

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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**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.



**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

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### **Tai Chi**

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contact Anna Dashwood

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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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used to be common above the chalk downs but over the years have declined due to intensive farming and persecution. Because of this the Kent Wildlife Trust have brought an aviary of choughs to Dover Castle and this aviary is the first step to introduce them back into Kent where they could nest in Dover's chalk grasslands and white cliffs. Kent Wildlife need to raise another £60,000



by the end of January and if you'd like to donate, please go to [www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/choughappeal](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/choughappeal). The Trust is also introducing Bison to Blean Woods near Herne Bay in late spring and similar projects in Europe have proved that bison, known as ecosystem engineers', can restore the natural biodiversity of the landscape. **Brian**

**TREES** – You may have noticed that a number of trees adjacent to the Alkham Valley Road by Newlyn Meadow have been cut down. This is because they were ash trees that had succumbed to the ash die-back and for safety reasons had to be removed.

**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).

## 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**  
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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: 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**

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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  
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