

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
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No. 348 January 2023

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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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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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**

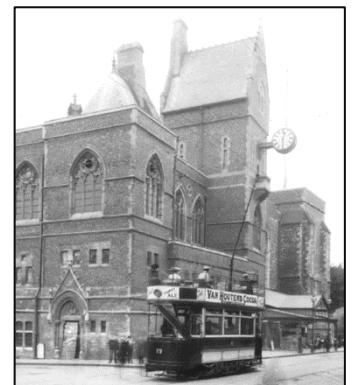


FOR PEOPLE who lived in Dover as a child the tram shelter at the junction of Elms Vale and the old A20 is very evocative and to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the opening of the tram system in 1897 Dover District Council has repainted it in its original colours. Dover was the second electrified tramway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

Curlews 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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Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com

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clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Hall booking Shirley Prince 828098

W.I. Secretary Janet Barrow 829585

Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641

Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784

MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669

KCC David Beaney 07818 024487

DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk
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**

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POWER CUTS – As most people will know there have been a lot of power cuts in Alkham recently and the cause is a fault in the underground power cable which runs across the car park towards the village hall. Newlyn Meadow was put on a generator as were some properties around the top of Meggett Lane. The

problem did cause some equipment to trip which accounts for the frequent blackouts and some sympathy should go to the people working for the electricity supplier as one of their crew was out during the day and continued overnight.

THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES - Saturday May 6th

If you are interested in celebrating this day, then please save the date. No definite plans are made as yet but it will probably be similar to the Jubilee event. I have secured the village hall and will give more details later in the year. **Irene Barnard**

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY – If it's not too late they have a casual meet up for drinks at the Marquis of Granby on January 19th from 7pm to 9pm and everyone is welcome to come along.

COME TO THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY for Australia Day drinks from 6pm on Thursday the 26th of January. There are lots of Aussies and families with Aussie connections in Alkham. **Catie Webber**

LITTER PICK UP – On the 18th of February there will be a litter pick and snow drop walk. Please come to the Village Hall at 10:30am dressed appropriately but if the weather is wet it will be postponed to the 25th. **Catie Webber**

COST OF LIVING – Social Enterprise Kent have an updated version of the Cost of Living Support document, which includes information about the Fuel Voucher scheme. Please go to sekgroup.org.uk and click on cost of living.

SALE IN VILLAGE HALL on Saturday 1st April between 10 -12pm. Various items including a vast selection of jewellery, home accessories such as paintings, candle holders, planters, lamps, cushions and rails of quality clothes. **Charlotte and Irene**

DYKE CLEARANCE – Last year KCC were asked by the Parish Council if they would clear a grip to the east of Newlyn Meadow. Further to this the dyke to the west in front of Valley Cottages has been cleared of all vegetation and silt build up carried out with the use of traffic lights and diggers. If you wish to report a highway problem go to kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem.



CHRISTMAS WALK - The rain was in abeyance for the Alkham Valley Society Christmas walk and 20 or so people, a good few dogs and progeny massed outside the Alkham Village Hall on 27th December. A smart pace was set to walk through the Warnock's fields towards St Radigund's. The aim was to reach Chilton Farm, cross the road with Hi-Viz alerts, go up Red Barn Lane to the Minnis then back over Common Hill and back to homes. But a massive tree had blocked the footpath and Paul Tapsell, cometh the hour cometh the man, suggested an alternative via Mount Ararat, across the fields to Meggett Lane and over to Pimlico and back to homes. It was deemed a successful walk from various feedbacks. No rain the whole way but, all together now: Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud!..... plus, I bid for a large apple crumble at the Harvest Supper, froze it, ate it shared among 14 people and it was lovely. Thank you whoever made it! A good annual event investment. **Jo Walker**

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm

February 28th

Aftersun

January 31st

Mrs. Harris goes to Paris (2022)

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

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will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm

Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details

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WOOF WOOF

Jack, who lives in the centre of Alkham, loves Christmas and also hunting for all the presents that he gets.



TRAFFIC – Dover District Council asked for comments on their Local Plan and the Alkham Valley Volunteer Community Speedwatch Group sent a response to the section dealing with sustainable transport and travel. In summary they have commented that the policy does not address the road safety concerns raised by parishioners in both the TAG and parish plan consultations. They go on to say that their policy has clearly identified the primary routes to be the A2 to the north and the A20 to the west and no consideration seems to have been given to the regular traffic disruption on the A20 through the Dover due to the inability to manage ferry traffic within the port resulting in heavy usage of the unclassified Alkham Valley Road. In addition to these comments when the new A20 dual carriageway was planned it was envisaged that the junction at the end of the Alkham Valley road was primarily to serve the large development at Hawkinge. Unfortunately, due to the problems encountered in Dover the Alkham Valley Road has become an extended slip road to the A20/M20 and it appears that the Highway Authority accepts this as a norm and are extremely reluctant to introduce any delays to this traffic. **Glyn Jones and editor**

TEMPLE EWELL AND RIVER are also suffering due to the volume of traffic on the Alkham Valley road at peak times. Large queues develop on the valley road where it meets the junction with the old A2 as the latter has priority and visibility to the left is very poor due to the angle at which they meet. Some drivers choose to use Lower Road that goes through River on one side and Temple Ewell on the other side to avoid the junction. The one from Temple Ewell has an oblique bend under the railway viaduct and both sides are narrow and unsuitable for heavy traffic. Various improvements have been put forward to improve the junction but there has been no agreement to date.

SIT FIT – On Tuesday mornings from 10am to 11:30am Sit Fit is held in Alkham Village Hall and those feeling a bit stiff or inspired by New Year Resolutions may like to join us for a gentle but complete workout. We do a thorough warm up and then about 12 minutes seated exercises to music. This is now frequently touted as sofa yoga and then we do about 15 minutes light cardio to music. There are easy versions and hard versions of most exercises. It is very suitable for people who want some ideas for exercises they can do despite some injuries or age related problems. It costs £2 per session as we are not attempting to make a profit but just pay the hall hire and any excess monies go to Charity chosen by the group. And we have coffee and a chit-chat from 11am that everyone is welcome to join even if they don't exercise. Maybe see you there soon. All enquiries catie@thewebbers.org.

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HISTORIC FOOTPATH

At the bottom of Short Lane in Alkham there is a footpath which runs across the fields and up to the road leading to St. Radigund's Abbey and is called the Priest's Walk. In the 12th century the Knights Hospitaller were

at St. John's Commandery near Swingfield shown in the photo above, with the purpose of caring for and protecting pilgrims going to the Holy Land. Pilgrims from there walked to Alkham, probably through Ellinge and down Slip Lane to what is now the Alkham Valley Road. At that time, it was a river which they forded and then walked across a field which today is the village green and football pitch and along the line of Short Lane to the Priest's Walk which took them to St. Radigund's Abbey. With the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century the commandery was converted into a farmhouse and is now administered by English Heritage. The Priest's Walk also goes by Moseling's Hole which was featured in this newsletter. **Editor**

Hanging out the washing and the
white sheets to the wind

Flailing out and sailing out against
the deep blue sea

With a skyline flecked with
feather

And a crackle of the crispness,
With the saltiness of swollen lips
and eyes.

Coloured bedding duvets chosen
on a stripe-filled day

Genoa and spinnaker against a
brighter sky

But the lashing's coming looser

And the tighter threads are
trailing,

As the wind spills out, both sails
and dreams collapse.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM W.I. - Happy New Year everyone and what a start to the new year with nothing but rain and power cuts. Our January meeting was about primates of Uganda by Clive Nuttman but unfortunately, we didn't get to see the slides because of the power cut but we did have an interesting talk while waiting for the power to come back on which sadly didn't. Our next meeting is on February 14th when we will be having the R.N.L.I coming to do a talk for us. Hostesses are Alison Warnock and Vanessa Oakley, Raffle Debbie Griggs, VOT Nicola Church. New members always welcome

Debbie Griggs



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Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors

clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Hall booking Shirley Prince 828098

W.I. Secretary Janet Barrow 829585

Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641

Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784

MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669

KCC David Beaney 07818 024487

DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk
07796444860.

Other sites www.alkham.org

www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com

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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	23	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm
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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5 th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 11 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 19 th	Songs Of Praise 11.am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Wednesday 22 nd	United Parish Eucharist Capel 7.00 pm		
Sunday 26 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 - Three of our churches – St Anthony's, St Laurence, and St Mary's – are open during the day. Anyone can go in, sit, think, and perhaps pray – and some do, as entries in the visitors' books show. They may be out walking or cycling, visiting old haunts or perhaps the church where they were married. A few months ago, someone thought to light a candle for singer Olivia Newton-John following her passing. More recently, someone did the same for Lisa Marie Presley. Not everyone signs the book, so we can't be sure of how many visitors our churches have. But I suspect that more churchgoing goes on than people realise – it's just not always for services. The other day I found a book that I'd forgotten I had. Entitled *Say One for Me*, it was about the remark that people would make on Sundays if they saw a friend or neighbour on their way to church. But times have changed. No longer a day of rest, Sunday has become a day of being busy – for some, even part of their working week. Consequently, there are now fewer people in church on Sundays, especially since the pandemic struck. So, finding someone who will Say One for You isn't as easy as it was. Could we make it any easier? Last year many of those who do come to church completed a questionnaire aimed at finding out and Yours Truly spent ages at the computer, feeding it all into a spreadsheet and trying to work out when and where to hold services so that people can get to them more easily. Anyone with any suggestions, please get in touch! In the meantime, our churches remain open, and anyone can drop in, light a candle, and Say One for Someone. **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. 350 March 2023

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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CORONATION OF KING CHARLES – The date for the 1pm Lunch Street Party on the village green has been changed and is now Sunday the 7th of May and more details to follow. **Irene Barnard**

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION 2023 - It's time to sign up for the annual competition the rules are: Grow a sunflower in either your garden or in a pot in your garden, stop the slugs eating it and whoever grows the tallest one wins the cup.



All we ask is that the plant is grown in the parish. We can supply the seedlings which are free, or you can grow your own. Just let us know you are going to take part and if you require any seedlings by emailing anitajames163@gmail.com or verbally if you prefer. Then on the last Sunday of the school summer holiday, however tall it is, if you have let us know you're in the contest we will come and measure your sunflower. May the best plant win! **Anita James**

MOTHERS DAY AT THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY - Join us at The Marquis of Granby for a memorable and delicious Sunday lunch to celebrate our wonderful Mums. Our Executive Chef Steve Piddock has curated a tantalising Spring themed menu using the finest and freshest local produce Kent has to offer. All Mothers will receive a complimentary glass of English Sparkling Wine! To find out more, give us a call on 01304 873 410 or head to our website.

HELP with heating/boiler repairs and insulation - DDC has funding for residents who are vulnerable to living in a cold home (elderly/health conditions/low income/in receipt of benefits) to help with heating/boiler repairs and insulation to help reduce energy costs. If you think you may be eligible, please call 01304 872414 or email energy@dover.gov.uk.



THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY have put up a small brass plaque commemorating the man whose bequest to the village helped pay for the new path from Newlyns Meadow. Philip lived as a boy in Ewell Minnis and retained a strong love of the village and parish and gave various donations but unfortunately died in 2015 as a result of a motorcycle accident in Burma.

TRAFFIC – Further to the article which said that measures to control or limit the traffic through Alkham may adversely affect emergency vehicles, a local resident has asked why such a vague risk is given priority over the safety risks that some families are constantly forced to face on a daily basis as they enter or exit their property.

A SHORT MESSAGE from postman Tony Holman (the shorter fair haired one, not Tony Meadows the tall dark handsome one). After serving the villages of Alkham and Hougham since 2013, now at the age of 65 I have decided to retire. My last day as postman will be on Saturday the 25th of March. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 10 years delivering your mail and I have met some wonderful people and made many friends. I will miss you all, but I will still be running the monthly quiz at the Marquis, so I hope to see a lot of you there. **Au revoir Tony ...**

We'll miss you Tony and thanks from us all including your doggie friends.

PARISH COUNCIL – Elections for local District and Parish Councillors will take place on the 4th of May and if you would like to get involved with the parish and carry out this worthwhile job you can make an application in March. For more details go to www.dover.gov.uk and navigate to the elections page.

CONGRATULATIONS to Geoff Lymer who has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community in Dover. Geoff was an Alkham Parish Councillor and a Kent County Councillor for a number of years and was generous in his support of parish projects.

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm

March 28th

Jungle Cruise Emily Blunt

February 28th Aftersun (2022)

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

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Saturday 25th February

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Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details
Also cater for weddings, kid's parties, christenings, charity events, fish supper parties and boot fairs

WOOF WOOF - Walkers through the church yard and alongside the Old Rectory yew hedge may have noticed wood chippings spread over some of the muddiest bits for better traction. This was with permission. And is thanks to Vicki Roberts and Harry Arnold of No1 Valley Cottages. They have been busy clearing their garden and since the overgrown leylandii was super healthy we could re-use the chippings without fear of spreading disease. Their neighbours are all now enjoying more daylight. And Sue and Mike Ross have got magnificent views of the Church again. There are more chippings to come as they were very big non-native trees. **Catie Webber** *Well done and much appreciated.*



MARQUIS OF GRANBY Monday Cork Club - £5 corkage. Every Monday evening bring a bottle (or more) of great wine, gathering dust at home or something cheap and cheerful from your local off-license. There will be just £5 corkage on each! *Subject to one main course being purchased per person on the table.* **Will Thompson**

SIGNS – A local has said that there is a warning sign regarding horse riders on the s-bend in the village but there are no signs warning motorists of a blind bend, concealed road junction, concealed exits, emerging traffic and elderly pedestrians emerging from a concealed exit and crossing the road. In addition, a safety fence was erected on the bend to protect people, but it isolates the village green, effectively removing it from the centre of the village and reinforcing the view that it is just an obstacle on a busy, main thoroughfare rather than a peaceful rural village.

HARRIETSHAM is similar to Alkham with properties either side of a busy road, in their case the old A20. When the M20 was opened the traffic reduced significantly and now a 20mph speed limit is to be introduced on the minor roads to the east of the village with the old A20 retaining its 30mph limit. A survey was carried out prior to implementation and two of the reasons given for the proposal was avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road and preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs. The latter certainly applies to Alkham plus we are on a 'C' road, have higher traffic volume and speed, a blind bend and narrow sections of road ... **Ed**

THERE ARE several people in Alkham who both value and use our fragile 91 bus service along the valley between Dover and Folkestone. This route has been listed as an asset in plans concerning the village and in Estate Agents advertising. Now serving the village every two hours, the bus even slows down the traffic at the Slip Lane/Hogbrook junction bottleneck. Stagecoach no longer prints the 91 bus route timetable but thanks to the Newsletter, the phone App and the kindness of someone who stuck the new timetable in the bus shelter, we know when it goes and returns. But, will 'several people' be enough to keep it going? It is a quick, no parking meter, and now cheap way of travelling. We should use it or... Village bus user. **Jo Walker**



FOR SALE new 10 litre under sink water heater that was installed but not used as it was more difficult than expected to install. It cost £94 new in January this year and if any would like to buy it for £50, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com or phone 01304 824969.

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LOCAL CONNECTION – In London to the south of Buckingham Palace is a well-known area called Pimlico and this is related to the small hamlet above South Alkham which is also called Pimlico. In the 17th century a man called Ben Pimlico was born near Dover and it is likely that the hamlet was named after him. He later had several public houses in what was called Five fields which was a market garden by the Thames that supplied London with fresh food. One of his inns was called 'Olde Ben's Pimlico Tavern' which later gave its name to the area now called Pimlico. The hamlet of Pimlico in Alkham survived until the 1970's when the local council refused planning permission to restore the remaining building which was in a poor state. The photo shows Richard Goldsack who in the 1870's lived at Pimlico and made the Harvest Festival contribution but sadly died in 1914 in the workhouse in Dover which is now Buckland Hospital. **Editor**



ALL THAT JAZZ

You're speaking prose but utter
poetry,

Unscripted verse that springs
straight from the heart

Extempore without a written
note,

Lacking constraint, free-flowing
like the jazz

Of maestros, music makers with
the art

Of summoning the scales and
tones of life.

Emotional or passive, turn by turn,
A language you have never heard
before --

And yet, familiar and understood
Especially when it focuses a truth
Illuminating meaning hidden deep
Behind the ordinary words of
speech.

Passion disguised within an easy
touch,

A tune so simple, signifying much.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM W.I. - Our February talk was all about the RNLI which was very interesting as we didn't realise that it wasn't government funded but it was only donations and fund raising that keeps them going. Our next meeting is on the 14th of March which is our AGM meeting followed by a quiz. Hostesses Debbie Griggs, Lucy McKenzie, raffle Helen Price. All new members always welcome.

Debbie Griggs

HOUSING SURVEY - DDC are inviting all residents of the district from all backgrounds and circumstances, to respond to the survey to tell them about your current housing situation and future housing needs. The survey is confidential, free and will take no more than 10 minutes to complete. You can complete it online via the webpage www.dover.gov.uk/Housing/Housing-Development/District-Housing-Needs-Survey-2023.aspx.



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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	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

Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	28	Film Night – Jungle Cruise – please see page 1
Thursday	30	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5 th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 11 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 19 th MOTHERING SUNDAY	Family Service 11.00 am	Family Service 11.00 am	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 26 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
Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

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LOCAL SITES www.alkham.org www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com alkhamvs.org (Alkham Valley Society)

FROM THE VICARAGE - I once heard a story – which may or may not be true - of a driving examiner who went to conduct a driving test. He took his seat, told the candidate what to expect, and then waited for them to move off. But instead, the candidate sat looking at the controls, muttering quietly. *You have driven before, haven't you?* he asked. *Well, no...* came the reply. *But I've done a lot of watching!* March this year coincides with Lent – the forty days of fasting that lead up to Holy Week and Easter. A friend of mine is fond of pointing out that the word Lent comes from the Old English word for Spring – so according to her, it is best seen as an opportunity, as a time of personal growth, rather than just as forty miserable days without cakes, biscuits, or chocolate. It all begins with Ash Wednesday, when the Gospel reading reminds us that there's a right and a wrong way to set about things. Jesus tells his followers: *Whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward...* It's a bit like that driving test – we can do any amount of watching, but until we get into gear and take the wheel in our hands we don't go anywhere. And simply setting out to please or impress others doesn't get us anywhere either – that doesn't help us to grow. So if you're keeping Lent, I wish you well with whatever you decide to do - and hope that when Easter arrives, we shall all find that we've grown, at least a bit, in one way or another. **Brian Williams**

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969
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No. 351 April 2023

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right mess. On the day, 12 hardy folks showed up full of gung-ho. We all wore good gloves and high visibility gear and collected 15 bags of trash as well as some larger fly tipped items. Trevor Johns and Steve Edwards kindly took everything to the dump and we were all pretty tired, proud and dirty afterwards. So, we sincerely hope you can all see the difference and feel proud too. **Catie Webber**

THE PARISH COUNCIL wishes to thank a team of volunteers, Catie and Harlan Webber, Trevor Johns and Steve Edwards who trimmed the branches of the trees impinging on pedestrians crossing the bridge to the green. Because the trees are on land owned by the Parish Council, Catie contacted the Clerk and permission for the works was given. This ensured that the individual volunteers were covered by the Parish Council Insurance. **Irene Bowie**

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL has purchased a Scout 2 Speed Recorder. Many thanks go to the volunteers of the Alkham Speedwatch Team, hopefully this new equipment will make their task of slowing down traffic on the Alkham Valley Road a little easier. Previously they had to use borrowed equipment from Kent Police which was shared with other parishes. Now they will have full access to equipment permanently owned by the Parish Council. The Speed Recorder was officially presented to Glyn Jones by The Chairman of the Parish Council, Neil Burrows and the Vice Chairman Martin Hibbert. Parish Councillors have been working extensively with KCC Highways to make the roads in our village safer. Supporting the Speedwatch Team and the now the purchase of the Scout 2 Speed Recorder forms part of that ongoing commitment. **Irene Bowie**

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE - Part time staff required for Alkham Valley Tea rooms on Saturdays 9am to 5pm and Sundays 10am to 4pm. Must be hard-working as we do get very busy. Please Contact Sue Elliott on 01303 893351

THE DIRTY DOZEN KING CHARLES Coronation Lunch

Most of you will recall in prior newsletters my intended Snow Drop Walk and Litter Pick for Saturday 18-2-23. Many of you expressed interest and agreement that our beloved Village was in a

Another reminder for **Sunday 7th May from 12.30** on the village green. As before, table and chairs will be provided so just bring along your own food and drinks. We will have children's races and a 'Royal theme' fancy dress competition for young and not so young. Last year's Jubilee get together proved successful, so hopefully you will all come along again to join in this village event. We have secured the village hall for toilet facilities and will use it should the weather be unpleasant. I hope not! **Irene Barnard**
ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL A.G.M

Our Annual Meeting is to be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 18th of April, starting at 7.00p.m. The Meeting is open to any village resident, or anyone involved in any of the various activities that take place in the Hall. If you have an interest in the village, or any specific issue that you wish to raise, or suggestions to make, then please come along, or contact Janet Adamson, the Committee Secretary janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com

DISTRICT AND PARISH ELECTIONS will take place on Thursday 4th May and that in order to vote at a polling station, you will need to bring photo ID with you or other acceptable ID. If you don't have photo ID more information is on the GOV.UK and DDC website, and the deadline to apply is the 25th of April.



FILM NIGHT 7.30pm

April 25th

Agatha and The Truth of Murder

March 28th

Jungle Cruise Emily Blunt

Entrance is free but a donation of £4

B P S window cleaner

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Wootton Village Hall

Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM
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Mobile Fish and Chip Unit
Saturday 22nd April

will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm
Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details

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

ALKHAM VILLAGE PLAN - At the last Parish Council Meeting the latest draft of the village plan was agreed and signed off. This will now be given the once over by a professional editor then published for action by us all. It was some time ago that nearly half the village turned out for our Open Day followed a few months later by the village questionnaire. The final plan has been produced with assistance from Dover District Council, the Kent Association of Local Councils and many other bodies and individuals. Our thanks go to the team who have worked on the document for so long: Tracey Prince, Steve Edwards, Martin Hibbert, Jo Walker, Rachel Fountain, Glyn Jones, Dave Beaney, and for many others who have contributed help and ideas. **Den Barnard ... AS YOU SAW** in the last newsletter, this is a good opportunity to remind everybody that we need volunteers to put themselves forward for the Parish Council elections in May as we are currently short of three councillors.

THE PARISH COUNCIL would like to correct a misunderstanding in the March Newsletter. The new path from Newlyns Meadow was **not funded** from the donations left to the Parish Council by Philip Young. The Parish Council commissioned the path and it was funded from two sources. The Parish council contributed £3444 from our general reserves, part of the budget agreed in January 2022, and also with a grant from KCC Cllr David Beaney of £1500. **Irene Bowie**

A PLEA from Temple Ewell Primary School - we are currently collecting some crafty resources and books if you have any to spare! This can include wool, ribbons, embroidery threads, embroidery hoops and felt. Also book wise we are looking for good (used or new) copies of James and the Giant Peach, Charlie and the Chocolate factory, BFG or Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl, The Worst Witch by Jill Murphy, Charlotte's Web by EB White, Sheep Pig by Dick King Smith, Firework Maker or Clockwork by Phillip Pullman and any David Walliams book. Please leave them in the porch of 3 Valley Cottage, Alkham Valley Rd, Alkham or ring Mrs. Church in the school office on 01304 822665 and she will arrange collection. Many thanks on behalf of Temple Ewell school.



FREE SPAB MEMBERSHIP – Bryony Levermore, who bought Forstal Cottage adjacent to the Marquis last year, is offering a free one-year membership for the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). Please email bryonylevermore@hotmail.com and a winner will be chosen at random. More details will be given in the May edition about the charity dedicated to the protection of old buildings.



Bryony to her credit has also made a drive to the front of Forstal Cottage which apart from parking has made the listed cottage more visible. She has also carried out a lot of work to the house, tidied the corner piece and will repaint the railings and plant lavender.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our March meeting was our AGM meeting followed by a quiz and our next meeting is on April 11th when our speaker will be Garry Manser who will be talking about Scams. Hostesses are Christine Banham and Sue Ross, Raffle Beryl King and VOT Debbie Griggs. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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CONSERVATION AREA - Dover District Council have produced a St. Margaret's Bay Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan which is very good. Perhaps they could consider doing one for our conservation area as we have 15 listed buildings and six are shown in the photo. Three are on the blind bend with North Hill Cottage and Coachman's Cottage being the oldest and adjacent to the busy valley road. The photo emphasizes that Alkham is a rural village and that some measures should be introduced to reinforce that fact. **Editor**

ACCIPITER

Your colours, blue and yellow, lift
the heart

A promise of the Springtime yet
to be.

In bold display with fluttering
you dart

Across the garden, joyous and
carefree.

But when you sense my presence
in the sky

Or think you see a movement of
shadow,

You tremble at the thought of
me close by

And dive towards the leaves of
the hedgerow

Away from danger, nestling into
green,

Where I await with patience,
quite unseen.

Gail Swainston



MARTIN SCHERER has cut back the dead hedge at the bottom of Pimlico Way to substantially widen the verge which horse riders and walkers use when crossing the Alkham Valley road to Meggett Lane and as the two are not opposite this can be extremely dangerous. Martin has suggested to KCC, in accordance with their new policy, that they pave the verge and install new signs and roadside bollards. Martin will also form a collection pond near the bottom of Pimlico to reduce the dirt washed onto Alkham Valley Road and just for fun plant an edible hedge. Well done, Martin.



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Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	25	Film Night – Agatha and ... – please see page 1
Thursday	27	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Service 11.00 am
Thursday 6 th		Eucharist 7.00 pm	
Friday 7 th	Good Friday service Capel 10.00 am		
Saturday 8 th	Messy church Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 9 th	Eucharist 11.00 am	Eucharist 7.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 16 th	Worship 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 23 rd	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 30 th	St Mary's (Capel Old Church) United Parish Eucharist 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
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AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669 **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cldr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860.
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FROM THE VICARAGE - It should all have been going so well – Lent, that is. Except that it isn't. Not for me, anyway. Apart from one understandable lapse on my son's birthday I've managed to abstain from cake. But it's the other things I meant to do during Lent that I've struggled with. As Lent began, I bought a copy of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for this year, fully intending to read a few pages each day. However, as I write I'm still on the first chapter – I had intended to be halfway through by now. Emma Ineson's book, appropriately enough, is entitled *Failure – what Jesus said about Sin, Mistakes and Messing Stuff Up*. Essential reading for me, probably. I should explain that most Christians accept that nobody's perfect – we strive for perfection but, in truth, we still fail. She describes how Archbishop Justin once told a meeting that, Archbishop or not, he sometimes messes up - he's a sinner, like the rest of us. A woman ranted at him afterwards that, had she realised that he was a sinner, she wouldn't have turned up to listen to him! From Psalm 130: *If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?* The Lord might not keep a record of sins, but social media does – once tweeted, it's difficult to move on from a careless remark. As Holy Week approaches, the Church remembers how, at the end, Jesus was betrayed by one disciple, denied by another, and deserted by the rest – a record of sins, remembered to this day. But it also remembers Easter, and how those same disciples witnessed the Resurrection and told the world about it. God never tires of new beginnings, and we shouldn't either. And with that, it's back to my book... **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. 352 May 2023

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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CORONATION LUNCH SUNDAY MAY 7th from 12.30 on the village green or hall if poor weather. All details in previous newsletter editions, but don't forget there's a 'Royal' fancy dress competition for all ages and races. We need help please at 11am on the day to arrange tables and chairs and return them to the village hall at the end of the afternoon. This event is being sponsored by our Parish Council and is for all areas within the parish. Hope to see you there. **Irene Barnard**

LOCAL ELECTIONS for District and Parish Councillors are taking place on the 4th of May and Alkham village hall will be open for voting from 7am to 10pm. There are three candidates for the District Councillor role, one of whom is Martin Hibbert who lives in Glebelands and there are 9 people standing for the 7 Parish Council positions and further details are given below.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – It really is very encouraging that there are 9 people standing to be a parish councillor and on page 3 of this newsletter there is a brief article written by the nine people giving the reasons why they are standing and details about themselves. Those standing are Den Barnard, Paul Tapsell, Catie Webber, Phil Clements, Martin Hibbert, Trevor Johns, Geoff Kaile, Marian Libaert and Steve Edwards.

MANY THANKS to our kind locals who helped decorate and clean the Church for Easter. Special credit to Vinnie, from team Huggins, for polishing all the wood and making things smell Spring cleaned. Many hands made light work indeed. **Catie Webber**



AVA THE DOG will miss Tony the postman in Newlyn's Meadow. She loved to run up the road, jump in his van and accompany him on the rest of his deliveries! Here they are on his very last round. He was always seen with a smile, and a doggy treat in his pocket and after many years of being our fantastic postman we wish Tony a very relaxing retirement! **No6 Newlyn's Meadow x**

I WISH TO THANK everyone in Alkham and Hougham for their generous gifts and best wishes in my retirement. I am already spending more time in my garden and hope to do a lot more fishing in the coming years. Once again, thank you.

Tony Holman ex-postie

MANY THANKS go to Neil Burrows who has now retired from the Parish Council. He has been the Chairman of the Parish Council for the last 18 years and before that was the Vice Chairman and a councillor. He was a very effective chairman presiding with authority and patience and has overseen many improvements and additions to the parish. We wish him well in his retirement and he can now concentrate on his high class B & B and large farm at South Alkham. Thanks also go to Anthony Barrier who has been a councillor and footpath warden for some years and to Ruth Marczin Bundy who are also retiring.

A BIG THANK YOU to Sue Burrows and her tree surgeon Pete Davis for more wood chips which we've used for better traction on the muddy path from Short Lane to the Village Green. And thanks to Dave Horn from Poems and Dara O' Brian for the muscle power. Much appreciated. **Catie Webber**

ALKHAM W.I. are hosting a Bring and Buy cake sale on the 3rd of June at 10.30am in Alkham village hall with refreshments on hand as well. It is open to everyone and we look forward to seeing you all. **Debbie Griggs**

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm

May 30th

A Man Called Otto

Tom Hanks

April 25th

Agatha and The Truth of Murder

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LITTER – This is really for urban areas but could apply to Alkham which has several litter bins. There is a free app called LITTERLOTTO which you can download and take a photograph using the app. All litter counts and each time you bin a piece of litter, you get another entry into the LitterLotto £1,000 weekly jackpot, instant spot prizes and "LitterLotto Coins", which may be redeemed for prizes and extra jackpot entries.

BYPASS – In the past a bypass for the centre of Alkham was considered and the proposal was to take it along the line of the bottom of Short Lane and continue past the football pitch and the village hall then across a meadow to rejoin the valley road. However, housing development has stopped any such proposal. **Editor**

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS

The SPAB is a charity dedicated to the protection of old buildings, and is a must for anybody who lives in, looks after, or is generally interested in historic buildings. From cottage to castles, or mills to mansions, SPAB aim to protect our architectural heritage from the destruction and damage caused by unsympathetic renovations and inappropriate development; something likely to be close to the hearts of many living in a village like Alkham! Bryony has been a member of SPAB for several years and has called upon their assistance with her plans for repairing the house, including technical advice to fight the mortgage provider when unsuitable waterproofing work was requested by the surveyor, and learning how to plaster and repoint using traditional lime mortar. Membership of SPAB is around £55 a year, and helps to fund a free advice line, planning interventions, research, and scholarships. Members receive a quarterly magazine, and access to online resources and events including working parties, group visits and heritage building/repair skills learning courses. See spab.org.uk for more details. **Bryony Levermore Forstall Cottage**

IN LAST MONTH'S newsletter there was a competition to win a one year membership of SPAB and this was won by Irene and Den Barnard who live in Halton Court in Alkham which is also a listed building.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our April meeting was a talk on scams by Garry Manser and what a lovely speaker he was; you couldn't hear a pin drop in the hall as he told us how easy it was for the scammers to believe they were genuine and how easy it was to send money over to them. Our next meeting is the 9th of May which is our resolutions meeting. Hostesses Debbie Saunders and Gina Daniels, raffle Alison Warnock. Note to all members please bring something along for Pat's table proceeds go to charity. All new members welcome. **Debbie Griggs**



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Brief details of the people standing for the Alkham Parish Council

DEN BARNARD - I've lived in the village for 26 years having moved to take up the position of IT Manager at SAGA. In my time here I have been involved with: The Parish Council, Cricket Club, Friends of St Anthony's, the Fete, Christmas Tree Lights and the history of Alkham. There is now an opportunity with a noticeable enthusiasm and a Parish Plan to continue to make our village a safe and pleasant place to live. So, if you fancy voting for an old codger who still thinks he's twenty five – I'm your man!

STEVE EDWARDS - I moved to Alkham in 2015 after early retirement. After settling in I started attending Parish Council meetings, wanting to give input into village matters. Here I joined the Traffic Action Group, led by the late councillor Hillier, and progressed into being one of the co-authors of the T.A.G. Report. I volunteered for the Community Led Parish Plan steering group and assisted with collating villagers' comments and creating the plan. I now feel that it's time to step up to help the community by becoming a Parish councillor.

MARTIN HIBBERT - I have lived in Alkham for 41 years. Born in Dover with grandparents that lived in Temple Ewell, as well as relatives that lived on the Minnis. I have been an active member of Alkham Parish Council since September 2017, helping to resolve concerns on behalf Alkham residents, using skills learnt from working within Dover Port and Civil Service where listening and working together to get things done was essential. Standing again, I will continue to work hard to ensure that the interests of ALL our Parish residents are represented.

CATIE WEBBER - I was born in Brisbane and trained as a chartered accountant before becoming a world traveller. I married an American, became a homemaker and settled in London where we lived for 20 years before becoming British in 2016 and moving to Alkham. I believe in showing up and stepping up to make a strong Village community. I am involved in Keep Fit, the Village Hall, the garden club and I do the Church flowers among other things. Most recently, I organised the litter pick up and car park clean up.

MARIAN LIBAERT – I moved to Alkham in 2020 and have found it a friendly village. I have met many people while walking my dog Annie and also at the quiz night in The Marquess of Granby. I am a member of Alkham WI and the recently formed choir. I am married with two adult children and I'm also a keen reader and gardener. My reason for joining the council is to help in any way to keep Alkham a thriving village and great place to live.

TREVOR JOHNS – I am an engineer, married with two grown up children. I moved on retirement to the village 3 years ago to find and actively partake in community life, whilst creating a garden at our new home. I have been a Parish Councillor in the past and I'm an active member of a number of local groups. I would bring my previous Project Management experience to the role and would like to be part of a proactive team to drive the community plan forward.

GEOFF KAILE – I have lived in Alkham for two years with my wife and dogs. When not dog walking or working on our house I am a psychotherapist in a local NHS service. I previously worked as a designer and as a software consultant on commercial and governmental projects and hope to bring these skills and experience to the parish.

PHIL CLEMENTS – I was born in Guernsey and I am a qualified Fellow Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians and a Fellow member of International Association of Accounting Professionals. After leaving Guernsey for New Zealand, I moved to the UK in 2005, settling in Alkham in 2017. I am a Senior Manager at a top 20 Accountancy firm. Married for over 30 years and I have 2 grown up daughters. I would relish the opportunity to serve for my community in Alkham.

PAUL TAPSELL - I am a barrister working from Canterbury, have lived in the village since 1991, was on the Parish Council for about 15 years (till 2012-ish) and have, to varying degrees, been involved with the village Fete, Cricket Club, Church and the Valley Society for around 30 years. I hope that I can bring some transferable skills and local knowledge to the Council, represent the views of the village and improve and protect the quality of life of the parish.



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Tuesday	30	Film Night – Agatha and ... – please see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th CORONATION WKND	Evening Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Songs of Praise 11.00 am
Saturday 13 th	<i>Activities and stories at Messy Church, followed by tea. 3.00 – 5.00 pm</i>		
Sunday 14 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 21 st	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 28 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

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alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com

FROM THE VICARAGE - On my fourteenth wedding anniversary, I conducted a wedding for the first time ever. All went well until the end, when as I prepared to give the blessing a camera-wielding guest suddenly approached the altar, stood astride the communion rail, and took the shot he wanted. The bride wasn't impressed. On another occasion I found myself in an empty church - the guests still outside, the ushers having been too preoccupied with playing a prank on the groom to show them in. But then I'll never forget the couple who, during the Covid-19 pandemic, decided to marry anyway, despite their guests having to sit in socially distanced bubbles, and without the trimmings that usually go with weddings – and it was as beautiful as it was simple. As I write, the Coronation is just three weeks away – Britain's first in almost seventy years – and for me, its similarities with weddings are striking. Take the guest list, for example - the newspapers are full of who's been invited, who hasn't, and who may or may not be coming. The Coronation may be a church service, but neither the Archbishop of Canterbury nor the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey have the final say over what happens – so there may yet be surprises in store. Whatever happens, no doubt it will be a memorable occasion, and I'll be there in front of the TV, tea and cake in hand, looking on with the rest of the world - and hopefully all will go smoothly. But if the Archbishop of Canterbury should find himself being made to wait while someone takes a ciggie-break or the King stages an unrehearsed twirl of his robes for the photographers, I for one will know how he feels...**Brian Williams**

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 353 June 2023

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THE CORONATION LUNCH

Thankfully the dark clouds didn't stay around for too long and eventually the sun shone through. It was a good turn out and everyone seemed to be happy chatting

away and enjoying their lunch. There are always people to thank and I will begin with Ken and Sandy for putting up and then removing the village bunting; Graham for the very enjoyable music played throughout the afternoon; all helpers moving table and chairs back and forth to the village hall and finally Dave for organising the races. Nicola Church won the book token for dressing up as she made the cloak herself. **Irene Barnard ...** (many thanks to Irene as well)

THE NEW PARISH COUNCIL - The newly elected Parish Council are now in place and we give the outgoing team our thanks and best wishes especially as they have had to manage with only half of the council positions filled in the past few years. Neil Burrows has been an Alkham councillor for thirty years and chairman for the last eighteen and deserves our special thanks and appreciation. So, the new council starts with a full complement of councillors and a Community Led Plan (soon to be available) and a mixture of experience and energy to build on the successes of the past. We will certainly take Neil's advice to ensure that the whole of the village is included in all plans, and communications with villagers is a high priority. Over the next few weeks the new team will be identifying roles and responsibilities and now is the time to remind everybody that the village plan requires considerable volunteer support. We have the names obtained from the Open Day and village questionnaire but if you weren't around then, now is the time to add yourselves to the list. **Den Barnard (denbarnard@yahoo.com)**

VILLAGE SUNFLOWER COMPETITION - It's time for the sunflower competition which is open to anyone in the parish to see who can grow the tallest one. If you would like to enter you can grow your own or whilst stocks last, get a free one from Anita or Vernon James. The judging takes place at the end of September when the winner will be presented with the coveted cup. Please contact anitajames163@gmail.com with your name, address and telephone number if you'd like to take part or get a free plant.



ON BEHALF of the staff and children of Temple Ewell school we would like to say thank you for all the wonderful donations we received. We will continue to collect wool and crafty supplies for as long as you are able to donate them. **Mrs. Church**

PETER SMITH (born 1 May 1954)

It is very sad to record the death of Peter Smith, resident of Alkham, who died on the 19th of April, leaving his wife Isabelle and their family. Peter, among many other activities, was a long term member of the Alkham Valley Society, founded due to the then apathy of civic government in Alkham. He quietly lent his deep love of the countryside to all. He farmed sheep lovingly and knew the names of every piece of local woodland, every field and footpath. Walkers in the Alkham and surrounding areas will probably never know how much we owe to Peter and people like him, who fought the good fight. Peter's quiet presence and thorough goodness will be missed, not only by his family, to whom all sympathy is shared, but our community.

Bon voyage, Peter. **Jo Walker**

LINDSAY BENNETT (72) who has lived in Ewell Minnis for over 25 years passed on 22/4/23 at William Harvey. She was a big part of the community looking after animals and people. She is survived by her husband Tony and sons Andrew and James and her mother Patsy. Funeral service will be held on 26/5/23 at St Anthony's at 11.00. The family have requested no flowers donations in Lindsay's name to Pilgrims Hospice. **Tony Bennett**

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm

June 27th

The Lost King (2022)

May 30th A Man Called Otto

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

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MAY THE 8th STREET PARTY on the village green was a bittersweet copy of last year's Jubilee with several absences deeply felt. The music was another lovely playlist, the food was wonderful and the weather warm. There was a predominance of red, white and blue, but a few folks dressed up in

crowns and capes. There was a spectacular home-made effort by Nicola Church who quite rightly won the fancy dress competition. There were kids and dogs running around and someone had a bubble machine blowing bubbles for them to chase. It was again well organised by Irene Barnard and it was a marvellous opportunity for Rosemary Hillier to trek down from London and see us all. Poor Harlan had caught a cold and was a bit grumpy until he saw all the desserts. We all had an absolute feast. A huge thank you to those who put out tables and chairs, and bunting and organised a few games and to those who put things away and tidied up too. It was a great day out. **Catie Webber**

ROGUE TRADERS – An email was received from the brother of an elderly lady who lives in Alkham to say she had been the subject of a scam and without him would have been scammed again. He has asked that the word is spread around regarding these evil people.

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL AGM – In the last financial year the hall made a small loss, which was an improvement on the previous year when there was a loss of £2600. The committee agreed that it was not possible to raise the hire rates as it would result in groups moving elsewhere but the increased costs of heating and lighting the hall would warrant an increase in hourly rates.

THANK YOU to Mrs. Doreen Nichol for mending the Altar Cloth for St Anthony's Church. She made the darn look like a flower and it was such a good job we couldn't even find it for at least 10 minutes. In the past Mr. and Mrs. Hammond did a magnificent job looking after such things for us. And I wish to thank them too. Sadly, they have had to give it up recently and neither Carol nor I have sewing in our skillsets. Again, thank you. **Catie Webber**

DOG WALKING – Jo Walker forwarded an interesting article about dog poo. Most dog walkers clear up after their dogs and generally put it in a small plastic bag which goes in a bin. At Densole there is a poo bin in which the bags can be put and when the bin is emptied the bags go to landfill with obvious result that the plastic bags almost last forever. The article gives various ideas about how this can be dealt with and the best solution is to have bio-degradable bags but other suggestions are a dog waste composter, a wormery or a compost heap but there are caveats associated with the latter. The full article can be seen at brentwooddogwalker.co.uk/dogpoo.php.

ALKHAM W.I. -Our May meeting was our resolutions meeting followed by a quiz. Our next meeting is on June 13th when our speaker will be Martin Newcombe talking about badgers. Hostesses Nicola Church and Sue Ross, raffle Janet Adamson, VOT Helen Price. New members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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Forstal Cottage by the Marquis which later became the site of the school but in 1841 they moved across the road to the new premises called Martinvale and the low building behind the house which was the forge is still there. There was also a blacksmith at South Alkham and the photo above shows two proud men at their smithy probably in the 1920's and the other photo a horse waiting on the Alkham Valley road. The house is still there but the smithy has gone and is now a garage. **editor**



KENT COAST VOLUNTEERING

Do you need driving to Hospital, dental appointments, shopping etc.? Try the Kent Coast Volunteering 01304 380513. Requiring 3 days' notice per trip, this service charges £20 a year and 50 p a mile to collect you and take you to where you want to go, does not charge for waiting and takes you home again. It is run by volunteers and is most useful. Transport@kcv.org.uk. **Jo Walker FOOTPATHS** – Many thanks to Anthony Barrier who has now left the post of footpath warden. It appears that this post is not continuing but is being replaced by a Countryside Warden for which you have to go on a course and thereby qualify. There are two at present but they appear to be very difficult to contact.

ALKHAM W.I. - On the 3rd of June from 10.30am to 12.30 in the village hall we are having a tabletop sale and coffee morning and we have 3 tables left. If you have anything you would like to sell and would like a table, it will be £10; please contact Nicola Church on 07713894408 if you are interested. There will be a fund raising cake sale for Macmillan cancer plus stalls with puzzles, books, children's clothes/toys, bric-a-brac and an equestrian stall. Look forward to seeing you all. **Nicola Church**

LOST PROPERTY – After the Coronation party on the 7th of May a pair of plastic goblets 1 red and 1 teal, a pair of glasses beige tiger stripe and amazingly an expensive knife were found on the village green. Please email Catie at catiewebber@me.com if you think they might be yours.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY– The quiz night in May has been moved to the 22nd owing to the usual Monday being a bank holiday.



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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Sit Fit 9.30am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	27	Film Night – The Lost King – please see page 1
Thursday	29	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Houham
Sunday 4th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 10th	<i>Activities and stories at Messy Church Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm</i>		
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 11 am
Sunday 18th	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 25th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 11 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
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FROM THE VICARAGE - In June 2022 the late Queen celebrated her Platinum Jubilee. Crowds flocked to the Palace, and Paddington Bear had tea with her. In September, crowds lined the streets again, this time for her funeral. Now we have witnessed her son's Coronation. Three unique Royal events, all in the space of a year. I wasn't in the Abbey myself on the big day, so didn't get a copy of the Order of Service - but I notice that someone who was is auctioning theirs online. There is a reserve, not yet reached. As I write, the bidding stands at £221. Perhaps when some of the comments that were being made even as the celebrations took place are considered, the chance to own such a slice of history, even at that price, becomes even more tempting. While we were at home on the morning of the Coronation, glued to the television and only leaving the sofa to make tea, others were questioning the whole thing. Was it worth the money? Coronations in other countries are far more restrained – so why not ours? Should we even have a monarchy at all? Would this coronation be Britain's last? But history can play tricks. I recall once visiting a museum in Calais with a group of teenagers. Built as a wartime bunker, it displayed items from the Nazi occupation. An adult helper enthused, but they were bored. "This is for old people," they complained, "it's nothing to do with us!" That would change with 9/11, Afghanistan and Iraq. Remembering The Fallen would stop being something that only old people did. What will happen when William becomes King we can only guess. But in the meantime, I've still got some copies of our service booklets from the Coronation weekend. Offers, anyone? **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. 354 July 2023

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - Thank you to everyone who attended the first council meeting since the election. Our next meeting is at 7pm on Monday 3rd of July at Alkham Village Hall and as always is open to all. If you would like to attend but require assistance, please get in touch with any of the new councillors or via den.barnard@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. There will also be a more informal "Come and Meet your new councillors" meeting from 10am - 12pm on Saturday 22nd of July at Alkham Village Hall. In the time since the initial meeting the focus has been on admin tasks and assigning areas of responsibility. We are grateful to the previous council for their ongoing help in this transition. In addition, the Jubilee/ Coronation bench for the village green has arrived and a working party will shortly be installing it and we are awaiting news on the publication of the Village Plan - keep an eye on the Parish Council website for this and other updates. Finally, please let us know if you would like to be added to our volunteers list. **Alkham Parish Council**



ALKHAM v THE MARQUIS 29TH MAY

A welcome return to form for Alkham CC after a few fallow years with the Badgers beating the Marquis "Only a Pub Team" side in a thrilling game before a packed Meadow. Chasing 119 Alkham secured the total with 5 overs to spare. The next home game is against St Margaret's at 6 pm on Wednesday 21st May but mark your diaries for the August Bank Holiday Monday (28th) when the "Alkham Ashes" will be decided with a match against the Marquis, starting at 2 pm. **Paul Tapsell**

THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY

had a fantastic Bank Holiday Monday and what an amazing day for the Alkham community. It was great to see so many new and familiar faces showing their support, with a huge turnout for the cricket, BBQ and music. A big thank you to the Alkham Cricket Club who gave us quite the battle on the pitch and beat us for the Alkham Ashes trophy! We can't wait for the re-match and we will come back fighting for the title on the 28th August, we hope to see you all there again! **Hugh Thompson**



COMING SOON: Nightingale Dairy Kent's first ever milk and milkshake mobile vending machine! Opening in July and

situated on select days in the Alkham Village Hall car park,



you will be able to buy fresh milk from our beautiful Shorthorn and Albion cows at Chilton Farm, where we milk on a very small scale with a regenerative farming approach. More details and selling timetable to follow closer to opening time. For updates follow @Nightingale_Dairy on Instagram. **From The Mannerings Family, Chilton Farm.** *As it is a worthwhile local venture the Village Hall Committee voted unanimously to let them use the village hall car park.*

CHURCH FETE - We are having the church fete again this year at St Radigund's Chapel on the 3rd of September. I know it is the wrong time of year to be asking for plants but even if you can donate indoor plants, I would be most grateful. We are also doing bric-a-brac and of course the raffle so please, if you could help, ring me Carol Mannall on 01304 826514 or 07946106742.

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm

July 25th

**The Call of The Wild (2022)
Harrison Ford**

June 27th - The Lost King (2022)

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

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Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details

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EVERDEN - Just to the west of the village of Alkham is a Grade II listed building at Everden which was part of an ancient barony. It was called Great Everden Farm, but eventually became a private house with

attached farm buildings. The latest owners have changed the name to Great Everden Manor which can be booked to hold venues or for accommodation. Adjacent to the house is a large barn for which a planning application has been submitted to turn it into a hotel and details can be seen on the planning application which is on <https://publicaccess.dover.gov.uk> under the place name.

ST ANTHONYS CHURCHYARD SOS - The churchyard is left to nature for most of the year except for the walkways which Richard Tapsell has mowed for years with a little help. We all know how pleasant it is to walk through the churchyard and even sit for a few thoughtful moments. If anyone would like to help with the mowing, it takes about an hour for one person to do and would allow Richard to slow down a bit. Reward guaranteed in heaven. If interested please let us know. **Den Barnard 824845 and Richard Tapsell 822295**



A BIG THANK YOU to Alkham for being its warm welcoming kind self to my very handicapped sister Jane. Jane visited from Australia together with her carer my mother Margaret from mid-May to early June in all that cold dry wind. She enjoyed singing with the Valley Voices choir and was thrilled when they sang Happy Birthday to her in 4 parts - definitely a highlight. Jane is an accomplished gardener but was enchanted with English country gardens here in

Alkham and very much enjoyed the wine and cheese and conversation at the garden club evening. She had a tour of the Dover Marina thanks to Glyn Jones and the Wet Wheels charity. She went to the Canterbury Cathedral when Joe Public was invited to play the fabulous and newly renovated organ and laughed with the rest of us when a man gingerly pecked out a horn pipe tune. The music master helped him by pulling a special stop and the organ thundered "toot toot" bang on time. Jane also attended Peter Smith's funeral service, which was very emotional for her as an example of what Dad's funeral was like just a year prior and which she was unable to attend. Jane particularly enjoyed watching Spitfires flying overhead and visiting the memorial to the Battle of Britain. Lastly, she very much hopes to come back soon. **Catie Webber**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our June meeting was all about badgers, which was very interesting. Our next meeting is on July 11th when and our speaker is Clive Nuttman talking about The Slave Forts of Ghana. Raffle, Vanessa Oakley, hostesses are Debbie Saunders, Sue Koo, VOT Debbie Griggs. We would like to say a welcome to our two new members Irene Barnard and Alison John's. All new members welcome. **Debbie Griggs** ...On the 15th July I have a charity bingo night in aid of pilgrims hospice and motoneuron disease; I have a few spaces left, please contact me if interested on 07796360473.

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THE FORSTAL – In the April edition of the newsletter there was an article about Forstal Cottage which is by the road that runs from the Valley Road past the Marquis of Granby to St. Anthony's church and is called The Forstal. Prior to the 17th century common land belonged to various Lords of the Manor and tenants would have been entitled to graze their

animals on this land. Inevitably some of these animals strayed and were taken to a holding pound where they could be retrieved for a small sum of money. This pound was also called the fore stall and there was one of these until the 18th century at the entrance to St. Anthony's church and hence the name of the road. In 1810 the Marquis of Granby was built as well as a row of houses behind it on the ground of the disused pound. These houses were later renamed Halton Forstal after the farm that had maintained the fore stall and in the early 1950's they were demolished and a single house taking the name was built but this too was demolished in 2011 when the Marquis was extended. The aerial photo shows Forstal Cottage on the extreme right, the adjacent Marquis, the original houses behind it and the old school behind Forstal Cottage. **editor**

ONLY 15

Poor Hannah

In the horror

In the darkness

On the path

Where the crashing of the water

Is the beating of her heart

Down into a bubbling pool

Of blackness feeling ill

She only took a little pill

Don't you be such a fool.

Down into the bubbling pool

She said that she was feeling ill

And only took a little pill

A lesson for us all.

Gail Swainston

MANY THANKS go to Alan Woodgett who has delivered the newsletter since it started in 1993 along Greenwich Lane in Ewell Minnis and has now decided it's time to retire. It is pleasing to report that another person has offered to deliver the newsletter. **Brian Wimsett**

EMAIL - Since we are advised not to cut hedges during the nesting period of birds, and can be fined quite a sum should we do, might it not be possible to ensure that during the lambing season dogs should be put on their leads, which might avoid them being shot if worrying sheep, and owners be subject to similar fines? **Local observer**

BREAK IN – In the early hours of the 12th of July a house in the centre of Alkham was broken into and some money stolen. The thief was chased but got away.

THE MACMILLAN table at the recent WI event raised £62.60 for this very worthwhile charity. **Sue Ross**



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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Sit Fit 9.30am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Monday	3	Parish Council meeting 7pm – all welcome
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	25	Film Night – The Call of the wild – see page 1
Thursday	27	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2 nd	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 8 th	Activities and stories at Messy Church. 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 9 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 16 th	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 23 rd	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 30 th	St Mary's (Capel Old Church) Eucharist 9.30 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
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POLICE 999 or 101 NEWSLETTER brianwimsett@hotmail.com
PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
HALL BOOKING Shirley Prince 828098 **W.I. SECRETARY** Janet Barrow 829585
VICAR Brian Williams 01303 243784
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860.
LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com

FROM THE VICARAGE - It was evening. I was working in my office when it happened. From just the other side of the door came a startling, banshee-like wail. I opened the door. A mysterious black cat ran down the stairs and out through the cat flap, pursued by a recent addition to our household. We tried using Facebook to find out who our visitor was, and three possible candidates were suggested - but he hasn't been back. I should explain that last November we adopted two rescue cats from the RSPCA. One is a little boy – what he lacks in size he makes up for in character. The other is his rather larger mum, who spent her first month with us in whatever hiding places she could find. But now she has commandeered a spot on the upstairs landing where she sleeps, and where she cries for goodnight strokes at bedtime. That's where she was when our mysterious feline visitor called, and hostilities broke out. Now, before our cats were allowed to come home with us, we had to complete a questionnaire and provide photographs of the garden and where they would sleep - but there was no discussion of how they would cope with life in a Vicarage, where hospitality and generosity are usually the rule. Finding clumps of our visitor's fur scattered across the lawn showed that teaching them to welcome strangers and share their cat food willingly was going to need some work. *Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it,* says the Letter to the Hebrews. Wise words, probably well worth remembering when strangers call unexpectedly. Especially if you happen to be a cat... **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. 355 August 2023

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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SUNFLOWER COMPETITION - The measuring day to find the tallest sunflower is Sunday August the 6th. Our official measuring team will be running around the village in the morning with their rulers and if anyone is out on the day in question, please may they be allowed

access. Thank you. **Anita and Vernon James**

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - The meeting on the 3rd of July had a packed agenda, but the new team have nearly completed the initial admin tasks. Leaders of the working groups have been assigned: Footpaths & Byways - Paul Tapsell; Communication - Geoff Kaile; Highways - Steve Edwards; Parish Plan delivery - Trevor Johns; Community Liaison - Den Barnard; Environment - Catie Webber; Flood and Drainage - Marian Libaert. The Terms of Reference for each group will be agreed at the next meeting. The Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) signed off by the outgoing council will be reviewed by the new team in conjunction with Kent Highways. A team will be siting the new Jubilee/Coronation bench when the final positioning is agreed. We look forward to seeing parishioners at the meet and greet session at Alkham village hall on Saturday 22nd of July from 10am to 12pm. The next council meeting is on the 4th of September. **Alkham Parish Council**

POLICE - A dedicated Ward Beat Officer called James Chenery has been appointed for our area. He will also cover Capel, Hougham, Denton and Wooton, Lydden, Temple Ewell, River, Maxton and Elms Vale and Dover town centre and the best way of contacting him is via email at james.chenery@kent.police.uk.

PIMLICO WAY - At the end of April last year supposedly bound material was laid on Pimlico Way from its junction with Slip Lane to the top of the hill as the byway was in a poor state. At the time it was thought that the laid material was loose and the contractor said they would put it right but the firm went into receivership so nothing was done. The downpour on the 20th of June washed off a lot of the residual sand mix down Slip Lane and left a pile near the village hall. KCC will see what they can do to rectify the situation, but thanks should go to them for trying. **editor**



CYCLING - A photo from Alan Latham's cycle camera showing that riding in Alkham has become a bit more challenging.

MEET AND GREET the new Parish Council in Alkham village hall on Saturday the 22nd of July from 10am to 12pm.

ON PAGE 2 there is an article about the dangers on the Alkham Valley road and a person who recently moved into the village had a nasty accident in June on the valley road just past Kearsney Abbey when returning home. Having slowed up because of a branch in the road a young driver going far too fast smashed into the back of him at great speed. Amazingly no one was seriously injured.

A2 - The A2 from Whitfield roundabout to the A256 junction was due to close from Friday the 14th to Monday the 17th of July to install 30m long steel beams for the new bridge across the A2. It is for the bus, cycle and pedestrian Fasttrack connection to Dover Priory station.

FOUND - A key with a red fob saying 'Keep Calm and Carry On' was found in the village car park near the bin and bench on the 25th of June; please email catiewebber@me.com to retrieve

FILM NIGHT August 29th 7.30pm

The Railway Children Return

July 25th The Call of The Wild

Free but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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THE ALBERTINE rose is very easy to propagate: just stick some cuttings in the ground in autumn and 2 years later you have flourishing rambling roses. Bryony, who lives in Forstal Cottage, has big pink roses growing up her wall which may well be the Albertine rose possibly contemporary to the period in which sharing rose cuttings was fashionable. She was wondering if anyone in Alkham

would be interested in starting up the practice again? Bryony will need to cut back the rose by autumn and would be pleased to share the cuttings and receive any cuttings of other roses to try growing. Please either pop round to Forstal Cottage or email bryonylevermore@hotmail.com.

A RESIDENT wrote to KCC about the dangerous blind bend in the centre of Alkham and the reply from a Cabinet Member was considered perfunctory and following the usual mantra without addressing the particular problem. The letter said that schemes are prioritised on the basis of personal injury accidents and there have only been two recorded minor accidents in the adjacent area in the last three years, so the priority is low. The reply to this was that you should review the validity and impact of concerns of unsafe conditions and to strive to remove traffic hazards and unsafe conditions wherever and whenever they are notified. In addition, police statistics do not include accidents not reported to them or the number of daily near-misses, close-shaves and narrow-escapes. He also feels the proposed additional slow markings and warning signs, including a double bend ahead warning sign will have little effect.

SPEED LIMITS – In the past the national speed limit of 60mph applied to the Alkham Valley road outside the 30mph limits. The distance along the valley outside the 30mph limits is about 5 miles so theoretically it could have taken 5 minutes to cover this distance. If a 40mph limit was imposed, then the time taken would be 2.5 minutes more.

BOX TREE CATERPILLARS - Our box trees have been attacked by box tree caterpillars this year, two in the back garden had been stripped of their leaves before we realised there was a problem. The RHS website says that box tree caterpillars feed within webbing and can completely defoliate box plants. It is a relatively new insect to Britain. Whilst the adult moth was first reported in Britain in 2007, caterpillars were not found in private gardens until 2011, it has since become widely distributed across England. I have spotted a few other affected bushes in the village that have webbing and eaten leaves and if managed now could easily be saved. Please check your bushes. We have started by removing caterpillars by hand and are also using a selective moth trap with pheromones to attract just the male box tree moth. The RHS suggest using non-pesticide control such as pheromone traps which can help monitor adult moth activity are available from several suppliers including Agralan, Dragonfli and Solabiol. The mixed nematode biological sold as Fruit and Vegetable Protection has some effect on the larvae. The caterpillars do have a range of natural enemies including parasitoid flies, parasitoid wasps, earwigs, spiders and ants and there have been reports of birds such as blue tits feeding on the caterpillars in some locations. It is not yet clear if this predation will result in a reduction of box tree moth numbers. **Emma at Box Tree Cottage**

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LETTER TO THE TIMES JUNE 1923 - Twenty years ago we constantly saw columns in the Press headed "The Motor Nuisance". Much traffic has moved over the bridges since then, and today there is the "horse-drawn nuisance". Everywhere horse-drawn carts and vehicles block the faster traffic, despite the praiseworthy attempts of the police to enforce the rule that slow traffic should keep near the kerb. In the great thoroughfares of London, the horse-drawn vehicle delays 95 per cent of mechanical traffic and increases the dangers of the streets to pedestrians and road-users alike. If horse-drawn vehicles could be forbidden in certain crowded thoroughfares between 10am and 6pm, what immediate relief there would be. The slowness of London traffic today, owing to the horse-drawn nuisance, costs millions of pounds a year in wasted time, extra consumption of motor spirit or coal in constant stopping and restarting, the wear and tear of brakes and tyres, and the abrasion of the surface of roads. And there is the human aspect of the strain on tempers and nerves. Today the vehicle propelled by petrol, steam, or electricity can do everything a horse-drawn vehicle can do. In most cases it is cheaper. And the time saved by mechanical transport more than compensates for any extra cost. If all our street traffic moved at a higher and more or less equal speed the relief would be immense. Incidentally, our streets would be more sanitary, for it is chiefly in horse-dung that the pestilential fly breeds, which is more deadly to infant life than any other cause.

ET IN ARCADIA EGO

Stepping into sunshine on the lily
Pond, standing on the largest
flatter stones

Testing out the balance needed
to feel

Secure on the dilapidated ford,
Which always took you safely to
your home

Once, long ago, it seems so long
ago

When walking over blossom to
your dream

Was natural, an idyllic homely
scene.

That rocking, shifting path now
throws you down.

The water's cold and smelly, full
of roots,

A gnarly clutching muddy at your
feet

Disturbing with a fear of greater
loss.

An age-old putrid stink hangs

round your past

Reminding you that some things
never last.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM W.I. - Our July meeting was all about slaves in Ghana and our speaker was Clive Nuttman. Our next meeting is on August the 8th with fish and chips followed by a quiz; please bring your own refreshments. Raffle Sue Ross. New members are always welcome.

Debbie Griggs

KENT FIRE & RESCUE is urging people to close internal doors before going out or going to sleep, as that's what stopped a fire in a spare room from destroying the rest of a home.



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Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	29	Film Night – The Railway Children Return
Thursday	31	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 12th	<i>Messy Church, followed by tea 3.00 – 5.00 pm</i>		
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00am	Eucharist 11.00am
Sunday 20th	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 27th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

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alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com

FROM THE VICARAGE - Over the years I've been given several keepsakes. Some are notelets from grateful couples who were still buzzing with the excitement of their big day – and others, more poignantly, sent with thanks for help through sad and difficult times. One is a photo, given as a memento of a christening when I was still a curate. I had just taken the baby girl in my arms and turned towards the font when she grabbed hold of my beard – and someone, camera at the ready, caught the moment and sent me a copy. I was in that same church once when someone walked in and gazed around. I hadn't seen him before, but he told me proudly that it was *his* family church – it was the place where they always celebrated weddings and held funerals. But it was actually others who, Sunday by Sunday, had kept it going until what they could afford to put in the collection no longer met the cost of keeping it open. Sadly, that baby girl's children – she will be a teenager by now – won't have the option of being christened in the same church as their mum. I've always liked the idea of serving in a church that is there for people when they most need it – but even I must admit that that's getting more challenging. Our numbers have dwindled since the pandemic - but we've responded by holding *more* services in the parish, not less! At least for now, there is a service in each of our churches nearly every Sunday – and everyone is invited! Along with that there are bells to be rung, a choir to sing with, flowers to be arranged and friends to be made. Come and give it a try... **Brian Williams**

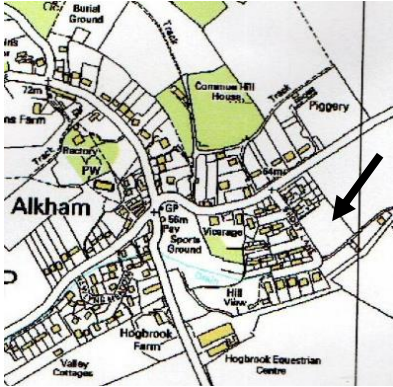
Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 356 September 2023

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SHORT LANE – A planning application has been made for 8 dwellings on land to the east of Short Lane as shown on the plan. A previous application has been refused and the Parish Council stance remains the same that it is outside the village boundary and the impact on the rural environment.

THE GREAT ALKHAM SUNFLOWER CHALLENGE!

- It's not as simple as it sounds growing a sunflower and seeing whose turns out the tallest. 23 people signed up and were at the mercy of slugs, arctic winds, torrential rain, poor timing and storm Antonio and in the case of Irene and Graham a hungry squirrel. However, 18 competitors made it to the end, and this year's winner is Ray Latham who won with 10'8. The rest of the results are Richard Tapsell 9'3; Jo Walker 7'6; Emma 7'3; Tracey 7'0; Vernon 7'0; Ken 6'0; Anne Huggins 5'9; Graham Bissett 5'7; Rachel Fountain 5'6; Nina 5'5; Ross 5'; Trevor 5'; Helen Price 4'8; Tina Matcham 4'8; Irene 4'5; Andrew Koo 4'3; The Marquis 4'3. Thanks to everyone who took part, to Vernon for growing the seedlings and Ang Rolfe for speeding around the village with Vernon measuring Sunflowers and sourcing the prizes. The photo shows Ray, Anita and Ray's granddaughter Edie. **Anita James**



ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL - Over 25 villagers turned out to 'Meet the New Councillors' in July and some interesting ideas and suggestions were put forward. The Jubilee/Coronation bench organised by the previous council has been set up and the old one which it replaced is being refurbished thanks to Paul Libaert. A safety inspection of the village green children's play area by RoSPA has found various safety concerns regarding the 'Trim-Trail' apparatus. Arrangements have been made for its removal after consultation with our insurers. The Speedwatch team continue their regular activities and need more volunteers to keep up the very valuable efforts to improve safety on the Alkham Valley Road. The next Parish Council Meeting is 4th September and although we have to restrict questions and comments from the audience to 15 minutes, please remember all the councillors are very approachable at any time. **Alkham Parish Council.**

NIGHTINGALE DAIRY will be opening soon!

Our brand new milk and milkshake vending machine that will be full of



fresh, delicious, gently pasteurised milk from our small herd of cows at Chilton Farm is ready to go with a few final admin boxes to tick. Provisional hours at Alkham Village Hall: Monday – Thursday 9.00am to 4pm (supply dependent, when it's gone, it's gone). Please Follow our [instagram@nightingale_dairy](https://www.instagram.com/nightingale_dairy) for more details on official opening dates and other locations throughout the week. We hope to be open in the coming weeks and look forward to seeing our first customers!

GARAGE SALE – There will be garage sale at 10 Glebelands on the 26th August from 9.30am to 4.00pm all welcome.

WELL DONE to Debbie Griggs who held a charity bingo night on the 15th of July that raised a total raised of £1115 of which £615 plus £300 gift aid went to the Pilgrims Hospice and £500 went to motoneuron disease.

ALKHAM CHURCHYARD - The vicar would like to remind people that the churchyard is subject to the regulations. Please see his article on the back page.

FILM NIGHT

September 26th 7.30pm

Phantom of the Open

August 29th 7.30pm

The Railway Children Return

Free but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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Saturday 23rd September
(12th of August)

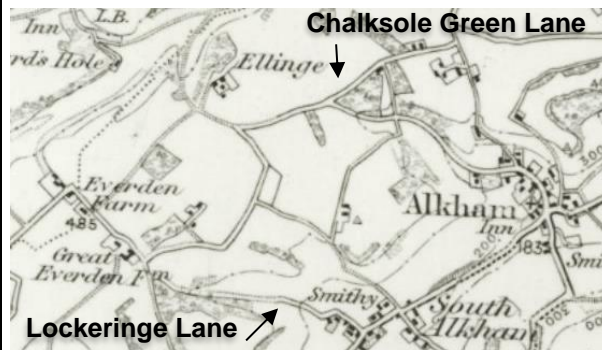
will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm
Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details
Also cater for weddings, kid's parties, christenings, charity events, fish supper parties and boot fairs



GREAT EVERDEN MANOR

The planning application for a hotel at Great Everden Manor (Farm) on Lockeringe Lane has been refused as the proposed development involves external alterations and building operations

which are not permitted and the total floorspace created would exceed 500sqm. It would also have a severe impact on the single lane roads which access the site and could also result in unacceptable contamination risks to groundwater. There were over 70 public comments with local people being against the development whilst those outside the parish were in favour. A local businessman says that he has to take his large tractor and trailer up Lockeringe Lane and often meets irate guests from Everden Manor who then have to back up the very narrow and winding lane.



THE OLD MAP

on the left shows Lockeringe Lane and Chalksole Green Lane which used to be the priority roads but now have junctions at Little Everden Road and Slip Lane respectively but retain their names.

NEW HOUSES – If you continue along Lockeringe Lane past Everden Farm to the outskirts of Hawkinge a small estate is being built which will be in the parish of Alkham. The photo shows the first phase with a guide price of £800,000.



ROAD RAGE - Several recent events prompted this article; a roadside chat with a resident; advise or abuse from a passing motorist while riding up the valley on my bike; a recent trip to France. Why do drivers scream up and down the valley nose to tail? There have been many accidents and deaths on the valley road during my 20 year residence and as my friend at the roadside said, some treat the speed limits as targets not absolute limits. I can never understand why South Alkham has a 40mph limit rather than 30 mph and why increase the speed limit from 40mph to 50mph after Wolverton Hill when there are a number of houses with driveways. In France they have recently reduced speed limits on roads like the valley from 56 mph to 50mph in order to reduce road accidents and injuries and 20mph limits with traffic calming humps in small settlements like Alkham. In addition, there are a few myths regarding lower speed limits such as congestion, structural changes, ignoring lower limits and emissions and www.transportenvironment.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/11-01-T30.pdf is worth a look as it explains why these are myths. **Alan Latham**

TRAFFIC SPEED – The first speeding fine was in Kent in 1896 when a driver in a Benz was caught doing 8mph. The speed limit was 6mph and the driver was pursued by a constable on a bike and after a 5 mile high speed chase was apprehended. In court he was found guilty and he refused 7 days' hard labour so was fined £4 and 7 shillings, about £200 in today's money.

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SOUTH ALKHAM

A safer crossing point at the bottom of Pimlico Way on the valley road is well underway. The

landowner Martin Scherer is doing the work himself clearing the old hedge and fence and levelling the ground by the road with an old digger that he bought which has burst a pipe and this accounts for the delay. Martin has the approval of the authorities to provide a widened verge where horses and pedestrians can wait to cross the fast and busy valley road to Meggett Lane and thanks go to him for carrying out this altruistic work.

AVIAN FLU - The Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed that highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 is present in England and a Protection Zone and a Surveillance Zone has been declared near Elham. The zone has a radius of 3km and encompasses Alkham which is in the surveillance zone and the measures apply from the 20th of July 2023 until the declaration is withdrawn or amended. Further details are at www.gov.uk and kent.gov.uk avian flu.

HELLO, my name is Jodie and I am a local resident with a small sweet business set in Ewell Minnis. I offer a good selection of sweets for all occasions and will offer free delivery to Alkham and Ewell Minnis residents. You can find me on Facebook at Jode's Candy Corner or call on 07834243797. Email is jodescandycorner@gmail.com. There are plenty of pictures for you to view on Facebook. #support small business.

THE OFF-ROADERS are back on Pimlico Way and the Everden link is very difficult to cross on foot. It appears that most of the damage is being done by motorcyclists as there is generally one rut but the 4x4's have gone off the track as can be seen in the photo.



If you go down in the woods today

ALKHAM W.I. - Our August meeting was a relaxing one and we had fish and chips from Seafarers in Cheriton whose food was lovely followed by a quiz and well done to the winning team of Nicola Church, Sue Ross, Sue Koo and Margaret Batchelor. Our next meeting is on 12th of September and our subject is 'Two truths and a Lie about yourself' and our members will guess which one is the Lie. Hostesses are Christie Peel and Margaret Batchelor, Raffle Christine Banham. All new members are always welcome.

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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Sit Fit 9.30am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Monday	4	Parish Council meeting 7.00pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	26	Film Night – Phantom of the Open
Thursday	28	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3 rd	Prayer 5.00 pm	Fete at St Radigund's	Eucharist 11.00am
Saturday 9 th	Activities and stories at Messy Church 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 11.00am
Sunday 17 th	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00am
Sunday 24 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00am

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

Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

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VICAR Brian Williams 01303 243784

AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org

MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487

DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860.

LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com

FROM THE VICARAGE - 'I told you I was ill!' Veteran comedian Spike

Milligan's epitaph on his tombstone in St Michael's Churchyard,

Winchelsea, was voted the nation's favourite in a 2012 poll. For the parish

priest, it would have been a headache. The Churchyard Regulations are

the Law of the Land, not just what vicars make up when they find graves

festooned with plastic gnomes. They are to churchyards what the Road

Traffic Act is to motorways – and like speed cameras, they can catch out

the unwary. For instance, how many know that stone chippings and kerbs

around graves are ruled out on safety grounds? Or that you can plant bulbs

or border plants on graves, but not rose bushes, shrubs, or trees? Thinking

of planting some bulbs in the Memorial Garden? Please don't. As

cremated remains are buried only about a foot deep, digging anywhere

near them risks the inevitable. That's why the Regulations allow only

wreaths and fresh flowers to be left there. How many realise that you need

a faculty – a kind of legal permission – before you can put a bench, or even

a flower container, in a churchyard - or that tombstones and their

inscriptions must meet certain conditions? As petty as this might seem,

the Regulations aim to be fair while maintaining churchyards as *Christian*

burial grounds in which the departed are laid to rest in hope of Heaven. In

fact, Spike Milligan's quirky epitaph was at first considered inappropriate

for a churchyard. Eventually, a compromise was reached: it was carved in

Gaelic. Fancy your own quirky epitaph? Perhaps first ask yourself whether

something like *Up The Reds or Long Live Rock 'n Roll* on your tombstone

will mean anything to anyone reading it two centuries or more from now.

Especially if it's carved in Gaelic... **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. 357 October 2023

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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THRILLED to announce the Marquis of Granby's team wins at the local cricket tournament, The Alkham Ashes. A big thank you to those who came out and supported the event and to the Alkham cricket Club for their spirited game. We look forward to organising next year's matches and seeing you all there! **The Marquis**

ALKHAM FETE - After a few years' absence, we are aiming to have a Fete next year (probably 13th July 2024) so if you are interested in helping run a stall or on the day, please give me a call on 01303 892082 (and/or leave a message if I don't pick up). We will be having a meeting in late October (date to be confirmed - I'll let you know when you call!). Everyone is welcome, we're always happy to see new faces and hear new ideas! **Paul Tapsell**

THANK YOU to everyone who attended September's parish council meeting. The next one is on Monday 6th November at 7pm in the village hall. The outgoing council Highways Improvement Plan budget has been approved. The Community Led Plan is now on the parish council website. The policies and procedures for the council are now finalised. The terms of reference for the work group are approved. If you have an interest or experience in the following areas - Highways; Communications and Involvement; Parish plan; Environment - please get in touch at clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. The working groups require parishioners so please put your name forward by 16th October for consideration. **Alkham Parish Council**

TEMPLE EWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN MORNING - Is your child starting in Reception in September 2024? If so, please join us for one of our Open Mornings on Thursday 9th November at 9.15am or 10.45am. To book your place, please call our school office on 01304 822665. **Nicola Church**

HARVEST SUPPER - This year the Harvest Supper will be a little different as we have not got the amount of people to help. It will be an American Supper where you bring your own food, drink, crockery and glasses. It will be on Monday 9th October at 19.00 in Alkham Village Hall and the tickets will be £5.00 each. There will be the usual auction of harvest produce and a raffle. If anyone can help with produce or prizes, I would be very grateful. Please ring me Carol Mannall 01304 826514 or 07946106742 and hope to see many of you there again this year. **Carol Mannall**

HARVEST FESTIVAL - Catie Webber would like some help decorating St. Anthony's church for Harvest Festival on October the 6th and 7th from 2pm to 4 pm. Donations of produce such as jams, honey etc., garden greenery with autumnal foliage or berries to help with the decoration would be appreciated.

THE BELLS - Pat Yeomans who lives in the centre of the village would like to thank the bell ringers at St. Anthony's church for ringing the bells so well as she was sitting in her garden on a sunny evening. Like the cricket on the green it is a quintessential part of village life and long may it continue.

FILM NIGHT

October 31st 7.30pm

The Lost City Sandra Bullock

September 26th

Phantom of the Open

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FLINT WALL – Much to their credit the owners of Malmains Manor on Slip Lane are having their flint boundary wall rebuilt. However, fate has taken a hand and an articulated lorry took the wrong road and whilst trying to turn round knocked a large hole in the

wall and on the Warren Lane side a nocturnal vehicle which didn't stop also knocked down a length of new wall.

WATER LEAK - You may have noticed a water leak in Slip Lane recently. This was caused by a split in the 'communication' pipe from the steel water main pipe to a property stop tap. This pipe is made of lead which was banned in 1969 as it is known to be a health hazard. Affinity water has a program of replacing lead pipe but any pipes from the stop tap to your house are your responsibility. I replaced my supply pipe some years ago but it appears there is still a small length in the Lane belonging to Affinity Water. If you do have lead supply pipes the guidance is to get it replaced or at least run the tap for a minute in the morning and if you have been out all day for a minute in the evening. The standing water absorbs lead from the pipe and there is more information on www.affinitywater.co.uk/alerts/lead-pipe-replacement. **Alan Latham**

GARDEN WASTE - Dover District Council will introduce new wheeled bins for garden waste collections from April 2024 and existing customers changing over to the new service will be provided with a free 240L wheeled bin. The current annual subscription fee is £58 for a 25-alternate week service and the 2024/25 subscription will be reviewed as part of the annual review of fees and charges. Not everyone is in favour of this because of the possible weight of the filled bin.

VILLAGE HALL – The hall has two CCTV cameras on the front of the building as a security measure for the hall car park and the premises and one camera does pick up the rubbish bin in the car park opposite.

THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS on the Alkham Valley road near the A20 overbridge are for contractors working for National Highways to carry out their work safely adjacent to the valley road. When the new A20 dual carriageway was built in the 1990's a drainage lagoon was installed at this point to take the run-off rainwater from the A20 and the lagoon is now being cleared of built up material plus other works carried out to mitigate the problem.

ALKHAM W.I. - Thank you to Nicola Church for organising our September meeting, it was an enjoyable one. Our next meeting will be October 10th when it's our auction night so would every member please bring something along for the auction i.e. unwanted Christmas present or something they no longer need. Hostesses Helen Price, Christine Banham, raffle Debbie Saunders. All new members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

BASKETBALL HOOP - If anyone is interested in there being a basketball hoop installed in the village and/or playing basketball in general, please contact Harlan ba@thewebbers.org.

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flowed from about a mile west of the village at Drellingore where the water rises and archaeologists have found some evidence of this after unearthing a landing stage at Wolverton just to the east of the village. In 1898 the water company built a pumping station near Drellingore and pumped the water to a reservoir at Terlingham on the high ground by Hawkinge to provide clean water to the Folkestone area and this greatly reduced the flow of the nailbourne and had a bad effect on the lakes at Temple Ewell. The photo was taken in 1897 somewhere near where Newlyn's Meadow is now and North Hill House in the centre of Alkham can be seen in the distance on the left. The photo is made more human by the photographer's shadow and two ladies out for a walk. **editor**

THE NAILBOURNE or Alkham Bourne as most people know is the natural stream that occasionally flows down the valley. The Alkham area lies on chalk that is highly porous and when saturated the water starts to flow above ground. In the distant past it created a small river which

COMMUNITY GROUPS

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cost of living are being encouraged to apply to Dover

District Council's Cost of Living

Community Impact Fund. The

funding includes £7,500 from the

Dover District Lotto and £30,000

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Fund. DDC's new Cost of Living

Community Impact Fund has been

developed from the long-standing

DDC Community Grants Scheme.

Under the new scheme, applicants

can apply for between £100 and

£2,500. There will be one round of

funding for 23/24. The grants are

to help people with the cost of

living, focusing on supporting

communities in financial hardship.

The closing date for applications is

5pm Monday 23 October 2023. For

more information see DDC website

dover.gov.uk/communitygrants.

MEGETT COTTAGE

– We have now re-opened our holiday cottage

which is now managed by

Keeperscottages.co.uk. It sleeps 6

and has a conservatory overlooking

the valley. We are pet friendly with

an enclosed garden and ideal

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Helen and Simon Price 01303

252764 - The cottage is about ¼ mile

south of the centre of Alkham.





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Please ring Shirley for information on 01304 828098

Regular events in the village hall

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Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	26	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm
Tuesday	31	Film Night – The Lost City

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Saturday 7th	Messy Church, followed by tea 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 8th HARVEST	Eucharist 9.30 am	Harvest Festival 11.00 am	West Hougham Village Hall 11.00 am
Sunday 15th	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 22nd	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 29th	St Mary's (Capel Old Church United Parish Eucharist 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

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LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com

From the vicarage - I had thought that for me, job interviews were a thing of the past. But then I spotted an appeal from Canterbury Cathedral for local clergy to volunteer to assist at the service of Choral Evensong that takes place there each evening. After an informal chat came a voice test - I was given a sheet of music and a note on a piano, and off I went, hoping that what I was singing matched what was on the sheet. Then, a few evenings later came the test: the Cathedral fell silent, I held a tuning fork to my ear, and sang: *O Lord, open thou our lips...* The choir sang the response: *And our mouth shall show forth thy praise...* Over the next forty-five minutes or so I sang a bit more, led the prayers and introduced the final hymn. I'd made the grade, and was subsequently installed as an Honorary Minor Canon – which sounds grand, but I'm still just a volunteer really. Cathedrals need several priests, or Canons, to run everything. The one who organises services is called the Precentor - Canterbury hasn't had one for a while, but that changes in November when Revd Wendy Dalrymple arrives. The photo that accompanied the announcement showed her standing in front of a stained-glass window wearing a short-sleeved blouse and clerical collar with a splendid array of tattoos on her arms. I won't dignify the bile that this photo prompted by repeating it here. But evidently someone who is heavily tattooed themselves saw the story and remarked that they didn't know that people like them were welcome in church – but now they do. I look forward to meeting Canon Wendy and being on her team. And in case you're wondering, I don't have any tattoos – honest! **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

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

No. 358 November 2023

Non-profit &
delivered free
to the Parish

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council



VILLAGE SIGN - Our appreciation and thanks from all in the village to Ken and Sandy Spencer for refurbishing the Alkham sign outside Bren Tor and Halton Court. Looks very smart indeed. Thanks also to Vernon James and Mat Walecki for their assistance in detaching the sign from the signpost. **Irene Barnard**

NEWSLETTER – A remark was made that there wasn't much news in the last edition, which was fair comment, so I've revised the banner to include 'magazine'. Some months there is not much news to report so articles (always welcome) are included which hopefully people will find interesting. **Editor**

HARVEST SUPPER - Just a note to say thank you to all who helped, donated raffle prizes and auction produce. The total raised was £572.90 and well done to everyone who participated. It was grand to see villagers socialize and make a lovely evening. **Carol Mannall**

CHALKSOLE GREEN – The Parish Council are aware of the signs that were put up on Chalksole Green and are pursuing the matter. A request was made not to include further details, but the matter should be resolved soon. Chalksole Green is at the top of the steep hill leading off Slip Lane by Malmains Manor. **editor**

ACCIDENT – On Saturday the 7th of October a Stagecoach bus collided with a machine being drawn by a tractor near Standen Terrace on the Alkham Valley Road. No one was injured but the bus driver was taken to hospital with glass in her eye and the road was blocked for a short time. **Photo by passenger Di Crockford**



TEA & A CHAT - On the last Thursday of each month, there is an informal get-together which is open to all villagers. A chance to meet and get to know local people over a cup of tea, or coffee, with nice biscuits. No charge, just turn up from 2.30-4.00. All welcome. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY AGM will be held on the 21st of November in Alkham Village Hall starting at 7 pm, all welcome. The agenda will be on the website and sent to members 14 days prior to meeting. **Catie Webber**

THE PARISH COUNCIL have installed four bins at the end of the green near Short Lane. These bins are going to be used to make compost from the leaves etc. that fall in the ditch and surrounding area. The Parish council would be grateful if general rubbish and dog waste are not put into these bins. They are for Parish council use only. **Marian Libaert ...**

THANKS also for the getting the sump opposite the village hall and the dyke either side of culvert under Hogbrook Lane cleared and the grip through the hedge from the Hogbrook Lane.

OFFICERS from the Rural Task Force will mark your property free which is aimed at the rural business community, such as farms and stables. Types of property that can be marked range from saddles, powers tools, larger items such as diggers and quad bikes; the items are normally engraved with an address and postcode. To take up this offer please email rural.task.force@kent.police.uk or post a request at the farmwatch WhatsApp group. They could attend Alkham village Hall for a morning so please contact this newsletter (see banner at top) and if there are enough people it can be arranged.

A LADY'S BRACELET was found outside the Marquis on Saturday the 7th of October. Please contact me if it's yours. **Catie@thewebbers.org**

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November 28th 7.30pm

Save the Cinema Jonathon Pryce

October 31st 7.30pm

The Lost City Sandra Bullock

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Streetz2S4reetz Mobile Fish and Chip Unit Saturday 11th November (14th October)

will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm
Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details
Also cater for weddings, kid's parties, christenings,
charity events, fish supper parties and boot fairs

FUTURE OF ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD MEGGETT – PIMLICO JUNCTION

The Meggett to Pimlico junction is one of the most frequently used and yet risky crossing on the Valley Road. There have been multiple vehicle accidents and two horses have died here in the last decade. The Pimlico embankment was being eroded by rabbits and was



covered in a dying blackthorn hedge that presented injury risks to passing horses and walkers, and restricted sight lines for safe crossing. This has been cleared to provide a flat and safe surface with no kerb hidden by grass. This will reduce risk to car drivers, help prevent flood waters wash silt, gravel and flints onto the valley road that cut tyres, block drains, and damage the road surface; to horse riders on the dog leg junction that forces diagonal crossing reduce and also the local residents and visitors who frequently cross the road. In addition, the bus stop needs to be upgraded to a shelter similar to that the APC provided at Wolverton Hill Junction. Demand for this bus stop is increasing from the nearby caravan park, garden centre, equestrian centre, and new AirBnB's. The new crossing also fulfils KCC's policy of connecting existing footpaths to enable greater and safer access to the countryside. It's really up to residents to decide what they want together with the Parish and County Councillor's support. **Martin Scherer**

FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE - With the landowners' permissions an excellent AVS work party was organised at short notice on the 16th of September to tidy the Village Hall garden and car park as well as to trim and woodchip parts of several footpaths around the village. With the excessive rain this summer the growth of nettles, brambles and hedges had become nuisances to users. ER 183 in front of Malmain Farm and ER 162 in front of the Church leading to Slip Lane were so overgrown as to be impassable and dangerous. Members enjoyed a hot sunny afternoon working as a group using their own garden tools. Thus the job was done urgently and at no expense to the beleaguered Parish and County Council purses. A woof of appreciation from the dog walkers and a huge thank you to all the generous folks involved. It helped that many of them were loaded with sugar and caffeine from Mike and Sue Ross's excellent MacMillan Coffee morning. **Catie Webber AVS**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our next meeting will be on the 14th of November at 7.30pm and our speaker will be Nicola Church showing us how to make our very own Christmas cards. Hostesses are Jane Aslett and Marian, raffle Christine Peel, VOT Debbie Griggs. New members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**

LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

SOUTHERN EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES on the 7th of December we will be open until 8pm; come and join us for mulled wine and festive nibbles.

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE AND TEA ROOMS late night Christmas shopping; we will be open until 8pm and the local W.I. will be singing carol's on the night by candlelight from 5.30pm on the 7th, please come and join them for a sing along.

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THE OLD POST OFFICE in the past was a property of some importance. On the right of the photo are the stables where

coaches changed their horses and on the left is the shop and in the foreground are the thatched barns to Halton Farm. The house dates from about 1880 and originally was half the size with a cat slide roof but was extended to twice the size which accounts for the gully. At the beginning of the 20th century the shop was added to the side of the house and the post office and shop which was behind the Marquis of Granby moved to the new location. The cellar doors to the shop can still be seen on Slip Lane together with the GR post box and a 'Stick No Bills' sign. The paraffin was stored in the raised shed on the right and this together with the stables burnt down in the 1960's. The property had several owners over the years, one being John Luxton who had the bungalow called Meadowside built on part of the land when he retired. The shop eventually closed in 1978 and became part of the main house. **Editor**

ASIAN HORNETS have become very prevalent this Summer in the UK and particularly our area of East Kent. We have just found one in a trap in our garden and many more sightings and nests have been found in neighbouring parishes. What is it? from www.nonnativespecies.org: An invasive non-native hornet originally from Asia. Asian hornet is a highly aggressive predator of native insects and poses a significant threat to honeybees and other pollinators. In 2004 it was accidentally introduced to France where it has spread rapidly and into neighbouring countries. Since 2016 a number of sightings have been recorded in the UK. It looks most like a large wasp, it is smaller than our native European Hornet. The Asian hornet is 25-30mm long. It has yellow legs, a yellowish face and one yellow segment on an otherwise black abdomen. I have put some pictures up on the village hall notice board but the best resource for both identification and reporting is the free app: Asian Hornet Watch. You can also report suspected sightings on the website www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet. Or by email alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk. The response to my reported sighting was very quick. Look out for large nests usually in trees but they may also use garages or sheds. Now is the time that mated queens are preparing for over wintering in any small refuge. **Emma, Box Tree Cottage**

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL have produced a Green Infrastructure Strategy, www.dover.gov.uk/Planning/Regeneration/PDF/Draft-Dover-District-Green-Infrastructure-Strategy-for-Consultation-2023.pdf and the consultation ends on November the 14th. If you wish to comment, go to www.dover.gov.uk, 'send us a message' and pick Environmental issues.

GET INVOLVED - The Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy is a strategy for everyone – it will shape what our nature and landscape will look like in years to come across Kent and Medway. We need everyone's input and there will be many opportunities to get involved so please go to www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/get-involved.



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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	21	Alkham Valley Society AGM 7pm
Tuesday	28	Film Night – Save the Cinema
Thursday	30	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5 th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00am
Saturday 11 th	Messy Church, followed by tea 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12 th REMEMBRANCE	Service 10.15 am	Service 10.15 am	Service 10.15 am
Sunday 19 th	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 26 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 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

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VICAR Brian Williams 01303 243784
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860.
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FROM THE VICARAGE - At my other job as a supply teacher one afternoon, I worked with some students who were soon to sit their Maths GCSE exam. As they finished coursework and practiced past exam papers, one looked up: “*Ere Sir – are you a vicar?*” They thought I sounded like one, apparently – and my cover was soon blown. Fascinated at having a supply teacher who doubled as a vicar, questions began to flow. “*Don’t Christians say that God’s everywhere?*” one girl asked. I replied that they do. She turned pale. “*So, whatever you’re doing, God knows about it...*” The idea bothered her – but she was right. ‘*O Lord, you have searched me and known me...*’ says Psalm 139. ‘*You know when I sit down and when I rise up... Where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there... if I make my bed in the grave, you are there....*’ Yes, Christians do believe that God’s everywhere. November begins with All Saints’ Day. While others are preoccupied with ghoulies, ghosties and four-legged posties, Christians celebrate the lives of saints. I used to serve in a church that was shared with a Greek Orthodox congregation. Like other Orthodox churches it was decorated with pictures of the saints. We were in their company; their eyes seemed to follow you around, and if that felt unnerving it nevertheless held out the comforting thought that whatever life brings, we never journey through it alone. The saints are everywhere, too. A last word from St John of the Cross, a Spanish Carmelite monk. He once spoke with a nun who was frantic with worry about what God thought of the life she’d lived. “*Don’t worry,*” he said. “*At the Judgement, you will be judged by someone who loves you.*” **Brian Williams**

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Merry Christmas

AS CHRISTMAS is just around the corner, I want to let everyone know that this year, turning on of the Christmas tree lights will be on Saturday the 9th of December at 5.30pm on the village green. Enjoy some mulled wine and a Christmas

carol or two. Father Christmas will be there putting us even more into the festive mood. Please come along, village turnout was fantastic last year, let's make it even better this year. Secondly, we would like to hold another Christmas party in the village hall. Unfortunately, this can't be carried out the same evening as the Christmas tree lights but will be on the 2nd of December, from 7pm. Sharing food worked very well in the past, so we would like to do this again, there will be a raffle, all proceeds will go towards the village fund and of course, any donations would be gratefully received. If you would like to come to the party, please let us know (on the email below) and between us we can decide who will bring what food. This is a great opportunity for a get together, have fun, enjoy good food and a little dancing. Hope to hear from you. **Graham West (west_deborah@ymail.com)**

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS -The Community-led Parish plan has been published and working groups set up to help implement it. Wardens are in place for priority areas and decisions are beginning to be actioned. The council policies and procedures have been reviewed and modified where necessary. We are about to begin reviewing the financial budget for next year, including replacements for the damaged playground apparatus. The drain clearing work by the village hall has been completed (and tested thoroughly by the recent weather). Some volunteers have come forward to generate some ideas for the telephone box in Ewell Minnis - further ideas gratefully appreciated. We would like to thank volunteers for putting themselves forward for the working groups, but we are still looking for more and for any ideas to improve facilities in the parish. Please do get in touch. Speedwatch have also informed us that they require more volunteers. Please contact Glyn Jones for more information. Thanks to our DDC Councillor Martin Hibbert and KCC Councillor Dave Beaney for their ongoing assistance.

Alkham Parish Council

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

On the 7th of December
Southern
Equestrian

Supplies will be open until 8pm with mulled wine and festive nibbles available and Alkham Valley Garden Centre and Tea Rooms will have late night Christmas shopping until 8pm. The Alkham W.I. and the Alkham choir will also be singing carols on the night by candlelight from 5.30pm and everyone is welcome to come and join them for a singalong.



POPPY APPEAL - I would like to thank the Alkham and Ewell Minnis villagers, and visitors, for their generosity. Together you have donated a magnificent £807.12 to the 2023 Poppy Appeal. This will go to members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Airforce, veterans and their families, when they need support. My thanks also go to Shirley, Helen, George, Larry, and Beverley, who went out collecting regardless of the very unhelpful weather! And thanks go too, to the Alkham Garden Centre and Tea Rooms, Southern Equestrian and The Marquis of Granby for having collecting tins. **Rachel Fountain**

FREE DOG CAGE for a small dog. Please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

FILM NIGHT

No film in December

November 28th 7.30pm

Save the Cinema Jonathon Pryce

Free but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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(11th November)

will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm
Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details
Also cater for weddings, kid's parties, christenings, charity events, fish supper parties and boot fairs



PREDICTION – The Drelligore Nailbourne is a natural spring that runs when the water table is high and appears to flow in roughly a 13 year cycle. In recent times it flowed in 1974, 1987, 2001 and 2014 which makes the village green a lake and cause floods elsewhere and if the cycle continues it should flow again in

2027. Ray Latham who lives in the village has a rain gauge and since 2014 has recorded the monthly rainfall and he predicts it will flow next year as the rainfall in 2023 is the highest it has been over that period. The photo above shows the village green in 2014 with a couple going for paddle.

POWER CUT 2nd NOVEMBER 2023 - Storm Cairan brought down a good number of trees and branches which in turn took out the power supply in the area. It was off from 8.0am to 4.0pm and during that period I walked and met a number of people who told me of their particular problems; no light to read by, no digital telephone line, no TV and no internet browsing, though the latter was not a domestic power issue this time. I had similar and had been looking for a means to provide my own power. One answer is a rechargeable battery power station or pack. I have bought a 0.5kWh EcoFlow available from Argos. Other brands are Anker and Jackery. It has two 3 pin sockets and is rated at 500 Watts and so

you can plug in your router, TV, gas boiler, gas cooker, table lamps and many other low power items, less than 500 Watts. The 3kW radiator or kettle will not work though you could buy a low power kettle used by campers. It also has 4 USB sockets for charging items and a 12 volt car socket. The photograph shows the power pack running a TV and router. **Alan Latham**



SAFETY CONCERN – An Alkham resident has been trying to do something about the danger of accessing his property from and to the adjacent busy Alkham Valley road but has had no success with KCC, the Police or the Health and Safety Executive, the latter advising him to contact the Ombudsman. Their initial assessment is that, based on the KCC letter, they are unable to determine whether the KCC have had the opportunity to consider the complaint and reply. They have instructed him to contact KCC directly, again, and request them to escalate the complaint and send him a final response from the Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport.

NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION is recruiting volunteers to help people keep safe on the water, on the beach and along the coast path. No experience needed and full training is given. For an information pack please call 01303 227132 and further information is on their web site www.nci-folkestone.org.

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THE BELLS - Have you stood on a Wednesday evening in the village listening to the church bells ringing for their hour of practice session. If you have and like me thought, I can do that it's easy it's just pulling a long piece of rope then wipe that thought from your mind. Having recently taken up church bell ringing with my husband Vernon at Alkham Church in July, it's more difficult than I thought it would be whilst there is an element of simply pulling a rope which is good for the arms I have to say, it also

requires good timing something which the rest of the team are better at than myself and a lot of concentration. After 5 months I am getting there and I'm pleased to say, thankfully the rest of team are really patient and very supportive, and I am just about to try to move onto the next step. So, if you heard any clanging about it was probably me at the end of an extremely long rope with concentration written all over my face, unable to get bell 2 to stop. And if you are passing the church in the summer when we have the back door open stick your head in and watch us in action. We usually practice on a Wednesday evening between 6pm and 7pm and welcome visitors. **Anita James**



MARGARET DANSTEAD would like to thank all the Alkham villagers, who together with other friends and family helped her to raise £200 for the recent sponsored Ride & Stride event. Half of this amount will be awarded directly to St. Antony's Church, the rest going into the 'Friends of Kent Churches' fund which provides grants for the preservation of Christian Church buildings. In spite of September the 9th being a particularly sweltering hot day, I enjoyed cycling from village to village, visiting nine Churches. Thank you again for your support.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our November meeting was making Christmas cards and thank you to Nicola Church for being patient with us. We will not be having a meeting in December as on the 12th of December we will be having our Christmas meal. Our next meeting will be January 9th 2024. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

POST PERSEUS

If you had appeared on a snorting dragon I would have believed.

If you had shown mythic propensities I would have been intrigued

By your power, with your strength,
In my imaginings.

But you came ambling off the lane,
Shuffled up the drive,
Drifted in a cloud of summer dust,
And changed my world forever.

Gail Swainston

THE NIGHTINGALE DAIRY

vending machine is now in the village hall car park on Tuesday and Thursday between 9am and 4pm dispensing fresh pasteurised milk and milkshakes.





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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Saturday	9	Christmas Tree Lights switch on 5pm village green
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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00am
Saturday 9 th	Activities and stories at Messy Church.3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Carols at West Hougham VH 11.00 am
Saturday 16 th		Carols 7.00 p.m.	
Sunday 17 th	9 Lessons & Carols 6.30 p.m.	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 24 th	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 24 th	Crib service 4.30 pm Mass 11.30 pm	Crib service 3.00 pm. Mass 11.30 pm	
Christmas Day			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 31st	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
Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

FROM THE VICARAGE - If you know the true meaning of Christmas, we're told, be like the carrot in one of the cleverest TV commercials I've seen so far this year, based on Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Christmas is, apparently, about being good, unselfish, and prepared to share with others. At least that - along with encouragement to shop in a certain supermarket - seems to be the message of the advert. It's easier to make sense of the advert if you know the original story. On holiday in Scotland years ago I came across a book called *The Story of Goliath and Wee Davie*. It is based on the Biblical story in which, against the odds, David the shepherd boy defeats Goliath the Philistine giant in battle. But according to Jimmie Macgregor's illustrated version, alcohol was the real reason for Goliath's downfall - but the humour only really works if you do know the original story. I was at a clergy meeting not long ago where we were encouraged to have something available in our churches that might explain, in simple terms, what Christianity is about - because the days when it could be assumed that everyone would know the original story have gone. Over the next few weeks there will be plenty of opportunities to hear the original Christmas story. I always look forward to December, and to catching up with those who come to our Carol Services, our Crib Services on Christmas Eve, and Midnight Mass - and I hope that we might see you there. And we must remember that being good, unselfish, and prepared to share with others is for life, not just for Christmas. And not just for carrots, either. Wishing you a very Happy Christmas, and a Peaceful New Year. **Brian Williams**