

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

There was a great turnout for the Christmas tree light illumination with around 70 adults and children turning up. Father Christmas arrived complete with sweets for the children and with a countdown of ten the lights were turned on to a hearty cheer. Carols were then sung followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Thanks go to Graham West for being the prime organiser and to Kevin Rolfe for his lively contribution.

COST OF LIVING – Local Councillor Martin Hibbert forwarded an email about Social Enterprise Kent which has created a centralised resource for the Cost of Living crisis, to aid with signposting and supporting people in East Kent. It contains a wide breadth of support, from fuel grants to social supermarkets, to targeted support for marginalised groups. It includes national and localised support and can be found at <https://maps.sekgroup.org.uk/>. If you click a location such as Dover, there is a drop down menu where you can select the items you want to know about. If there is anyone in the parish who needs help regarding this matter, in the first place please contact the newsletter the details for which are given in the header at the top of this page; all enquiries will be confidential.

AN AIR AMBULANCE landed on the village green on the 17th of November because Alan Latham, who lives in Slip Lane, fell from the loft and landed on the ladder. He was knocked



unconscious, but his Apple watch saved the day and called his brother. A doctor attended who said that it would be alright for Alan to go by ambulance to William Harvey where he was then transferred to Kings as he had some cracked bones and had a small brain bleed. Alan has returned home and is recovering.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL - I would like to thank Alkham villagers and visitors for their generosity. This year we have collected a grand total of £643.38. Thanks, must also go to my fellow collectors, Shirley, Helen, Larry, Georgina and Beverley, and also to the Alkham Valley Garden Centre and Tea Rooms, Southern Equestrian and The Marquis of Granby, who got involved and had collection boxes. Thanks also go to Shirley Prince for making the remembrance wreath that was placed by the war memorial in Alkham churchyard. Thanks to you all. **Rachel Fountain**

Happy New Year

HELLO FROM ST ANTHONY'S

Can I remind everyone that our Carol service is on the Sunday 18th at 06.30 pm and after the service there will be wine and mince pies. The 24th is the crib service at 4.30 pm where all the children are invited to take part and of course there is the midnight mass at 11.30 pm. We look forward to celebrating our Lord's birth with you all and seeing old and new faces. Merry Christmas to you all. **Carol Mannall**

BUS SERVICE – The 91 bus that goes through Alkham is one of the last KCC subsidised services and is running well at present but doesn't carry a lot of passengers. As rural bus services are judged by use, we may will lose it and as people age they may have a future requirement for it, so perhaps people who have never taken it before and have a bus pass should give it a try as it is a hail and ride service too. **Anita James**

ALKHAM GARDEN CENTRE - We offer enormous thanks for the very kind donation of a beautiful Christmas tree for St Anthony's church. Throughout each year our Garden Centre never fails in supporting our village whether its raffle prizes for events, and at Christmas. They sell a variety of gardening needs and furniture and a decent selection of gifts. The tearooms are well worth a visit as well. Once again, thank you very much. **Irene Barnard**

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm

January 31st

Mrs. Harris goes to Paris (2022)

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

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Wootton Village Hall

Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM
Hawkinge Community Centre

Contact Anna Dashwood

07736 849 194 www.pfstaichi.com

Streetz2Streetz

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Saturday 21st January

will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm

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ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

AGM UPDATE

- Two-thirds of the 29 strong AVS met at the Village Hall with the new Executive Committee on November 28th. Several presentations were made re: Community Speedwatch, the Community-Led Plan, Dover District Council's Local Plan to 2040, and The Future of the AVS. We encourage all villagers to visit the new web site. (AlkhamVS.org). In addition to materials from the AGM, (thanks

to Brian Wimsett), we have an archive of past Alkham Newsletters (to 2011). New members are welcome, so enquire, if interested, via the website or members you may know. The above image from our home page's "panorama" exhibits the beauty of the valley that we strive to preserve. **AVS Executive Committee**

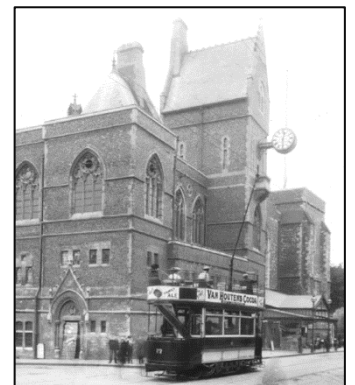


FOR PEOPLE who lived in Dover as a child the tram shelter at the junction of Elms Vale and the old A20 is very evocative and to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the opening of the tram system in 1897 Dover District Council has repainted it in its original colours. Dover was the second electrified tramway in

the UK after Leeds, and the first in the south of England with the service continuing until 31st December 1936 when it was replaced by buses. The photo on the right shows a roofless tram passing Maison Dieu in the centre of



Dover and left is a tram depot which was



at Buckland and the building still exists today as Hollis Motors. **editor**

ALKHAM W.I. -We had our Christmas meal on the 13th of December at the Fox in Temple Ewell and what a lovely meal we had and a lovely atmosphere. Our next meeting will be on January the 10th 2023 when our speaker will be Clive Nuttman talking about primates. Hostesses Margaret Batcheldor, Helen Price: Raffle Janet Barrow: VOT Helen Scopes. New members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**

PAMPER EVENING - Nicola Church and Debbie Griggs would like to thank everyone who came to the pamper evening in November where we raised £635 of which £135 went to the Royal Lifeboat Institution with £500 donated to our local WI.

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TREES – I contacted National Highways about the trees that are at the back of the verge of the adjacent A20 dual carriageway and encroaching onto the Alkham Valley road and said they were a danger to cyclists and other road users. One of their inspectors visited on the 26th of October



and an order was raised for the overhanging vegetation to be cut back and I'm pleased to report that they have done it and there is now a verge.



Bicycle photos then and now – near here I hit a dead tree that protruded into the road and was knocked unconscious and taken to A & E for repairs. editor

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY now has a web site called AlkhamVS.org compiled by Harlan Webber who has also put all the Alkham Monthly Newsletters from 2011 to date on the site. An amazing achievement and I'm very grateful to Harlan for spurring me to find the old copies and some of the 2005 to 2010 newsletters will shortly join them (there aren't any digital copies from 1997 to 2005). **editor**

MOVING

Curlwews in the estuary at dusk
bantering over the weeds

Still heron, holding all wildness
in the curl of a claw.

Walking the paths of your mind
I haunt your thoughts

I am the whisper to your voice
The echo to your whispered fears

My memory lies about your
actions

Unfolds in your decisions
I will always be behind you

Half a pace
My shadow falls in front

And clouds your eyes.
The naming of the name

is as hard as buds growing,
as slow as roots,

rich with air,
and gentle
as the earth's summer.

Gail Swainston

AVS EVENTS - Please join Jo Walker on **Tuesday, December 27th** for the Alkham Valley Christmas Walk which takes off from the Village Hall at 10:30am. It might involve crossing the Alkham Valley Road near Chilton Farm thus it is recommended that as many as possible wear a hi viz jacket or some such visible garment. Meet Trevor Johns, Chairman on **Thursday, January 19th**, at an informal gathering at The Marquis from 7-9pm to sharing nibbles & good cheer while we jot down your ideas. (We'd like monthly activities like this...). Help Catie Webber on **Saturday, February 18th**, with a **Spring Snow Drop Walk (& Litter-Grab)** from the Village Hall at 10:30am. To prepare for muddy conditions, dress warm with gloves & sturdy shoes. Not hard work, but teamwork as most walk on tarmac with a light bag, while some pick-up trash along the route. In case of rain, we might postpone one week. Please contact us or register interest via the web page. **AVS Executive Committee**



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07796444860.
Other sites www.alkham.org
www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com
alkhamvs.org (Alkham Valley Society)

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

Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Thursday	26	Aussie drinks Marquis 6pm see page 3
Thursday	26	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1 st	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
Sunday 8 th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship 11am
Saturday 14 th	Messy church CHRISTINGLE St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 15 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 22 nd	Worship 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 29 th	United Parish Eucharist, Capel 10.00 am		

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 and 91 bus

FROM THE VICARAGE - One of my friends has been treated to a birthday lunch by her husband. Another is recovering well from her operation. Others share photos of their Christmas get together. It can be fun catch up with others online, but it can also be a mixed blessing. My wife once looked up an old school friend on Facebook. Depressingly, her page amounted to a rant against the world and the people in it. I knew someone, years ago, who scoured libraries for details of the Deal fishermen from whom he was descended. That can now be done online – but that, too, as I found recently, can be a mixed blessing. From the day I was born to the day she died, my grandmother was my best friend. As a child, I enjoyed sleepovers and outings with her. Years later, when I was a student in London, I reciprocated by inviting her to college for a weekend. Grandmothers were a rare sight in the dining hall, and as we sat at dinner a crowd gathered. They chatted and smiled. Their verdict: *Your nan's great!* But tracing my ancestry online recently revealed the proverbial skeletons in our family's cupboard, and I understood why she hardly ever mentioned her father, or the father of her children. The story that unfolded brought little credit to either of them - she had plenty to be bitter about, and today she might well have ranted about it online - except that I can't imagine her ever doing that. St Paul, in the New Testament, tells his readers: *Be kind and tenderhearted to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.* Forgiveness is neither easy, nor perhaps fashionable – but as Nan taught me, kindness and tender-heartedness beats anger and bitterness. **Brian Williams**