

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. 371 March 2025

Non-profit &
delivered free
to the Parish

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

BARN DANCE - Back due to popular demand. I am organising a Spring Barn Dance/Ceilidh which will take place on 5th of April in the Village Hall, beginning at 19.30. Live music and caller and a ploughman's supper included. Tickets: £10.00 Only 70 tickets available. Please contact me on 07789690786 or Graham.bissett@talk21.com if you would like tickets. **Graham Bissett**

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL - The Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday 10th of April at 7.00pm in the village hall. This is your chance to elect the Committee responsible for running the Hall, and to hear what has been done and future plans. All welcome to attend and join us for refreshments and more details next month. **Janet Adamson.**

JUMBLE SALE - We are holding a jumble sale at Capel church St. Radigund's on the 22nd of March to help boost church funds. Could I ask if you have anything to donate, we don't mind whatever it is to please contact me Carol on 07946106742 and I will gladly come and get it. I hope you will support us on the day bringing lots of pennies. **Carol Mannall**

BURNS NIGHT - Thanks to all those who came together in the village hall to celebrate Burns Night on the evening of the 25th of January. Your willingness to participate and join in made for a very memorable evening. It was lovely to celebrate with old faces and new. The tartan accessories looked fab!! Thank you too, to the those who have sent messages by various means saying how much they enjoyed the evening. I do hope that we can arrange something similar next year to cheer up dreary January. Special thanks go to Geoff Bartlett, co-chef and co-shopper, Ken Spencer and Andrew Koo who worked brilliantly on the kitchen team, Catie Webber for the table arrangements and to all those who helped us in myriad other ways and got busy at the washing up sinks. I'm not naming names in case I offend by omission, but you know who you are and I thank you all. Apologies to those who wanted to join us but were put on a waiting list because of the limit on numbers made necessary by the severe limitations of the village hall kitchen. Forty hot meals from a domestic cooker was, and remains, a real challenge! (Note to the village hall committee - please can we think about installing a commercial style kitchen that would cope with larger events.) Finally, could I ask that anyone who took cutlery, tableware or tea towels to wash at home return them to me at home, and I will ensure that they are all returned to the village hall. **Graham Bissett**

SOUTHERN EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES will be hosting our Annual Cake Sale Day in aid of Marie Curie on Saturday 15th March 2025. Also, all you budding Cake Makers - any Cake Donations would be greatly appreciated for this worthy cause. Thank you, **Debbie Griggs**

THANKS go to Graham for organising such an inspired event as Burns Night and well done to Debbie for the quiz and donating money to the village hall which is greatly appreciated.

BOXING DAY - The usual Alkham Valley society walk which normally takes place annually on the 27th of December was missing this year, so Bryony took it upon herself to organise one on Boxing Day. Several intrepid humans and 3 dogs, a Labrador, a Jack Russell and a French bulldog, placed themselves in her hands for a walk around the village. Other than the usual obstacles of quantities of mud, two fallen trees to scramble over and a badger sett to watch we didn't put our feet down and everyone survived until the end. Thanks to Bryony for organising it. **Anita James**

THE NEWSLETTER - I have been publishing the monthly newsletter for 27 years and this year's February edition was the first time it was not printed because, apart from one article (above), there was nothing else to include. Articles are always appreciated so please send them to me, contact details are in the banner at the top of this page. **Brian Wimsett**

ANYONE interested in helping with Church flowers and decorations please get in touch with me at catie@thewebbers.org.

THANKS go to Shirley Prince who has retired from cleaning the village hall. She carried out this work for many years and always did a good job and the committee wish her all the best in her retirement. **AVH**

FILM NIGHT

Alkham Village Hall 7.30pm

25th February

The Thief His Wife & the Canoe

25th March

The Last Rifleman - Pierce Brosnan

Free entry but a donation of £4 is appreciated

B P S window cleaner

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

Call Paul on 01304 823763 or
07971389039

CAR & VAN SERVICING

**MOTS, TYRES & EXHAUSTS
BRAKES, CLUTCHES & REPAIRS
DIAGNOSTICS**

Free collection & delivery or courtesy car arranged

**POULTON SERVICE & EXHAUST CENTRE
HOLLOW WOOD ROAD, DOVER CT17 0UB
01304 201235**



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

Free quotations

Local family run business

07818024487 or 01304 825355

e-mail: quotes@dbworks.co.uk

Alkham Court

Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast

Meggett Lane, South Alkham

5 Star: Gold Award

Peaceful location overlooking Alkham Valley

'Winners Best B & B in SE England'

Tourism SE Award

Web: www.alkhamcourt.co.uk

Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

Tai Chi

Wednesday, 3.30 - 4.30 PM

Wootton Village Hall

Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM

Hawkinge Community Centre

Contact Anna Dashwood

07736 849 194 www.pfstaichi.com

Streetz2Streetz

Mobile Fish and Chip Unit

Saturday 29th March

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

**THE CROWN INN AT FINGLESHAM
PUB * RESTAURANT * EVENTS * LODGES**

Serving Weekend Breakfast 8.30am till 11am

Lunch & Dinner 7 days a week 2 course set meal

Mon - Fri (exc. wed) for £15

Wednesdays & Sundays are Roast days

Events Barn for any function 10 Holiday chalets

Check our website for upcoming events in the barn!

www.crowninnatfinglesham.co.uk

01304 612555

crowninnfingleshamevents@gmail.com



PETANQUE - Hello everyone, after feeling quite rotten with a cold last week I'm afraid that I missed the last Parish Council Meeting as I did not want to pass anything on to any other attendee.

Fortunately for us all the Parish Council Chairperson, Den Barnard, has continued to champion our request and the Parish Council will now be submitting a formal planning permission request to Dover District Council and, all things being equal, we will get our Terrain. This now means I'll be looking to try and collect the pledges during February with a view to commencing work in March to have a grand opening perhaps on Easter Monday or possibly the May Day Bank Holiday. First, I'll be contacting everyone individually to remind them of their pledge amount, second I'm looking for volunteers who are willing to do a little manual labour, cutting the area out and a little digging over a period of time. Many hands make light work! It's important to say that No work will commence unless we have enough funds to complete the project to a suitably high standard. I'll be asking Geoff Bartlett to post this on the Alkham Facebook Page and Brian Wimsett to put this in the Alkham News. We'll need some more funding, no doubt, with any remaining money being used to start up a 'Petanque Alkham' club and a donation to the Village Hall funds so that we can use the facilities there for organised events. I will also look further into a possible suggestion from Alkham Cricket Club to discuss some type of arrangement with them as a combined or affiliated club. With regard to the money, Andrew Koo and Ken Spencer, have agreed to help with the collection and management, this also ensures that all the funds are being used correctly rather than just me on my own being responsible. I've already had a few requests about arranging some more games either in the village or at other local venues and there are already plans for some useful game arranging tech for anyone with a smart phone, and "yes" there's lots of support on how to use this and set things up. The project is happening and I look forward to playing a game or two with all of you at some point over the coming months! Any questions please let me know. Thanks Everyone, you are all brilliant! **Kev** (Kevin Rolfe)

SNIFF – It can be irritating that your dog sniffs a lot when you take it for a walk but evidently it is good for the dog. The smells send a signal to their brain which releases feel-good hormones like endorphins and serotonin which help reduce stress and help overall well-being and whilst waiting for the dog if you sneeze it has a similar effect. **editor**

YOGA WITH JANET – A yoga class for beginners has started on Friday evenings in Alkham village hall from 7.30pm to 8.30pm and costs £8 and includes gentle stretching, meditation and breath work. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one, a blanket and any yoga blocks/bricks you may have. To book a space please call 07812678124 or email janet28@protonmail.com.

THANK YOU to everyone who came to the quiz at Alkham village hall on the 12th of February and also thanks to Tony Holman for hosting it. Thanks to everyone that helped putting the tables away, much appreciated. We made a total of £535 minus £55 for expenses which was divided down the middle with £240 each to Alkham W.I. and Alkham village hall. **Debbie Griggs**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our next meeting is on March 11th which is our AGM followed by our speaker Imogen Corrigan talking about Joan of Arc. Hostesses Eileen West and Margaret Batcheldor, Raffle Debbie Griggs, VOT Janet Adamson. Our next meeting is on March 11th new members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

MAT WALECKI

Window cleaner
Household repairs

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



And it's a memory Your Local One Stop
Flooring Shop

www.actioncarpets.co.uk
26 Market Square, Dover, CT16 1NG
Folkestone: 01303 246505
Dover: 01304 207007 Whitfield: 01304 20700
Call for a free estimate or visit a showroom

River Chimney Sweep

Insurance approved certificate issued with
every sweep

Other installations include
Stove installation: Chimney liners
Bird cowl: Chimney repointing
Stove servicing and repairs
Call Marcus Wright

Tel: 01304 761081 Mob: 07971 699220
www.riverchimneysweep.co.uk
Registered OFTEC Stove Installer

GRAHAM WEST

General Maintenance
Electrical Installation Specialist
General household repairs,
Painting decorating
Small plumbing, Woodwork
Specialist electrical installations
07973330890

graham.west28@hotmail.com,

Coastal Mowers and Plant

Garden Machinery, Power Tools
& Small Plant

Repairs – Service – Sales

07867 368 508 01304 829224

Unit 3, Honeywood House, Honeywood
Road, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3EH

Wolverton Farm Fire Wood

All our wood is seasoned and ready to burn!

We have been in the community for 4
decades and selling wood for 2! Ton bags,
small trailers, large trailers and mega loads, we
do them all! We also sell kindling in large bags!

Please get in touch. You can call us, text us or
WhatsApp us: 07717303878 We are also on
Instagram:wolvertonfarmfirewood.

Marquis of Granby

Breakfast 7.30pm – 10am Weekend 8am – 10am

Set lunch 2 course £19.50 3 course £24.50

Monday to Saturday 12pm to 3pm

Happy hour Monday to Thursday 20% off drinks

4pm to 6pm and Friday fish and chips

Sunday lunch 12pm to 6.30pm

01304 873 410

info@marquisofgranby.co.uk
www.marquisofgranby.co.uk



NOSTALGIA – My father
drove down to Kent to see
relatives in the 1960's and
when we crossed the
county border the
burgundy and cream buses
soon appeared and in some
ways it was comforting.
John Vince painted the
adjacent card for this

Christmas and it's a memory of a school trip to Reculver in 1957 and on
the back of the card he gives details about the buses. He has painted a
number of cards featuring these buses and if you'd like more details
please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com and I will contact him. I live in
the Old Post Office in Alkham and John and I worked together for a
number of years and it was amusing to hear that when he was cub they
were camping nearby and got washed out by the rain and spent the
night in one of the outbuildings
which has since been demolished. A
lot has changed since then and it
would be great to see the burgundy
and cream buses again rather than
the bland Stagecoach colours.



MARCH TRIVIA - The word 'March' comes from the Roman 'Martius'. This
was originally the first month of the Roman calendar and was named after
Mars, the god of war. For centuries, March was the beginning of our
calendar year. We changed to the 'New Style' or 'Gregorian calendar in
1752, and it is only since then that the year began on 1st January. The last
three days of March were said to be borrowed from April. The Anglo-
Saxons called the month Hlyd monath which means Stormy month, or
Hraed monath which means Rugged month. The latest date Ash
Wednesday can occur is 10 March (when Easter Sunday falls on 25 April)
which occurred in 1666, 1734, 1886 and 1943 and will next occur in 2038.
All through Lent the traditional games played are marbles and skipping.
The games were stopped on the stroke of twelve noon on Good Friday, which
in some places was called Marble Day or Long Rope Day. The game of marbles
has been played for hundreds of years and some historians say that it might
have been started by rolling eggs. In the past, round stones, hazelnuts, round
balls of baked clay and even cherry stones have been used. **Jackie Grebby**

NEW YEAR, NEW HOBBY, NEW FRIENDS? - Join Dover Flower Club
where we are enthusiastic about all things flowery. We run a full
programme of activities throughout the year including flower arranging,
demonstrations, workshops, talks and outings. Our meetings take place on
the fourth Monday of the month at 7.15pm at Whitfield Village Hall,
Manley Close, CT16 3LY. New members and visitors are always
enthusiastically welcomed and free refreshments are available. Our Spring
meetings are as follows: Monday 24th February, a flower arranging
demonstration by Elaine Boobier entitled 'My Life in Flowers'; Monday 24th
March, a workshop led by Mig Kimpton entitled 'Branches, Bulbs and
Buds'. Monday 28th April a demonstration by Sue Flight entitled 'Spring is
in the Air'. For more details call Mig Kimpton: 07831838851



Local Watchmaker
Service & Repairs to all makes
of vintage & modern timepieces.
Battery changes to full Servicing.
Also, Pocket Watches.
07986 424293
Email: chronoserv@hotmail.com
Competitive rates for residents of Alkham Parish.

Pilates + Classes @ Alkham Village Hall
Friday mornings 10 to 11am
£8pp Julie Watt, REPs qualified instructor
Just turn up or phone 07825109670
Email pilates.mbs@gmail.com



Whitfield Computer Services

Lee Eversfield fdc

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

OIL BOILER SERVICE Est 1987

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

Professional Dog Grooming Service



No2 Wolverton Cottages
Alkham Valley Road
Contact: Karen 07594478587
Email woolfreadywoof@gmail.com
Find us on [f](https://www.facebook.com/woolfreadywoof)

HOME HELP FOR THE ELDERLY

Do you need help with: companionship;
medication administration; taking to medical
appointments; grocery shopping; light cleaning
duties; pet care; day trips and social outings;
meal preparation and nutritious cooking
Melanie Campbell, qualified carer
07775 786368 mglynnccampbell@gmail.com

ANDY GEE - Gas Safe registered heating
and plumbing engineer
07807586902 or 01304 207378
andygee1709@hotmail.com

BUS TIMES To Dover

7.59,8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28 Sat:
9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28

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

Assumed correct but check on

www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

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

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates
Please ring Catie on 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com

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

Tea n Chat 27th February and 27th March 2.30pm to 4.00pm

Monday	3	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd March		Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Wednesday 5th		Eucharist 7.00 pm	
Saturday 8th	Fun, fellowship and food – (St Radigund's) 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
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

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 - One of the joys of retirement, according to 80's pop star turned radio presenter, writer, Strictly contestant and now retired parish priest the Reverend Richard Coles, is being able to stand back from the church's debates. "When one erupts," he wrote not long ago, "it's like walking past a pub you used to drink in and seeing someone throw a chair through the window: startling, but not your problem." I wouldn't know - I'm not there yet. I think I know what he means - but these debates aren't trivial, which probably explains why the Church of England's troubles seem to keep making headlines. But more about retirement. I've had the seminar: *Move away from your last parish when you retire, so that the new priest gets a fair chance to make a go of things... If you're asked to help in a church somewhere, remember - you're NOT the vicar ... Don't Hoover up all the funerals at the local crematorium and expect to be popular* – the list goes on. And now I've spoken with my boss, completed the paperwork, and received an email asking me to get on with telling everyone when it's happening. And so here it is: I shall retire as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Alkham with Capel le Ferne and Hougham in the autumn, when I reach age 70. My last Sunday will be 28th September - the 23rd anniversary of my Ordination as a priest. "The Fruit of the Spirit," St Paul wrote, "is Love, Joy and Peace." Debates aside, there really are churches near you where Christians are trying to live that out through prayer, caring for others, running lunch clubs, supporting food banks and so on. Sadly, things like that don't usually make headlines... **Brian Williams**