

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

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to the Parish



FLOOD – It's not clear what is going to happen with the flooding as it rises and falls but a family from Newlyn's Meadow had great fun on the lake over the village green in their rubber inflatable.

VILLAGE HALL - The A.G.M. of the Alkham Village Hall Management Committee will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 16th April from 7.00p.m. All are welcome. Come and give your views on what we are doing or should be doing for the benefit of the village, the local community and any of the organisations who regularly use the Hall. **Janet Adamson, Hon Secretary** janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com

ALKHAM FETE - There will be a Fete Meeting at 8 pm on the 8th of April 2024 in the Village Hall to finalise arrangements for the Fete - I know it's already in your diary, but it's 13th July 2024 from 2 pm! Please come along - new faces and ideas are always welcome. If you can't make it, please let me know on 07947 016697 or via the Fete WhatsApp Group. **Paul Tapsell**.

ALKHAM FETE - It is now confirmed we are having our Alkham Fete in July so perhaps a good time to ask for unwanted gifts and decent saleable bric-à-brac items for my stall. China, glass, ornaments and prints usually sell well but happy to look at any other item you are kind enough to donate. No clothes please unless it's vintage Dior or Chanel size 12 - just kidding. **Irene 07789 412432**

PLANTS - At this year's fete Vernon James will be running the plant stall. If anyone has planted too much of anything rather than put it on the compost heap, please could they bear us in mind so we can put it on the stall for the Fete and any donations will be greatly appreciated. Please email anitajames163@gmail.com or phone 07760475365 if you can help. **Anita James**

PARISH COUNCIL - The village green and football field flooding appears to have stabilised but Southern Water continue to pump out the sewage system 24hr a day. They have reported that a survey will be carried out to assess where the flood water is leaking into the sewers. A survey of the trees on vicarage meadow will be carried out in the next few weeks. We are still waiting for the last playground equipment quote and we will be holding a fundraising quiz on Friday 3rd May, see separate article for details. We have a volunteer to paint the Temple Ewell telephone box who will be starting the refurbishment when BT confirm parish ownership. Kent Highways are currently running a traffic survey to ratify the Highways Improvement Plan.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - We'd like to take a quick moment to thank you all in the village for your support as this April marks 5 years since we took over the reins of your local and we couldn't be happier to be part of this community. Please do pop in for a drink to help us celebrate over the next few weeks. Don't forget to check out our great value set lunch menu and our latest spring menu which has been launched as well. **Michael Cartwright – Manager**

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL are organising a quiz evening at the village hall to help raise funds for new play equipment. It will be on Friday 3rd of May from 7:30pm. Tickets £5 per person, tables of up to 6 people. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. There will also be a raffle with great prizes. To book a table, please ring Marian on 07305 554662 or Catie on 07976 649726.

FILM NIGHT in village hall **The Miracle Club**

Maggie Smith, Kaura Linney, Kathy Bates
April 30th 7.30pm
Free entry but £4 donation appreciated

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Wootton Village Hall

Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM
Hawkinge Community Centre

Contact Anna Dashwood
07736 849 194 www.pfstaichi.com

Streetz2Streetz Mobile Fish and Chip Unit Saturday 20th April

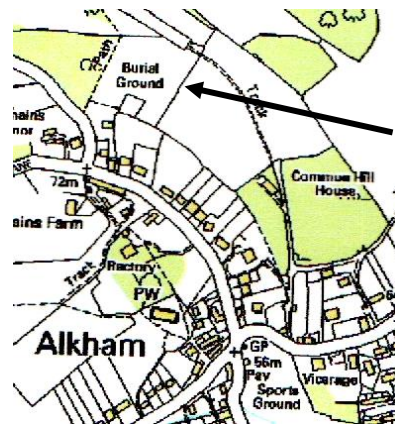
will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm
Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details
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MEMENTO MORI - I recently took an interest in the listed buildings and monuments in the Parish. The Historic England website lists 25. As expected, St. Anthony's Church and the Old Rectory featured amongst the 25 results returned by a search. What surprised me was that seven of the results were gravestones or



groups of gravestones. The Historic England listings give the approximate positions and so off I went to find out what made a gravestone worthy of a Grade 2 listing. A common feature was the carving of reliefs depicting death. Skulls, crossed bones, coffins and a little less macabre was a cherub or open book, presumably the bible. They are generally from the 18th century and the symbols and motifs are a reminder that we all must die and to be prepared (memento

mori). A little more research led me to a web site entitled 'Find a Grave'. Not to be missed if you're doing the family tree. There are graveyards, crematoria and cemeteries from all over the world and St Anthony's is one of them. It lists 647 people, some with photographs and biographies. It is an open site meaning that after joining for free you can add or edit information and request information from other users. I have responded to a few by uploading photographs of specific stones and received a thank you from a woman in Australia. My intention was to make it known which of the gravestones were listed Grade 2 and I have made a start. Anyone want to help, jump in. Ref. <https://historicengland.org.uk/> and <https://www.findagrave.com/>. **Alan Latham**



CHAPELS - There were two Wesleyan Chapels in Alkham, one being on the hill opposite Glebelands and the other was in Slip Lane which also had a burial ground behind that still exists. The Chapel closed in 1960 and the building was sold but didn't include the graveyard which is now a piece of isolated land. The people buried there are not recorded but some gravestones are still standing. **editor**

DOVER FLOWER CLUB - A friendly flower club for anyone who is interested in arranging, growing, or simply admiring flowers. The club meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7.15pm, at Whitfield Village Hall, Manley Close CT16 0LY. We organise flower arranging demonstrations, workshops to improve skills, visits and talks. Our programme for Spring is as follows: Monday 25th March, a flower arranging demonstration by Elloise Hasler Scott, entitled 'Spring walk'; Monday 22nd April, a flower arranging demonstration by Iris Shaw entitled 'Anything Goes'. For more details contact Mig Kimpton 07831 838851.

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SHEDS – In last month's newsletter there was an article about Men's Sheds as when men retire, they often lose touch and can become lonely and isolated. There were only two responses to the article so it looks unlikely that one will start in Alkham but please contact brianwimsett@hotmail.com if you think one would be worthwhile. However, there are several sheds locally and the one at Paddlesworth near Hawkinge has activities such as agriculture and woodwork, contact john.roberts1@btconnect.com or 01303 259007. The Cheriton Marigold Shed, Cheriton Road, Folkestone does woodwork and the Crabble Cornmill Shed woodwork and gardening, contact: David.keningale@gmail.com.



THE PHOTO on the left shows the Alkham Village Hall being built in 1930 and Thomas Tunbridge can be seen standing on the ground where the floor will be. They later put wooden battens on this ground and then tongue and groove flooring on top. When the ground water rises outside it will also rise inside the hall and that's why there are no sandbags round the hall, which could make matters worse by stopping the water draining away. **editor**

TREES – The Woodland Trust does a lot of good work and they intend to plant 10,000 trees across 100 hectares of ex-arable land at Hawkhurst in Kent, which also has ancient woodland. Dormice are at risk, but their surveyors found baby dormice in the new nesting tubes which is good news. The Trust offers various subsidised packs of trees, details of which can be found on their web site. **editor**



VILLAGE WEB SITE – Harlan Webber, who lives in the village, is to be congratulated for the unpaid work that he has carried out on the village web site alkham.org and it is now possible to book the village hall through the web site and see what dates are available. He has brought the site up to date but retained the existing format. **editor**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our March meeting was a success when we appointed a new president and a new treasurer. Our next meeting is on the 9th of April when our speaker will be Mr. Garry Manser who will be talking about scams and data protection. This is open to the village so if any non-members would like to pop along it will be £2 entry. Hostesses Margaret Batcheldor and Lucy McKenzie, raffle Sue Ross and VOT Helen Scopes. All new members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

SNOWDROP WALK - Eight hardy souls gathered on a cold drizzling Sunday February 25th for the annual AVS snowdrop walk and litter pick. This year we were supported by DDC who once we had submitted our risk assessment provided a loan of high viz jackets and grab sticks plus collected the rubbish afterwards. We split into 4 teams of 2 and managed to collect 16 bags of litter as well as reporting counts of fly tipping and **PLEASE HELP** with the Spring Cleaning of the Church 10:30 am Saturday 27th April. Need to dust and polish and spruce things up. **Catie Webber**



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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

Monday	8	Fete meeting 8pm
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	16	Village Hall AGM 7pm
Thursday	25	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	United Parish Eucharist at St Mary's (Capel Old Church) 10.00 am		
Saturday 13th	Fun, fellowship and food –3.00 – 5.00 pm (adult accompanied)		
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11 am	Worship 11 am
Sunday 21st	Worship 11am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11 am
Sunday 28th	Sung Eucharist at St Laurence, Hougham 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
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MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
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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 16th 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**