

# ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

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delivered free  
to the Parish

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**FETE MEETING** -Thank you to everyone who attended or contacted me about the Fete Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February - we had an excellent turnout and I'm pleased to confirm that we will be holding a Village Fete on the **13<sup>th</sup> of July 2024 from 2 pm**; we

still need volunteers and will be having a further meeting in late April/early May to finalise details. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact me on 07947 016697. **Paul Tapsell**

**ALKHAM UK UNION FLAG** - As thought the rope supporting the flag had indeed broken in very windy weather. Our thanks to Elaine and Nathan for caring enough to pick it up. The flag has been laundered and new rope purchased and will be reinstated when we have milder weather. **Irene Barnard**

**FOUND** by the milk vending machine in the village hall car park a diamond ring. Please ring Catie on 01304 768236 if you have lost it.

**DO YOU LOVE FLOWERS**, meeting people and learning a craft? Why not come to Dover Flower Club? We are a friendly bunch of people with one thing in common - a love of flowers. We meet monthly on the fourth Monday of the month at Whitfield Village Hall at 7.15pm, other than August and December. Monthly we have demonstrations, talks or workshops. On February 26<sup>th</sup> Susan Shaw will entertain us with her demonstration 'Chasing Rainbows'. For further information please contact Mig Kimpton on 07831 838851 or Cicely Finnis 07977 334672, visitors are always welcome, come and see us soon. **Maxine West-Burr**

**THANK YOU** to everyone who attended the parish surgery, we hope you found it useful. If you were unable to attend, please don't hesitate to get in touch. January saw two meetings to finalise the Parish Council budget for the next financial year. The Drop-In Surgery was very well attended. Southern Water sent a team to give an update on the sewage overflow problem in the valley and the Environment Team reported on discussions with playground equipment providers and asked for feedback for both equipment and environmental initiatives. The next parish council meeting will be on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of March at 19:00. **Alkham Parish Council**

**SNOWDROP WALK** and litter pick moved to Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> 10:30 outside the village hall. Please wear high viz or light coloured clothing and gloves. Bin bags provided. Last year we made an amazing difference and we hope to do so again. All welcome. **Catie AVS**

**WOULD ANYONE** be interested in a new group activity in the Village Hall on a Monday or Thursday morning? We know that men's social and support networks often revolve around work and when this changes or they retire, they often lose touch and can become lonely and isolated, which can lead to a wide range of health issues. Kent Sheds grew from this desire to provide a place where Men could come together, make social connections, build friendships, share skills and knowledge whilst hopefully having fun. Kent Sheds vary across the county and provide a wide range of activities, often including woodworking, metalworking, repairing, restoring and gardening. Men's Sheds typically attract older men, but many have women and younger members too. The one thing that all sheds share is their concept of providing a safe place for likeminded people to come together for a sense of belonging. If you have any interest, in the first place please contact brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

## FILM NIGHT No film in March

Empire of Light Olivia Colman

February 27<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm

Free but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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### Tai Chi

Wednesday, 3.30 - 4.30 PM

Wootton Village Hall

Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM

Hawkinge Community Centre

Contact Anna Dashwood

07736 849 194 www.pfstaichi.com

### Streetz2Streetz

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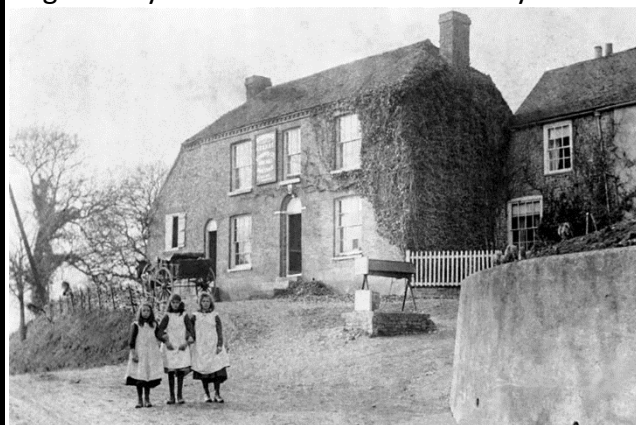
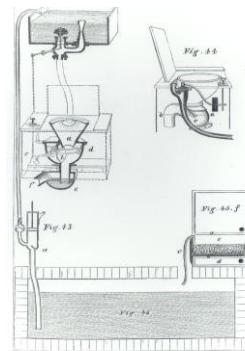
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March

will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm

Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details

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**CISTERN** - Money saving expert Martin Lewis says that if you have more bedrooms than people in the house you can save money by having a water meter fitted. We have been awash with water recently so perhaps we should start to harvest it instead of buying it. Rainwater harvesting is a must for the new generation of eco houses but the Victorians were doing it and others before them. Some of the older houses in the village have a large brick and mortar lined chamber either under or adjacent to the house. In Alkham I know of one that is in use and another that was abandoned and filled with all manner of things. Such water holding structures are referred to as cisterns and differ from wells in that they are filled with rainwater from roofs rather than groundwater that fills wells. Cisterns are only a couple of metres deep and lined to keep groundwater out. So why have a cistern if you have a well? The Victorians in hard water areas like Alkham found that doing the laundry in hard water was not as effective as using the soft rainwater and hauling water from the village well was a lot more work than hand pumping from a cistern in the garden. Surprisingly piped water did not arrive in Alkham until just after the Second World War in the late 1940's. If you have saved water and money by having a water meter fitted, your next step is to start rainwater harvesting even if you only use it for watering the garden and digging a 2m deep hole will keep you fit! The illustration shows how you might use your rainwater cistern to fill your toilet cistern. **Alan Latham**



**VILLAGE WELL** - A lot of the houses in Alkham had cisterns but the village well in front of the Marquis of Granby was a well as can be seen in the 1930's photo on the left. Parish Council minutes record that there were complaints

about people not covering the well after they got their water. The cisterns, as mentioned above, could be very big with vaulted ceilings for providing water to hospitals and other large buildings and the Old Post Office in Alkham still has one which works when it wants to for watering the garden in dry periods. **Editor**

**ANYONE WILLING** to help with materials or labour to decorate St Anthony's Church for Easter on Thursday 28 March and Friday 29<sup>th</sup>. Long pieces of coloured dogwood stems, forsythia and blossom would be appreciated. Thanks, Catie.



**ALKHAM W.I.** - Our February meeting was a very interesting one and our speaker was Imogen Corrigan talking about medieval children. Our next meeting is March 12<sup>th</sup> and it's our AGM when we will be voting for a new president as Helen Scopes will be retiring. Hostesses are Vanessa Oakley and Christine Banham, Raffle Debbie Griggs. All members to wear something yellow e.g. ribbon flower as it is Marie Curie on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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**ON THE 16TH OF MARCH** Southern Equestrian Supplies are holding a cake morning at which you can come and buy cakes from us and proceeds go to Marie Curie. If anyone from the village would like to bake a cake or more and drop it into us at the Garden Centre please, we would be very grateful. We would also be very grateful if you would help us to support the charity. Many thanks Debbie Griggs.

**CHURCHYARD** – Susan Lees, who lived in Alkham, was the Parish Clerk from 1982 to 2006 and she did a survey of the churchyard from which she produced a plan of the graves together with the details on the gravestone. As a result, a 13 page A4 booklet has been made which has been left in St. Anthony's church in which the names of the people are listed in alphabetical order together with the details on the memorial. There is a number against each entry and these numbers in sequential order are shown on a plan of the churchyard so that a visitor can find where a grave is. If anyone would like a PDF copy of this, please email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com).

**ASIAN HORNET UPDATE** - The Dover and District Bee Keeping Association (DDBKA) met at the end of January in the village hall, the meeting was focused on planning for the coming year and how best to tackle the invasive Asian Hornet (AH). The meeting was very well attended and the number of cars trying to park were more than the car parks capacity, so firstly, sorry to anyone who was inconvenienced. We had a talk from a representative from the National Bee Unit (NBU), they have been pivotal in tracking and locating Asian hornets and nests since the sudden increase last year. Last year the NBU located 72 nests in 55 locations, the majority in the South East. Northern France is now heavily populated by AHs and the NBU believe they have travelled over here in cars, lorries, containers, on ferries and some have flown/been blown over. 7 nests were located in the cliffs at Capel. The AHs trapped in Alkham seem to have come from a nest located in Ewell Minnis. As temperatures rise the NBU expect queens will come out of hibernation and start new colonies. February is therefore the time to set spring traps to try and trap these queens before they start laying. There is more guidance this year regarding safety and insurance when dealing with AHs. The British Bee Keeping Association covers its members for monitoring traps, which includes releasing bi catch and replenishing the bait - Trappit. DDBKA have a team of AH team members lead by Jackie Thomas the AH Coordinator. The plan is to try and place a hornet trap at roughly 1km intervals throughout the area and have these monitored by members. Please, if you can, load the free Hornet Watch App onto your phone. It is a very easy and effective way to report sightings, it is also very helpful in identifying the AH versus the slightly larger but native European hornet. The European hornet poses no risk to our bees and other insects and although it looks large and can give a nasty sting it does not need to be reported. You can also report sightings of the AH by completing an online form on the nonnative species.org website. If you have more questions DDBKA have an email address [doverasianhornets@btinternet.com](mailto:doverasianhornets@btinternet.com). **Emma Kaile**



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### Regular events in the village hall

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

### Other events in the village hall

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12</b>	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>28</b>	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

### CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Fun, fellowship and food – children plus adult 3.00 – 5.00 pm</i>		
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 7.00 am	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  
Assumed correct but check on [www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables) and 91 bus

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**FROM THE VICARAGE** - I remember the hours I spent as a teenager waiting for the bus to school – and how I would smile whenever I heard older people in the queue start a conversation. If it wasn't the weather, it was their aches and pains that they always seemed to talk about. Years have passed, and I must admit that that particular chicken has come home to roost. There was a time when I could run up a staircase, often two steps at a time, carrying schoolbooks from one lesson to the next – but now my knees usually complain when I try anything like that. At the bus station the other day I happened to see someone I knew. We started by asking each other how we were. Guess how the conversation went...! As I write it is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is a time when people talk about giving something up – for Christians, a way of preparing to keep Holy Week and Easter. I've been reading about a monk, St John of the Cross, who lived in Spain during the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and who, to put it simply, compared getting to know God to going on a journey or, more precisely, to climbing a mountain. It's a journey that, like life itself, has challenging uphill stretches. One of his 'big ideas' is that God wants to help us along on the journey – but we must realise that we can only accept what's on offer if we're prepared to risk letting go of what we already have. We can't accept anything new if our hands are already full. So perhaps I'll try less giving up, and more letting go this Lent. And I'll joyfully embrace life with wonky knees ... **Brian Williams**