

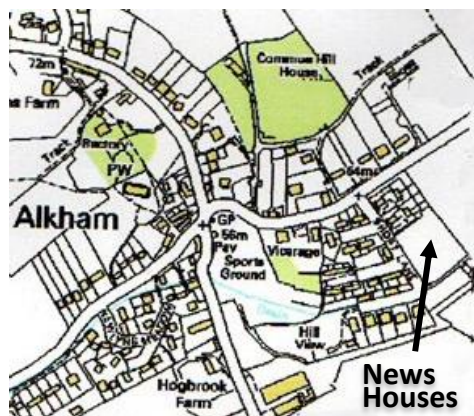
ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
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No. 360 January 2024

Non-profit &
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to the Parish

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council



PLANNING PERMISSION

has been granted for 8 houses on the land to the east of Short Lane despite the Parish Council objecting to it as not being suitable for housing development and there were also numerous objections from Alkham residents.

DRELLINGORE NAILBOURNE –The prediction in last month's newsletter was correct as the nailbourne is running with some force and the village green has become a lake. Melven Kirby, who lives at Chalksole and is a farmer, has recorded rainfall for the environment agency since 1988 and according to his records the year 2000 was the only year to have had more rainfall to the end of November. In that year the village green was also a large lake and roads in the area were under water, sewers blocked, and the village hall floor had to be replaced. KCC has an emergency line which can be rung if there are dangerous conditions and the numbers are 03000 41 81 81 during working hours and off-peak is 03000 41 91 91. The water level can be viewed at <https://riverlevels.uk/river-dour-alkham-valley-borehole>.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

There was a good crowd of about 40 adults and children who came along for the turning on of the Alkham Christmas Tree lights on the 9th of December on the village green. Father Christmas was there and gave sweets to the children and to a great cheer Meadow, on the left, turned on the lights which was followed by mulled wine for those who wanted it. Thanks go to Debbie and Graham West who organized the event and heated the wine on a

portable stove and Kevin Rolfe who made his annual appearance. If you would like the newsletter in colour please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

HAPPY
New Year

LORRY PUMPS are currently stationed on the village car park opposite the village hall pumping out water and other matter from the sewers which have been overwhelmed by the nailbourne running.

THE ANNUAL post-Christmas walk is held on the 27th of December. Climate change or not We leave, children, animals and the Rest of Us at 10.00am from the Alkham Village Hall in the footsteps of a skilled leader. We return to the Village Hall a couple of hours later where this year we are invited to enjoy drinks and nibbles before dispersing. **Jo Walker On behalf of the Alkham Valley Society**

MANY THANKS

to the Alkham Garden Centre for giving a Christmas tree to St. Anthony's church. It will be much appreciated by those going to the carol and crib services.



FIRST few Christmas trees are ready, freshly cut to order and prices start from £20. Message Paul on 07763327548 or Paulking9691@gmail.com. Trees are at Fen Farm Abbey Rd Hougham CT15 7DH

FILM NIGHT

January 30th 7.30pm

The Quiet Girl

Free but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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Contact Anna Dashwood
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Mobile Fish and Chip Unit
Saturday 11th November
(14th 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

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE and Tea rooms winter opening hours as from now: Monday 9am to 4pm, Tuesday 9am to 4pm, Wednesday 9am to 4pm, Thursday 9am to 4pm, Friday 9am to 4pm, Saturday 9am to 6pm, Sunday 10am to 5pm. Please note Monday to Friday last serving is 3.30pm in the tea rooms, Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 4.15pm. We will be open Christmas Eve 9am to 1pm then reopen on January 5th 2024; please note all through January we will be shutting on Mondays and Tuesdays until the beginning of February. Merry Christmas to all our customers

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD – There were a number of accidents due to black ice in the Standen area in early December and one driver slid off the road and got out of his car which was then hit by a lorry which skidded on the ice shortly followed by a third car leaving the road. The first driver escaped with a fractured pelvis and is now walking with crutches. Some good news is that the Highway Authority has resurfaced the valley road where that appalling large trench reinstatement carried out in the 1990's near the Old Hawkinge road was.



NEW SEATS – The Parish Council have installed a new seat by the side of the dyke overlooking the village green with a clear view of the cricket pitch. They had previously installed a new seat by the bus shelter with two plaques commemorating the

Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and King Charles III coronation in 2023. Well done to the Parish Council for all their proactive work. **Editor**

SCAM EMAILS – If you get an email from someone you know asking to send a voucher to a friend or relative of theirs as they cannot access the internet or similar it is probably a scam. Generally, it says that a friend or relative is very ill and please could you email £200 of Apple vouchers to some email address. They also send emails purporting to be a son or daughter who needs some money quickly and this may also be a scam. The advice is to contact the person whose name has been used in the email and ask them if they have sent it.

AN UPDATE on the emergency power station I wrote about last month. After fitting a plug to the electricity supply to my gas boiler (boiler manual says this is ok) I plugged it into my Ecoflow power pack to see if it would work and how long it would keep going for. I had another power pack for many years but its output was a "modified sine wave" which modern electronics do not like and so it would not drive the boiler; avoid. The Ecoflow has a "pure sine wave" and the boiler fired up straightaway. It was before the current cold spell but it kept the boiler going for 9 hours before the power pack battery was exhausted at about 9.00pm. The display on the pack shows how much power is being consumed and the boiler used about 80 Watts when running. I connected my TV to it and it uses about 60 Watts. Surprisingly my TV uses 20 Watts when on standby when all you can see is a little red LED under the screen. In contrast when I put them all in one computer on standby it uses nothing that is measurable. An LED bulb in a table lamp uses next to nothing shooting 0 Watts output even though the bulb is lit. My interest in this small scale test was fired by electric cars and powering your home from the battery. Charge it with low cost electricity and run your home when rates are high. Is there anyone out there with similar interests who would like to share their experience? **Alan Latham**

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acre was listed under the 1845 Enclosure Act and allotted to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the recreational use of the inhabitants of Alkham. Under the 1894 Local Government Act the holding or management of the village green was transferred to the newly formed Parish Councils and therefore the land was and still is a village green and in 1977 was used by the parish for Queen Elizabeth's silver jubilee celebrations. The green has been owned and maintained by the Parish Council since 1894 and the deeds and documents have been reviewed and the land is being registered with the Land Registry. **editor**



THIS BIRD would like to live to see Christmas and has taken sanctuary in our garden and maybe a few others. He does a useful job of clearing up under the bird table and giving us pleasure as he wanders about the driveway. He is a bit demanding and appears just behind you with that hungry look. Occasionally he will tap on the patio door or get up on the table to remind you he is hungry. Hope he makes it. **Alan Latham**

Seasonable

When winters weather's exceptionally mild
It seems as though our senses are beguiled
Into forgetting ice, snow, freezing rain
Imagination grows the flowers again.
Hovering between winter and the spring
We look to find a future that will bring
Exploding apple blossom, pink and white,
The glory and the sunshine and the light.

God is alive, magic is afoot
The world lies trembling at its root
The tiny tendrils twist and curl
The rock hard wood begins to hurl
A thousand arrows to the sky,
A shimmering of greenery.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM W.I. - We had our Christmas meal at the Marquis on Tuesday 12th of December and the food was very good and the raspberry flavoured gin was lovely, so everyone had a lovely evening and thank you to everyone at the Marquis. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 9th of January 2024 and the subject is how to crochet a square; all members please bring a 3.5mm or 4mm crochet hook with you; you can pick one up in a charity shop. Hostesses Eileen West and Debbie Saunders, raffle Jane Aslett. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**



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Please ring Shirley for information on 01304 828098

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
Thursday	25	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm
Tuesday	30	Film Night – The Quiet Girl

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Saturday 13th	Fun, fellowship and food 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 21st	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 28th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 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 and 91 bus

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HALL BOOKING Shirley Prince 828098 **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

alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com

FROM THE VICARAGE - As I write, Christmas is still a fortnight away, and I'm focussed on Christmas cards and Carol Services. So being asked to write my column for the *January* Newsletter means having to change gear and think beyond Christmas Day to the New Year - a time when people look back over the past year. So, here's my review of 2023. Looking back through my diary, the year began with what would become several goodbyes. Some I had known well; all of them, at the end, had been commended to God's love and care. Then there were the baptisms of those who were starting out on life's journey. And three weddings. In May not only did we mark the King's coronation, but we also met Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Bishop of Dover, when she paid a visit to our parish and chatted with us over tea. I attended quite a few meetings and spent hours on paperwork. And I realise that we still don't have the money to restore the lychgate at Capel Old Church, attendance at services is still lower than before the pandemic, and we are struggling to pay what the Diocese asks us to contribute towards the cost of running the Parish... But then I remember that St John's gospel tells of how, after Jesus had fed a crowd with loaves and fish, they went after him - until they realised what following him involved. They left - and when he asked his disciples if they were leaving too Peter answered him: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life." We might love our ancient church buildings, enjoy singing our favourite hymns and seeing friends. But in the end, it's the words of eternal life that matter above all else. **Brian Williams**

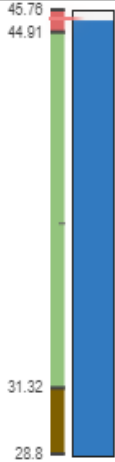
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FLOODING – The Alkham Valley borehole still shows a very high reading as shown in the graphic on the left (31.32 is the typically low level and 44.91 the typically high). In December there was a sizeable lake on the village green which disappeared, but it is now reappearing again and the dyke is flowing very fast.

WITH THE NAILBOURNE flowing high this year along with a very high water table, residents will notice that the dyke in the Village Green is flowing very high and fast. Although it is great fun to see sticks and other debris float away fast, throwing these into the water results in possible blockages in culverts

further downstream and can cause road flooding. I would kindly ask residents to refrain from doing this to help out those people that live in the lower part of Short Lane. Thank you. **Dave Horn**

ALKHAM FETE – LAST CALL - There was a somewhat underwhelming response to my last message to see what support there would be for having Fete in July 2024 but nevertheless there will be a meeting on Monday 5th February at 8 pm in the Village Hall to see if we have sufficient volunteers to make it possible. We will need help running stalls and setting up and taking down the tents, etc. – all are welcome and it's in a good cause with the proceeds being split between the Church and the Village Hall. Please come along or contact me on 07947 016697 in advance. **Paul Tapsell**

CONGRATULATIONS to Gwyneira Jones (Gwyneira means Snow White in Welsh) who will be 100 years old on the 18th of January. Gwyneira has recently moved into the village to be with her son Hugh who lives in the centre of the village.

VILLAGE HALL – Catie Webber has taken over as booking secretary and the new details are on the back page. The village hall is generally available at £8 an hour for parishioners and if you would like to start a club or book the hall please contact us.

IF WOULD you like to brush up on your conversational Spanish come and join our Spanish speaking group on the first Saturday of each month at the Marquis starting on the 3rd of February at 11.00am. Please email me on alkhamamigos@outlook.com if you would like to give it a try; more details on page 2. **Nina Bellas**

PARISH COUNCIL OPEN SURGERY on Saturday 3rd February 10am-12pm at Alkham village hall. An opportunity to discuss issues informally with your parish councillors such as the meadow and new playground equipment, the Ewell Minnis phone box, flooding/sewage etc. Refreshments provided.



THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WALK

was again led by Paul Tapsell. We were blessed with many dogs and mild dry weather and set off on time just after 10 am. Paul took us a short way up Slip Lane to the path behind Evergreen and then up the steep Common Hill and then on to complete circuit through Fidge's Wood across the Chalksole Area at the top and down past Ellinge Cottage and Stonehill Wood coming back along the valley road to the village hall where we gathered for a lovely chat over mulled wine and cheese. **Catie Webber**

THERE IS A NEW FACEBOOK GROUP setup for the residents of Alkham, although it's not limited to those that live in the village, those from surrounding villages and towns are also welcome. The group is called Alkham Village Residents and if you wish to become a member please search for this name on Facebook and select Join Group, a moderator will approve the request and you will be free to post what you want, when you want to (within reason!) There is currently only 1 group rule: Just be nice! **Geoff Bartlett**

FILM NIGHT

Empire of Light Olivia Colman

February 27th 7.30pm

January 30th 7.30pm

The Quiet Girl

Free but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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Saturday 17th February

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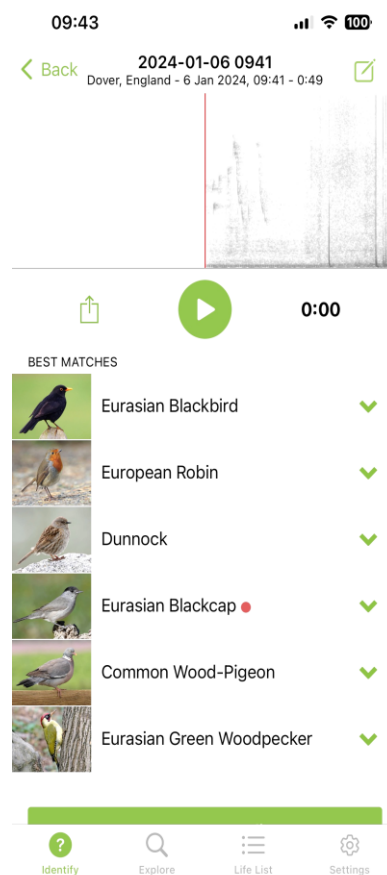
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TREES - We want to let everyone know that one of the large ash trees at Drellingore Barns near the Stombers Lane/Alkham Valley Road junction needs to be felled owing to Ash dieback and proximity to the road. We don't anticipate any impact to road users while the tree is being felled, and wanted to reassure those who enjoy the view that a replacement will be planted and this felling doesn't portend any further tree clearing. Please reach out to family@drellingorebarns.com if you have any questions or want to say 'hello'! **Daniel Jones**

UNION JACK FLAG - The flag on the village green has been taken down and left rolled up on our doorstep, without a note to explain, while we were away from home. Could the person who did this please contact me as I'm keen to understand why - perhaps the rope snapped in the wind? Although I organised the flag for the late Queen's Jubilee, it is owned by the Parish Council and not me. **Irene Barnard**

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers like you take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring. Have a look at the RSPB website to find out how you can help on the weekend of 26 to 28 January. Spend 1 hour looking at the birds in your garden and recording what you see. Last year's most commonly seen bird was the house sparrow followed by the blue tit. If you need some help in identifying birds and have a smart phone you could get the "Merlin bird Identifying" App. as I have done. It has an impressive feature which picks up the bird song and identifies the bird. I spent one minute outside in my garden and switched the App. to Sound ID. It identified the song of Blackbird, Robin, Dunnock, Blackcap. Wood Pigeon and Green Woodpecker. The phone screenshot shows the birds, all you have to do is spot them in the garden and send results to the RSPB. **Alan Latham**

BRUSH UP your Spanish continued from page 1 - Ideally you will be able to hold a simple conversation with others about your life and family. Don't worry if your Spanish is a bit rusty, because the aim of the group is to support one another to improve and enhance your existing skills. Meetings will last about one hour during which people can order their own tea and coffee etc. The first meeting will be held on Saturday 3rd February at 11am at the Marquis of Granby. Please email me on alkhamamigos@outlook.com if you would like to give it a try. **Nina Bellas**



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THE 24 HOUR pumping of water and other items from the sewer which is accessed from the village car park continues. The flooding is caused by the Alkham nailbourne running and is obviously an expensive operation and a continuous noise for adjacent properties.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - The parish council had their first of two meetings this month to set the budget for 2024-25. The ongoing flooding has led again to sewage issues and Southern Water are reporting back weekly on their remedial work and have started to use a quieter pumping system. The Speedwatch Team continue their good work and the parish council are additionally looking to implement a Lorry watch scheme. Trevor Johns represented the parish council at the Dover Council Local Plan hearings, all sessions of which can be viewed on the DDC web site. The Environment work group is organising a tree survey for parish council land and are also obtaining the costs for new playground equipment. New signage has gone up to remind everyone to clean up after dogs.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our January meeting was a fun one trying to show the ladies how to crochet a square. We did have a laugh doing this and our winner was Sue Ross followed by Debbie Saunders and Janet Barrow. Thank you to all the W.I. members that took part and a big thank you to my friend Nicola Church for helping me. Our next meeting is February 13th when our speaker will be Imogen Corrigan, subject Childlike. February's competition is whatever your creative skill is and please make something heart shape as February 14th is Valentines Day. Hostesses Sue Ross and Gina Daniels, raffle Janet Barrow, VOT Helen Price. New members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

2001 FLOOD – The village hall was flooded when the Alkham nailbourne flowed in 2001. In the April edition of the Dover Mercury they had a cartoon as shown below and the following month they had another cartoon advertising Alkham cruises. A flood photo competition was held in the old shop (Old Post Office, Slip Lane) and it was a great success with photos taken by villagers covering all three walls with a prize for the best photo. The village green gradually dried out and the fete was held in July and this too was a great success. **editor**





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Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	27	Film Night – Empire of light
Thursday	29	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00am
Saturday 10th	Fun, fellowship and food (accompanied child) 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Wednesday 14th		Eucharist 7.00 p.m.	
Sunday 18th	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 25th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 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 and 91 bus

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PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

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AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org

MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487

DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@doover.gov.uk 07796444860.

LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com

FROM THE VICARAGE - I recall a parent's evening, years ago, in the days when I was teaching Religious Education in school. A parent introduced herself and sat down. Her daughter was a good student - her book was immaculate, work was always completed, and she had done well in her exam – I was really pleased with her, I said. Mum stared at me, listening in silence. Finally, she spoke. *"It's a funny thing to be good at, isn't it? R.E., I mean..."* It was then that I realised that Mum wasn't pleased at all. In fact, she was panicking; she probably had dreams of her daughter becoming a doctor, or a lawyer, or a nursery nurse or something – but surely, not a nun! Anything but that! But why should R.E. be a funny thing to be good at? After all, it's to do with what matters to people, how they find meaning and purpose in their lives and understanding why they do the things they do. It's about understanding, for instance, that there's more to Lent – which this year begins on St Valentine's Day - than just spending forty days doing without chocolate. It's about understanding that there's more to Easter than bunnies – cute and fluffy though bunnies might be - and making up for all the chocolate that you didn't eat during Lent. I doubt that many, if any, of my former students have ended up as nuns. But over the years I was privileged to meet young people who often surprised others – and themselves – by discovering talents that they didn't know they had. So, if a child you know achieves the unexpected, celebrate it. There's no such thing as 'a funny thing to be good at'! **Brian Williams**

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. 362 March 2024

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FETE MEETING -Thank you to everyone who attended or contacted me about the Fete Meeting on 5th February - we had an excellent turnout and I'm pleased to confirm that we will be holding a Village Fete on the **13th of July 2024 from 2 pm**; we

still need volunteers and will be having a further meeting in late April/early May to finalise details. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact me on 07947 016697. **Paul Tapsell**

ALKHAM UK UNION FLAG - As thought the rope supporting the flag had indeed broken in very windy weather. Our thanks to Elaine and Nathan for caring enough to pick it up. The flag has been laundered and new rope purchased and will be reinstated when we have milder weather. **Irene Barnard**

FOUND by the milk vending machine in the village hall car park a diamond ring. Please ring Catie on 01304 768236 if you have lost it.

DO YOU LOVE FLOWERS, meeting people and learning a craft? Why not come to Dover Flower Club? We are a friendly bunch of people with one thing in common - a love of flowers. We meet monthly on the fourth Monday of the month at Whitfield Village Hall at 7.15pm, other than August and December. Monthly we have demonstrations, talks or workshops. On February 26th Susan Shaw will entertain us with her demonstration 'Chasing Rainbows'. For further information please contact Mig Kimpton on 07831 838851 or Cicely Finnis 07977 334672, visitors are always welcome, come and see us soon. **Maxine West-Burr**

THANK YOU to everyone who attended the parish surgery, we hope you found it useful. If you were unable to attend, please don't hesitate to get in touch. January saw two meetings to finalise the Parish Council budget for the next financial year. The Drop-In Surgery was very well attended. Southern Water sent a team to give an update on the sewage overflow problem in the valley and the Environment Team reported on discussions with playground equipment providers and asked for feedback for both equipment and environmental initiatives. The next parish council meeting will be on Monday 4th of March at 19:00. **Alkham Parish Council**

SNOWDROP WALK and litter pick moved to Sunday February 25th 10:30 outside the village hall. Please wear high viz or light coloured clothing and gloves. Bin bags provided. Last year we made an amazing difference and we hope to do so again. All welcome. **Catie AVS**

WOULD ANYONE be interested in a new group activity in the Village Hall on a Monday or Thursday morning? We know that men's social and support networks often revolve around work and when this changes or they retire, they often lose touch and can become lonely and isolated, which can lead to a wide range of health issues. Kent Sheds grew from this desire to provide a place where Men could come together, make social connections, build friendships, share skills and knowledge whilst hopefully having fun. Kent Sheds vary across the county and provide a wide range of activities, often including woodworking, metalworking, repairing, restoring and gardening. Men's Sheds typically attract older men, but many have women and younger members too. The one thing that all sheds share is their concept of providing a safe place for likeminded people to come together for a sense of belonging. If you have any interest, in the first place please contact brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

FILM NIGHT No film in March

Empire of Light Olivia Colman

February 27th 7.30pm

Free but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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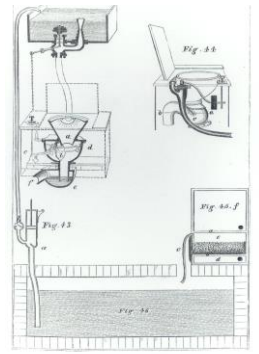
Saturday 18th March

will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm

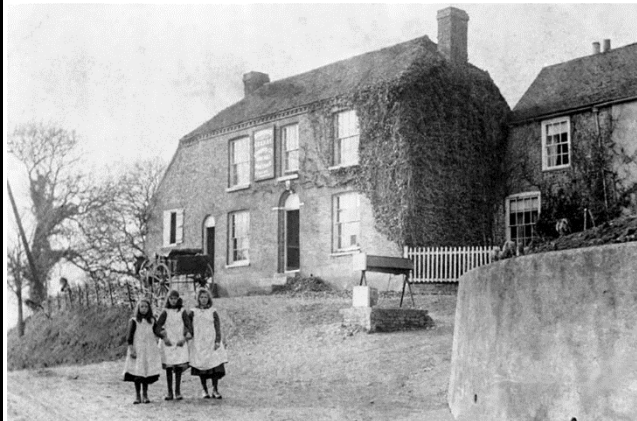
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CISTERNS - Money saving expert Martin Lewis says that if you have more bedrooms than people in the house you can save money by having a water meter fitted. We have been awash with water recently so perhaps we should start to harvest it instead of buying it. Rainwater harvesting is a must for the new generation of eco houses but the Victorians were doing it and others before them. Some of the older houses in the village have a large brick and mortar lined chamber either under or adjacent to the house. In Alkham I know of one that is in use and another that was abandoned and filled with all manner of things. Such water holding structures are referred to as cisterns and differ from wells in that they are filled with rainwater from roofs rather than groundwater that fills wells. Cisterns are only a couple of metres deep and lined to keep groundwater out. So why have a cistern if you have a well? The Victorians in hard water areas like Alkham found that doing the laundry in hard water was not as effective as using the soft rainwater and hauling water from the village well was a lot more work than hand pumping from a cistern in the garden. Surprisingly piped water did not arrive in Alkham until just after the Second World War in the late 1940's. If you have saved water and money by having a water meter fitted, your next step is to start rainwater harvesting even if you only use it for watering the garden and digging a 2m deep hole will keep you fit! The illustration shows how you might use your rainwater cistern to fill your toilet cistern. **Alan Latham**



WATER-CISTERN AND RAINWATER-CISTERN. FIG. 4.6 TO 4.9.



VILLAGE WELL – A lot of the houses in Alkham had cisterns but the village well in front of the Marquis of Granby was a well as can be seen in the 1930's photo on the left. Parish Council minutes record that there were complaints

about people not covering the well after they got their water. The cisterns, as mentioned above, could be very big with vaulted ceilings for providing water to hospitals and other large buildings and the Old Post Office in Alkham still has one which works when it wants to for watering the garden in dry periods. **Editor**

ANYONE WILLING to help with materials or labour to decorate St Anthony's Church for Easter on Thursday 28 March and Friday 29th. Long pieces of coloured dogwood stems, forsythia and blossom would be appreciated. Thanks, Catie.



ALKHAM W.I. - Our February meeting was a very interesting one and our speaker was Imogen Corrigan talking about medieval children. Our next meeting is March 12th and it's our AGM when we will be voting for a new president as Helen Scopes will be retiring. Hostesses are Vanessa Oakley and Christine Banham, Raffle Debbie Griggs. All members to wear something yellow e.g. ribbon flower as it is Marie Curie on the 21st of March. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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ON THE 16TH OF MARCH Southern Equestrian Supplies are holding a cake morning at which you can come and buy cakes from us and proceeds go to Marie Curie. If anyone from the village would like to bake a cake or more and drop it into us at the Garden Centre please, we would be very grateful. We would also be very grateful if you would help us to support the charity. Many thanks Debbie Griggs.

CHURCHYARD – Susan Lees, who lived in Alkham, was the Parish Clerk from 1982 to 2006 and she did a survey of the churchyard from which she produced a plan of the graves together with the details on the gravestone. As a result, a 13 page A4 booklet has been made which has been left in St. Anthony's church in which the names of the people are listed in alphabetical order together with the details on the memorial. There is a number against each entry and these numbers in sequential order are shown on a plan of the churchyard so that a visitor can find where a grave is. If anyone would like a PDF copy of this, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

ASIAN HORNET UPDATE - The Dover and District Bee Keeping Association (DDBKA) met at the end of January in the village hall, the meeting was focused on planning for the coming year and how best to tackle the invasive Asian Hornet (AH). The meeting was very well attended and the number of cars trying to park were more than the car parks capacity, so firstly, sorry to anyone who was inconvenienced. We had a talk from a representative from the National Bee Unit (NBU), they have been pivotal in tracking and locating Asian hornets and nests since the sudden increase last year. Last year the NBU located 72 nests in 55 locations, the majority in the South East. Northern France is now heavily populated by AHs and the NBU believe they have travelled over here in cars, lorries, containers, on ferries and some have flown/been blown over. 7 nests were located in the cliffs at Capel. The AHs trapped in Alkham seem to have come from a nest located in Ewell Minnis. As temperatures rise the NBU expect queens will come out of hibernation and start new colonies. February is therefore the time to set spring traps to try and trap these queens before they start laying. There is more guidance this year regarding safety and insurance when dealing with AHs. The British Bee Keeping Association covers its members for monitoring traps, which includes releasing bi catch and replenishing the bait - Trappit. DDBKA have a team of AH team members lead by Jackie Thomas the AH Coordinator. The plan is to try and place a hornet trap at roughly 1km intervals throughout the area and have these monitored by members. Please, if you can, load the free Hornet Watch App onto your phone. It is a very easy and effective way to report sightings, it is also very helpful in identifying the AH versus the slightly larger but native European hornet. The European hornet poses no risk to our bees and other insects and although it looks large and can give a nasty sting it does not need to be reported. You can also report sightings of the AH by completing an online form on the nonnative species.org website. If you have more questions DDBKA have an email address doverasianhornets@btinternet.com. **Emma Kaile**



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Saturday 9th	<i>Fun, fellowship and food – children plus adult 3.00 – 5.00 pm</i>		
Sunday 10th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 17th	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 24th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 31st	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 7.00 am	Eucharist 11.00 am

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FROM THE VICARAGE - I remember the hours I spent as a teenager waiting for the bus to school – and how I would smile whenever I heard older people in the queue start a conversation. If it wasn't the weather, it was their aches and pains that they always seemed to talk about. Years have passed, and I must admit that that particular chicken has come home to roost. There was a time when I could run up a staircase, often two steps at a time, carrying schoolbooks from one lesson to the next – but now my knees usually complain when I try anything like that. At the bus station the other day I happened to see someone I knew. We started by asking each other how we were. Guess how the conversation went...! As I write it is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is a time when people talk about giving something up – for Christians, a way of preparing to keep Holy Week and Easter. I've been reading about a monk, St John of the Cross, who lived in Spain during the 16th Century and who, to put it simply, compared getting to know God to going on a journey or, more precisely, to climbing a mountain. It's a journey that, like life itself, has challenging uphill stretches. One of his 'big ideas' is that God wants to help us along on the journey – but we must realise that we can only accept what's on offer if we're prepared to risk letting go of what we already have. We can't accept anything new if our hands are already full. So perhaps I'll try less giving up, and more letting go this Lent. And I'll joyfully embrace life with wonky knees ... **Brian Williams**

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FLOOD – It's not clear what is going to happen with the flooding as it rises and falls but a family from Newlyn's Meadow had great fun on the lake over the village green in their rubber inflatable.

VILLAGE HALL - The A.G.M. of the Alkham Village Hall Management Committee will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 16th April from 7.00p.m. All are welcome. Come and give your views on what we are doing or should be doing for the benefit of the village, the local community and any of the organisations who regularly use the Hall. **Janet Adamson, Hon Secretary** janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com

ALKHAM FETE - There will be a Fete Meeting at 8 pm on the 8th of April 2024 in the Village Hall to finalise arrangements for the Fete - I know it's already in your diary, but it's 13th July 2024 from 2 pm! Please come along - new faces and ideas are always welcome. If you can't make it, please let me know on 07947 016697 or via the Fete WhatsApp Group. **Paul Tapsell.**

ALKHAM FETE - It is now confirmed we are having our Alkham Fete in July so perhaps a good time to ask for unwanted gifts and decent saleable bric-à-brac items for my stall. China, glass, ornaments and prints usually sell well but happy to look at any other item you are kind enough to donate. No clothes please unless it's vintage Dior or Chanel size 12 - just kidding. **Irene 07789 412432**

PLANTS - At this year's fete Vernon James will be running the plant stall. If anyone has planted too much of anything rather than put it on the compost heap, please could they bear us in mind so we can put it on the stall for the Fete and any donations will be greatly appreciated. Please email anitajames163@gmail.com or phone 07760475365 if you can help. **Anita James**

PARISH COUNCIL - The village green and football field flooding appears to have stabilised but Southern Water continue to pump out the sewage system 24hr a day. They have reported that a survey will be carried out to assess where the flood water is leaking into the sewers. A survey of the trees on vicarage meadow will be carried out in the next few weeks. We are still waiting for the last playground equipment quote and we will be holding a fundraising quiz on Friday 3rd May, see separate article for details. We have a volunteer to paint the Temple Ewell telephone box who will be starting the refurbishment when BT confirm parish ownership. Kent Highways are currently running a traffic survey to ratify the Highways Improvement Plan.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - We'd like to take a quick moment to thank you all in the village for your support as this April marks 5 years since we took over the reins of your local and we couldn't be happier to be part of this community. Please do pop in for a drink to help us celebrate over the next few weeks. Don't forget to check out our great value set lunch menu and our latest spring menu which has been launched as well. **Michael Cartwright – Manager**

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL are organising a quiz evening at the village hall to help raise funds for new play equipment. It will be on Friday 3rd of May from 7:30pm. Tickets £5 per person, tables of up to 6 people. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. There will also be a raffle with great prizes. To book a table, please ring Marian on 07305 554662 or Catie on 07976 649726.

FILM NIGHT in village hall

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April 30th 7.30pm

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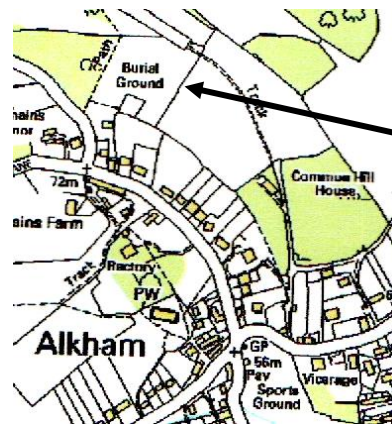
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MEMENTO MORI - I recently took an interest in the listed buildings and monuments in the Parish. The Historic England website lists 25. As expected, St. Anthony's Church and the Old Rectory featured amongst the 25 results returned by a search. What surprised me was that seven of the results were gravestones or



groups of gravestones. The Historic England listings give the approximate positions and so off I went to find out what made a gravestone worthy of a Grade 2 listing. A common feature was the carving of reliefs depicting death. Skulls, crossed bones, coffins and a little less macabre was a cherub or open book, presumably the bible. They are generally from the 18th century and the symbols and motifs are a reminder that we all must die and to be prepared (memento

mori). A little more research led me to a web site entitled 'Find a Grave'. Not to be missed if you're doing the family tree. There are graveyards, crematoria and cemeteries from all over the world and St Anthony's is one of them. It lists 647 people, some with photographs and biographies. It is an open site meaning that after joining for free you can add or edit information and request information from other users. I have responded to a few by uploading photographs of specific stones and received a thank you from a woman in Australia. My intention was to make it known which of the gravestones were listed Grade 2 and I have made a start. Anyone want to help, jump in. Ref. <https://historicengland.org.uk/> and <https://www.findagrave.com/>. **Alan Latham**



CHAPELS – There were two Wesleyan Chapels in Alkham, one being on the hill opposite Glebelands and the other was in Slip Lane which also had a burial ground behind that still exists. The Chapel closed in 1960 and the building was sold but didn't include the graveyard which is now a piece of isolated land. The people buried there are not recorded but some gravestones are still standing. **editor**

DOVER FLOWER CLUB - A friendly flower club for anyone who is interested in arranging, growing, or simply admiring flowers. The club meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7.15pm, at Whitfield Village Hall, Manley Close CT16 0LY. We organise flower arranging demonstrations, workshops to improve skills, visits and talks. Our programme for Spring is as follows: Monday 25th March, a flower arranging demonstration by Elloise Hasler Scott, entitled 'Spring walk'; Monday 22nd April, a flower arranging demonstration by Iris Shaw entitled 'Anything Goes'. For more details contact Mig Kimpton 07831 838851.

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SHEDS – In last month's newsletter there was an article about Men's Sheds as when men retire, they often lose touch and can become lonely and isolated. There were only two responses to the article so it looks unlikely that one will start in Alkham but please contact brianwimsett@hotmail.com if you think one would be worthwhile. However, there are several sheds locally and the one at Paddlesworth near Hawkinge has activities such as agriculture and woodwork, contact john.roberts1@btconnect.com or 01303 259007. The Cheriton Marigold Shed, Cheriton Road, Folkestone does woodwork and the Crabble Cornmill Shed woodwork and gardening, contact: David.keningale@gmail.com.



THE PHOTO on the left shows the Alkham Village Hall being built in 1930 and Thomas Tunbridge can be seen standing on the ground where the floor will be. They later put wooden battens on this ground and then tongue and groove flooring on top. When the ground water rises outside it will also rise inside the hall and that's why there are no sandbags round the hall, which could make matters worse by stopping the water draining away. **editor**

TREES – The Woodland Trust does a lot of good work and they intend to plant 10,000 trees across 100 hectares of ex-arable land at Hawkhurst in Kent, which also has ancient woodland. Dormice are at risk, but their surveyors found baby dormice in the new nesting tubes which is good news. The Trust offers various subsidised packs of trees, details of which can be found on their web site. **editor**



VILLAGE WEB SITE – Harlan Webber, who lives in the village, is to be congratulated for the unpaid work that he has carried out on the village web site alkham.org and it is now possible to book the village hall through the web site and see what dates are available. He has brought the site up to date but retained the existing format. **editor**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our March meeting was a success when we appointed a new president and a new treasurer. Our next meeting is on the 9th of April when our speaker will be Mr. Garry Manser who will be talking about scams and data protection. This is open to the village so if any non-members would like to pop along it will be £2 entry. Hostesses Margaret Batcheldor and Lucy McKenzie, raffle Sue Ross and VOT Helen Scopes. All new members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

SNOWDROP WALK - Eight hardy souls gathered on a cold drizzling Sunday February 25th for the annual AVS snowdrop walk and litter pick. This year we were supported by DDC who once we had submitted our risk assessment provided a loan of high viz jackets and grab sticks plus collected the rubbish afterwards. We split into 4 teams of 2 and managed to collect 16 bags of litter as well as reporting counts of fly tipping and **PLEASE HELP** with the Spring Cleaning of the Church 10:30 am Saturday 27th April. Need to dust and polish and spruce things up. **Catie Webber**



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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	8	Fete meeting 8pm
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	16	Village Hall AGM 7pm
Thursday	25	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	United Parish Eucharist at St Mary's (Capel Old Church) 10.00 am		
Saturday 13th	Fun, fellowship and food –3.00 – 5.00 pm (adult accompanied)		
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11 am	Worship 11 am
Sunday 21st	Worship 11am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11 am
Sunday 28th	Sung Eucharist at St Laurence, Hougham 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

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MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487

DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@doover.gov.uk 07796444860.

LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com

FROM THE VICARAGE - I remember the hours I spent as a teenager, waiting for the bus to school – and how I would smile whenever I heard older people in the queue start a conversation. If it wasn't the weather, it was their aches and pains that they always seemed to talk about. Years have passed, and I must admit that that particular chicken has come home to roost. There was a time when I could run up a staircase, often two steps at a time, carrying schoolbooks from one lesson to the next – but now my knees usually complain when I try anything like that. At the bus station the other day I happened to see someone I knew. We started by asking each other how we were. Guess how the conversation went...! As I write it is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is a time when people talk about giving something up – for Christians, a way of preparing to keep Holy Week and Easter. I've been reading about a monk, St John of the Cross, who lived in Spain during the 16th Century and who, to put it simply, compared getting to know God to going on a journey or, more precisely, to climbing a mountain. It's a journey that, like life itself, has challenging uphill stretches. One of his 'big ideas' is that God wants to help us along on the journey – but we must realise that we can only accept what's on offer if we're prepared to risk letting go of what we already have. We can't accept anything new if our hands are already full. So perhaps I'll try less giving up, and more letting go this Lent. And I'll joyfully embrace life with wonky knees ... **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 364 May 2024

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IT'S BACK! Alkham sunflower competition, to win the much-coveted trophy and a prize. All you are required to do is grow the tallest Sunflower and we can supply the seedlings for free, or contestants can grow their own. They can be grown in a pot or in the ground the only rule is that they have to be grown in the parish of Alkham. Then just fend off the slugs and the squirrels and the measuring day is usually at the end of August but yet to specified. Our measurement team will measure all the sunflowers and whoever's is the tallest wins the prize and of course bragging rights. If you would like to take part, please let myself or Vernon know and if you would like us to supply you with a seedling. **Anita James** anitajames163@gmail.com

HANDBAGS - At the fete on the 13th of July Jane will be running the very popular handbag stall. Could the ladies and let's not forget gents of the village please rummage around in any wardrobes and if there is a handbag or perhaps man bag that is no longer of use, please could you let Jane know by phoning her on 07340749788. Jane will even come and collect them if necessary.

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL - A reminder that we are hosting a quiz night on Friday 3rd of May at 7:30pm to raise funds for the new playground equipment. It is £5 per person and up to 6 people per table. The village green tree survey is now completed and any remedial work will be done in due course. The traffic surveys are now completed and the data is being analysed to help formulate Alkham's Highways Improvement Plan. Alkham Speedwatch now have 3 bodycams thanks to Councillor David Beaney's KCC grant. A public consultation opened on the 11th of April giving residents the chance to have their say on modifications to the Dover District Local Plan. The consultation is open for six weeks and closes at 5pm on the 24th of May. DDC and KCC are working on the current round of Solar Together Kent, a group-buying scheme for households and small businesses to get high-quality solar panels at a competitive price. The more people who register will generate potentially bigger savings. Further information on these is available on the parish council and DDC websites. The local MP Natalie Elphicke has confirmed her attendance at a drop-in at the village hall on 14th of September. Further information to follow.

PIANO available in Alkham for free to a good home! It was last tuned just before lockdown. Must be able to collect and take it away! Call Nicola on 07713894408.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY, a musical evening with Snowdon Male Voice Choir at St. Anthony's church on the 15th of June at 7.30pm. After our very successful concert in 2022 we've had a number of requests for another. As a member of the Snowdon Male Voice Choir, I am so looking forward to this concert in our wonderful church alongside another 'Alkham boy' Harlan Webber who joined the choir last year. Since that last concert we have a new director, our very own 'Alkham music man' Graham Bissett. Many of you who know Graham will be aware how passionate and enthusiastic he is about music and for the last few years has been leading the village choir 'Valley Voices', who meet every Wednesday evening in the village hall. Further concert details (tickets) will be published in next month's newsletter. **Ken Spencer**

FLOODING - The GOV.UK website says that the groundwater levels in East Kent remain very high but are expected to remain at a stable level. The highest borehole level of 45.76m was in 2001 when the village hall flooded and in February of this year it was at 45.75m with a big lake appearing on the village green and ominously creeping towards the hall. Since then, the borehole level has reduced by about 50mm. **editor**

FILM NIGHT

28th May 7.30pm village hall

The Great Escaper

Michael Caine Glenda Jackson

April 30th The Miracle Club

Free entry but £4 donation appreciated

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MURDER, MYSTERY AND TRUTH - I was investigating 'no dig gardening' using wood chips and was interested to know where all your green waste is carted off to. One of my sources states that Dover DC collect it and take it to Hope Farm at Capel. They shred it and pile it up outside where it decomposes, periodically it is turned to get the air in, which is needed for the composting process. Sounded interesting and so I had a look on Google maps at which point I lost interest in compost because Hope Farm is very close to "Cut Throat Lane". I recalled that there had been a double murder in Capel Le Ferne in the 19th century and now thought I had found the scene of the crime. I am not often wrong, ask my wife, but I was wrong on two counts, first of all you don't use composted wood chip/ green waste in no dig gardening. The idea is to protect the soil with an inert layer that does not support growth but keeps the soil underneath moist and free of self seeding weeds. For the full story search the internet and save all your shrub like cuttings complete with leaves for shredding and mulching; no digging. My second error was assuming the double murder by Dedea Redanies in the 1850s was committed in Cut Throat Lane. It had taken place nearer to the cliff tops. It appears from my surfing that there are numerous Cut Throat Lanes across the UK and that the name has probably been derived from "Cut A Thwart Lane" meaning a short cut. "Cut A Thwart Lane" still exists in a number of counties, this one in Essex. **Alan Latham**



GREAT NEWS for our local primary school!! The Schools Minister Damian Hinds has praised a Dover primary school for being in the country's top 1% for reading, writing and maths. Hinds sent a letter of congratulations to Temple Ewell Church of England Primary School in Brookside for its "very high standard of achievement". Mrs. Matthews, headteacher said "We are extremely proud of this achievement and we are 3rd in Kent. We currently have spaces in some year groups so please contact the office on 01304 822665 to make enquiries and to come and have a look round." **Nicola Church**



appalling so it was good to see a memorial on a tree at Acrise in memory of some of their farm horses which were requisitioned by the government and subsequently killed in WWI. **editor**

HORSES – Memorials are held for the men and women killed in WWI but generally not for the horses. About half a million horses from Britain died in the war and conditions for them must have been

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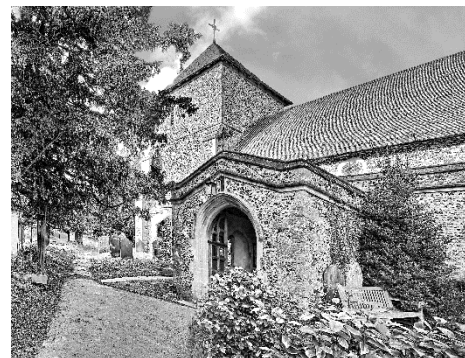
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FURTHER to the articles on chapels and Sue Lee's superb cemetery list, the photo on the left shows the Mission Hall on the hill opposite the newly built Glebelands as shown in the background in the 1950's photo. The Mission Hall or chapel is in the centre with a cottage either side and the last people to live in the cottages were George Kitham and his sister Mabel. In 1894 Parish Councils were enacted which replaced the Vestry and George's father

was the first Parish Clerk with his son George taking over in 1924 for another 35 years. There are 21 Kitham's buried in St. Anthony's cemetery with Mabel dying in 1958 and George a year later and the earliest Kitham burial was in 1722 so it was an old Alkham name which appears to have ended with Mabel and George. **editor**

THE BELLS – It is good to hear the bells still ringing at St. Anthony's church and also to hear them change ringing when rather than ringing in order they alternate when instructed by the tower captain. However, change ringing in Victorian times was not very orderly with swearing, smoking and a barrel of beer in the tower normal and a deep rift developed between ringers and clergy, with some towers closed by their incumbents. The ringers often broke into the belfries to ring or drink and were usually very independent, reserving the right to choose when to ring. The bells are church property, so the vicar has law on his side, but little can be done against a difficult band of ringers. In rural areas, any action rebounded because the community was close knit and everyone was related, which could result in smaller congregations and collection money. The details above were from an article by the Association of Ringing Teachers and was sent to me by Anita James who with her husband are carrying on the tradition of bell ringing in Alkham but without the habits of the past. **editor**



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Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	28	Film Night 7.30pm see page 1
Thursday	30	Tea & chat 2.30pm to 4pm

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Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Thursday 9th	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 7.00 p.m.		
Saturday 11th	Fun, fellowship and food – children accompanied 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 19th	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 26th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

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DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@doover.gov.uk 07796444860.

LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE - Here's an opportunity – a Victorian property in Chester close to the cathedral, city centre and railway station. To the rear, spectacular views across the River Dee into North Wales. Yours for £100,000, but with a very leaky roof. Or if you want to stay closer to home, £500,000 secures a distinctive piece of 1960s architecture situated on the seafront at St Leonards. A little-known corner of the Church of England website lists redundant churches for sale. Some are converted for commercial use, others become executive homes or flats - and therefore off limits to anyone wanting a trip down Memory Lane - while others, sadly, are demolished. Fortunately others, like our own St Mary's, Capel le Ferne, will pass to the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) which acquires those that are of historical interest and opens them to the public. Services are held at St Mary's about three times a year, weather permitting. The church is swept beforehand, and dead leaves, deceased insects and so on removed. Although the church might look neglected, it really isn't, it's just redundant – the CCT check it regularly, and their contractors deal with any repairs needed. Someone recently expressed an interest on social media in forming a group who might like to help to clean the church. I contacted the CCTs Local Community Officer Nick Watts, who writes: It would be fantastic if there are some locals who are willing to support the church, but I must stress that they are currently not permitted to do any repairs or heavy cleaning. This is of course a grade I listed structure, and the group would be in breach of Historic England's heritage listing status if they did anything without the CCTs consent. Interested? Please contact Nick at nwatts@thecc.org.uk or on 07972 767010. **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

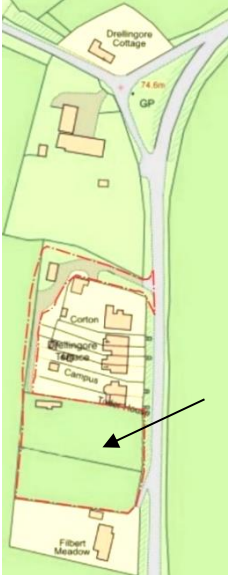
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Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 364 June 2024

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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 29th 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 6th 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 15th 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. **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. 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

25th June 7.30pm village hall

The Holdovers - Paul Giamatti

28th May The Great Escaper

Free entry but £4 donation appreciated

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Wootton Village Hall

Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM
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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 11th 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 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 22nd of April 2024, aged 88 years. Although his name was James, he was known to everyone as Chris. Chris was born on the 8th 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 Shepherdsweil and then to Hythe. He was always happy to be with his family and many friends. The funeral is on the 23rd of May at 11am at Shepherdsweil 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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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 2nd	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Saturday 8th	<i>Messy Church, followed by tea 3.00 – 5.00 pm Capel</i>		
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 16th	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 23rd	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 30th	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

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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@doover.gov.uk 07796444860.

LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

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 27th 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**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

and magazine

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No. 365 July 2024

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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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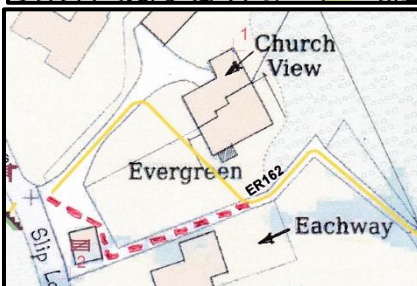
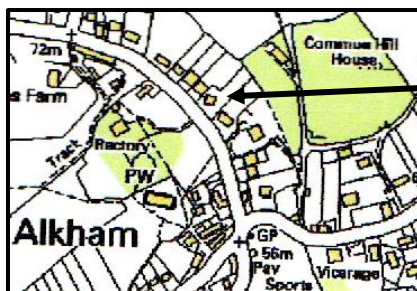


DRELLINGORE - We have just made our second planning application for our self-build conversion of Drellingore Barns. At the time of writing the plans are not available on the Dover District Council website, but a

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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ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK

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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**

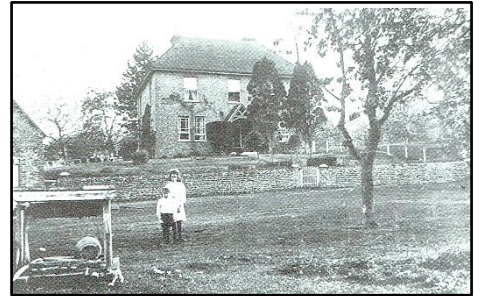


PLEASE help our local Beekeepers by identifying and reporting Asian Hornet sightings. Asian hornets arrived in France in 2004 and have since spread across large areas

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**



TENNIS – A question was asked as to where tennis was played in the past in Alkham. The tennis court was at the bottom of the garden behind the Old Vicarage and can be seen as the flat piece of ground by the 'No Mow' area on the village green adjacent



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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

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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.

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. 366 August 2024

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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**



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**



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 25th of

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

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm

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

30th July Wicked Little Letters

Alkham Village Hall

Free entry but £4 donation appreciated

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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**

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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 13th 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 10th 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 60th 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 23rd of September, Birthday Celebration, Whitfield Village Hall. Members free, visitors £10. Monday 28th of October Workshop, Whitfield Village Hall. Members free, visitors £8.00. Monday 25th 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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Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	29	Tea & chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09

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MP Mike Tapp:: KCC David Beane 07818 024487

DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@doover.gov.uk 07796444860.

LOCAL SITES alkham.org 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**

ST. ANTHONY’S OPEN DAY

On Saturday the 20th 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 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

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No. 367 September 2024

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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

the Whistle Stop Cafe

Free entry but £4 donation appreciated

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Saturday 28th September

No visit in August

will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm

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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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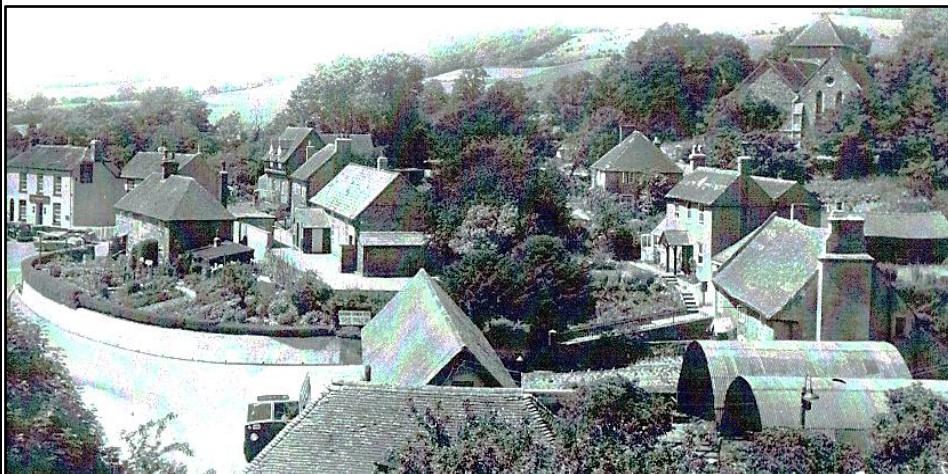
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ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK

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

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PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

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AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org

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

DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@doover.gov.uk 07796444860.

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**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 368 October 2024

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VOLUNTEERING! - I wanted to thank the Parish Council for a name check in the last edition of the Alkham News for helping to clear the road outside the village hall; in truth there were too many volunteers to name which all started following a tipsy conversation during the village Garden Club earlier in the year. Any notion that they are my 'band of volunteers' really needs putting to bed as the good spirit of those people volunteering is just an extension of what so many people, for so many years have already done. You all know who you are! Amongst some of the comments made to me were that perhaps

it's quite difficult or an imposition when Parish Councillors, Village Hall committee members or anyone in a position of responsibility ask for volunteers. Now I'm not saying that I'm irresponsible but I'm certainly not a Parish Councillor, a Village Hall committee member or anyone of any significance. However, it does seem to me that we have many skills amongst us in the village and if they can be put to good use for our community, without the need to pay for the services, we could all benefit. During the ongoing improvements to the Village Hall this latest band of volunteers have concreted a new side path following the recent repair of the soakaway and started on the paving slabs and electrical supply into the car park. Who knew we had a master concreter in the form of Bryony Levermore and a master mixer in the form of David Manton. There's more work still to be done and, be it the finesse of Graham West or the brute force of myself, all are welcome to help out as so many already have. The Village Hall for one is a charity, it needs our help and support whatever skill, talent or service that is. As a person of no significance at all, I'm happy to put anyone in touch with the right people where your talents can help. Also, thanks to passer-by, expert photographer and self-titled specialist moaner Barry Spicer who insisted on taking a photo of the four of us! **Kev Rolfe**

CALLING ANYONE who enjoys a thoroughly enjoyable, social evening! I have booked the Village Hall on 5th of October to hold a Harvest Barn Dance/Ceilidh/Folk Dance – call it what you will. There will be live music and a caller, and supper will be included in the ticket price of £10, which I think represents amazing value for money for 4 hours of entertainment. There will not be a bar so, of course, you are welcome to bring your own refreshment. If you have not been to an event such as this before, no dancing skills are necessary, just the ability to walk, to step or to skip in time with the music, as the caller will give you the instructions for each dance. Two feet or either right or left variety is not an excuse! This is not Line Dancing, but traditional English, Irish and Scottish folk dancing, sometimes in couples, but often in sets of several couples. It is super exercise and a great way of socialising and meeting people. I guarantee you will leave the hall with a smile on your face. I need to sell 70 tickets to cover costs of musicians, food etc. Please contact me at 07789 690786 or graham.bissett@talk21.com for tickets – and bring your friends!! **Graham Bissett**

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING - On Saturday the 26th of October between 10-12 am we are raising funds towards hall improvements and hope you can come along for a cuppa. There will be the usual raffle and cake stall, so could all you lovely people please donate whatever you can. I would appreciate raffles prizes beforehand, so I know what I have but cakes on the day please. **Sue Koo - 07454021992**

IT'S THAT TIME of year again folks Harvest supper time. I have booked the hall for Monday the 14th of October and it will be an American Supper again where you bring your own food and drink. It will start at 19.00 and please if you have any produce that can be auctioned off please bring it along to either our Harvest service on the Sunday or on the night. Tickets will be £7.00 each to book ring Carol on 07946106742 or 01304 826514.

MARK LOVEDAY – It is sad to report that Mark died in September. He owned the Old Rectory in Alkham and further details and thanks for his many contributions are given on page 2.

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Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details

Also cater for weddings, kid's parties, christenings,
charity events, fish supper parties and boot fairs

MARK LOVEDAY - Mark was born in London in 1943 and lived in London, but he also owned the Old Rectory on Slip Lane which his family regularly visited for many years as he loved Alkham and tried to do everything he could to keep it as a lovely village. When the owner of Malmaison Farm died about 10 years ago the beneficiaries applied for a planning application to build a large number of houses on the farmland by the entrance to Alkham on the Folkestone side, but this was rejected and Mark immediately bought the land which continues to be farmed today. Cricket was Mark's life-long interest and each year his team the Harrington Hackers played an Alkham team on the village green and entertained proverbial lunches at the Old Rectory which many may remember. He was also Chairman of the Alkham Valley Society and gave generous donations to the Friends of St. Anthony to maintain the church building and helped with other village activities. He was a kind man and Alkham is very grateful. *This is on behalf of Alkham*

ASIAN HORNETS IN ALKHAM, now more descriptively being referred to as

yellow-legged hornets (YLH) - In August, a yellow legged hornet nest was found up Slip Lane. The nest was found after a number of YLH's had been trapped at various locations around the village. The National Bee Unit (Plant and Animal Health Agency) visited as soon as the hornets were identified and started work to locate the nest. This was an involved process with them recording flight time and direction of individual hornets. They then had to work out how best to destroy a nearly 30 metre high nest next to houses and a road. In the end climbers poisoned the colony and later removed the nest. Other nests have been found and destroyed in Lydden and Temple Ewell. The first week of September was "Asian hornet week" and some of the coverage on the BBC featured locations in Alkham. We had YLH and nests last year but there is a greater awareness of what we need to do to prevent this predatory species from becoming established in the UK. There have been traps set up since last year at roughly 1km intervals, the majority of these supplied and monitored by Dover and District Bee Keepers Association. We are going to continue seeing YLH's each year even if nests are cleared as new hornets will arrive from France, so it is important particularly in our area that people know what to do if they suspect they have seen a YLH. The Asian Hornet Watch app remains the best way to do this, otherwise make sure that you have a clear picture to help identification, as the European hornet and various wasps are easily misidentified as YLH's. Please contact me if you would like a card with identification details. **Emma Kaile** emmakaile1@gmail.com

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION - Out of the 29 households which took place in this year's contest, owing mainly to this year's slug fest, odd weather and storm Lillian by the time the day of measuring the sunflowers came only 6 competitors were left. The winner this year are Sue and Ray Latham with an impressive 7'4, followed by Vernon 6', Alan Tapsell 5'8, Paul Tapsell 5'6, Ken Spencer 5'3 and Richard Tapsell 5'1. Thank you to everyone who took part and to Vernon who grew all the seedlings. **Anita James**

A MESSAGE from Temple Ewell School - Mrs Church has been busy again applying for grants to enrich our school programme and support our families. This time we have been successfully chosen as a Tesco blue token nominee. Please, when you shop in Tesco Dover, can you collect a blue token at the till and pop it into the Temple Ewell School slot by the door as you leave. It is also in the Deal store so please share this with your friends and family. The token drop runs from the first week in October until mid-January 25. **Angela Matthews**

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brianwimsett@hotmail.com

PETANQUE SOCIAL TASTER - Following the most recent Parish Council Meeting, I would now like to arrange a Social Taster Event on Vicarage Meadow at 2pm on Saturday the 12th of October. First, I'd like to thank everyone for all the responses, I have reported these back to the Parish Council and I have asked for their support and permission to build a terrain on the The Meadow. I believe that I gave a very fair representation of the feedback including comments about some wishing for children's play area's to be prioritised, about concerns over costs, about fencing (which is not part of the proposal) and about concerns over issues at the Capel-le-Ferne area but that the majority of feedback was supportive and in favour. I'd like to address a few of the comments directly, however space and time are limited so I invite everyone to attend the taster for more information. I've requested to book the village hall so I would suggest that we all meet in the hall at 2pm to discuss the proposal and play some pétanque right after. I will be inviting all the Parish Councillors so this is your opportunity to show your support and find out more, please come along, whatever the weather and bring whatever refreshments you prefer and don't forget your boules, although there will be some available for all to use including children's sets, in fact as the taster will be held on grass it may well prove that we all use plastic sets as the steel boules that many of you have may not be suitable on the day. Finally, the large issue of money! I'll be trying to raise all the construction costs through donations so that when I go back to the council again we are only looking for permission to build and no cost implication. I've already had some very generous offers which I am embarrassed to accept but I'm sure with the number of people supporting this request we can raise enough fairly easily, although donations are not required to join us on the day or use the facilities after. I'm not looking for any cash at this stage, but I will be asking for pledges, anonymously if desired, on the day so we know what we are facing. If successful I'd like to obtain permission from the Parish Council and have the facility built after Christmas and ready for use by Easter 2025! **Kev Rolfe**

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - So it's that time again, village Christmas lights will be on Saturday 7th December, please come along for a sing song and chat with Santa. We are going to follow this with a party in the village hall. So, get your glad rags on and come along for some fun, music and dancing. We are looking to do sharing platters again and everyone bring their own drinks. Finally, there will be a raffle, this will pay for hire of the hall and any remaining monies will go to support village hall improvements. Hopefully, you can help with donating of a raffle prize/s. One last thing if you could contact me, just ideas of numbers and what you might like to bring along for sharing on the night. Looking forward to seeing you all. Further updates next month. **Graham West** (graham.west28@hotmail.com).

ALKHAM W.I. - What an enjoyable evening, our speaker was Judi Knight telling us all about the war and how there were clothes coupons as well as food coupons. Our next meeting is on the 8th of October and our speaker will be Dean Guston, subject the queens service. Hostesses Lucy McKenzie and Marian Libaert, raffle Helen Price, VOT Eileen West. New members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**



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Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09

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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

Saturday	5	Harvest Barn Dance – see page 1
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Monday	14	Harvest Supper – see page 1
Saturday	26	Coffee morning – see page 1
Thursday	31	Tea & chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evening 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Saturday 12th	<i>Fun, fellowship and food - children accompanied 3.00 – 5.00 pm</i>		
Sunday 13th HARVEST	Eucharist 9.30 am	Songs 11.00 am	Songs 11.00 am
Sunday 20th	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 27th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

POLICE 999 or 101 **NEWSLETTER** brianwimsett@hotmail.com

PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

HALL BOOKING Catie Webber 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com

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

AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org

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

DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860.

LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE - In May 1373 a woman who we now know as Julian of Norwich lay seriously ill, and a priest was summoned. As he held a crucifix in front of her the figure of Christ seemed to speak to her, an experience which, once recovered, she described in her book *Revelations of Divine Love*. Possibly the first book in English to be written by a woman, it's still in print. Her conviction that God's love conquers all, and that come what may '*All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well*' - continues to comfort and inspire. But could such a spiritual classic still be written today? In situations like Julian's people are now more likely to send for a paramedic, rather than a priest. Could the 'Still, Small Voice' have penetrated the flashing of blue lights, and the wail of sirens? Rabbi Lionel Blue used to say that God shows his hand in the most unexpected places. Others talk about 'getting a prod'. I know what they mean. Take a visit to the dentist, for example. Arriving there a couple of months ago I unexpectedly found myself being asked to add one of their work colleagues to our prayer list at church. She was ill, they were concerned about her, and they evidently thought that prayer might help. As I sat in the chair, my dentist handed me a piece of paper with her name on it. I had arrived there expecting to have a broken tooth removed, but ended up with a 'prod'! On a return visit recently I asked how she was. I was told that she is still receiving treatment. I told them that we're still praying. "*Thanks Brian,*" came the reply. "*It does help.*" **Brian Williams**

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 1st January to 31st 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 or 07789 690786. Closing dates for expressions of interest is 30th 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 13th 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 10th 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.

FILM NIGHT

Alkham Village Hall 7.30pm

26th of November

A Very British Scandal

29th of October – The Family

Free entry but £4 donation appreciated

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Wootton Village Hall

Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM

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19th of October

will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm

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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 31st 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 12th 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**

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HARVEST BARN DANCE - Thanks to all who came along and supported the Barn Dance on the 5th 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 12th 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. 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.



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Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	26	Coffee morning – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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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**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

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CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS - So it's that time again, village Christmas lights will be on Saturday 7th December, please come along for a sing song and chat with Santa. We are going to then follow this with a party in the village hall. So, get your glad rags on and come along for some fun, music and dancing. We are looking to do sharing platters again and everyone bring their own drinks. Finally, there will be a raffle, this will pay for the hire of the

hall and any remaining monies will go to support village hall improvements. Hopefully, you can help with donating raffle prizes. One last thing if you could contact me, just ideas of numbers and what you might like to bring along for sharing on the night. Looking forward to seeing you all. Further updates next month. **Graham West** graham.west28@hotmail.com.

Please do contact Graham as there was a limited response to the October article ...

For those new to the village the Christmas tree is at the top of the village green adjacent to the Valley Road and the bus shelter and this is where people congregate to see the lights turned on at 5.30pm and see Santa coming down Slip Lane to hand out festive goodies. It is a Christmas tradition which has been held every December for times immemorial.

BURNS NIGHT - I am organising a Burns Night supper at the village hall on the 25th of January 2025. Tickets are £15.00 which will include a three-course traditional Burns Supper and a dram. Vegetarians will be catered for i.e. vegetarian haggis. Menu as follows: Starter smoked fish pots with fresh bread; Main haggis, neeps and tatties with a whisky sauce; Dessert cranachan and a dram of whisky. There will not be a bar so guests can bring their own drinks. I am hoping that there will be a piper and some Scottish Country Dancing to finish the evening. Anyone interested should contact me on 07789 690786 or at graham.bissett@talk21.com

POPPY APPEAL - I'd like to thank everyone in Alkham and Ewell Minnis, and their visitors, who donated a record breaking £870.51 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. You have been very generous. The money will go to service men, women and veterans and their families when they need support. My thanks again go to my collectors, Shirley, Larry, Helen, Beverley and George and Debbie. Also thanks go to the Marquis of Granby, Alkham Garden Centre and Tea Rooms and Southern Equestrian for having collecting tins. **Rachel Fountain**

JOB ADVERT: Site Manager at Capel-le-Ferne Primary School - We are looking for a Site Manager to join our village school due to our current site manager moving to a new role closer to his home. We are ideally looking for someone who lives locally and is looking for a position that could offer flexibility to fit in around other commitments. The role will involve some grounds work, day to day maintenance and school improvements work such as painting. If you think this could be a role you are interested in, please call the school for further information. The school phone number is 01303 251353.



BILLY HOLLIS BEM

Congratulations to Billy Hollis on being awarded one of only four British Empire Medals awarded in Kent this year. Billy has lived in Alkham for over thirty years and has a long list of volunteering and community care. He was Chaplain at Canterbury Cathedral and Dover Port Authority; had long service with English Heritage at Dover and Walmer Castles; five years as Assistant Launch Leader with RNLI; Chaplain to several Kent prisons and young offender's institutions. For several years he completed the London to Brighton Cycle run for the British Heart Foundation and the Annual Church Ride for Orchid the Male Cancer Fund and much more! Billy, shown here with wife Mary, was presented with the medal earlier this month.



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Mobile Fish and Chip Unit

Saturday 18th January

14th December

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

FILM NIGHT

Alkham Village Hall 7.30pm

28th January

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

Jim Broadbent Penelope Wilton

No film in December

Free entry but £4 donation appreciated

ST NICHOLAS AND SINTERKLAAS - Long before the symbol of Father Christmas emerged in England, the separate legend of Sinterklaas was gaining ground in Europe. The origins of Sinterklaas can be found in the stories of St Nicholas, a 4th-century Greek bishop from Myra, now in modern-day Turkey. St Nicholas was credited with a wide variety of miracles. One was when he met a poor man who was on the brink of selling his own daughters into slavery. Under the cover of darkness, the saint anonymously threw three bags of gold down the chimney to provide dowries for the girls. The gold landed in their stockings, which were drying by the fire. St Nicholas's fame spread throughout medieval Europe after his relics were 'rescued' from Myra and taken to Italy in 1087. Over time, tales of his gold-giving exploits gave rise to a tradition of leaving gifts for children on the night before 6 December - which was St Nicholas's Day. In the Netherlands, special markets sprang up to sell toys and treats for the occasion, and St Nicholas, or 'Sinterklaas' impersonators dressed in red bishops' costumes to delight the crowds. Tradition had it that, in his quest to deliver presents, St Nicholas would enter houses by passing through locked doors or descending down chimneys to leave gifts in shoes and stockings. Much like the English Father Christmas, Sinterklaas came under attack during and after the Reformation, with Protestants keen to move away from veneration of the saints. The baby Jesus was promoted as a more appropriate giver of gifts - known in Germany as *das Christkindl*, later Anglicised as 'Kris Kringle'. St Nicholas markets were banned - as were biscuits baked in the shape of the bishop. But it's clear that popular traditions survived. **English Heritage (edit)**

WASTE - A local Alkham resident sent an interesting article in the 'i' about using human waste as fertiliser which is called Bisolid in which liquids are separated from solids during wastewater treatment, and the solids are treated chemically and physically. About 3.5 million tonnes are processed and spread each year (170,000 truckloads) and with the wind in the wrong direction can cause quite a stink. However, there is concern that it is polluting the land and the crops but the Environment Agency say they are committed to the safe use of sludge and work with Defra to improve the regulatory framework, but Defra say they there is a lack of ministerial steer. In 2020 the Environment Agency (EA) committed to regulating and testing sewage sludge from water treatment plants and septic tanks by 2023. This would have included testing for microplastics and forever chemicals before water companies sold sludge to farmers as fertilizer. However, in 2023 the EA had not published an update and had abandoned the commitment to meet the 2023 deadline. **editor**

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL - The green spaces working group put together a work party to tidy the village green, including trimming low branches and building a dead hedge. Southern Water have started work on the repairs to the sewage system along the Alkham Valley Road. They've informed us that when this section is done there will be further work which will be completed by the end of December and that there should be no need for tankers over the winter. The highways working group have had positive discussions with relevant parties about the next attempts to control the speed of traffic on the valley road.



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THE DOVER FASTRACK may have an effect on Alkham by diverting traffic to the A2. Fastrack is a new electric bus service from Whitfield to Dover which is scheduled to open to buses on the 17th



of November but has been opened to pedestrians and cyclists in October. We have cycled along the route and it is an impressive single lane road from Guston to Whitfield, through the business park to the Tesco roundabout and then crossing the A2 with a new bridge. It was built to connect the large housing developments at Whitfield to Dover Priory station with several bus stops along the way. There is a link from the Fastrack to a new roundabout on the A256 and this could be good news for Alkham as drivers might find it more convenient to access the M20 via the A2 by going down Jubilee Way and up the A20 dual carriageway rather than face the congestion at the Whitfield roundabout and link to the Alkham Valley road at River. Photo shows path/cycle track and road. **Editor**



A PICTURE has hung in the old shop on Slip Lane for at least 20 years. It was painted in 1962 by M Cooper and gives a view over the (Old) Post Office from the churchyard. It is quite naïve and inaccurate in parts and about 500mm x 450mm and if anyone would like it for free, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

VILLAGE HALL FUNDRAISING - A very successful morning tea & raffle was recently held to raise money to spend on improvements to the Alkham Village Hall. The hall is a charity and whilst general maintenance & running costs are covered by rental income & half the proceeds of the village fete, the management committee receives no other funding so must generate money via fundraising efforts in order to carry out improvements. The morning tea was well attended &, together with the raffle, raised £1,360.50. This will pay for the changes to the hall entrance which are well under way. A very big thank you to those local businesses that donated raffle prizes - The Marquis of Granby, Chunnel Group (John & Anne Huggins), The Alkham Garden Centre & a food hamper provided by the committee. Their very generous support allowed us to raise £700 in the raffle alone. The raffle was drawn on the morning by committee chairman Phil Clements and the lucky winners were all village residents: £100 Marquis voucher Abby Smalley (Chalksole Cottage); Lunch for 2 at Garden Centre Margaret Danstead; Chunnel Group wine pack Georgina & John Nicol; Hamper John & Pauline Philby. We were very appreciative of all those who gave donations, made cakes for the morning tea and/or worked hard on the day running stalls & serving cuppas. And finally thank you to the residents of Alkham for supporting this drive so generously. **Sue Koo & Irene Barnard**

ALKHAM W.I. - Thank you to everyone who came to the pamper evening, it was so nice to see you all. Our next meeting will be on the 10th of December which will be our Christmas dinner at the Marquis. From all of us at Alkham W.I. we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. There will be late night shopping on the 5th of December at Southern Equestrian Supplies with mulled wine mince pies. **Debbie Griggs**





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Regular events in the village hall

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Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Carol choice 11.00 am
Saturday 14th	<i>Messy Church, followed by tea 3.00 – 5.00 pm Capel</i>		
Sunday 15th	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Friday 20th	<i>Capel's Carols by Candlelight followed by pies and wine 7.00p.m.</i>		
Sunday 22nd	9 Less/Carols 6.30pm		Eucharist 10.00 am
Tuesday 24th	Crib service 4.30 pm Eucharist 9.00 pm	Crib service 3.00 pm Eucharist 10.30 pm	
CHRISTMAS DAY			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 29th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

POLICE 999 or 101 **NEWSLETTER** brianwimsett@hotmail.com

PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

HALL BOOKING Catie Webber 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com

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

AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org

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

DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@doover.gov.uk 07796444860.

LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE - It's the time of year when Christmas cards from friends and family you haven't seen all year start to arrive - something that means 'We're still around - and thinking of you...' Perhaps for some going to Midnight Mass is a bit like that - we might not be at church often, but something's missing from Christmas without it. Before I was ever a priest, I was an altar server. Across the road from the church was a pub, with another within easy staggering distance. By 11.00 on Christmas Eve the church would be full. The choir led carol singing until 11.30, when Midnight Mass began. Some would leave as the carol singing finished, but one year people were still standing in the aisles as Midnight Mass began. Problem: would there be enough bread and wine for everyone who wanted Communion? The Vicar's solution: take one large antique jug full of wine, and consecrate the lot. The problem then was that anything left over at the end had to be consumed. I was roped in to help, which left me over the drink-drive limit, and needing a lift home! We had a different problem last year. No doubt the bells rang as Merrily On High as ever, but here below an outbreak of Covid kept people at home; consequently there were plenty of vacant pews at Midnight Mass. Our solution? Inspired by the example of some other parishes, we are going to try something different this year. The ever-popular Crib Services will happen as usual, but 'Midnight Mass' at Alkham will start at 9.00, probably ending just after 10.00 (in time for Last Orders!) with 'Midnight Mass' at Capel following at 10.30 (so home by midnight!) Why not come and make it part of your Christmas...? **Brian Williams**

