

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
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to the Parish

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TELEPHONE BOX – At the top of Wolverton Hill there is an old telephone box which belongs to the village. Many thanks go to David and Helen Jenkinson who have recently moved to Ewell Minnis and live opposite the phone box for arranging the restoration and painting of

the phone box. It really is appreciated and many thanks to them for their kind work from Ewell Minnis. **David Beaney**

THE ALKHAM FETE will be held on Saturday the 13th of July 2024 from 2 pm. Help will be appreciated putting the tents up from 9 am on Saturday and jobs can always be found for willing helpers throughout the day, particularly with clearing the meadow after the Fete (from 5 pm). You will find 2 books of raffle tickets (£1 per ticket, £5 for a book of 5) included with your newsletter; please return completed counterfoils and cash for sold tickets (or unused tickets) to Paul Tapsell, Upton Cottage, South Alkham in advance or to the Raffle Stall on the day; prizes for the Grand Raffle are always appreciated! In addition to a variety of stalls and refreshments, there will be performances/displays from the Shepway Brass Academy, Nightingale Dairy, Anna Peacock's Tai Chi, classic cars, East Kent Astronomical Society and the Beekeepers children's races, a Tug of war and a Dog Show (and many other attractions). We will be experimenting with cashless payments on some stalls but please bring plenty of cash if you can in case the tech lets us down! Fingers crossed for good weather (but we'll carry on regardless). If you have any questions (about the Fete), please call me on 07947 016697. **Paul Tapsell**

HANDBAGS - Please can I remind everyone we are still on the lookout for more handbags for the fair. If you could have a look we would be most grateful. We are happy to collect, just let us know or pop round to the house. Finally, a huge thank you to all the lovely people that have already kindly donated. **Jane 07340749788**

CAKES & JEWELLERY STALL - Sue Koo & Anne Huggins would welcome any of your old jewellery for this stall at the Fete on the 13th of July. Please ring Sue on 07454921992 or Anne on 07917813182 to arrange collection or drop-off. Also, it would be wonderful if you could help us by making a cake(s) or biscuits - just deliver to the stall on the day!

IT IS WITH SADNESS the Parish of Alkham has lost another member of its community at Ewell Minnis. David John Smissen born 18 July 1982, passed over on 28 April 2024. David, like his brother Luke, was a very kind man always with a happy smile who enjoyed life to the full. A plasterer and landscape gardener by profession who in his spare time loved fishing, a keen rugby player in his youth, representing Dover in the sport. David will be a great loss to his friends and we hope the passage of time and all of our thoughts will ease the pain of his passing for his parents and his dear Brother Luke. **Geoff Lymer**

NEWSLETTER – Following last month's article it's pleasing to report that Tony has offered to deliver the 10 newsletters to the Wolverton area. Tony is a postman and our village postman Steve will collect them and give them to Tony. It does show how lucky we are to have these postmen who give so much to the community. **Editor**

WATER LEVEL – It is good to see that the water level has dropped by about 2.5m from its high level at the Alkham borehole. If you would like to see these details go to riverlevels.uk/river-dour-alkham-valley-borehole. **Editor**

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm

Alkham Village Hall 30th July

Wicked Little Letters

Olivia Colman Timothy Spall

25th June The Holdovers

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

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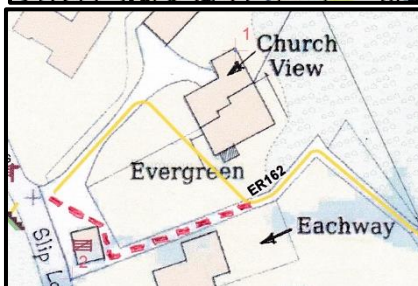
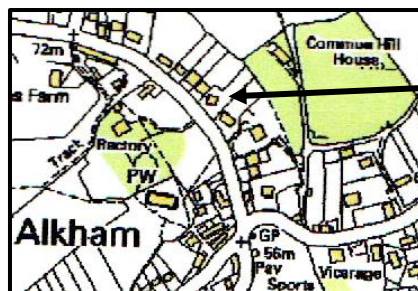


DRELLINGORE - We have just made our second planning application for our self-build conversion of Drellingore Barns. At the time of writing the plans are not available on the Dover District Council website, but a

search for the property name should show them when they've been made public. The heritage statement has been a labour of love that locals may find interesting. We really hope that the local community likes what we've proposed, which is a sensitive restoration with big biodiversity gains that will be carbon-negative in its operation. We're happy to answer any questions via family@drellingorebarns.com, and would like to thank the many locals that supported our previous rejected application. We look forward to being your neighbours soon! **Daniel Jones**

CEMETERY - The graves in the burial ground behind the old chapel in Slip Lane have been added to the cemetery details for St. Anthony's church which gives the names and locations for the people buried in the graveyard. There are 8 graves in the burial ground and seven of them are named and if anyone would like a copy of the extra graves or the whole list, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL has been awarded funding to support local residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes. The money will be invested in homes across the district as part of the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG), funding the likes of loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, internal wall insulation for solid wall homes, air source heat pumps (ASHP) and Solar PV. To qualify for funding the property and the occupants need to meet the criteria: the property is **NOT** heated by gas; has an EPC rating below a C (see web); the total annual household income (gross) is £36,000 or lower, or the occupants are in receipt of a means tested benefit. Residents should express their interest in this HUG2 initiative now as the funding is time limited, with only 35 grants remaining! Call 01304 872128, 01304 872414 or email HUG2@dover.gov.uk. Further details and links to a self-referral form can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-home-upgrade-grant>.



FOOTPATH - A Parish resident is submitting an application to have a footpath passing through the property of Evergreen between Common Hill and Slip Lane, to be officially acknowledged as a public right of way. The location is shown on the plan on the left and below shows the route of the footpath in a hatched line. Anyone with knowledge to support this and willing to complete a witness statement please contact me and I will pass the details on, contact details are in the banner at the top of the front page. **Editor**

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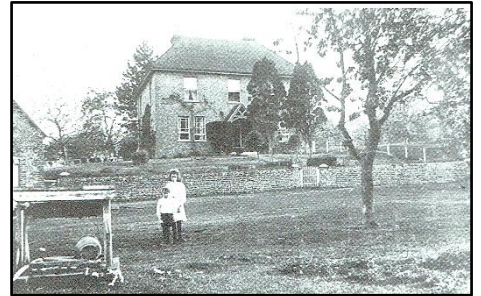
Instagram:wolvertonfarmfirewood.

ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK

If you are interested in the history of Alkham an A4 51-page book is available with many old photos and is free for people associated with Alkham. Please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com



to the dyke. The photo above shows the Alkham ladies tennis club on this court in the 1930's where decorum was the order of the day and presumably the ladies with the impressive hats were the onlookers. The club was founded at the end of the 19th century and there were a few private courts at Wolverton, the Rectory and Malmaison Farm on Slip Lane and the court would have been where the children can be seen standing in the photo on the right and is still visible. **editor**



PLEASE help our local Beekeepers by identifying and reporting Asian Hornet sightings. Asian hornets arrived in France in 2004 and have since spread across large areas

of Western Europe; they are not yet established in England, but 6 nests have been found so far this year in the Dover and Folkestone Districts. Asian Hornets are known to feed on many different types of insects including butterflies, moths, beetles and many types of bees. Many of these are vital pollinators and also form a key part of the food chain for birds and small mammals. We caught a queen in our garden wasp trap again this year which we reported on the 'Asian Hornet Watch' app and the bee inspectors came out straight away and collected it for DNA analysis to see if it matched previous catches or was a new arrival, but by destroying it before it could nest it contained any further outbreak; sightings can also be reported by email to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk with a photo. More information is available at gov.uk/government/news/new-app-to-report-asian-hornet-sightings. **Trevor Johns**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our June meeting was all about the Dover Smart Project which was very interesting. Our next meeting is on the 9th of July when our speaker is Melanie Gibson Barton and the talk is about history of Teddy Bears. Hostesses Marian Libaert, Mari Jones; Raffle Sue Ross; VOT Debbie Griggs. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

ALKHAM WI are doing the refreshments and cakes in the village hall for the fete on Saturday the 13th of July and we are looking for people in the village who would like to bake cakes for us. If you are able to help with this, please bring them along on the day to the village hall but if you can't drop them off please let me know either in person or by ringing me on 07796360473 and I can arrange to pick them up. **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	9	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	13	Fete – please see page 1
Thursday	25	Tea & chat 2.30pm to 4pm
Tuesday	30	Film Night 7.30pm see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7 th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00am
Saturday 13 th	Fun, fellowship and food – 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 14 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 21 st	SONGS 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00am
Sunday 28 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00am

BUS TIMES To Dover 7.59,8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: 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 and 91 bus

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W.I. SECRETARY Janet Barrow 829585 **VICAR** Brian Williams 01303 243784

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 - An election campaign is underway – you’ve probably noticed – and perhaps, like me, you have been watching the televised debates between the leaders of the political parties, each trying to persuade us that theirs is the best suited to form a government to serve the nation over the next few years. And while TV debates might seem to have been with us for ever, the first was broadcast as recently as 2010. Turn the clock back even further, and we find that general elections were once very different. When elections were called public meetings would be held in each town – hustings at which candidates would give speeches. These could be quite rowdy affairs, often attended by large crowds - but not everyone could vote. The rules around who could varied from one place to another. Women were excluded. Voting was by a show of hands - there was no secret ballot before 1872 – so the possibility of intimidation, especially if your employer was a candidate, was very real. Back to 2024 and thinking of our upcoming election, here’s a quotation from John Wesley - travelling preacher, founder of the Methodist Church and, in his time, something of a celebrity. With the general election of October 1774 approaching, he spoke at a church meeting near Bristol. He later wrote in his Journal: ***I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them (1) to vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy; (2) to speak no evil of the person they voted against; and (3) to take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.*** Things have changed a lot since 1774. But such wisdom is timeless, and worth remembering. **Brian Williams**

VILLAGE HALL – It is generally agreed that the village hall needs a bit of refurbishment and the committee have decided to carry out some improvements. The path extension by the brick part of the hall has been halted for the time being to consider what other improvements are needed to the car park area and the kitchen is going to be updated and the hall given a deep clean plus other improvements.