

# ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

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**A PLANNING APPLICATION** has been made to build 3 detached dwellings, community building and garages on land adjacent to Drellingore Terrace with access to the site by the track that runs alongside the bungalow as shown on the adjacent plan. In addition, there are planning applications for 2 detached properties by Upton Cottages to the east and 2 a little further on by Lockering Lane. The company name on the applications is Affinity Water and there have been numerous objectors a lot of whom attended the Parish Council meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April to express their views. There is also an application for a house by Drellingore Rise which is by the bend on the plan.

**FETE MEETING** - There will be a Fete Meeting at 8 pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of June at 8 pm in the village hall. It's the last one before the big day so please come along so we can ensure everything is ready to go. We still need someone to take charge of the Raffle - please contact me if you're able to assist. I will use the WhatsApp group to arrange a day for checking the tents in advance of the meeting so please check your phones!

**Paul Tapsell 07947 016697**

**NO MOW** – The Parish Council have created a no mow area on the village green – see page 3 for more details.

**GOOD NEWS** as it appears the Alkham Nailbourne has stopped running and Southern Water have laid planings and crushed rock on the village car park because of the damage caused by the tankers. They were asked to repair the village hall car park, but this hasn't happened yet.

**ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL** - This month has seen both a very well attended extraordinary parish council meeting and the annual parish and council meetings. The council has reviewed its procedures and policies and progressed with matters around the vicarage meadow in particular. The quiz to help raise funds for new playground equipment was very successful and raised £580. We have also now received quotes for the tree maintenance, which should be completed shortly.



**CONCERT** - A Musical Evening at St. Anthony's Church on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> of June at 7.30pm. Please join us for a great evening with the Snowdown Colliery Welfare Male Voice Choir with special guests your very own Valley Voices Choir in the beautiful St. Anthony's church. There will be an interval for refreshments and presenting an amazing selection of door prizes that will include £100 cash prize, a luxury hamper, lunch for two at the Marquis, afternoon tea for two at the Alkham Garden Centre and a case of vintage wine and a bottle of Moët. Tickets £12 (this includes the draw). Contact Catie Webber 07976649726 or [alkham@snowdown-choir.co.uk](mailto:alkham@snowdown-choir.co.uk). **Ken Spencer**

**VILLAGE HALL** – At the AGM the treasurer reported that the hall broke even in the last financial year which was an improvement on the loss made in the previous year. The officers were re-elected but with two resignations there are only three committee members so if anyone else who would like to become involved with the running of the hall, please email [janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com](mailto:janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com). It was agreed to revise the hire rates and abolish the 10% discount for repeated bookings and increase the local rate from £8 to £10 per hour and the hall is to have a deep clean and the kitchen updated.

## FILM NIGHT

25<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm village hall

The Holdovers – Paul Giamatti

28<sup>th</sup> May The Great Escaper

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

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Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June

will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm

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### DRAINAGE TREATMENT

A planning application has been made to install a drainage treatment plant to serve the existing barn buildings adjacent to Great Everden Manor as there is

no access to mains drainage. The proposed system will include a new drainage system to serve the two buildings which will connect to a three-stage treatment plant that then can safely discharge to a suitable drainage field. Great Everden Farm is a separate entity from the Manor and as an agricultural and farming piece of land and having the 2 large barns, it needs its own toilets so as to keep the environment clean and healthy ...

**THERE HAVE BEEN 14** objections to the above application and the main reason is that the barns are empty and at present there no people to use the installation and that the installation of a large plant will in turn lead to a reapplication of previously declined additional accommodation. It was thought that the Foul Drainage Assessment forms last page was nonsense regarding an expected flow of a maximum 10,000 litres per day which equates to 10 tonnes for two currently unoccupied barns. **editor NEWSLETTER** – Many thanks to Reg Woodruff who has been delivering 10 newsletters each month to the houses at Wolverton. Some of the houses are on the Valley Road and on the last delivery he was nearly hit by a vehicle so quite rightly he has decided to stop and it's unlikely that anyone else will take over. If anybody is willing to do it, please contact me but failing that I will try and get the email addresses and I will add it to the list that I send out. **editor**

**HUGE THANK YOU** to those who helped me spring clean St. Anthony's Church - namely Alan T, Anne, Carol, Den, Frances, Irene, Marian, Rachel and Richard T. It looks and smells so much better. Thank you. **Catie Webber**  
**THE RIVER DOUR** – In the early 2000's my neighbour Ken and I used to walk the dogs from Alkham up to Ewell Minnis and then down a footpath to Watersend on the old A2 to the east of Lydden. There is a clue in the name, but I didn't realise that Watersend is the source of the river Dour. It is a chalk stream that flows out of the ground and goes through Temple Ewell and River with a tributary coming from the Alkham Valley and is about 4 miles long. There used to be several water mills along the river including eight corn mills and five paper mills, so it was obviously a powerful river. The Dour continues through Dover partly in culvert before entering the sea at Wellington Docks. **editor**

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Our May meeting was our resolutions meeting the topic was about Dentistry and we had to vote for more NHS dentists than private ones. Our next meeting is on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June when our speaker will be from The Dover Smart Group. Hostesses are Christine Peel and Jane Aslett, Raffle Janet Barrow and VOT Nicola Church. New members always welcome. The W.I. ladies are very talented and the photo shows one of the items work that was had entered in a W.I. competition. **Debbie Griggs**



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## ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK

If you are interested in the history of

Alkham an A4 51-page book is

available with many old photos in

and costs £2.50. Please email

brianwimsett@hotmail.com

**JAMES CHRISTOPHER TAPSELL** - It is with sadness we have to report that Chris Tapsell passed away on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2024, aged 88 years. Although his name was James, he was known to everyone as Chris. Chris was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 1936 and he spent his first few years in Dover and then moved to Chalksole Farm Alkham with his family during World War II. Chris attended Alkham School, completed his apprenticeship and worked as a carpenter. He lived in several properties in Alkham and was a member of the congregation at St Anthony's Church, where he was a church warden and sidesman, was a bell ringer and worked on the upkeep of the church and churchyard. Chris was also involved with Alkham Cricket Club, Alkham Valley Society, Whist Drives and was an active member of the Village Hall and Fete committees and opening the fete. He also had a good knowledge of the history of Alkham. Chris enjoyed spending time in his garden, was an avid vegetable grower, had a keen interest in animals, wildlife and the countryside. He also enjoyed playing bowls, card games and watching cricket. In later years Chris and Jane moved to Shepherdswell and then to Hythe. He was always happy to be with his family and many friends. The funeral is on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May at 11am at Shepherdswell Church followed by cremation at Barham.

**NO MOW MAY**, no alcohol August, no dig gardening, where will it end? Looks like sitting back and doing nothing, without a glass in your hand, is the way forward. For me there is a little pleasure in a bit of mowing but apparently, it's not good for the flora and fauna and a little alcohol takes the edge of the woes of life but I think I could give up digging so what's it all about? I thought I would have a look at what the Royal Horticultural Society have to say about it: Using compost produced in your own garden is an environmentally sustainable way to care for your soil and can be used for edible and ornamental beds and borders; it improves any garden soil by adding organic matter and reducing cultivation (digging) and plants access nutrients through the action of soil-dwelling organisms, meaning little or no fertilisers are required. If you are going to have a go then you will need a lorry load of compost because instead of digging you cover the ground with up to 6" of compost. If it's a weedy patch then precede this with a layer of cardboard less plastic tapes and staples. How easy is that compared with digging! I understand that it gets easier as the compost only needs topping up in subsequent years. Plant into the compost without disturbing the topsoil underneath which is where all the magic of undisturbed soil happens. Apparently, the worms and organisms down there will create everything your plants need. Whatever you do, disturb it as little as possible lest you destroy this underground bio factory. No more fertiliser required and self-seeding weeds in that compost layer will be easily dealt with by hoeing. I have never done this but in the UK Charles Dowding is the man with the knowledge and experience and has written much on the subject. There are even more radical no dig methods using wood chips. Replace the compost with freshly shredded wood chips. All of the above advantages are claimed plus weed seeds cannot germinate in the open textured chip material which also prevents evaporation from the soil below and consequently watering is not required. Dr. Linda Chalker Scott is an expert on the subject. Get googling, try "Wood Chip Mulch Gardening Myths and Facts". Alkham Parish council have created a 'No Mow' area on the village green. **Alan Latham**



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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	11	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	15	Choir in St. Anthony's see page 1
Tuesday	25	Film Night 7.30pm see page 1
Thursday	27	Tea & chat 2.30pm to 4pm

### CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Messy Church, followed by tea 3.00 – 5.00 pm</i> Capel		
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	St Mary's (Capel_Old Church) United Parish Eucharist 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  
**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** - Having been a teacher, I've spent years encouraging young people to plan for the future – to think about what they would like to do in life, and to work hard to try to make it happen. I had done the same at their age - I can still remember nervously opening the envelope containing my exam results, the excitement of being given my first teaching post, and seeing what would be my classroom for the very first time. But I never thought about how it would end. You might expect retirement to be marked by farewell speeches and the presentation of a clock or something. But for me, it was different. At our monthly Messy Church I looked – unsuccessfully - for a dice and counters. Arriving home, I decided to check my school bag. As I rummaged, assorted pens, crayons and a notepad emerged, along with a copy of Shakespeare's Macbeth - a memento of my last assignment. I had home tutored a lad who, though excluded from school, still wanted to sit his English GCSE; I had ordered a copy of the play so that he could tackle his coursework. It arrived at the same time as an email from Mum to say that he had changed his mind - and now he didn't want to work with me anyway. Time had passed since then, suitable offers of work had dried up, and I realised that as is sometimes the way with endings, retirement had crept up on me without me even noticing. There were no farewell speeches, carriage clock or gardening vouchers for me. Instead, I just emptied my bag, rehomed my board pens and revision guides, presented myself with a copy of a Shakespearean tragedy, and celebrated with a cup of tea... **Brian Williams**

**CHARITY BINGO** - On Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of July at 7pm I will be holding a charity bingo night in Alkham Village Hall in aid of Pilgrims Hospice and Alzheimers which are two charities very close to our families' hearts. There will be a raffle and please bring your own refreshments and nibbles. Anyone wishing to book a table or would like to donate a raffle prize please contact me on 07796360473. **Debbie Griggs**