

# ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

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delivered free  
to the Parish

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**THE ALKHAM FETE** was a great success with a lot of people turning up and having a good time after the fete was opened by Guineara Jones who is 100 years old and a mother of an Alkham resident. Around the village green there were numerous tents selling various items and there was also a coconut shy, a human fruit machine, a ball throwing Victorian Head stand and a putting green which gave it the flavour of a traditional fete. The Night King was there and he was correctly

identified by Samuel who can be seen posing with him in the photo above. Refreshments were served in the village hall and beer tent, the Shepway Brass band provided music on the green, SEKAS gave astronomical information, Tai Chi a display and the Dover Fire Brigade later had a tug of war with the victorious children. The dog show went very well with a lot of entrants and the prize for best in show went to a Blue German Shepherd/Collie cross proudly posing for the photo. A Spanish Brando was the most handsome dog and other rosettes were awarded including one to a labradoodle called Macy who looked most like his owner. It was all good fun and enormous thanks must go to Paul Tapsell who was the prime organiser and to all the people who helped with such a great event. There will be further details in the next newsletter regarding the fete and the amount of money raised. **editor**



**SUNFLOWERS** - I'm not sure how many people are still in the competition bearing in mind slugs, floods and high winds, however anyone who may just about have the remnants of a sunflower still trying to grow would you please let me know so that Ang and I can come out and measure them on Sunday morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> of

August 2024. Anyone still in the competition please let me know on anitajames163@gmail.com. **Anita James**



**RAILINGS** – Marian Libaertt and husband Paul who live in the village have for some time thought the railings opposite the village hall looked neglected and not very visible. Paul had some spare black and white paint, so they decided to spruce them up which took a few days because of the rain. They also washed the railings opposite and it has made an enormous difference especially as they are more visible to passing traffic. Many thanks to them for doing this splendid work. It is also encouraging to see that a number of people are also getting involved with the village with new parish councillors and an almost new village hall committee who have progressive ideas. Also, thanks go to the people who cleared the compacted mud on Hogbrook Lane which was caused by the tankers emptying the sewer. **editor**

## **FILM NIGHT 7.30pm**

**As it is a holiday month there will not be film a in August**

30<sup>th</sup> July Wicked Little Letters

Alkham Village Hall

Free entry but £4 donation 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](http://www.pfstaichi.com)

### **Streetz2Streetz**

**Mobile Fish and Chip Unit**

**No visit in August**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July**

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

**TRAFFIC SURVEY RESULTS KCC Traffic Survey 2024** - The Parish Council Highways Group has summarised the data from the files sent to us by Kent Highways. The document below highlights the trends that impact the Parish Council's plans however the data is much as we expected from our experience with Speedwatch. At the eastern end, there is a significant problem with vehicles speeding out of the village, nearly half were recorded at over the prosecution speed of 35mph and with a maximum recorded speed of 76mph! In the centre, the average speed recorded was 22.5mph. The County policy regarding implementing 20mph limits states "20mph limits are generally only recommended where existing mean speeds are already below 24mph" and this gives us a good starting point to request a 20-mph speed limit. There was a peak of 866 vehicles an hour passing through the village and this is with only circa 800 houses completed at Whitfield as eventually a further 5000+ will be built. The Parish Council aims to get these limits agreed upon to make it less attractive as a "Rat-run" and stop sat nav's choosing us as the "quickest" route. At the Western end surprisingly, we have over 50% complying with the speed limit and only 13% over the prosecution level so maybe here Speedwatch has made a difference. But there are always some that will ignore it with 7343 vehicles travelling at over 35mph and a speed of 67mph was recorded exiting the village. One of the other challenges is with the HGVs and their impact on the road especially the tippers servicing the Whitfield development; from the data we can pick out the numbers of movements of >7.5 tons (classes 4-12) of which there were 423 movements during this period, worryingly nearly 20% of these were also doing over 35mph as they came into the village! We also have some information about motorbikes too with over half of them doing more than 35mph and a peak speed recorded of 72mph. Regrettably, the data revealed only 15 bicycle movements were recorded at the western end during the period so despite the beauty of the ANOB it seems cyclists are voting with their pedals. The Parish Council will use this data to have an evidence-based discussion with Kent Highways to ask for improvements to the Alkham Valley Road. **Alkham Parish Council**

**TREES** – Most of the centre of Alkham is in a conservation area and if you want to cut down a tree with a stem diameter of greater than 75mm you have to get permission from the local authority otherwise you may be subject to a substantial fine. A person who lives in the centre of the village contacted DDC about an ash tree and the reply said that tree is clearly dead and you may go ahead and remove it but under Section 213 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, you do have a duty to plant a new tree of a suitable size and species to replace the dead ash as soon as you reasonably can. I would be grateful if you can send me a photograph of the new tree once you have done this. Evidently DDC are pursuing some people who have not applied for permission. **Editor**



## MAT WALECKI

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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



**GOING WEST** - The photo, which was taken in Alkham, shows Ben Spicer with his dog Luna packed and ready and hoping to cycle to Cornwall. Ben is from Alkham and a great character and has borrowed an electric bike to tow two trailers containing food for the dog and all the gear you would need to go camping. It is remarkable that the bike can tow the weight and all his friends in Alkham wish him the best of luck on his adventure. He is currently in Southampton. **Editor**

**ALKHAM W.I.** - What an enjoyable meeting our July one was when we had Melanie Gibson-Barton come and speak to us about the history of Teddy bears. Our next meeting is on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August which is our fish and chips night and please bring your own refreshments. Any members that didn't attend the July meeting but would like fish and chips please contact me on 07796360473 by the 10<sup>th</sup> of August. Raffle Mari Jones, new members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

**FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND FABULOUS FLOWERS** - Dover Flower Club has planned a series of exciting events in the Autumn, beginning with our September meeting when we shall be celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of our club. Mig Kimpton, our Chairman and well known floral artist, will be giving a flower arranging demonstration entitled '60 Glorious Years'. There will be free cake and fizz available and a competition for members. Our October meeting will be tutored by celebrated floral artist Graham King who will run a workshop to help us improve our flower arranging skills. The finale of our autumn events will be a Christmas themed flower arranging demonstration at The Astor Theatre Deal, run in conjunction with the Deal and District Flower Club. Ian Lloyd, a celebrated floral artist, will give a demonstration entitled 'A Cheshire Christmas'. With the exception of our Christmas event, meetings take place at Whitfield Village Hall, Manley Close, CT16 3LY at 7.15pm. Refreshments are free and visitors are always welcome. To summarise: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, Birthday Celebration, Whitfield Village Hall. Members free, visitors £10. Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of October Workshop, Whitfield Village Hall. Members free, visitors £8.00. Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of November Christmas demonstration at The Astor Theatre Deal, visitors £15, members free. For more information please phone Mig Kimpton: 07831 838851.

**ARTICLES** for the newsletter are always welcome and if you would like to write one, please do and email it to brianwimsett@hotmail.com or leave a paper copy in the Local Mail box at the back of the Old Post Office.



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### ST. ANTHONY'S OPEN DAY

On Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of July between 11am and 2pm you can try bell ringing, playing the organ, flower arranging and more in the church. On Sunday there is Songs of Praise at 11am when you can choose your favourite hymn. Please contact Brian Williams on 01303 243784 or Jerry Spillett on 07961 994097.

**ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates**  
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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>	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	29	Tea & chat 2.30pm to 4pm

### CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Fun, fellowship and food – children accompanied 3.00 – 5.00 pm</i>		
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Songs 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

**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](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables) and 91 bus

**POLICE 999 or 101 NEWSLETTER** [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

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**HALL BOOKING** Catie Webber 07976649726 or [catiewebber@me.com](mailto:catiewebber@me.com)

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

**AVS** [joannawalker777@gmail.com](mailto:joannawalker777@gmail.com) 821641 [alkhamvs.org](http://alkhamvs.org)

**MP Mike Tapp:: KCC** David Beane 07818 024487

**DDC** [cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk](mailto:cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk) 07796444860.

**LOCAL SITES** [alkham.org](http://alkham.org) [alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - "Hello Mr Williams!" The greeting was accompanied by the same cheesy grin that I had seen so often at the back of my classroom, the cause of so many of my grey hairs. But now, having taken my car to be serviced, I could only watch anxiously as he took my car keys, and my pride and joy disappeared into the bowels of the workshop. I needn't have worried. He had found his calling – not only did my car come back in one piece, but it ran perfectly. I could safely trust him with my car keys after all. Often, keys represent power. Whether or not you are allowed to have them probably shows where you are in the great scheme of things. Once, when working as a supply teacher, I needed to lock a room that I had been teaching in. Asking for the key at the school office, I was confronted by a ferocious school secretary who demanded to know who I was, and why I needed a key. Her tone changed when I explained what I needed it for. Keys can symbolise trust. The New Testament tells of how Jesus told his friend, Simon Peter, that the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven would be his; he and the other disciples would, through their preaching, be responsible for opening the doors of heaven to others and inviting the world to enter. I sometimes think of that when I look at the heavy church key that hangs in our kitchen – a reminder of the trust that my calling involves. Power and trust. In July there was a General Election, and our nation chose to lend the keys of Number 10 to Sir Keir Starmer. However, you voted, please pray that he may drive safely... **Brian Williams**