

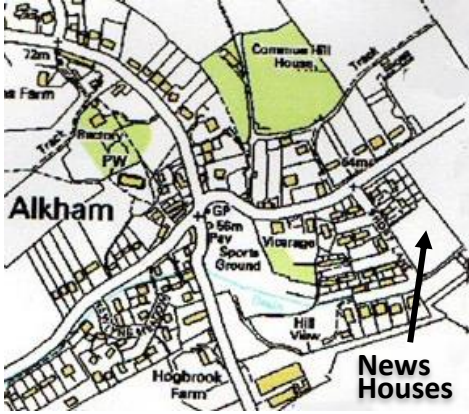
ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
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Non-profit &
delivered free
to the Parish

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council



PLANNING PERMISSION has been granted for 8 houses on the land to the east of Short Lane despite the Parish Council objecting to it as not being suitable for housing development and there were also numerous objections from Alkham residents.

HAPPY
New Year

LORRY PUMPS are currently stationed on the village car park opposite the village hall pumping out water and other matter from the sewers which have been overwhelmed by the nailbourne running.

THE ANNUAL post-Christmas walk is held on the 27th of December. Climate change or not We leave, children, animals and the Rest of Us at 10.00am from the Alkham Village Hall in the footsteps of a skilled leader. We return to the Village Hall a couple of hours later where this year we are invited to enjoy drinks and nibbles before dispersing. **Jo Walker On behalf of the Alkham Valley Society**

DRELLINGORE NAILBOURNE –The prediction in last month’s newsletter was correct as the nailbourne is running with some force and the village green has become a lake. Melven Kirby, who lives at Chalksole and is a farmer, has recorded rainfall for the environment agency since 1988 and according to his records the year 2000 was the only year to have had more rainfall to the end of November. In that year the village green was also a large lake and roads in the area were under water, sewers blocked, and the village hall floor had to be replaced. KCC has an emergency line which can be rung if there are dangerous conditions and the numbers are 03000 41 81 81 during working hours and off-peak is 03000 41 91 91. The water level can be viewed at <https://riverlevels.uk/river-dour-alkham-valley-borehole>.

MANY THANKS to the Alkham Garden Centre for giving a Christmas tree to St. Anthony’s church. It will be much appreciated by those going to the carol and crib services.



FIRST few Christmas trees are ready, freshly cut to order and prices start from £20. Message Paul on 07763327548 or Paulking9691@gmail.com. Trees are at Fen Farm Abbey Rd Hougham CT15 7DH



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

There was a good crowd of about 40 adults and children who came along for the turning on of the Alkham Christmas Tree lights on the 9th of December on the village green. Father Christmas was there and gave sweets to the children and to a great cheer Meadow, on the left, turned on the lights which was followed by mulled wine for those who wanted it. Thanks go to Debbie and Graham West who organized the event and heated the wine on a

portable stove and Kevin Rolfe who made his annual appearance. If you would like the newsletter in colour please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

FILM NIGHT

January 30th 7.30pm

The Quiet Girl

Free but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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Tai Chi

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Wootton Village Hall
Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM
Hawkinge Community Centre
Contact Anna Dashwood
07736 849 194 www.pfstaichi.com

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

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE and Tea rooms winter opening hours as from now: Monday 9am to 4pm, Tuesday 9am to 4pm, Wednesday 9am to 4pm, Thursday 9am to 4pm, Friday 9am to 4pm, Saturday 9am to 6pm, Sunday 10am to 5pm. Please note Monday to Friday last serving is 3.30pm in the tea rooms, Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 4.15pm. We will be open Christmas Eve 9am to 1pm then reopen on January 5th 2024; please note all through January we will be shutting on Mondays and Tuesdays until the beginning of February. Merry Christmas to all our customers

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD – There were a number of accidents due to black ice in the Standen area in early December and one driver slid off the road and got out of his car which was then hit by a lorry which skidded on the ice shortly followed by a third car leaving the road. The first driver escaped with a fractured pelvis and is now walking with crutches. Some good news is that the Highway Authority has resurfaced the valley road where that appalling large trench reinstatement carried out in the 1990's near the Old Hawkinge road was.



NEW SEATS – The Parish Council have installed a new seat by the side of the dyke overlooking the village green with a clear view of the cricket pitch. They had previously installed a new seat by the bus shelter with two plaques commemorating the

Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and King Charles III coronation in 2023. Well done to the Parish Council for all their proactive work. **Editor**

SCAM EMAILS – If you get an email from someone you know asking to send a voucher to a friend or relative of theirs as they cannot access the internet or similar it is probably a scam. Generally, it says that a friend or relative is very ill and please could you email £200 of Apple vouchers to some email address. They also send emails purporting to be a son or daughter who needs some money quickly and this may also be a scam. The advice is to contact the person whose name has been used in the email and ask them if they have sent it.

AN UPDATE on the emergency power station I wrote about last month. After fitting a plug to the electricity supply to my gas boiler (boiler manual says this is ok) I plugged it into my Ecoflow power pack to see if it would work and how long it would keep going for. I had another power pack for many years but its output was a "modified sine wave" which modern electronics do not like and so it would not drive the boiler; avoid. The Ecoflow has a "pure sine wave" and the boiler fired up straightaway. It was before the current cold spell but it kept the boiler going for 9 hours before the power pack battery was exhausted at about 9.00pm. The display on the pack shows how much power is being consumed and the boiler used about 80 Watts when running. I connected my TV to it and it uses about 60 Watts. Surprisingly my TV uses 20 Watts when on standby when all you can see is a little red LED under the screen. In contrast when I put them all in one computer on standby it uses nothing that is measurable. An LED bulb in a table lamp uses next to nothing shooting 0 Watts output even though the bulb is lit. My interest in this small scale test was fired by electric cars and powering your home from the battery. Charge it with low cost electricity and run your home when rates are high. Is there anyone out there with similar interests who would like to share their experience? **Alan Latham**

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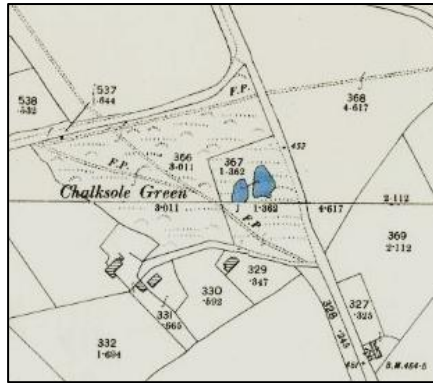
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acre was listed under the 1845 Enclosure Act and allotted to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the recreational use of the inhabitants of Alkham. Under the 1894 Local Government Act the holding or management of the village green was transferred to the newly formed Parish Councils and therefore the land was and still is a village green and in 1977 was used by the parish for Queen Elizabeth's silver jubilee celebrations. The green has been owned and maintained by the Parish Council since 1894 and the deeds and documents have been reviewed and the land is being registered with the Land Registry. **editor**



THIS BIRD would like to live to see Christmas and has taken sanctuary in our garden and maybe a few others. He does a useful job of clearing up under the bird table and giving us pleasure as he wanders about the driveway. He is a bit demanding and appears just behind you with that hungry look. Occasionally he will tap on the patio door or get up on the table to remind you he is hungry. Hope he makes it. **Alan Latham**

Seasonable

When winters weather's exceptionally mild
It seems as though our senses are beguiled
Into forgetting ice, snow, freezing rain
Imagination grows the flowers again.
Hovering between winter and the spring
We look to find a future that will bring
Exploding apple blossom, pink and white,
The glory and the sunshine and the light.

God is alive, magic is afoot
The world lies trembling at its root
The tiny tendrils twist and curl
The rock hard wood begins to hurl
A thousand arrows to the sky,
A shimmering of greenery.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM W.I. - We had our Christmas meal at the Marquis on Tuesday 12th of December and the food was very good and the raspberry flavoured gin was lovely, so everyone had a lovely evening and thank you to everyone at the Marquis. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 9th of January 2024 and the subject is how to crochet a square; all members please bring a 3.5mm or 4mm crochet hook with you; you can pick one up in a charity shop. Hostesses Eileen West and Debbie Saunders, raffle Jane Aslett. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**



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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	9	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	25	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm
Tuesday	30	Film Night – The Quiet Girl

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Saturday 13th	<i>Fun, fellowship and food 3.00 – 5.00 pm</i>		
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 21st	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 28th	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

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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

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FROM THE VICARAGE - As I write, Christmas is still a fortnight away, and I'm focussed on Christmas cards and Carol Services. So being asked to write my column for the *January* Newsletter means having to change gear and think beyond Christmas Day to the New Year - a time when people look back over the past year. So, here's my review of 2023. Looking back through my diary, the year began with what would become several goodbyes. Some I had known well; all of them, at the end, had been commended to God's love and care. Then there were the baptisms of those who were starting out on life's journey. And three weddings. In May not only did we mark the King's coronation, but we also met Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Bishop of Dover, when she paid a visit to our parish and chatted with us over tea. I attended quite a few meetings and spent hours on paperwork. And I realise that we still don't have the money to restore the lychgate at Capel Old Church, attendance at services is still lower than before the pandemic, and we are struggling to pay what the Diocese asks us to contribute towards the cost of running the Parish... But then I remember that St John's gospel tells of how, after Jesus had fed a crowd with loaves and fish, they went after him - until they realised what following him involved. They left - and when he asked his disciples if they were leaving too Peter answered him: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life." We might love our ancient church buildings, enjoy singing our favourite hymns and seeing friends. But in the end, it's the words of eternal life that matter above all else. **Brian Williams**