

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

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Non-profit &
delivered free
to the Parish

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IT'S BACK! Alkham sunflower competition, to win the much-coveted trophy and a prize. All you are required to do is grow the tallest Sunflower and we can supply the seedlings for free, or contestants can grow their own. They can be grown in a pot or in the ground the only rule is that they have to be grown in the parish of Alkham. Then just fend off the slugs and the squirrels and the measuring day is usually at the end of August but yet to specified. Our measurement team will measure all the sunflowers and whoever's is the tallest wins the prize and of course bragging rights. If you would like to take part, please let myself or Vernon know and if you would like us to supply you with a seedling. **Anita James** anitajames163@gmail.com

HANDBAGS - At the fete on the 13th of July Jane will be running the very popular handbag stall. Could the ladies and let's not forget gents of the village please rummage around in any wardrobes and if there is a handbag or perhaps man bag that is no longer of use, please could you let Jane know by phoning her on 07340749788. Jane will even come and collect them if necessary.

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL - A reminder that we are hosting a quiz night on Friday 3rd of May at 7:30pm to raise funds for the new playground equipment. It is £5 per person and up to 6 people per table. The village green tree survey is now completed and any remedial work will be done in due course. The traffic surveys are now completed and the data is being analysed to help formulate Alkham's Highways Improvement Plan. Alkham Speedwatch now have 3 bodycams thanks to Councillor David Beaney's KCC grant. A public consultation opened on the 11th of April giving residents the chance to have their say on modifications to the Dover District Local Plan. The consultation is open for six weeks and closes at 5pm on the 24th of May. DDC and KCC are working on the current round of Solar Together Kent, a group-buying scheme for households and small businesses to get high-quality solar panels at a competitive price. The more people who register will generate potentially bigger savings. Further information on these is available on the parish council and DDC websites. The local MP Natalie Elphicke has confirmed her attendance at a drop-in at the village hall on 14th of September. Further information to follow.

PIANO available in Alkham for free to a good home! It was last tuned just before lockdown. Must be able to collect and take it away! Call Nicola on 07713894408.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY, a musical evening with Snowdon Male Voice Choir at St. Anthony's church on the 15th of June at 7.30pm. After our very successful concert in 2022 we've had a number of requests for another. As a member of the Snowdon Male Voice Choir, I am so looking forward to this concert in our wonderful church alongside another 'Alkham boy' Harlan Webber who joined the choir last year. Since that last concert we have a new director, our very own 'Alkham music man' Graham Bissett. Many of you who know Graham will be aware how passionate and enthusiastic he is about music and for the last few years has been leading the village choir 'Valley Voices', who meet every Wednesday evening in the village hall. Further concert details (tickets) will be published in next month's newsletter. **Ken Spencer**

FLOODING - The GOV.UK website says that the groundwater levels in East Kent remain very high but are expected to remain at a stable level. The highest borehole level of 45.76m was in 2001 when the village hall flooded and in February of this year it was at 45.75m with a big lake appearing on the village green and ominously creeping towards the hall. Since then, the borehole level has reduced by about 50mm. **editor**

FILM NIGHT

28th May 7.30pm village hall

The Great Escaper

Michael Caine Glenda Jackson

April 30th The Miracle Club

Free entry but £4 donation 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

Streetz2Streetz

Mobile Fish and Chip Unit

Saturday 20th April

No visit in May

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

MURDER, MYSTERY AND TRUTH - I was investigating 'no dig gardening' using wood chips and was interested to know where all your green waste is carted off to. One of my sources states that Dover DC collect it and take it to Hope Farm at Capel. They shred it and pile it up outside where it decomposes, periodically it is turned to get the air in, which is needed for the composting process. Sounded interesting and so I had a look on Google maps at which point I lost interest in compost because Hope Farm is very close to "Cut Throat Lane". I recalled that there had been a double murder in Capel Le Ferne in the 19th century and now thought I had found the scene of the crime. I am not often wrong, ask my wife, but I was wrong on two counts, first of all you don't use composted wood chip/ green waste in no dig gardening. The idea is to protect the soil with an inert layer that does not support growth but keeps the soil underneath moist and free of self seeding weeds. For the full story search the internet and save all your shrub like cuttings complete with leaves for shredding and mulching; no digging. My second error was assuming the double murder by Dedeia Redanies in the 1850s was committed in Cut Throat Lane. It had taken place nearer to the cliff tops. It appears from my surfing that there are numerous Cut Throat Lanes across the UK and that the name has probably been derived from "Cut A Thwart Lane" meaning a short cut. "Cut A Thwart Lane" still exists in a number of counties, this one in Essex. **Alan Latham**



GREAT NEWS for our local primary school!! The Schools Minister Damian Hinds has praised a Dover primary school for being in the country's top 1% for reading, writing and maths. Hinds sent a letter of congratulations to Temple Ewell Church of England Primary School in Brookside for its "very high standard of achievement". Mrs. Matthews, headteacher said "We are extremely proud of this achievement and we are 3rd in Kent. We currently have spaces in some year groups so please contact the office on 01304 822665 to make enquiries and to come and have a look round." **Nicola Church**



HORSES - Memorials are held for the men and women killed in WWI but generally not for the horses. About half a million horses from Britain died in the war and conditions for them must have been appalling so it was good to see a memorial on a tree at Acrise in memory of some of their farm horses which were requisitioned by the government and subsequently killed in WWI. **editor**

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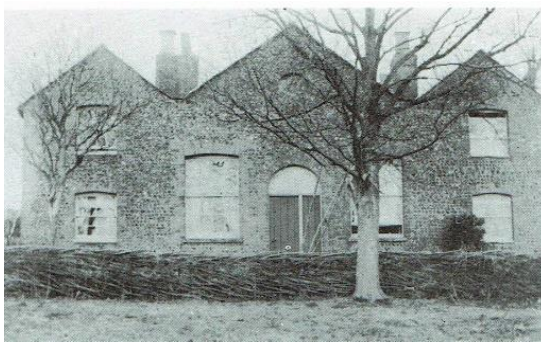
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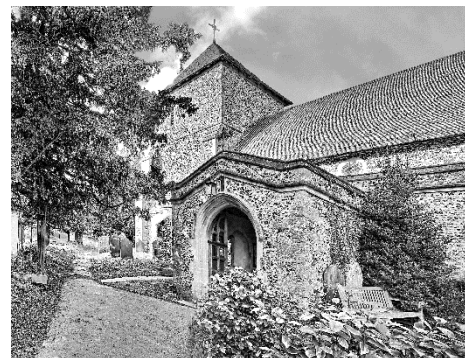
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FURTHER to the articles on chapels and Sue Lee's superb cemetery list, the photo on the left shows the Mission Hall on the hill opposite the newly built Glebelands as shown in the background in the 1950's photo. The Mission Hall or chapel is in the centre with a cottage either side and the last people to live in the cottages were George Kitham and his sister Mabel. In 1894 Parish Councils were enacted which replaced the Vestry and George's father

was the first Parish Clerk with his son George taking over in 1924 for another 35 years. There are 21 Kitham's buried in St. Anthony's cemetery with Mabel dying in 1958 and George a year later and the earliest Kitham burial was in 1722 so it was an old Alkham name which appears to have ended with Mabel and George. **editor**

THE BELLS – It is good to hear the bells still ringing at St. Anthony's church and also to hear them change ringing when rather than ringing in order they alternate when instructed by the tower captain. However, change ringing in Victorian times was not very orderly with swearing, smoking and a barrel of beer in the tower normal and a deep rift developed between ringers and clergy, with some towers closed by their incumbents. The ringers often broke into the belfries to ring or drink and were usually very independent, reserving the right to choose when to ring. The bells are church property, so the vicar has law on his side, but little can be done against a difficult band of ringers. In rural areas, any action rebounded because the community was close knit and everyone was related, which could result in smaller congregations and collection money. The details above were from an article by the Association of Ringing Teachers and was sent to me by Anita James who with her husband are carrying on the tradition of bell ringing in Alkham but without the habits of the past. **editor**



ALKHAM W.I. - Our April meeting was all about scams and data protection which was an eye opener for us. Our next meeting is on the 14th of May and it's our resolutions meeting. Hostesses are Janet Adams and Sue Koo, raffle Helen Price. Competition time for all members bring something that you have made. New members 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	14	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	28	Film Night 7.30pm see page 1
Thursday	30	Tea & chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Thursday 9th	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 7.00 p.m.		
Saturday 11th	Fun, fellowship and food – children accompanied 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 19th	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 26th	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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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

FROM THE VICARAGE - Here's an opportunity – a Victorian property in Chester close to the cathedral, city centre and railway station. To the rear, spectacular views across the River Dee into North Wales. Yours for £100,000, but with a very leaky roof. Or if you want to stay closer to home, £500,000 secures a distinctive piece of 1960s architecture situated on the seafront at St Leonards. A little-known corner of the Church of England website lists redundant churches for sale. Some are converted for commercial use, others become executive homes or flats - and therefore off limits to anyone wanting a trip down Memory Lane - while others, sadly, are demolished. Fortunately others, like our own St Mary's, Capel le Ferne, will pass to the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) which acquires those that are of historical interest and opens them to the public. Services are held at St Mary's about three times a year, weather permitting. The church is swept beforehand, and dead leaves, deceased insects and so on removed. Although the church might look neglected, it really isn't, it's just redundant – the CCT check it regularly, and their contractors deal with any repairs needed. Someone recently expressed an interest on social media in forming a group who might like to help to clean the church. I contacted the CCTs Local Community Officer Nick Watts, who writes: It would be fantastic if there are some locals who are willing to support the church, but I must stress that they are currently not permitted to do any repairs or heavy cleaning. This is of course a grade I listed structure, and the group would be in breach of Historic England's heritage listing status if they did anything without the CCTs consent. Interested? Please contact Nick at nwatts@theccct.org.uk or on 07972 767010. **Brian Williams**