

# ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## and magazine

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

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**ARENACROSS WORLD TOUR 2025** - John & Anne Huggins are very proud to share the news that their grandson Raife Broadley has become the 2025 Arenacross world tour amateur champion. The series started in Birmingham then went to London Wembley, Belfast, Aberdeen then the final stop in

Manchester. Raife has worked so hard on and off the bike to get to where he is and in 2026 he will be advancing into the Pro class to try make an even bigger name for himself. **Anne Huggins**

**FETE BRIC-A-BRAC STALL JULY 19<sup>th</sup>** - Most of you will know that I have run this stall for many years and hope that someone else will consider taking this over. This stall is very popular - after all everyone likes a bargain - and it can be as big or as small as you prefer. It could even be called something else i.e. Granny's attic or White elephant? Locals donate nearer the time and I usually approach those who are moving or enjoying a Spring clear out for, decent saleable items. (items you find mostly in charity shops or carboots are unwanted as do not sell). Hopefully I will receive a good response to this request and then be able to assist more on my husband's hamburger stall. Afterall, I wouldn't like to sit around all afternoon doing nothing, would I? **Irene 07789 412432**

**THE WI** has been a part of Alkham life for a long time but, like a lot of organisations, is struggling to keep membership to a sustainable level. We are now seriously discussing the possibility of closing the Alkham branch. The WI has a rich and interesting history and was introduced to the UK in 1915. The WI embraces a woman only policy and this includes anyone living as a woman. If you would like to come along and join us you will be very welcome. We have an interesting program of events planned for the year, some of which are social evenings, others have a speaker and in December we go out for dinner to a venue of our choice. If you would like further details, contact Lucy McKenzie mob: 07850385971 or come along on the second Tuesday of the month at 730pm in the Village Hall.

**THE PLANNING APPLICATIONS** for effectively a ribbon development along the valley road at Drellingore Terrace, by Upton Cottages and Lockering Lane have been withdrawn. The company name on the applications was Affinity Water.

**FILM NIGHT** is on the last Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall with seating round tables so you can bring your own drinks and snacks if you like. A licence is paid to show the films.

**SARAH CHAMBERS** – Sarah died in February aged 75. She was a gentle person and nice to know and lived in Martinvale in the centre of Alkham and was unconcerned about the valley traffic that passed very closely to her house. Sarah was a travel correspondent in the early days for the Guardian, Mail on Sunday, and the Today newspaper and became travel editor on both the Daily Mirror and Sunday Mirror. She left the Sunday Mirror when her husband Peter had a stroke in 2003 and needed constant care and without hesitation she gave up to look after him although she did do freelance work from home until 2017 for the Sunday Mirror. The funeral is at Barham Crematorium on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March at 1pm and if you would like to attend please email [cwking@btinternet.com](mailto:cwking@btinternet.com).

**VILLAGE HALL** - If you want to hear about all the great work being done by local volunteers and the Management Committee of your Village Hall, then come to our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April. We meet at 7.00p.m. and welcome anyone who is interested in how the Hall is run, future plans and electing a new Committee to carry the work forward. Coffee and cake to tempt you. **Janet Adamson**

## FILM NIGHT

Alkham Village Hall 7.30pm

29<sup>th</sup> of April

**TOP GUN: MAVERICK** Tom Cruise

25<sup>th</sup> of March

**Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of  
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### Tai Chi

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Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM

Hawkinge Community Centre

Contact Anna Dashwood

07736 849 194 [www.pfstaichi.com](http://www.pfstaichi.com)

### Streetz2Streetz

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### A REQUEST FROM ALKHAM'S OTHER Pub...

As many will remember, Alkham used to have a second pub called the **Carpenter's Arms**, which saw service for more than one hundred years before closing in 1969 and passing into private ownership. As its

current owners, my wife and I are researching the history of both the building and people who used it. A lot of information has already been gathered from the internet, but we're sure many villagers who used the pub back in the day will have stories and photographs of it that cannot be found online. I'd therefore be very interested in any information, anecdotes and especially **old photographs** of the Carpenters Arms in its heyday that readers of this newsletter would be willing to share. Should you have anything, please consider forwarding it to us at [afournier@btinternet.com](mailto:afournier@btinternet.com) - I'd be very grateful! **Andy Fournier**

**ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL** - The Parish Council is now meeting monthly as the agendas are getting longer. Kent Highways have cleared the Nailbourne from the Village Hall through to the end of the village green, clearance has now been requested for the drain in Hogbrook Hill running from the Alkham Valley Road. The Speedwatch Camera has been repaired it is still unclear how the damage was done. We are still waiting for confirmation that our Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) has been accepted. We are looking to obtain a defibrillator for our telephone box in Ewell Minnis. The Environment Working Team have planted five fruit trees on the village green and once again we will leave part of the green unmowed for May as we did last year but this time there will be a pathway alongside the Nailbourne. We have been offered a free first aid and defibrillator training course by our defibrillator supplier for 12 people on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April in the Village hall 10-12, if you are interested please contact Den Barnard (07488 357140) it will be first come first served but if there is enough interest we will organise further dates. The planning application for the Petanque (Boules) pitch has been submitted. **Alkham Parish Council**

**ALKHAM BOOK CLUB** - The club, set up about twenty years ago, is still alive and thriving. Over recent years we have not advertised our meetings as membership is at maximum capacity for home hosting. For those villagers who enjoy a good read, we can thoroughly recommend creating—or joining—a group. There's no reason why Alkham shouldn't have more than one! Reading groups provide opportunity to explore titles and authors that the solo reader has not considered, thus extending one's literary experience. Our selected book for February was "The Echo Chamber" by John Boyne. It was a witty and entertaining tale of a privileged family succumbing to various temptations of modern life with no thought of consequences. The story was uproariously funny with tongue in cheek satire. In March we are tackling a more serious read—"Mornings in Jenin" by Susan Abulhawa. Although written as a novel this book appears to give us an insight into the unimaginable horrors endured by the Palestinian victims of the conflict in the Middle East. **Margaret Danstead**

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Our March meeting was all about Joan of Arc and the speaker was Imogen Corrigan. Our next meeting is on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April and the talk will be from the cats protection so that will be one to look forward to. Hostesses Sue Ross, Marian Libaert, raffle Helen Price VOT Helen Price. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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**MARQUIS OF GRANBY** - The new Breakfast Menu is now available from 7.00 to 10am, weekends 8 to 10 am, locals welcome. There is a new Spring Menu and a Happy hour from Monday to Thursday with 20% off drinks from 4pm to 6pm. On Fridays there is Roll the Dice & get a free Drink between 4 pm until 6 pm. Sunday Lunch is 12 pm until 6.30pm – Booking Recommended. Contact number, 01304 873 410. info@marquisofgranby.co.uk www.marquisofgranby.co.uk

**A ROMP** through the Fool's Alphabet. It's a sort of ersatz UK Cockney slang—I mostly get it, but you may need to be a sailor to understand Z for wind! A for Horses; B for Mutton?; C for Miles (or C for Yourself); D for Dumb (or D fer Ential); E for Brick; F for Lump (or F fer Vescence); G for Police; H for Consent; I for Novello (or I for the Engine); J for Oranges; K for Restaurant; L for Leather; M for Sis; N for Lope; O for the Rainbow; P for Relief; Q for the Loos (or Q for the Pictures); R for Mo; S for Rantzen; T for Gums (or T for Two); U for Me (or U for Mism); V for Espana; W for a Quid; X for Breakfast; Y for Mistress; Z for Wind. **Jackie Grebby**

**TAXI** - I recently travelled in a London taxi and chatted to the driver. He told me that the number of taxi drivers had dropped by about 7000 since before Covid. Generally, costs have risen; previous short cuts have been blocked, 20 mph limits are widespread. All this means journeys take longer and the passenger must therefore pay more. In the past a cabbie might take 30 jobs in a day, 18 is now typical. Some food delivery bikes tend to be reckless nowadays; so greater alertness than ever is needed. The advent of compulsory card machines in the cabs discouraged retired drivers from doing a day or two a week, due to the costs of the card machine and the end of cash payments. To become a London taxi driver, it is necessary to do the "knowledge". This involves an intimate on the ground familiarity with the street geography of London. The fastest this has been done is over 2 years and 3 months. My driver had earlier hired the TR1 and TR2 type taxis but was so impressed with latest TR4(diesel) that that he bought it. Whether one has a diesel or electric taxi, the maximum service allowed for a vehicle is 15 years. You might be wondering about the cost of my journey. Suffice it to say the trip from Kensington to King's Cross cost more than my return train trip from Folkestone. **Tom Marcus 2025**

**SIGNS OF SPRING** - In spite of current unpredictable weather patterns there are wonderful signs of Spring sprouting up in gardens, woodlands and fields all around us. Let Dover Flower Club inspire you to take some nature indoors by joining our club to learn about all things flowery. We meet on the fourth Monday of the month at Whitfield Village Hall, Manley Close, Whitfield, CT16 3LY. Meetings start at 7.15pm and are open to members and visitors who share our love of flowers. Free refreshments are available. We have demonstrations of flower arranging, by well-known enthusiasts in the field, on the dates shown below. Members free, visitors £8.00. Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of April a demonstration by Sue Flight entitled "Spring is in the Air." Sue is a member of NAFAS and demonstrates her skills nationally. Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of June a demonstration by Helen Hare entitled 'Inspired by Summer.' For more information call Mig Kimpton 07831 838851

**SUNFLOWERS** - There won't be a sunflower competition this year for personal reasons, but Vernon and Anita say that it will return next year.

**YOGA** – In last month's newsletter the times for the yoga class on a Friday in the village hall were wrong it should have said 6.30pm to 7.30pm.





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### ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK

If you are interested in the history of Alkham  
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old photos and is free for people associated  
with Alkham. Please email  
[brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

### BUS TIMES To Dover

7.50,8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28  
Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28

**To Folkestone** 9.04,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09

Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09

Assumed correct but check on

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

1/3/2025

**ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates**  
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### Regular events in the village hall

<b>Tuesday</b>	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
<b>Friday</b>	Pilates 10am to 11am

### Other events in the village hall

#### Tea n Chat 24<sup>th</sup> April 2.30pm to 4.00pm

<b>Saturday</b>	5	Barn Dance 7.30pm
<b>Monday</b>	7	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	8	W.I. meeting 7.30pm

### CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April</b>		Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Fun, fellowship and food 3.00 – 5.00 pm Capel</i>		
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Service 11.00 am	
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup></b>		Eucharist 7.00 pm	
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup></b>		Service 10.00 am	
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Building the Easter Garden 3.30 – 5.00 pm Capel</i>		
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Eucharist 11.00 am	Eucharist 7.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Sung Eucharist at St Radigund's Capel @10.00		

**POLICE 999 or 101** **NEWSLETTER** [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)  
**PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS** [clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)  
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**FROM THE VICARAGE** - Perhaps Lord Alan Sugar's TV programme *The Apprentice* is like Marmite – you either love it or loathe it. You might know the drill: each week, two teams engage in tasks that test business acumen. Many find following the fortunes of the budding entrepreneurs who compete against each other week by week compelling viewing, building to a climax as each member of the losing team tries to avoid being fired by Lord Sugar at someone else's expense. My ears pricked up when a recent episode came on that saw the teams designing and marketing Easter eggs. Some say that Easter eggs originated with early Christians in Mesopotamia dyeing eggs to represent different aspects of the Easter story, a custom which eventually spread across Europe where, during the 1800s, the first chocolate eggs appeared. What would the teams come up with? The winning team produced an exotic chocolate log rather than an egg. The others, remembering that Santa Claus (originally a 4th-century Christian bishop) rewards good children with presents, decided on a space theme for their egg with an idea for an astronaut character who would reward good children with chocolate! As I watched, I began to despair. The task had been to design and market an Easter egg. Hadn't anyone heard of Jesus? The empty tomb? Resurrection? In the boardroom, Lord Sugar questioned the idea of the astronaut. Surely, he said, everyone associated the Easter Bunny with Easter eggs! By now my misery was complete – I just wanted to fire everybody! At each of our churches on Easter morning we shall tell the Easter story - about the empty tomb, and Jesus rising from the dead and appearing to his disciples. There may well be Easter eggs to follow - but sorry, no bunnies or astronauts...! **Brian Williams**