

# ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett  
The Old Post Office  
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE  
Telephone 01304 824969  
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

**No. 369 November 2024**

**Non-profit &  
delivered free  
to the Parish**

**Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council**

**THE ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB** - To raise funds for the redevelopment of the village hall, I would like to start a '100 Club'. A 100 club is simply a small, repeating lottery which has a limited number of members (in our case 100), the purpose of which is to raise money for a particular goal i.e the upgrade and redevelopment of village hall facilities so that it becomes a venue that people really want to use. The draw would take place monthly in the Marquis of Granby on the same night as the quiz. To become a member of the club each member pays £10.00 per month (approximately £2.31) per week and by doing so that person becomes eligible to be part of the draw (I suggest that the minimum period to sign up would be six months). The money would be payable on the first of the month by standing order. In real terms this equates to less than a cup of coffee or a half pint of beer each week. Each member of the 'club' will be allocated a number from 1-100 and that will become their draw number. To provide full transparency, the draw would take place in a public setting, by a randomly selected individual and would be done using a set of lottery balls bought for the purpose. This is to ensure that the numbers drawn would be truly down to the luck of the draw; something that is not possible using a computer. If we manage to attract 100 members, then out of £1000 collected each month, £250 would be given in prize money. Four prizes would be offered; First prize: £100. Second prize: £75. Third prize £50 and a fourth prize of £25.00. If we have to trim our sails and have fewer members then the prize values will be reduced accordingly. All profits from the lottery would be given to the village hall, and the village hall committee will be accountable to '100 Club' members and the wider community for how the funds raised are spent. The lottery will be licensed by Dover District Council under current lottery regulations. As the licence runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December each year, I am proposing that the inaugural draw will take place in January 2025. If you would like to become a member of the Alkham Village Hall 100 Club, please contact me at [graham.bissett@talk21.com](mailto:graham.bissett@talk21.com) or 07789 690786. Closing dates for expressions of interest is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in order to give me time to apply for the licence.

**TEMPLE EWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL** - Is your child starting in Reception in September 2025? If so join us for one of our Open Mornings on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2024 from 9.15am or 10.45am To book your place, please call our school office - 01304 822665. **Nicola Church**

**POPPY APPEAL** - This year The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal starts on 24 October, so we will be out collecting from that date. As in previous years I know the Alkham villagers will be giving generously to such a good cause. Remembrance Sunday is 10 November when there will be a service in Alkham Church on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November at 10.00am followed by 2 minutes silence by the memorial in the churchyard. **Rachel Fountain**

**MORNING TEA** in aid of Village Hall refurbishment **SATURDAY 26th October 10am - 12pm**

The Village Hall Committee is striving to improve your village hall and therefore fund raising is a necessary part of our plans. So far the entrance hall and toilets have been renovated. Outside new pathways have been constructed with raised beds to be installed. All this work has been achieved by wonderful volunteers, with materials being the only expenditure. Plans are now underway to paint both the hall ceiling and the kitchen. So come along and support this fundraising event to improve your village hall! At the Morning Tea there will also be a Raffle with good prizes donated by local businesses, a 'Bring & Buy' table, and a Cake stall. Please help by baking cakes and donating items for the table. Tickets for the raffle will be delivered to your letterbox or are available from Irene Barnard (07789412432) or Sue Koo (07454021992)

**KENT POLICE** has launched a CCTV registry which is a simple database of private CCTV (including doorbell) cameras so that they can contact the owner if their footage may be of use. To register go to [cctvregistrykentandessex.co.uk/camera-registry](http://cctvregistrykentandessex.co.uk/camera-registry).

## **FILM NIGHT**

**Alkham Village Hall 7.30pm**

**26<sup>th</sup> of November**

**A Very British Scandal**

29<sup>th</sup> of October – The Family

Free entry but £4 donation appreciated

### B P S window cleaner

Window cleaning specialists no house too small. We use a reach & wash purifying system that means no streaks or smears and no chemicals. Our poles reach those hard to get areas. Safely clean conservatory roof. We fully clean all windows, doors & frames.

Call Paul on 01304 823763 or  
07971389039

### CAR & VAN SERVICING

MOTS, TYRES & EXHAUSTS  
BRAKES, CLUTCHES & REPAIRS  
DIAGNOSTICS

Free collection & delivery or courtesy car arranged

POULTON SERVICE & EXHAUST CENTRE  
HOLLOW WOOD ROAD, DOVER CT17 0UB

01304 201235



All types of paving, driveways, walls,  
groundworks and a full garden design

#### Free quotations

Local family run business

07818024487 or 01304 825355  
e-mail: quotes@dbworks.co.uk

### Professional Dog Grooming Service



No2 Wolverton Cottages

Alkham Valley Road

Contact: Karen 07594478587

Email: woofreadywoof@gmail.com

Find us on

### Alkham Court

Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast

Meggett Lane, South Alkham

5 Star: Gold Award

Peaceful location overlooking Alkham Valley

'Winners Best B & B in SE England'

Tourism SE Award

Web: www.alkhamcourt.co.uk

Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

### 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

### Streetz2Streetz

Mobile Fish and Chip Unit

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November

19<sup>th</sup> of October

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

**MIKE ROSS** – Mike died at the end of September aged 74 having suffered from Parkinson's Disease for some time. Mike moved into the village in 2004 and at the time he worked for the local authority in the licensing department where he gained further qualifications. He was very much involved in village activities and every year together with his wife Sue organised a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support which was always a great success. Mike was a tall man latterly with light hair and he could be seen most days walking his dog round the village. He was a kind and gentle person and will be missed.

**JAMES D'ALTON BELLAS** – Jimmy, who lived in the centre of Alkham with his wife Nina, also died at the end of September aged 78. Jimmy had studied guitar under a renowned teacher and did local recitals but due to a hand injury became a tutor. A lot of his past and present students and renowned guitar players and singers used to come annually to a guitar concert at St Anthony's church which was always full with a lot of proud parents attending but unfortunately, due to Jimmy's ill health the concerts couldn't continue. He is being buried in St Anthony's cemetery on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October and the service will be at 12.30pm when the renowned guitar player Grant Dowse will be playing Bach and other music and Emily Renshaw will be singing Ave Maria.

**MARK LOVEDAY** – In last month's newsletter there was a tribute to Mark who died in September for his generosity and other activities in relation to Alkham. The full obituary was in the Times and mainly covered his financial work in the city but there was no mention of Alkham. You can comment on articles and I wrote something similar to what was in the newsletter and it was pleasing to see that it got at least twenty likes. **editor**

**HURRAH!** we can see the buses arriving! What a difference the raising of the canopy of the horse chestnut has made (*on the bend by the green*). It is understood that a dead ash was taken down and other trees were attended to. No mean feat and after considerable juggling of what is left of the Parish Council cash! Thankyou Parish Council. **Jo Walker**

**FOOTPATH** – In the July newsletter there was an article regarding a footpath which runs through Evergreen on Slip Lane being officially acknowledged. A number of residents backed the proposal and it's pleasing to report that the footpath had been registered but will be 5 years before/if it is accepted.

**NEWSLETTER** – The newsletter broke even again for the financial year September 2023 to August 2024. The cost of the toner, paper and mailing came to £360 and coincidentally the revenue from paid adverts was also £360. There will also be wear and tear on top of that but the two Brother printers keep churning away.

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Our October meeting was all about the Queen's Service by Dean Caston and it was very interesting. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of November and it will be our pamper/Christmas shopping evening, £5 entry fee or pay on the door which includes glass of prosecco or fruit juice. Doors open at 7pm to 9.30pm. We have tropics reflexology arts and crafts jewellery sweets nails and much more. Look forward to seeing you. **Debbie Griggs**

## MAT WALECKI

Window cleaner  
Household repairs

General maintenance and repairs  
Pole system and traditional  
Painting and decorating  
**07803333709**  
Matek167@hotmail.com



Your Local One Stop Flooring Shop  
www.actioncarpets.co.uk  
26 Market Square, Dover, CT16 1NG  
Folkestone: 01303 246505  
Dover: 01304 207007 Whitfield: 01304 207000  
Call for a free estimate or visit a showroom  
**We Have All Floors Covered**

## esRiver Chimney Sweep

Insurance approved certificate issued with every sweep  
Other installations include  
Stove installation: Chimney liners  
Bird cowl: Chimney repointing  
Stove servicing and repairs  
Call Marcus Wright  
Tel: **01304 761081 Mob: 07971 699220**  
www.riverchimneysweep.co.uk  
Registered OFTEC Stove Installer

## GRAHAM WEST

General Maintenance  
Electrical Installation Specialist  
General household repairs, Painting decorating  
Small plumbing, Woodwork  
Specialist electrical installations  
**07973330890**  
graham.west28@hotmail.com,

## Coastal Mowers and Plant

Garden Machinery, Power Tools  
& Small Plant  
Repairs – Service – Sales  
07867 368 508 01304 829224  
Unit 3, Honeywood House, Honeywood  
Road, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3EH

## Wolverton Farm Fire Wood

All our wood is seasoned and ready to burn!  
We have been in the community for 4 decades and selling wood for 2! Ton bags, small trailers, large trailers and mega loads, we do them all! We also sell kindling in large bags! Please get in touch. You can call us, text us or  
**WhatsApp us: 07717303878 We are also on Instagram:wolvertonfarmfirewood.**

## Marquis of Granby

Breakfast 7.30pm – 10am Weekend 8am – 10am  
Set lunch 2 course £19.50 3 course £24.50  
Monday to Saturday 12pm to 3pm  
Happy hour Monday to Thursday 20% off drinks  
4pm to 6pm and Friday fish and chips  
Sunday lunch 12pm to 6.30pm  
**01304 873 410**  
info@marquisofgranby.co.uk  
www.marquisofgranby.co.uk

**HARVEST BARN DANCE** - Thanks to all who came along and supported the Barn Dance on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. In the end 71 people came along to dance to the music of our live band, and from what I could see had a thoroughly enjoyable time. There were lots of smiling faces on the dancers, and those who were watching. I had a super email from a very experienced member of the band who said, *'In terms of enjoyment it was the response your villagers demonstrated and indeed supported a lot more than say 8 dances, which was full on and way above the norm.*

*Their enthusiasm made for a super evening.'* So, well done everybody. Can I thank the many people who helped me out on the Saturday with food prep, serving food, clearing up and in sundry other ways. I hope that I have thanked you all personally. I would like to start a Folk Dance Club, meeting perhaps bi-weekly in the village hall, probably on a Thursday evening. This would not be a barn dance as such, more like an evening class where we would meet to learn new dances, exercise gently and chat and be sociable. If you would be interested in something like this, please email me at graham.bissett@talk21.com or text on 07789690786, leaving contact details so that I can get back to you. **Graham Bissett**

**PÉTANQUE SOCIAL TASTER** - It looks like Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> of October qualifies as a success! Well done to everyone who turned out or sent messages of support, it seems we want a Pétanque Terrain and we're ready to move forward. I hope that the proposal is a little clearer now and that all points of view have been heard. We are now openly fundraising and we are asking for Pledges at this stage. If everything gets agreed and approved we expect to start collecting the pledge money in January 2025 with a view to building the terrain for a Grand Opening at Easter 2025. There is some agreement in principle from the Parish Council and it has been suggested that first they will need to discuss the matter with both our local church and the District Council. The Parish Council will then be able to vote on granting permission. Please take every opportunity to make your own views known to the Parish Councillors. For anyone not in attendance we wish to make clear that the funding will come from donations by the public and while we need the approval of the Parish Council we will not require any financial support from their already minimal and stretched budget. Thank you to all who have pledged money and those who have already donated. Just send me a text or e-mail if you would like to contribute or missed the opportunity on the day. We are so close already and a final push will do it! Finally, there was lots of fun on the day, plenty of novices, a few 'professionals', lots of luck and I can safely say we were all winners! Please get in touch and pledge if you can.

**Kev e: kev.rolfe@yahoo.com m: 07857 305044**

**PARISH COUNCIL** - At the Parish Council Open Day there were two noticeboard presentations from council working groups: the Village Green Plan by Green Spaces, and the Alkham Valley Road Actions Plan from Highways. If you missed the Open Day these documents are now on the Parish Council web site [alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk). We are waiting for a full report from Affinity Water to tell us what has been found after their survey and assessment of the sewerage system leaks and they have been told that if the remedial work is not done by the winter then use of tankers will not be acceptable. The tree pruning has been completed on the village green.



### Local Watchmaker

Service & Repairs to all makes of vintage & modern timepieces. Battery changes to full Servicing.

Also, Pocket Watches & Carriage Clocks. 07986 424293

Email: [chronoxserv@hotmail.com](mailto:chronoxserv@hotmail.com)

Competitive rates for residents of Alkham Parish.

### Pilates + Classes @ Alkham Village Hall

Friday mornings 10 to 11am  
£6pp Julie Watt, REPs qualified instructor  
Just turn up or phone 07825109670  
Email [pilates.mbs@gmail.com](mailto:pilates.mbs@gmail.com)



### Whitfield Computer Services

#### Lee Eversfield fdsc

Hardware & software problems • Installations  
Upgrades • Repairs • Internet set-up  
Virus removal • General advice  
No fix – No fee **Tel: 01304 204227** OAP special rates  
E-Mail: [lee.eversfield@btinternet.com](mailto:lee.eversfield@btinternet.com)

### OIL BOILER SERVICE Est 1987

Friendly Family Service  
For routine service and emergency breakdowns contact  
**P & V QUENBY LTD**  
01227 760428 07768 594147



### EV car chargers

and all electrical work for your home and garden.

**C 7 ENERGY**

[c7email@proton.me](mailto:c7email@proton.me)  
01227 621 207

### EAST KENT PADDOCK MAINTENANCE

Topping, Rolling, Harrowing, Spraying,  
Fertilizer spreading, Fence repair and erection,  
water tanks and piping.

**Tel. Nigel Peddle 01304 824004 or 07810203324**

**ANDY GEE** - Gas Safe registered heating and plumbing engineer  
07807586902 or 01304 207378  
[andygee1709@hotmail.com](mailto:andygee1709@hotmail.com)

### HOME HELP FOR THE ELDERLY

Do you need help with: companionship; medication administration; taking to medical appointments; grocery shopping; light cleaning duties; pet care; day trips and social outings; meal preparation and nutritious cooking

**Melanie Campbell, qualified carer**

07775 786368 [mglynnccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:mglynnccampbell@gmail.com)

### 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

**ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates**  
Please ring Catie on 07976649726 or [catiewebber@me.com](mailto:catiewebber@me.com)

### 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>	12	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
<b>Saturday</b>	26	Coffee morning – see page 1

### CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Activities and stories at Messy Church</i> 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	<b>10.15 am</b>	<b>10.15 am</b>	<b>10.15 am</b>
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

**POLICE 999 or 101** NEWSLETTER [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)  
**PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS** [clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)  
**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 Beaney 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** - *Beneath those rugged elms, that yew-tree's shade, Where heaves the turf in many a mould'ring heap, Each in his narrow cell for ever laid, The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.* Churchyards can be magical places, inspiring great poetry such as Thomas Gray's *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* of 1751 – but maintaining them today can be a headache. A while ago I wrote about how the comedian Spike Milligan's request for an amusing but flippant epitaph on his headstone was met by allowing it, but in Gaelic. **The Churchyard Regulations have the force of law.** Briefly, you need written permission for permanent fixtures like benches and memorials. Cut flowers may be left in memorial gardens, but nothing else. Border plants are allowed on individual graves, but not shrubs, rose bushes or trees. Silk flowers are allowed for a limited time, but not plastic flowers, trinkets or other objects. Kerbs, low fences and stone chippings are forbidden on health and safety grounds. **To those who visit our churchyards and tend graves and stick to the rules, our sincere thanks.** That hasn't stopped the Archdeacon receiving a complaint about the state of one of our churchyards, in particular about things left on graves that shouldn't be there. He has instructed the Parochial Church Council to ensure that the law is obeyed. They have therefore passed a resolution to ensure that the Regulations are enforced. **They would therefore be grateful if all trinkets, solar lights, beer bottles, garden gnomes, etc. could be removed by January, along with the fences** – Alkham Garden Centre can supply plants that don't appeal to rabbits. Please be aware that after January, graves and memorial gardens will have to be cleared monthly. **Sorry for any distress or disappointment** – we hope that you will understand. **Brian Williams**