

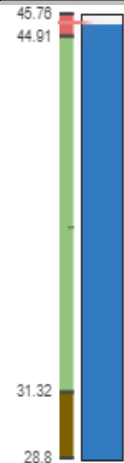
ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
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delivered free
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FLOODING – The Alkham Valley borehole still shows a very high reading as shown in the graphic on the left (31.32 is the typically low level and 44.91 the typically high). In December there was a sizeable lake on the village green which disappeared, but it is now reappearing again and the dyke is flowing very fast.

WITH THE NAILBOURNE flowing high this year along with a very high water table, residents will notice that the dyke in the Village Green is flowing very high and fast. Although it is great fun to see sticks and other debris float away fast, throwing these into the water results in possible blockages in culverts

further downstream and can cause road flooding. I would kindly ask residents to refrain from doing this to help out those people that live in the lower part of Short Lane. Thank you. **Dave Horn**

ALKHAM FETE – LAST CALL - There was a somewhat underwhelming response to my last message to see what support there would be for having Fete in July 2024 but nevertheless there will be a meeting on Monday 5th February at 8 pm in the Village Hall to see if we have sufficient volunteers to make it possible. We will need help running stalls and setting up and taking down the tents, etc. – all are welcome and it's in a good cause with the proceeds being split between the Church and the Village Hall. Please come along or contact me on 07947 016697 in advance. **Paul Tapsell**
CONGRATULATIONS to Gwyneira Jones (Gwyneira means Snow White in Welsh) who will be 100 years old on the 18th of January. Gwyneira has recently moved into the village to be with her son Hugh who lives in the centre of the village.

VILLAGE HALL – Catie Webber has taken over as booking secretary and the new details are on the back page. The village hall is generally available at £8 an hour for parishioners and if you would like to start a club or book the hall please contact us.

IF WOULD you like to brush up on your conversational Spanish come and join our Spanish speaking group on the first Saturday of each month at the Marquis starting on the 3rd of February at 11.00am. Please email me on alkhamamigos@outlook.com if you would like to give it a try; more details on page 2. **Nina Bellas**

PARISH COUNCIL OPEN SURGERY on Saturday 3rd February 10am-12pm at Alkham village hall. An opportunity to discuss issues informally with your parish councillors such as the meadow and new playground equipment, the Ewell Minnis phone box, flooding/sewage etc. Refreshments provided.



THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WALK

was again led by Paul Tapsell. We were blessed with many dogs and mild dry weather and set off on time just after 10 am. Paul took us a short way up Slip Lane to the path behind Evergreen and then up the steep Common Hill and then on to complete circuit through Fidge's Wood across the Chalksole Area at the top and down past Ellinge Cottage and Stonehill Wood coming back along the valley road to the village hall where we gathered for a lovely chat over mulled wine and cheese. **Catie Webber**

THERE IS A NEW FACEBOOK GROUP setup for the residents of Alkham, although it's not limited to those that live in the village, those from surrounding villages and towns are also welcome. The group is called Alkham Village Residents and if you wish to become a member please search for this name on Facebook and select Join Group, a moderator will approve the request and you will be free to post what you want, when you want to (within reason!) There is currently only 1 group rule: Just be nice! **Geoff Bartlett**

FILM NIGHT

Empire of Light Olivia Colman

February 27th 7.30pm

January 30th 7.30pm

The Quiet Girl

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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 17th February

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

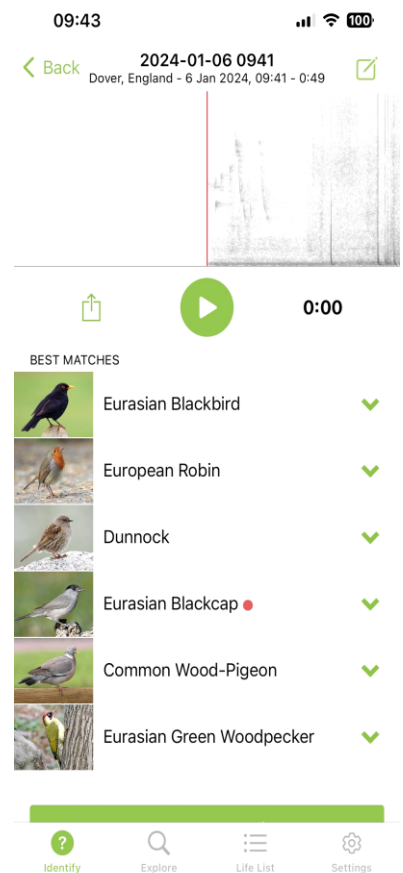
TREES - We want to let everyone know that one of the large ash trees at Drellingore Barns near the Stombers Lane/Alkham Valley Road junction needs to be felled owing to Ash dieback and proximity to the road. We don't anticipate any impact to road users while the tree is being felled, and wanted to reassure those who enjoy the view that a replacement will be planted and this felling doesn't portend any further tree clearing. Please reach out to family@drellingorebarns.com

if you have any questions or want to say 'hello'! **Daniel Jones**

UNION JACK FLAG - The flag on the village green has been taken down and left rolled up on our doorstep, without a note to explain, while we were away from home. Could the person who did this please contact me as I'm keen to understand why - perhaps the rope snapped in the wind? Although I organised the flag for the late Queen's Jubilee, it is owned by the Parish Council and not me. **Irene Barnard**

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers like you take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring. Have a look at the RSPB website to find out how you can help on the weekend of 26 to 28 January. Spend 1 hour looking at the birds in your garden and recording what you see. Last year's most commonly seen bird was the house sparrow followed by the blue tit. If you need some help in identifying birds and have a smart phone you could get the "Merlin bird Identifying" App. as I have done. It has an impressive feature which picks up the bird song and identifies the bird. I spent one minute outside in my garden and switched the App. to Sound ID. It identified the song of Blackbird, Robin, Dunnock, Blackcap. Wood Pigeon and Green Woodpecker. The phone screenshot shows the birds, all you have to do is spot them in the garden and send results to the RSPB. **Alan Latham**

BRUSH UP your Spanish continued from page 1 - Ideally you will be able to hold a simple conversation with others about your life and family. Don't worry if your Spanish is a bit rusty, because the aim of the group is to support one another to improve and enhance your existing skills. Meetings will last about one hour during which people can order their own tea and coffee etc. The first meeting will be held on Saturday 3rd February at 11am at the Marquis of Granby. Please email me on alkhamamigos@outlook.com if you would like to give it a try. **Nina Bellas**



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THE 24 HOUR pumping of water and other items from the sewer which is accessed from the village car park continues. The flooding is caused by the Alkham nailbourne running and is obviously an expensive operation and a continuous noise for adjacent properties.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - The parish council had their first of two meetings this month to set the budget for 2024-25. The ongoing flooding has led again to sewage issues and Southern Water are reporting back weekly on their remedial work and have started to use a quieter pumping system. The Speedwatch Team continue their good work and the parish council are additionally looking to implement a Lorry watch scheme. Trevor Johns represented the parish council at the Dover Council Local Plan hearings, all sessions of which can be viewed on the DDC web site. The Environment work group is organising a tree survey for parish council land and are also obtaining the costs for new playground equipment. New signage has gone up to remind everyone to clean up after dogs.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our January meeting was a fun one trying to show the ladies how to crochet a square. We did have a laugh doing this and our winner was Sue Ross followed by Debbie Saunders and Janet Barrow. Thank you to all the W.I. members that took part and a big thank you to my friend Nicola Church for helping me. Our next meeting is February 13th when our speaker will be Imogen Corrigan, subject Childlike. February's competition is whatever your creative skill is and please make something heart shape as February 14th is Valentines Day. Hostesses Sue Ross and Gina Daniels, raffle Janet Barrow, VOT Helen Price. New members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

2001 FLOOD – The village hall was flooded when the Alkham nailbourne flowed in 2001. In the April edition of the Dover Mercury they had a cartoon as shown below and the following month they had another cartoon advertising Alkham cruises. A flood photo competition was held in the old shop (Old Post Office, Slip Lane) and it was a great success with photos taken by villagers covering all three walls with a prize for the best photo. The village green gradually dried out and the fete was held in July and this too was a great success. **editor**





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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	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	27	Film Night – Empire of light
Thursday	29	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00am
Saturday 10th	Fun, fellowship and food (accompanied child) 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Wednesday 14th		Eucharist 7.00 p.m.	
Sunday 18th	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 25th	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
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FROM THE VICARAGE - I recall a parent's evening, years ago, in the days when I was teaching Religious Education in school. A parent introduced herself and sat down. Her daughter was a good student - her book was immaculate, work was always completed, and she had done well in her exam – I was really pleased with her, I said. Mum stared at me, listening in silence. Finally, she spoke. *"It's a funny thing to be good at, isn't it? R.E., I mean..."* It was then that I realised that Mum wasn't pleased at all. In fact, she was panicking; she probably had dreams of her daughter becoming a doctor, or a lawyer, or a nursery nurse or something – but surely, not a nun! Anything but that! But why should R.E. be a funny thing to be good at? After all, it's to do with what matters to people, how they find meaning and purpose in their lives and understanding why they do the things they do. It's about understanding, for instance, that there's more to Lent – which this year begins on St Valentine's Day - than just spending forty days doing without chocolate. It's about understanding that there's more to Easter than bunnies – cute and fluffy though bunnies might be - and making up for all the chocolate that you didn't eat during Lent. I doubt that many, if any, of my former students have ended up as nuns. But over the years I was privileged to meet young people who often surprised others – and themselves – by discovering talents that they didn't know they had. So, if a child you know achieves the unexpected, celebrate it. There's no such thing as 'a funny thing to be good at'! **Brian Williams**