

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

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delivered free
to the Parish

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PÉTANQUE - Over the past few years we've had some very well attended Village Functions on The Meadow most noticeably the last Jubilee and Coronation as well as the hugely successful Village Fete. During these events there have been some planned although often unplanned games and activities. Due to comments, suggestions and sheer enthusiasm but such a varying range of people I have asked the Parish Council to support a request to have a Pétanque Terrain put into the playing field. Pétanque, or Boule as some of you may know it, is a hugely inclusive game played by all ages and genders where skill, technique and blind luck play more of a part in success than athletic prowess. The social connection from playing this game, which can be year-round, could be a real advantage to a healthy local community and simply making friends. I have spoken to the Captain of Alkham Cricket Club as the area needed is likely to impact upon the boundary of the cricket ground and I wish the Petanque Club to be very respectful toward the history of the Cricket club which is something our village is rightly proud of. There is no initial objection particularly if the desire for a Pétanque Terrain is widespread within the community. Before the Parish Council can look to support the request with some funding to create the playing area or Terrain, they have requested I seek some input from anyone who'd like to get involved in playing for a local club, or simply using the facility on an ad hoc basis. To this end I'd really appreciate you taking the time to get in touch and let me know if you'd support having the facility. I need to know names and number of people, but I will not be passing on any contact details to anyone! Get involved and let me know, Thank You.

Kev Rolfe - kev.rolfe@yahoo.com or phone 07857 305044.

PARISH COUNCIL - There will be another Parish Council Open Day on Saturday the 14th of September at the village hall and everyone is invited to meet the councillors and see details of upcoming plans. Please see their full report on page 2.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - We are very excited to announce that the Marquis of Granby will be hosting a night with Johnny Ball on the 6th of September. This will include a 3-course menu and stories from Johnny on his life, all very much with a funny twist he has assured me. This will be on a pre-booked basis. If you'd like to attend, please email us on info@marquisofgranby.co.uk or call us on 01304873410. **Hugh Thompson Manager**

FETE REPORT - A huge thank you to everyone who supported and participated in this year's Fete on 13th July; it was a marvellous success (if I say so myself) and we took about £6,400 on the day which is amazing and significantly higher than previous years (the last one in 2018 took about £5,000 on the day). After expenses we should have about £4,000 to donate to the Church and Village Hall, so thank you. There are too many people to thank individually (and it would be unfair to single anyone out as it was very much a team effort) but you know who you are and should know how much your efforts are appreciated. There will be a meeting on the 12th of September at 8 pm in the Village Hall to discuss this year's fete, sort out the finances and start arrangements for next year. Please come along (there may even be some wine and nibbles available!).

Paul Tapsell ... I think we would all like to thank Paul for doing such a good job.

THE GARAGE SAFARI at Capel is on the 1st of September and the church has a fete at St Radigund's. If I could ask if you have plants, bric-a-brac, books or raffle prizes I would be most grateful. Please ring me on 070946106742 and I will gladly pick them up. Thank you. **Carol Mannall**

MANY THANKS to the people who came to my charity night when we raised £1150 so the Pilgrims Hospice and Alzheimer's both received £575 each. **Debbie Griggs**

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm

Alkham Village Hall

24th of September

Fried green tomatoes at

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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 28th September

No visit in August

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

PARISH COUNCIL - There will be another council open day on Saturday 14th of September at the village hall, everyone is invited to meet the councillors and see details of upcoming plans. The years financial information was signed off at the Parish Council Meeting on the 24th of June and has been published on the website. Kent Highways are considering proposals to enable Alkham Highways Improvement Plan to move on. Many safety initiatives have been rejected so we are looking for achievable ideas. The cleaning of the road outside the Village Hall after five months of tanker movements has been done with thanks to Kevin Rolfe and his team of volunteers. Also thanks to Paul and Marian Libaert for cleaning and painting the safety rails. The news from Southern Water on remedial work for the sewers is that the survey and assessment has been done and they are waiting for a start date from their contractors. Permission has been obtained for the tree maintenance and is due to begin on August 12th. The council adopted the Ewell Minnis telephone box some years ago and we have finally received the paperwork! The phone apparatus will now be removed and we are asking for ideas of what we want to do with it, please get in touch. An informal meeting has been held with representatives from Temple Ewell and Hawkinge Councils to discuss the Alkham Valley Road. The next Alkham Parish Council meeting is on the 2nd of September.

HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP - The Parish Council have requested a narrowing of the road east and west of the Village with one at Short Lane and the other at the Garden Centre. KCC Highways have not yet responded and the working group have asked KCC Highways to explain what the Parish Council could have to improve traffic safety for residents. It was reported that the 30-mph zone cannot be extended because there are not enough houses to warrant this.

SOLAR TOGETHER KENT - Are you thinking about getting solar panels but not sure where to start? Secure a great deal on solar with the help of your community! Dover District Council is working in partnership with Kent County Council on the current round of Solar Together Kent, as part of Dover District Council's commitment to tackling the climate emergency. Solar Together Kent is a group-buying scheme, which brings Kent households and small businesses together to get high-quality solar panels at a competitive price. Having your own solar panels means you can save on your energy bill as well as reduce your carbon emissions. The scheme helps you through the whole process, keeping you informed at every stage. Installations will generally not need planning permission. However, in some cases, such as in Conservation Areas and on Listed Buildings, planning permission may be required, please visit Buying Solar Panels made easy (dover.gov.uk) for more information.

VILLAGE HALL - When the brick extension to the hall was built a soakaway was installed in the car park but the rainwater regularly flowed over the top of the pipe attached to the guttering and made the grass underneath wet. Recently the car park was excavated to find the soakaway and when found there was a lemonade bottle stuck in the end of the pipe. This has now been cleared and hopefully the water will drain away when it rains. Also, many thanks to Graham Bissett with the help of Harlan Webber for installing the new DVD player and sound system with the hearing loop in the village hall. **Alkham Village Hall** treasurer

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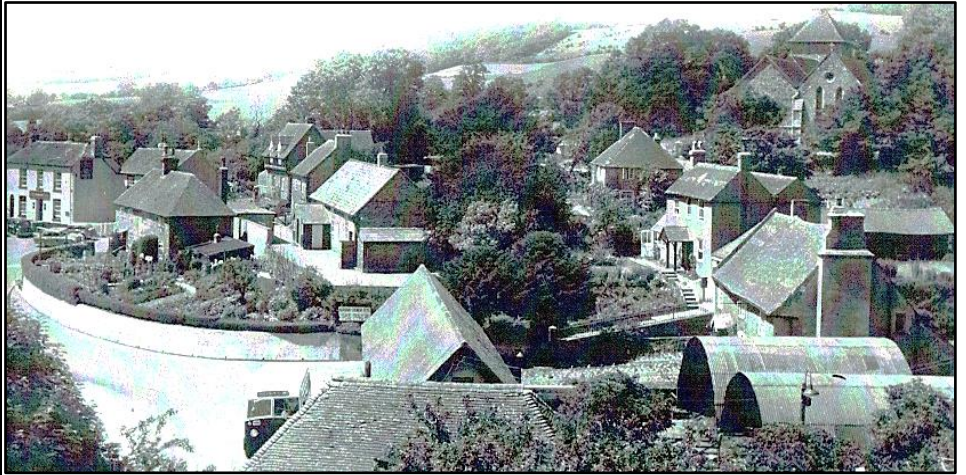
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ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK

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



ON THE WALL in the photo above there is a sign advertising the Alkham Fete on Saturday the 15th of July 1959. The fete was held on Vicarage Meadow later to officially become the village green and would have been traditional very much like this year's fete except there would have been a produce show and flower displays. In the foreground is Halton Farm with the cowshed next to where the bus is waiting and some of the cows were herded down Hogbrook Lane opposite for milking which sometimes caused problems for cowman Will when Betty brought her children down to Alkham in her Dormobile. Halton Manor was owned by a nobleman and the barons collected their money at the court which was eventually at Halton and hence the name. The farm was eventually sold and the cowshed and other buildings demolished leaving what is now the fine Grade II listed Halton Court. In the background is Alkham School which closed in 1972 the Post Office Stores which also closed in the 1970's. **editor I WOULD LIKE** to say a huge thank you, on behalf of the village of Alkham, to Brian Wimsett for all his long years of service looking after Alkham Village Hall. For as long as I have lived in the village (a mere 20 odd years) he was, and had already been, for time immemorial, as far as I could tell, the glue and WD40 that held our delightful hall together and kept it running like clockwork. He has held the role of key holder, treasurer, odd-job man, caretaker and more recently, chairman! Among his many talents, he helped mediate Covid lockdown restrictions, encroaching floods, land disputes and a few captious hall-hirers, steadfastly and in his usual equanimous manner! I understand he is continuing to keep his hand in for now, but I didn't want this moment to slip by unnoticed. I hope you will all join me in thanking Brian and recognising his appreciable contribution to village life and that he is not too modest to put my words into print. **Tracey Prince ... I really do appreciate this article although I'm not sure all was deserved.** When Geoff Hillier died during Covid I was asked to take over as chairman, but a couple of recently appointed committee members wanted to have a new chairman. **Brian Wimsett**
ALKHAM W.I. - Our August meeting was fun and we had fish and chips from the Seafarers chip shop in Cheriton, Folkestone. Our next meeting will be on September the 10th when our speaker will be Judi Knight and our talk will be Fashion and Ration. Hostesses are Debbie Saunders and Christine Banham, Raffle Margaret Batcheldor and VOT Janet Adams. New members are always 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

Monday	2	Parish Council meeting 7pm
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	12	Fete meeting discussion 8pm
Thursday	26	Tea & chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1 st	Prayer 5.00 pm	Fete	Eucharist 11.00am
Saturday 7 th	Messy Church adult accompanied 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 8 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 15 th	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 22 nd	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 29 th	St Mary's (Capel Old Church) United Parish Eucharist 10.00am		

POLICE 999 or 101 NEWSLETTER brianwimsett@hotmail.com
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LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE - In the Church's calendar, 29th September is the Feast of St Michael and All Angels. It's also the anniversary of the day when I became a 'Reverend'. I can still remember standing outside the West Door of Canterbury Cathedral, waiting in procession for the organ to signal the beginning of the service with the first notes of the hymn *Ye Holy Angels Bright*. One of my favourites, I'd like it at my funeral, which hopefully won't be for a while yet - although you never know. Hymns have a certain something about them. Even today, BBC's *Songs of Praise*, first broadcast in 1961, still appears somewhere in the schedules most Sundays. Some folk were so upset when we were forbidden to sing hymns during the pandemic that they stopped coming to church completely – and in some cases, sadly, they've never been back. But the good news is that a couple of *Songs of Praise* services in church recently brought in people who we either hadn't seen before, or at least not in a while. Just as on TV, people introduced what they had chosen to sing, and explained why. Sydney Carter's *Lord of the Dance* reminded some of their school days - and even, in one case, of evenings spent in the pub playing with a folk band. Other hymns brought back fond memories of those no longer with us, and others we sang simply because people liked them. At the end there was still time for one more hymn. I happened to mention the offer that I'd made to the bellringers. And even though it wasn't Christmas, there was one hymn that just about everyone wanted to sing. And so it was that we finished with an enthusiastic rendition of *Ding! Dong! Merrily On High...* **Brian Williams**