with 8 falling by the wayside owing to extreme weather or the dreaded slug! Of the 10 that were left the winner of this year's contest was Richard Tapsell whose sunflower reached the dizzy heights of 11 feet 1 inch. The cup and plaque were presented to Richard by John Huggins. Full results are 1<sup>st</sup> Richard



Tapsell 11 feet 1; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sue Latham 10 feet 9; 3<sup>rd</sup> Geoff and Emma Box Tree Cottage 8 feet 6; 4<sup>th</sup> Tracey South Alkham 8 feet 4; 5<sup>th</sup> Nina Bella's Slip Lane 8 feet; 6<sup>th</sup> Alan Latham/Agatha 7 feet 4 ½; 7<sup>th</sup> Anne Huggins 7 feet 2; 8<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Bissett 7 feet 1; 9<sup>th</sup> Alan Latham/Pip 6 feet 7 ½; 10<sup>th</sup> Ken Spencer Slip Lane 6 feet 6; 11<sup>th</sup> Jo Walker Slip Lane 3 feet. Would the person in Slip Lane who tried to fool the judges please note we are able to tell the difference between a

real sunflower and a plastic one on a twenty feet pole - Ken Spencer (mention no names – see page 3). Thanks to everyone who took part and to Vernon for growing the seedlings and we will be holding the contest next year. **Anita James**

**AS A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN ELIZABETH II** one of the bells at St. Anthony's Church was tolled at 12pm on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September by each of the bellringers in turn. Bells at many other churches also rang to commemorate the passing of the Queen who selflessly dedicated her life to public duty with humour and spirit.

**HARVEST SUPPER** - We are having a harvest supper on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct at 19.00 in the village hall. Could anyone help on the night or make a cottage pie or a fruit crumble please. Tickets will be £9.00 each, please phone Carol on 01304 826514 or mobile 07946106742.

**VALLEY VOICES** – Yes! – we have a name for our 'sing for fun' community choir. Our first session will be held in the village hall on Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of September from 7.30pm until 9pm and then every Wednesday after that. To everybody who has expressed an interest, thank you; we look forward to meeting you. Remember these sessions are open to all, there are no auditions. So, if you want a fun evening with others, please come along. If you can't make the first session it's not a problem, just come whenever you can, you will always be welcome. **Graham, Kev and Ken**  
**FOR SALE** Viking Rotavator hardly used vgc, cost £450 will accept £300. Also, Ford Fiesta alloy wheel with tyre on size 195x45 R16 12 spoke. Good condition £550. Telephone Vernon on 07342080104.

**FOUND** on the village green a red badminton racquet; please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com to claim.

**FILM NIGHT 7.30pm  
October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Keeping Mum** – Maggie Smith

**September 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Downton Abbey: A New Era (2022)**

Entrance is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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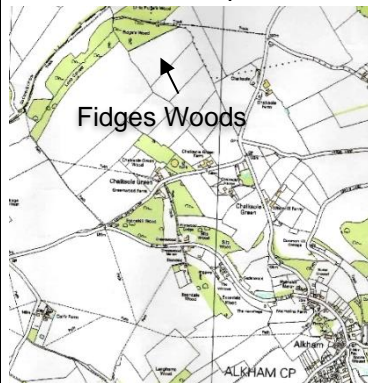
ownership. Adjacent landowners are aware they are responsible for cutting back trees and shrubs which obstruct the road, but it does seem unlikely Highways England will do anything. **Editor**

**BARN/GARAGE SALE** - The recent sale in Meggett Lane has raised £580 for Cancer Research. My thanks to everyone who came, and made it a very pleasant morning, meeting locals old and new. Especial thanks to my immediate neighbours - I couldn't have done it without you. **Janet Adamson**

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Our September meeting was an enjoyable evening and we had Jane Muddle talking about hats and bags that were made in Madagascar. I think most of the ladies bought a bag, so Jane didn't have too many to take home with her. Our next meeting will be an Auction Night where each member will bring in something to auction, no clothes please, and our auctioneers will be Lucy and Debbie G. Hostesses Helen Price Christine Peel, Raffle Janet Gibbons. All new members welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

**EDINBURGH** – Margaret Tobey, who lived in the centre of the village, is leaving Alkham following the death of her husband who was in his 90's and is moving to Edinburgh to be near her sons. Margaret is a real character and was a stalwart of the Alkham Art Class, Film Night and Tea and a Chat and we wish her all the best in her new life.

**TEMPLE EWELL** – The post office in Temple Ewell closed in August, which is a pity. They tried for a long time to make a go of it, but it will now be converted into a private residence.



**FIDGES WOOD** – To the north of Alkham near Chalksole are two woods called Little Fidges and Fidges Wood as shown on the adjacent map. An email was received by someone called Fidge who was tracing their ancestry asking if anyone knew how the woods got their names. We couldn't help and it is very unlikely that anyone will know but if someone does, please email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com).

**BETTER LATE than never.** I planted one of Vernon James seedlings in the wooden box for the sunflower competition and the frost killed it. Ironically a sunflower seed then somehow managed to grow in a crack in the brickwork but too late for the competition. **Editor**



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**THE PLASTIC PIPE** didn't fool the sunflower judges, but Ken Spencer deserves a prize for making us laugh. The winner was presented with a prize shown in the photo below which was made by a colleague of Anita James who with husband Vernon organised the competition. Thanks to them both for organising it and those who took part. Everyone is invited to have a go next year.



**FOLLOWING** on from the South of England show, the Kent County show in July provided further success for the Dexter cattle shown by Diana Smith of Sladden Farm. The Champion Dexter at the show was judged to be 'Magnolia' and her daughter 'Magenta' won first prize in her class. The two of them then went on to be, not surprisingly, chosen as the best pair of Dexter cattle, thus maintaining Diana Smith's excellent record of breeding and maintaining a world class pedigree herd. Congratulations! **Gail Swainston**

In sad surrender raise your eyes

Up to the skies above.

We never knew another Queen

You carried all our love.

We understand that you have  
gone

But we are not alone.

The power of a monarchy

Will carry on the throne.

**Gail Swainston**

**FOOTPATH** – Work has started on the short length of footpath roughly opposite the Marquis of Granby which will connect Newlyn's Meadow to the path that runs behind the village hall. This route is well used and previously people had to walk on the grass verge. Thanks go to the Parish Council for this and for getting a replacement bin for the village car park for the one which was flattened a short while back.

## PAMPER EVENING at

**Alkham Village Hall**

**Tuesday 8th November 7-9 pm**

**Tickets £5 each to include a  
welcome drink.**

Come along for treats, make a start on your Christmas shopping with crafts, jewellery, Tropics and Bodyshop goodies. Reflexology, nails and mini massage.

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**Tickets £10.00 each**

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Wednesday	Sit Fit 9.30am to 11am

### Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	27	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

### CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Messy Church (St Radigund's) 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
<b>Harvest Festival</b>			
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9:30 am	11.00 am	West Hougham 4pm
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Worship 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	St Mary's Capel: United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am		

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

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

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

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - There are moments when the world changes; moments we'll look back upon, remembering where we were and what we were doing when we heard about what had happened. Perhaps the loss of our Queen will prove to be one of those moments. She had been there for as long as most of us can remember. She was full of years, and her passing was not entirely unexpected. And yet... suddenly the world has changed. I never met her, have no personal stories to tell, and saw her in the flesh just once. But as Supreme Governor of the Church of England she was my boss. I swore allegiance to her when I was ordained, and when I was licensed to this parish. In a world in which Christians sometimes risk being thought odd, superstitious or amusing, she never disguised the fact that her faith was real, authentic – not just something to which she paid lip service because of the position she held. Our reading from St John Chapter 6 speaks of the hope by which she lived, and with which we commend her into God's keeping. Most of us expect to retire from our employment at some point – but her example reminds us that there are some things from which we never retire. Despite her declining health she remained Queen to the end – still working, still true to her calling, still the person God had called her to be. A reminder that we, too, never lay down our calling to be the people God calls us to be. Today, we give thanks for her faith, integrity and sense of duty, for a life well lived. We pray for King Charles III, the Royal Family and for ourselves, facing a changing world. *From my sermon of Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022.* **Brian Williams**

### POLICE 999 or 101

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**Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors**  
[clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)  
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**No. 346 November 2022**

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**THE NEW PATH** between Newlyn's Meadow and the one behind the village hall is finished with KCC Councillor David Beaney providing 50% of the cost and the Parish Council the rest. The path will benefit all those accessing the centre of the village.

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING** - I would like to thank everyone who came along to support the Macmillan Coffee morning in the village hall on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of September. I would also like to thank everyone who gave me donations before, during and after the event. The morning was such a lovely occasion and as always so many kind people brought along a variety of homemade cakes and preserves. I would like to thank everyone who helped on the day and for all the lovely items that were given for the various stalls and tombola. This year was the eighth community coffee morning held in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support in the village and last week I banked a further £1,030 which has brought our total raised in those eight years to an amazing £10,000. Due to personal reasons that will be the last community coffee morning that I will arrange. I would like to send a big thank you to everyone for your fantastic support. **Sue Ross**

**VALLEY VOICES** - Our first two sessions have been amazing with 20 plus people attending and making a beautiful sound! We would of course like more to join us in the village hall on Wednesday evening from 7.30pm to 9.00pm (especially more men).



So, if you would like to give it a go you would be most welcome! No singing experience and no auditions required. This is all about 'singing for fun' and 'first session is free'. **Graham, Kevin and Ken**  
**THANK YOU** to everyone who attended, helped and contributed to the Harvest Supper on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October in the village hall. Thank you also to the Alkham Garden centre for donating raffle prizes. We took £557.50 altogether which is amazing for the amount of people that attended and as ever our auctioneer Paul Tapsell raised a lot of money. Thank you one and all for supporting the church. **Carol Mannall**

**THE FISH N' CHIP VAN** will be in the Village Hall car park from 5-6.30p.m. on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of October. New timetable leaflets are being printed and will be distributed as soon as possible.

**VAL FOWLER** died on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September after a final short illness. Val and her husband Stan, who predeceased her, moved to Alkham in 2004 and lived in the bungalow called Evergreen which with its grandfather clock was a somnolent oasis. Val was a lovely and truly remarkable lady who when she came to Alkham was suffering from the early stages of MS which gradually got worse over the years such that she eventually became immobile. Val was upbeat and never complained and despite her difficulties became involved with village activities and for many years was the booking secretary for the village hall as well as bringing some sense to the chaos caused by husband Stan and Brian when they ran the fete beer stall.

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**FILM NIGHT 7.30pm**

**November 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Uncharted - Mark Wahlberg**

**October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Keeping Mum - Maggie Smith**

**Entrance is free but a donation of £4  
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**ALBIONS** - Do you know there is a critically rare cattle breed living in the Alkham Valley? No, they are not Di's Dexters! They are Albions, kept by Susannah & Keith Mannerings down the road at Chilton Farm. Albions originate from the Peak District, they were commonly known as the Bakewell Blues.

The intention was to breed a blue roan breed but due to a dominant white gene in the colouring, white Albions and black Albions are also produced. They are a dual-purpose breed i.e. milk producing and beef producing. The breed society only began 100 years ago and was building up numbers when WWII came along, followed by an agricultural depression and two batches of Foot & Mouth disease. By the 1960s, the society was wound up and people believed the breed to be extinct. Not so - some stubborn farmers kept going, swapping bulls amongst themselves and from these few herds, all Albion cattle today are descended. The Mannerings's Speckles herd was started in 1993 by Susannah's mother and was the only herd in Kent or the whole of the South East. Now the RBST (Rare Breed Survival Trust) has officially recognised the Albions as a breed and numbers are increasing but they are still regarded as critically rare (About 240 females total in the world). During the five years that Keith and Susannah have farmed at Chilton Farm, the Speckles herd numbers have slowly increased. Keith and Susannah feel that the native Albions are suited to grazing the chalk downland and fit in well with their Chilton Farmyard B&B business. On 8/9<sup>th</sup> October, the Mannerings' hosted the annual Albion Cattle Society open weekend. Members came from around the country, the weather was superb and lunch was Albion beef and halloumi cheese made from Albion milk (There is a slogan: "You have to eat them to keep them!"). On the Sunday, a guided tour at Samphire Hoe was given on conservation grazing with cattle and sheep. It was really interesting to learn so much at this local tourist spot. **Susannah Mannerings**

**MEMORIES OF ALKHAM** – A lady who moved to New Zealand and lived in Alkham as a girl worked at Norton Farm in 1947. The photo shows Norton farmhouse on Slip Lane, which was owned by James Ross where he only spent 6 months of the year as he worked for the Rootes car firm in their Calcutta branch. There



was always something going on at the farm but one thing she remembered most concerned the big bull called Farmer which gave her one of the biggest frights of her life. One weekend she was getting ready for bed and heard the most horrendous noise and the clanking of a chain which she thought was some long dead ancestor's ghost coming. Peeping out of the window she saw the bull Farmer approaching not only dragging his chain but half the back of his stall with him. She raced to the granary where the Ross's son Peter slept and asked him for help as Farmer was rapidly approaching the house, destroying everything in his path. Fortunately, the chain got tangled around a post which brought the big bull to a halt and Peter was able to extricate him. Mrs. Ross's father William Christopher Wordsworth was editor of the Calcutta Times and when he retired came to live in Alkham where he had a house built which is still called Apple Tree Cottage, and he was the son of the poet William Wordsworth. **editor**

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**NO SHADE**, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, no fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! — November! (Thomas Hood 1844)

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Our September meeting was an enjoyable one and we will have no meeting in November or December. There is a Pamper Evening going on organised by Nicola Church and Debbie Griggs which has nothing to do with Alkham W.I. but anyone in the village wishing to turn up on the night please do so, the more the merrier. Cost of entry is £5 and there are 12 stall holders including the refillable van outside in the car park. Come and do your Christmas shopping and at the same time have your nails done etc. and if you want any treatments or any shopping done all stall holders will accept cash or credit card; hope to see you all on the evening. **Debbie Griggs**

**PAMPER EVENING** at Alkham Village Hall on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of November from 7pm to 9pm. Tickets are £5 each including a welcome drink. Come along for treats and make a start on your Christmas shopping with crafts, jewellery, Tropics and Bodyshop goodies. Reflexology, nails and mini massage available. Please call Nicola on 07713894408 or Debbie Griggs 07796360473 to book tickets.



**THE CROWNING** of the Wynsome Mayde is an annual Scottish event held as part of the Duns Summer Festival. This utterly charming ceremony, held at Duns Castle, was inaugurated in the 1940s to raise money for a local hospital. It involves primary school children, kilts, flowers, white dresses, a horseback parade, a pipe band, bowing, curtseying, and a grand presentation to the new Wynsome Mayde, who is then escorted out in an open topped barouche to process through the town of Duns. What's not to like? **Gail Swainston**

## BOOK LEARNING

Library knowledge

Constrained at both ends -

It cannot fall off the shelf,

Crash to the ground in

A flurry of paper and bindings -

A life held in place

Well ordered by subject, alphabet,

The Dewey System, where nothing  
gets wet

And even tears evaporate.

And so learning is booked,

A path through the forest

Past the precipice, over the rough  
ground,

Boots provided.

Until they collapse, laces and all,

The fluttering pages give way to wings

And you stand in the birdsong

Amazed.

**Gail Swainston**

**DONATION** – The Friends of St. Anthony would like to thank the friends and relations who donated over £3000 to the fund following the death of Catie Webber's father who died recently whilst visiting Alkham from Australia. The secular fund provides financial assistance for the upkeep of St. Anthony's which is a Grade 1 listed building and a number of people in the parish make regular donations to the fund. If you would like to get involved, please email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com).



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Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors

[clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

Hall booking Shirley Prince 828098

W.I. Secretary Janet Barrow 829585

Footpaths [antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk)

AVS [joannawalker777@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk)  
07796444860.

Other sites [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

[www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

[alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com](mailto:alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com)

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## Regular events in the village hall

**Friday** Pilates 10am to 11am

**Wednesday** Sit Fit 9.30am to 11am  
Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm

## Other events in the village hall

**Thursday** 24 Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

## CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Messy church St Radigund's Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	Remembrance Service 10.15 am	Remembrance Service 10.15 am	Remembrance Service 10.15 am
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Worship 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

**BUS TIMES To Dover** 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 find that packing a bag and heading off with my Senior Railcard to somewhere with a cathedral, pleasant walks, and interesting things to see is a good way of recharging my batteries – though I've learned that there's really no such thing as being off duty. I recently headed for Bristol, which indeed does have a cathedral, pleasant walks, and interesting things to see. But while there I took the bus through the Mendip Hills to Wells - England's smallest city – and then on to Glastonbury, with its associations with King Arthur and Joseph of Arimathea, its ruined abbey, sacred thorn, and famous Tor – which yes, I did manage to climb. My trusty smartphone led me to the bus stop, and I arrived with twenty minutes to wait. Along with a woman with her shopping and mums with children and pushchairs, a middle-aged man in a shabby grey suit sat chain-smoking and clutching a can. He thought he knew me from somewhere. I wasn't local, I told him, but from Kent. At once I found myself discussing St Augustine, King Ethelbert, and Queen Bertha – he had, he said, studied History at university. When he learned that I planned to visit Wells he told me that he had once been a chorister at Wells Cathedral. He had known a well-known Church of England cleric - a good priest, he said, but probably bound for Hell. How was I to respond? *Let's hope not*, I replied. I simply listened as he shared his thoughts on churches and psychiatric units. Then the bus arrived. *Enjoy Wells*, he said, smiling. Later, in Wells Cathedral, I prayed and lit a candle for my new friend. And yes, it's true - there's no such thing as being off duty... **Brian Williams**

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

**No. 347 December 2022**

**Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council**

**Non-profit &  
delivered free  
to the Parish**



**CHRISTMAS TREE** - It's coming up to Christmas time again, so to start off your Christmas come along on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> of December at 5.30pm to see the switching on of the Christmas tree lights on the village green. The cricket hut will be open where there will be mulled wine, a soft drink for the children and even a mince pie. Santa Claus will be in attendance and there will be some Christmas carols to put us in a festive mood. Look forward to seeing you there. **Graham and Debbie West**



**BUS SERVICE** From the 30<sup>th</sup> of October the 91 bus service through Alkham has changed and the new times are shown on the back page. If you wish to double check on the times, go to [www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables).

**COME TO THE MARQUIS** pub for Australia Day drinks 6 pm Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. There are lots of Aussies and families with Aussie connections in Alkham. **Catie Webber**  
**ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY**

Members are advised that the Annual General Meeting will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Alkham Village Hall. Tea/coffee and cake will be served at the end of the meeting. Should attendees have particular items to discuss under Any Other Business, please contact the Secretary ([joannawalker777@gmail.com](mailto:joannawalker777@gmail.com)).

**TEA N CHAT** – There will be the usual Tea n Chat in the village hall on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> December from 2.30pm to 4p.m.



**SNOWDOWN MALE VOICE CHOIR CONCERT** - On Saturday evening the 29<sup>th</sup> of October St Anthony's was 'full to bursting' when Snowdown Male Voice Choir entertained a capacity audience with an evening of songs and music. We have for the last 3 months been enthusiastic members of the choir and it was an ambition of ours, even before we joined, to bring this event to the village church. Ken long thought it would be a great idea, especially as his father and uncle were both members of the Snowdown choir when they worked as miners in the colliery until it closed in the 80's. The work involved in organising this was at times daunting and without the help and of our wives (Sandy, Ange and Charlotte) it would have been a lot more difficult (thank you ladies). Many thanks also to all our friends who volunteered their time to make the concert possible, and also thanks to the Marquis (parking) and Barham primary school (staging). From the feedback we have received it was a huge success. It was great to see to the church full of life, the chandelier glowing with candles, the voices and music reverberating around the church creating a wonderful atmosphere. Net profits from the concert totalled over £800 which has been donated to St Anthony's Church and Parkinson's UK Dover branch. Ambition fulfilled! Thank you Alkham for all your support. **Ken, Kevin and Graham**

**FILM NIGHT 7.30pm**

**No film in December**

**November 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Uncharted – Mark Wahlberg**

Entrance is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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Wednesday, 3.30 - 4.30 PM  
Wootton Village Hall  
Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM  
Hawkinge Community Centre  
Contact Anna Dashwood  
07736 849 194 [www.pfstaichi.com](http://www.pfstaichi.com)

### Streetz2Streetz

Mobile Fish and Chip Unit

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November

will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm

No visit in December

Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details

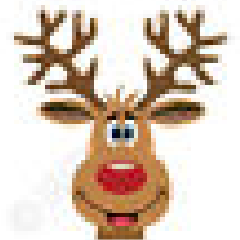
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**TEMPLE EWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL** - Did you go away at half term, or are you just having a clear-out at home? Please donate any foreign coins/notes you have left (or find) to the school as we can convert this into cash for the benefit of our children. Please drop them into the school office before Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December or call Mrs. Church on 01304 822665. The school is off Lower Road just past Bushy Ruff.

**DOVER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION** - Residents are being invited to have their say on the district's Local Plan which helps shape future development in the area up to 2040. A series of in-person and online public exhibition events are being held as part of the consultation, which runs until Friday, December the 9<sup>th</sup>. The Local Plan sets out the vision and framework for future development, including where new homes, shops and businesses should be built. To view the plan, go to [www.doverdistrictlocalplan.co.uk](http://www.doverdistrictlocalplan.co.uk)...



**DDC appear** to use an out of date map as it first shows the large field opposite Valley Cottages as a possible site but scrolling down to another plan it shows it as unsuitable. A previous owner was John Ullmann who had the land as set-aside and when he died in 2007 a planning application was submitted for a very large housing development which was rejected. Following this a person who lives in Alkham and cares about Alkham bought the land and it is now used by a local farmer to grow crops. **Editor NEWSLETTER** – The financial year for the newsletter ended in September and I'm pleased to say that costs were covered and there was a profit of about £50. All payments go in the Newsletter Club Account with Nat West so, if necessary, this can be used to cover part of the cost of replacing the two Brother laser printers that are used each month. **DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL** is offering free parking in its car parks on Saturdays in December. The Dover Winter Light Up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of December includes the Dover Winter Fire Garden on the Roman Lawn and a range of seasonal stalls and entertainment in Dover Market Square on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December with a Winter Lantern Procession lighting up Dover from 6pm. On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December, there will be a meet the Reindeer event in Dover Market Square, with a range of market stalls and entertainment, as well as a live reindeer, and the chance to meet Father Christmas in his grotto.



**ALKHAM W.I.** - We would just like to say a big Thank you to everyone who turned out on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November in the dreadful weather to the Pamper Evening; we had a great response. A big thank you from Nicola Church and Debbie Griggs. Our W.I. Xmas meal on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December will be at the Fox pub at Temple Ewell and we must be there for 7pm. Happy Christmas from Alkham WI. **Debbie Griggs**

**SOUTHERN EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES** and the Alkham Valley Garden Centre will be having a late night on the Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December so please pop along and Alkham W.I. will be singing Carol's at the garden centre. Also every Saturday in December there will be Father Christmas and you must book to save disappointment.

**SOUTHERN EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES** also sell poultry foods, goat food and dog food i.e., Skinner's foods and Chudley's foods, just give us a call on 01303 891996.

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**CHESTNUTS** – A question was asked as to why horse chestnuts are so called and the best answer is that before modern veterinary medicines they could be ground and fed to horses to relieve them of coughs. Interestingly chestnut and horse chestnut are two different species with chestnut being related to beech trees and horse chestnut more closely related to maple trees. The leaves are slightly different with the chestnut trees having toothed leaves that grow singly and horse chestnut produce leaf clusters, with 5 to 7 leaflets growing in a circular pattern from each base. Chestnut husks have a more shaggy appearance, similar to that of a porcupine whilst horse chestnut husks are green and leathery, covered with sharp-looking spikes. Chestnuts are edible and nutritious whilst horse chestnuts are poisonous and can cause paralysis and other serious symptoms if eaten raw and unprocessed. However, the horse chestnut is better known as a conker which can be attached to a piece of string and used in playground battles and the chestnut as a sweet chestnut which can be heard roasting on an open fire at Christmas. **editor**



**SLIP LANE** was closed for 2 days in November to replace a section of road that was damaged some time ago by a vehicle fire.

**FILM NIIGHT** – Keeping Mum a scythe of a story: Maggie Smith, redoubtable, reliable, shock, horror and laugh. This film went down well in the demure setting of the Alkham Village hall - but who knows what really goes on? Unexpected figures make brief but telling appearances as the tale tantalisingly unravels - look carefully at fields, turned earth, ponds for glimpses of fur or high viz jackets. Thanks for the film choices, most enjoyable. **Jo Walker**



## DECEMBER

Under the mistletoe

No one to kiss

Nowadays

It's just hit and miss

Never did know

It would end like this

When what we had

Was bliss.

**Gail Swainston**



**THE ANNUAL** Alkham Valley Society Christmas walk will take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December, starting from the Village Hall at 10.30am. The walk generally takes two hours. Children and dogs encouraged. **Jo Walker**



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**KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487  
**DDC** [cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk](mailto:cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk) 07796444860.  
**Other sites** [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)  
[www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)  
[alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com](mailto:alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com)

**ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL** – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates  
Please ring Tracey for information on 01304 828098

### Regular events in the village hall

<b>Friday</b>	Pilates 10am to 11am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm

### Other events in the village hall

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>29</b>	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm
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### CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00am
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am Carols Hall 3.00 pm	Carols at village Hall 11.00 am
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Carols by Candlelight Capel 7pm		
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	9 Lessons and Carols 6.30 pm		Eucharist 9.30 am
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Crib service 4.30 pm	Crib service 3.00 pm	
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	Mass 11.30 pm	Mass 11.30 pm	
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>			Eucharist 9.30am

**BUS TIMES To Dover** 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28  
**To Folkestone** 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09  
Check on [www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables) and 91 bus

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - I am writing this on Remembrance Sunday - a day of looking back and remembering, as well as looking forward and praying for a better tomorrow. It also happens to be the deadline for the December edition - which means that even though as I write Advent hasn't even begun, by the time you read this Christmas will be well and truly on its way. Some say that Jesus could possibly have been born around September – shepherds would not have been watching flocks in the fields as late as December. But in the year 336, the Roman Emperor Constantine chose to celebrate the birth of Christ on 25<sup>th</sup> December, and the tradition seems to have stuck. Since it was the time of year when pagan midwinter celebrations were in full swing anyway, some suspect he may have simply got in on the act. But what is there to celebrate? Read about the Nativity, and Mary and Joseph turn out to have more in common with today's homeless couples looking for somewhere to stay than we would like to think; for women to have to give birth in the same circumstances as Mary today would cause an outcry; and refugees of our own time know all too well what it must have been like for that couple and their baby when they had to flee to Egypt to escape the homicidal King Herod. But for Christians, Christmas is a time of looking back to how Jesus came into the world as one of us – and remembering that it's often when life is at its messiest and most difficult that people tend to find him. And that Christmas is also a time of looking forward and praying for a better tomorrow. Happy Christmas, and a Peaceful New Year. **Brian Williams**

