

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
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to the Parish

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - What a fabulous turnout for the switch on of the Christmas lights considering it was such awful weather. Thank you so much to Father Christmas, aka Kevin Rolfe on making it to the lighting all the way from Lapland. This was all followed by a great party in the village hall, with an extremely massive and gorgeous array of sharing foods. Thank you so much to all for helping by providing your culinary delights. Irene Barnard

worked her magic with the raffle and made a handsome £220 for our village hall, thank you Irene. Finally, a huge thank you to Geoff Bartlett who provided the sounds, got us all up and singing with some even made it to sing from the stage. Just the greatest of fun. May we wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Debbie and Graham West



BURNS NIGHT - Only nine places left for an evening which will include a three-course traditional Burns Supper and a dram. Please contact graham.bissett@talk21.com if you'd like to join us.

ALKHAM 100 CLUB - Unfortunately there has not been sufficient interest to make the 100 club viable. Thank you to the thirty or so souls who did show an interest in supporting the maintenance and development of the village hall. **Graham Bissett**



ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Clerk has been successful in securing a grant for a debrillator for village use. The £750 grant was dependent on us raising an equal amount which the Marquis of Granby have generously donated from the proceeds of their charity matches with Alkham Cricket

Club and their charity auctions. It has now been set up on the front of the Village Hall and has been registered on the national database. To use it simply dial 999 and follow the given instructions. No experience is required but for more information there will be an update on the Parish Council web site and Alkham Village Residents FB page.

*Happy
New
Year*

VIOLET NEWLYN - I received an email asking if I knew of anyone who had a photo of Violet Newlyn who was married to Vic Newlyn who had the farm on Hogbrook Lane whose name was taken for Newlyn's Meadow as it stands on one of his fields. I have Sue Lee's copious records but there are no pictures of Violet Newlyn, also known as Violet Voss, so if anyone has a photo or any information of her time in the village, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com and I will pass the details on.

SLIDE - At last we have found a welder/fabricator to refurbish the playground slide.



Our thanks go to Nathan Tester for doing an excellent job and when we have completed a final clear up of overhanging branches etc it will be ready for use. Nathan himself remembers playing on the slide over twenty years ago. **APC**

FILM NIGHT

Alkham Village Hall 7.30pm

28th January

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of

Harold Fry

No film in December

Free entry but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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NEWS FROM SOUTHERN WATER - In Alkham, we've completed our pre-winter season sewer cleaning and CCTV survey to check the condition of our network. We then completed the electro scanning of the sewer, and this work has helped us target the worst affected areas. We've now started relining 1.2km of the sewer, which we hope to complete in January. We also have a dedicated Kent Customer Team email address, where residents can email if they have any queries or concerns – Kent.Customer@southernwater.co.uk We will proactive updates throughout the winter, advising you of the latest position we are in together with weekly calls with the Environment Agency. Please be assured we will be working as hard as possible to reduce the risk of customer impact, and we will keep you updated over the coming weeks and months. Version 7 of the 'Alkham Infiltration Reduction Plans – Southern Water' has now been uploaded to our website. **Alkham Parish Council (APC)**

BT have at last cleared their equipment from the Ewell Minnis telephone box so we will now need to confirm what we will use it for. Please let any Parish Councillors have your ideas. **(APC)**

MONDEGREEN – As it passes a Sunday and generally most of the week, I do the Listener crossword and the word Mondegreen appeared and originates from a poem by Percy and Lady Mondegreen. I'd never heard of it but looking it up Lady Mondegreen became 'laid him on the green'. Chambers dictionary has it as a phrase, often humorous or nonsensical, that results from mishearing the lyric of a song and it was coined in 1954 by Sylvia Wright after she had mistaken the Mondegreen phrase. Other examples are 'Gladly the cross I bear' became 'Gladly the cross-eyed bear' and 'The girl with kaleidoscope eyes' became 'The girl with colitis goes by' from the Beatles song Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds. *I deleted the article in the December edition because I didn't think it would be of interest, but I had sent a draft copy to a friend and he responded so it's in this month's.* **editor**

A FEW FACTS ABOUT JANUARY - The Anglo Saxons called January 'Wulfmonath' as it was the month hungry wolves came scavenging at village doors. The Romans named it January after 'Janus', the God of Gateways. Janus had two heads so he could look in both directions - back to the old year and forwards towards the new year. According to the International Standard Organisation, ISO 8601, week 1 of any year is the week that includes the first Thursday. Daytime temperatures in January make it the coldest month of the year in the UK. February nights are colder in England, but not in Scotland. The only Shakespeare plays that mention January are Much Ado About Nothing and Winters Tale. The birthstone for January is the garnet and the flower is the carnation. The first recorded January sale in the UK was in 1865. There is a variety of cold-tolerant winter cabbage known as January King. More couples separate or divorce in January than in any other month. **Jackie Grebby**

ARTICLES – I am very grateful to Jackie for sending the above article and I would be pleased to receive other articles which can either be emailed to me at brianwimsett@hotmail.com or dropped off in the Local Mail Box which is to the left at the top of the drive to the Old Post Office about 100 metres up Slip Lane. **editor**

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ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL

The hall was built in 1931 and the vicar on the left said it would become the centre of social life and add to the brightness and social life of the community, which it has.

At the time the sanitary

arrangements were very rudimentary and remained so until the 1990's when the 'buy a brick' campaign helped to build the extension with up-to-date facilities and replaced the above entrance to the hall. Several improvements have been carried out since then including a stage but with the new village hall committee there has been a renaissance with a lot of manual work carried out for free by some of the members of the committee and others for which we are grateful. The large wooden planters outside the hall are being filled and when planted it will give a sense of social space to the outside of the hall together with a large teak bench which will be installed soon and further details of this and other improvements will be given in a later newsletter. **editor**

ALKHAM BOREHOLE – It is encouraging to see that the water level in the borehole is about 37m which is well below the 45.75 that it reached last year and caused flooding. As previously mentioned in recent years the green flooded in 1974, 1987, 2001 and 2014 which is roughly a 13-year cycle so hopefully last year's was our recurrent flood. **Editor**

PLANNING APPLICATION – In the June 2024 newsletter mention was made of a planning application to install a drainage treatment works adjacent to Great Everden Manor for the two currently empty barns. For those not familiar with Great Everden it is on the narrow road which runs across the top from Alkham to Hawkinge and adjacent to



the manor are the two barns. Dover District Council has granted permission for the works and says there will be no impact on the residential amenity of the occupants of the adjacent properties and it is therefore considered that the proposal has no impact on the living conditions of neighbours and accords with the aims and objectives of the NPPF and the development is considered to preserve the character and appearance of the area, with no harm to residential amenity. **Editor**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our Christmas meal on the 10th of December was at the Marquis of Granby and what a lovely evening we all had. The food was amazing and the staff were so friendly and helpful. Our next meeting is on January the 14th, which will be the Dover Smart Project. Hostesses are Jane Aslett and Marian Lebaert, raffle Eileen West and V.O.T Helen Price. All new members welcome. **Debbie Griggs**





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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

Assumed correct but check on

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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

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

Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
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

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 - You wouldn't think that a Christmas Tree would be so controversial. But it seems that when St Anthony's was being decorated for Christmas a visitor took exception to the fact that there was a Christmas Tree in church, arguing from a series of Bible passages that this was pandering to paganism. Had I been there, I would have reminded our friend that the tradition around Christmas Trees can be traced back not to paganism but to a Christian missionary. It's said that having entered a monastery as a young man Winfred, or Boniface as he became known, travelled as a Christian missionary to what is now Germany. There he came across a tree, the 'Thunder Oak' where each year the locals would sacrifice a child to the pagan god Thor. Boniface and his companions arrived as the sacrifice was imminent, carried out a risk assessment and decided to fell the oak anyway. It was expected that Thor would strike him dead – but Boniface survived unscathed. The job done, a small fir tree was found growing nearby. Its evergreen needles, Boniface pointed out, spoke of eternal life; its branches pointed towards heaven; henceforth it would be called the tree of the Christ-child. Having made his case, many of those who were there were baptised. The practice of having a small evergreen tree in the house at Christmas spread across Germany; those who eventually settled in America took the tradition with them. With both George III's German wife Queen Charlotte and Prince Albert having Christmas trees in their homes, the custom quickly spread in this country, too. Sadly, most of our trees are last seen in January, waiting for the dustcart – but still with their needles speaking of eternal life, and their branches pointing towards heaven.... **Brian Williams**

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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

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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**

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Marquis of Granby

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4pm to 6pm and Friday fish and chips
Sunday lunch 12pm to 6.30pm
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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



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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

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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

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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

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

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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**

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 19th - 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 26th of March at 1pm and if you would like to attend please email 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 10th 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

29th of April

TOP GUN: MAVERICK Tom Cruise

25th of March

**Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of
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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 - 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 26th 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 8th 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 28th 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 23rd 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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Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tea n Chat 24th April 2.30pm to 4.00pm

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

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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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**

... **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. 373 May 2025

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ALKHAM VE DAY 80
Celebration Bank Holiday
Monday 5th May at 1.00pm
Come and enjoy a Picnic on The Village Green to which you, your family and friends are all invited.

SARAH CHAMBERS - I would like to thank everyone in the village who has helped Sarah throughout the years, especially when she was going through challenging times near the end with her health. Peter, her late husband first came to live in the village and purchased the house back in 1971. So over 50 years they have seen many changes in Alkham during that time. I remember she would often invite many of her friends from far and wide to join her in the Alkham village fete every July which she really enjoyed and looked forward to. Finally, I would also like to give a special mention to Sue Burrows in the village who without any doubt in Sarah last years did so much for Sarah by taking her out in the car for meals etc and generally visiting her regularly and being a good friend to Sarah, really appreciated that. **Charles Whitfield King**, (Sarah Chambers' brother)

Bring your own food and drink and we'll provide the tables and chairs, plates and napkins. There will music from that era so, if you're in the mood, you can get up and jitterbug. You may like to dress up in outfits that reflect the 1940s. We will also be having some activities and games for the children. And, if the weather lets us down, it'll be A Picnic In The Village Hall. We look forward to welcoming you all. **Rachel and Mike Fountain** ... see page 3 for the Alkham Heroes.

NEW SEATING outside the Village Hall

A team of volunteers have been busy for the last 6 months refurbishing the entrance area to the village hall to create both clean access & a pleasant social area. This work has now been completed and planting in the raised beds is



underway to create a Summer burst of colour. The notice board has been relocated to this area & is awaiting refurbishment. You may have already seen the lovely long bench which has finally been installed. This bench was purchased with funds provided by an auction held by The Marquis of Granby prior to Covid. The proceeds of this auction were earmarked for a village improvement and resulted in the purchase of both this bench & the defibrillator. The Village Hall Committee is very grateful to both Will Thompson & Will Sheldon from The Marquis for arranging this donation. The committee is also much indebted to the many volunteers who have given their time & muscle over to past 6 months working on this project. They have brought their many varied skills, perseverance and good humour to the project in a desire to improve this public area, and their efforts are much appreciated. **Sue Koo** ... the notice board and the village board have also been repainted.

FETE - I am running the Bric-a-brac stall this year and hope you will support me by donating, decent, saleable items such as, china, glass ware, ornaments, prints and home furnishings. Unused boxed lady's gift sets also sell very well as do most other goods. Please be kind and don't give anything you would normally give to a car boot, or worse still to throw away. If you have anything to donate please call for the address to drop off, which is located at the bottom of Short Lane. Thank you so much. **Debbie West** - Jane 07340749788. Pat 07887531722.

FILM NIGHT – Film Night has been showing films each month from 2014 and for Philomena the hall was full and for Green Book there was thunderous applause but over the last few years the audience numbers have declined. Times have changed and the cost of the licence to show the films has risen and the types of suitable films has diminished. Several people look forward to the night out and will miss it, but I've decided it's the time to stop. **Brian Wimsett**

UNION FLAG - Thanks to the Parish Council for once again purchasing this. The last one got rather battered over three winters, and therefore the ongoing plan is to only raise it at suitable events. **Irene Barnard**

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ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL - We have managed to obtain a defibrillator for the Ewell Minnis Phone box! 'Defibs for Dover' will supply the unit and we have to match the funding which amounts to £830. We are extremely grateful to villager Kevin Rolfe who has raised the money through his business club 'The Elecric Twelve Club' so the defibrillator and installation will cost us nothing! We still have places available on our Free First Aid Course provided by our defibrillator supplier which will be in the Village Hall on 24th May from 10am to mid-day, If you are interested let Den Barnard know (07488 357140). The Annual Village Statutory Meeting will take place on 7th May at 7:00 pm followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting where we will review our progress over the past year. Please Come.

ALKHAM BOOK CLUB - At our March meeting we discussed Susan Abulhawa's "Mornings in Jenin", a harrowing tale of family life, loves, friendships and loss, set in an environment of ongoing war and appalling living conditions. We received criticism from a reader of the Monthly Newsletter over our choice of book, though we had no political agenda in choosing it and certainly intended no offence. Naturally this fictional tale was biased, begging attention to suffering on one side of the Middle Eastern conflict. This has not blinded us to the fact that in true-life situations of conflict there are innocent victims on both sides. We went on to discuss other World-wide problems in the news and the human tragedies of war. Our book for April is "The Story Collector" by Evie Woods, a tale with a dual timeline and some Irish folklore—sounds intriguing! **ABC THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**, affectionately known as the WI, began in Canada in 1897. It was first formed in Wales in 1915 and was started in England shortly after. It had two aims: to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. Hence why we are associated with 'Jam' & 'Jerusalem.' The WI has been a part of Alkham life for a long time but, like a lot of organisations, is struggling to keep membership at a sustainable level. We are now seriously discussing the possibility of having to close the Alkham branch. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall. 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. Members are encouraged to make suggestions for speakers and entertainment. **Alkham W.I.**

THE OWLS - It has been said that in the UK the shipping forecast is the nation's lullaby, it occurs to me that perhaps in the village the same could be said for the Tawny owls often, at night I can hear the familiar sound of a pair of tawny owls calling to each other their twit ter woووо a haunting somewhat sad, almost ghostly sound resonating the nighttime silence in the village. I find myself waiting for them to call only to discover that one of my neighbours does exactly the same as she too is waiting for them; we often swap messages about them the next day, we are in separate houses but it's almost as if we are listening to the same piece of music and it made us wonder who else listens out for them it is just us or like the shipping forecast are we all tuning in waiting for them to begin. **Anita James**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our April meeting was a lovely evening where we had Johnathan from cats protection. Our next meeting will be 13th May which is our resolution meeting followed by a quiz. Hostesses are Debbie Saunders, Janet Adamson Raffle Lucy McKenzie. **Debbie Griggs**

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ALKHAM HEROES 1939-1945 - On the 5th of May it will be the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. At some moment during our village green party our thoughts will be for the seven lads who lost their lives during that conflict. Below is a short reminder of those heroes. For their full story have a look at Brian's Alkham website (alkham.org) which was researched and documented by Mark Robson and also includes the two village tours he organised to the graves and memorials of our Alkham Heroes. **Den Barnard**



Ernest (Dudley) Richards was an Ordinary Seaman on HMS Gloucester. Ernie was the son of Fred and Elizabeth Gertrude Richards (nee Toulson) and they lived in one of the cottages that now makes up Upton Cottage. Ernie was 'lost with his ship' on Thursday 22nd May 1941, aged 18, and is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial.



Henry Keeler was the son of Charles Keeler and was a Farm Labourer and the family lived at Pimlico. Henry died on Saturday 24th of October 1942 (the start of the Second Battle of El Alamein) aged 22 years and is commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt.



Louis David Fagg. On the 22nd of October the Royal East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) embarked on the Destroyers HMS Eclipse and HMS Petard. Just after midnight on 23rd/24th of October HMS Eclipse struck a mine and sank in 3 minutes along with Louis and 134 other Buffs. Louis' death is recorded as being on Saturday 23rd of October 1943. As well as the memorial at Alkham, Louis is remembered on the Buffs Roll of Honour and the Athens Memorial.

William Henry Hinds was in the 5th Battalion The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) and was 'killed in action', aged 22, on Wednesday 17th of November 1943. William is buried at Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy. The site of this cemetery was selected by the 5th Corps and into it were brought the graves of men who had died in the fierce fighting on the Adriatic sector of the front in November-December 1943. Presumably this is when William was killed.

Ronald Couchman was in the 5th Battalion Grenadier Guards and was 'killed in action' in Italy on Tuesday, 25th July 1944. The Grenadiers' website reveals that the 5th Battalion was involved in the invasion of North Africa and then Italy at Anzio before fighting their way to Florence. Presumably it was in the heavy fighting around Florence that Ronald was killed. Ronald was 27 years old when he died and is buried in the Florence War Cemetery, he is also remembered on his parents' gravestone in St Anthony's churchyard.



Alan Gavin was a Rifleman in the 2nd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps. He died on Thursday 19th of October 1944 aged 23 years and had lived in Megget Lane. The 2nd Battalion took part in the Normandy landings and then fought through France, Belgium and Holland into Germany. Presumably Alan was killed as part of this movement. Alan is buried in the Leopoldsburg War Cemetery, Limburg, Belgium and was the last of the Alkham Heroes to be killed in war. **Leonard Saunders** was the son of John and Charlotte Saunders who lived at Drellingore on the Alkham Valley Road. He was in the 17 Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery and he died on the 19th of January 1943 at the age of 35. He is remembered with honour at Medjez-El-Bab War Cemetery in Tunisia. His name is not on the St Anthonys churchyard memorial.



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1/3/2025

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

Other events in the village hall

Tea n Chat May 29th 2.30pm to 4.00pm

Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th		Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Saturday 10th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 18th		Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 25th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am
Thursday 29th			Eucharist 7.30am

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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 - With 8 May 2025 marking the 80th anniversary of VE Day, and events and activities planned up and down the country to commemorate the end of World War II in Europe, I've been reminded of a story that I heard during my student days. Our tutor told us of how at his church one Remembrance Sunday, a young curate had stood up to preach. Beginning his sermon by inviting the congregation to picture a scene from the Battle of the Somme, he was soon interrupted as an elderly man leapt to his feet. "Young puppy!" he snarled as he stormed out. "I was there!" A cautionary tale that I've always remembered when writing my own Remembrance Sunday sermons – for preachers, anything that involves relating what others might remember has to be done with special care. I've heard one preacher begin by describing how, during the war, he had been shot at by a German aircraft – he had been in his pram at the time. But the most memorable was from an old priest who had studied in Germany before the war. He began by quoting from the Old Testament: "Do not forget the LORD, and his righteousness." Describing his own memories of life in 1930s Germany, he spoke of how some friends had invited him to go to a meeting one evening – one at which Hitler himself would speak. From the pulpit, he described what he remembered of what he had heard. His conclusion: the world had gone on to pay a terrible price for forgetting the LORD and his righteousness. Perhaps understandably, the main theme of the 80th anniversary of VE Day events will be one of celebration. But let's also remember those who work for peace and reconciliation in today's world. **Brian Williams**

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - New Breakfast Menu now available 7.00 am – 10 am Weekend 8 am - 10 am. Locals Welcome; New Spring Menu; Happy hour Monday to Thursday 20% off drinks 4pm to 6pm; Fridays, Roll the Dice & get a free Drink, 4 pm until 6 pm. Sunday Lunch 12 pm until 6.30 pm – Booking Recommended. Contact number 01304 873410 info@marquisofgranby.co.uk www.marquisofgranby.co.uk

... **ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
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No. 374 June 2025

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ALKHAM VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

I hope all those who attended the Alkham Picnic on the Green enjoyed the VE Day 80 celebration. The weather was a bit dodgy - but we were lucky that the rain held off for a couple

of hours. Only sorry that we didn't manage to get many games in before the heavens opened. I should like to thank those who helped me with the organising and the volunteers who put out the tables, bunting etc. As they say "many hands make light work". And apart



from having a fun afternoon, with music, singing, bellringing, flag-raising and a Long Live the King, we also managed to raise £236.48 for badges, which has gone to the British Legion. Thank you to all of you. **Rachel Fountain**

FETE - This year's plant stall at the fete is being run by Trevor and Alison Johns with Anita and Vernon helping. Therefore to all villagers please could you have a look about and if you have any unwanted plants, please let us know big or small we don't mind. We all remember the giant house plant we had last year. Either contact Trevor or Alison Johns or myself on anitajames163@gmail.com. **Anita James**

ADDERS - An Alkham resident has sent a photo of an adder which was in the field behind the church in Alkham and also a leaflet giving advice if your dog is bitten by one. An adder bite can be fatal for a dog so you should immediately take them to the nearest vet. The first aid you can carry out is to carry the dog to reduce the spread of the venom and leave the bite alone, don't bandage or apply a tourniquet. Keep the dog reasonably warm and quiet whilst you take them to the vet.



FLINTS - Do any locals know of good sources of surplus local flint? Planning permission for the conversion of Drellingore Barns was granted in February - many thanks to our neighbours who supported the application. We'll need to repair some flint walls, and it'd be great to use local material. It'd be even better if there are any free sources from gardens or ploughed fields! Any suggestions sent to family@drellingorebarns.com would be gratefully received.



MANY THANKS go to Neil Burrows who has stepped down from Alkham Parish Council after 32 years during which time he was Chairman for 20 years and Vice Chairman for 7. The photo shows Neil accepting an award from Den Barnard on behalf of the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) for all the work he has done for the community and Alkham owes him a debt of gratitude as well. There has been a smooth transition with Den Barnard taking over as Chairman.

KCC ELECTIONS - Paul King from the Reform Party won the election and is now the councillor for our area.

WAR MEMORIAL - Further to the article in the newsletter about Alkham Heroes an email was received from Peter Reed about Leonard Saunders' name not being on the memorial and an offer to contribute to the cost of doing so. Enquiries are currently being made to find out if this can be done.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - Friday 27th of June Drew Cameron stand-up comedian & impressionist with a set menu £60 per person. Thursday 17th July Mediterranean Night live music by Thomas Abraham.

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EVERDEN is at the top of the hill behind Alkham where Great Everden Farm was located. It is now called Great Everden Manor and adjacent are two empty barns for which a planning application has been made to convert the smaller barn into a hotel. The

proposed profile is similar to the barn and further details can be seen on the DDC web site under planning. Great Everden contacted me and I agreed to put an article by them in the newsletter which is shown below.

GREAT EVERDEN MANOR is a holiday let estate at the top of the Alkham Valley surrounded by acres of harvest fields and wildlife. During the last four years, the proprietors have invested in the planting of hundreds of specimen trees and plants to bring more wildlife into the area. This has turned the estate into a popular holiday let option. Adjoining the estate are two massive barns that were used for huge farming machinery. The Government's advice for permitted development allows for these barns to be turned into offices, schools, hotels etc. The proprietors feel that the use of a boutique 9 room hotel with a spa on site would be beneficial to the locals and is the optimum option to the area and its environment. Barns this size that start dilapidating become an eyesore and a Health and safety hazard to the area and the community. The new facility will provide the potential great short break to revitalise in tranquillity in the beautiful countryside. **Great Everden Manor ...**

NEIGHBOURS' VIEWPOINT – Some emails have been received from people who live in the area. Concerns are over the proposed "agricultural Barn to Hotel" at Great Everden Manor. Particularly dangers caused by 50-seater coaches not knowing the very narrow country roads and the effect on other drivers. If Hotel use is approved, there will be a further increase in traffic, affecting walkers, cyclists and horse riders. In addition, regular noisy events at the Manor are a real nuisance to those living nearby and further afield. They also consider there's a great danger of Alkham being turned from a small rural area into something much larger and wonder if the number of houses for sale in the area is being caused by these developments.

RIVER GARDENERS - Our next event will be our **Summer Show: Saturday 5th July** at River Village Hall. Show opens at 2pm (free entry) and there will be Prize giving, auction, raffle and cake! Bring seeds, seedlings or a plant for the sales table! Why not join us and show your flowers, veg and crafts? We encourage everyone to give Showing a go – it's a fun, social and rewarding event. You needn't be an expert either, most of our long-time competition goers and members are amateurs. **Race Night: 19th July** at River Village Hall, 7.30pm-10pm. Tickets here: rivergardeners.com/event/race-night-2025/. **Autumn Show: Saturday 13th September** [as for Summer Show] **Coffee Morning & AGM: Saturday 1st November**

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SLIP LANE – Before 1978 Slip Lane used to be called The Street which in olden times generally meant there were some houses on it. Nearby is Swingfield and that too had houses built on the road going through it and hence Swingfield Street. The

majority of householders on the Street in Alkham wanted the road to be called Slip Lane and records don't show why but perhaps a slip leads down to water and the road generally flooded. The photo shows The Street in 1920 with children standing by the Wesleyan Chapel. **Ed**

SAVE THE DATE- I'm holding a charity bingo night on the Saturday 26th of July at 7pm at Alkham village hall. Money raised on this night will be split between Pilgrims Hospice and Dementia. If you would like to come along for the evening and would like to book a table, please contact me on 07796360473. Bring your own refreshments there will be raffle prizes on the night. **Debbie Griggs**

THE VILLAGE HALL AGM was held in April the outcome of which are several changes to the committee of managing trustees. More to follow on that but the first job is to thank not just those who have stood down but indeed to thank all who have for many years contributed to the running of the village hall. The humility shown by those standing down means I'll not name them but I think you all know who they are and they are to be recognised with our thanks. The honesty, integrity and community spirit of everyone involved is an example for the future. The new committee have now to follow in those footsteps and deal with short term tasks, make arrangements for the coming months and plan a future. Alkham Village Hall is a registered charity and in July 2031, just six short years away, the Charity is 100 years old. Our custodians over the past 94 years have ensured that the village hall remains at the heart of our rural community. Your new committee invites you to join us and rally around one key objective which is providing a new village hall for the next 100 years! How will we do this? I honestly don't know, but I do know that it cannot be done by the committee alone it has to be with the support, involvement and willingness of the whole village. After reading the sad news about the end of the film club and how the WI are seriously considering their future it's time to step up and get involved, with whatever you feel able, to make our village hall, and the clubs and services that call it home, the centre of our community for another 100 years. Please keep an eye on the Alkham.org website for further news and I promise that your managing trustees will do all we can, so let's do that together. **Kev Rolfe**

FOR SALE - Ti Reynolds 531 C Bike 58 cm, 18 speed, high-quality steel frame road bike, classic drop handlebar and stored in a garage for some years, £75. Please phone Nina on 07749133413.

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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
Friday	6.30pm to 7.30pm Yoga with Janet

Other events in the village hall

Tea n Chat June 26th 2.30pm to 4.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st June		Eucharist 10.00 am	
Saturday 7th	Messy Church Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.30 am		Praise 11.00 am
Sunday 15th		Eucharist 10.00 am	
Sunday 22nd		Evensong 6.00 p.m.	Eucharist 10.00 am
Sunday 29th	Sung Eucharist at St Mary's Capel le Ferne 10.00 am		

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AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
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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 and 91 bus

FROM THE VICARAGE - As we marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day recently, we celebrated a generation who are passing into history. Not only did they go through the War; they learned Bible stories at Grandmother's knee and went to Sunday School. In the Forces they attended Church Parade. When the war ended, some trained as clergy; one, Robert Runcie, having served as a tank commander in Normandy and been decorated for bravery, went on to be Archbishop of Canterbury. In the 1950s, they flocked to Wembley to hear the evangelist Billy Graham preach. But then came the 1960's, and massive social changes. Following generations didn't catch the same churchgoing habit, and now, as a generation passes on and pews empty, some wonder how much longer the dear old C of E will last. And yet... I'm reading Lamorna Ash's book *Don't Forget We're Here Forever*. The shocking news that a comedy double-act from her university days had not just found faith but planned to be ordained as Anglican priests led her not only to interview them in preparation for her book, but to set out on a journey that took in Christian retreats and church visits across the country. On the way she encountered a range of Christian traditions and met others of her own generation who had also found faith. As she explored what it was that had stirred within them, she found something stirring within herself. Recently, I heard of a local church that I'm told is lively, exciting and full of young people. A recent report by The Bible Society suggests that churchgoing may actually be increasing among the 18-34 age group. This Revival hasn't quite reached us yet – we're having to trim some of our services from this month - but there's hope, nevertheless... **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. 375 July 2025

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ALKHAM FETE - We are having a Fete Committee meeting on **Tuesday 24th June at 8 pm** in the Village Hall to finalise details - all are welcome. Check out the Fete WhatsApp group for further information (some of its even fete-related!). This year's Fete will be held on **Saturday 19th July 2025 from 2 pm**; please spread the word. As always any and all help putting the tents up and preparing the Meadow (from 9 am) and clearing up afterwards would be gratefully received. You will find 2 books of Raffle Tickets with the newsletter - please return any ticket stubs (and payment) or unsold tickets to me - ideally in advance to 1-2 Upton Cottage, or on the day. The Fete raises funds for the Church and Village Hall and it's always a great family day and opportunity to meet and catch up with friends, family and villagers past and present. We'll be having all the usual events and silliness, so please come along and support the event. **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082 or 07947 016697.**

FETE - This year's plant stall at the fete is being run by Trevor and Alison Johns with Anita and Vernon helping. Therefore, to all villagers please could you have a look about and if you have any unwanted plants, please let us know big or small we don't mind. Either contact Trevor or Alison Johns or myself on anitajames163@gmail.com. **Anita James**

CHANGING TIMES - The W.I. have always been the backbone of Alkham and if anything needed to be done they were first port of call, and this may continue, but the Alkham W.I. is going to amalgamate with Capel W.I. because of falling numbers. For years they had a choir at the Christmas lights and also had Christmas Bazaars, jumble sales and several other events plus helping when necessary. St. Anthony's church used to have a good attendance plus a choir but like the W.I. the numbers attending has dropped and when Brian Williams retires later this year it is probable that there will be no one to replace him. Additionally, is the Alkham Monthly Newsletter relevant today in the age of social media? Maybe not but with the help of the marvellous 13 volunteers who deliver 275 paper copies each month it does reach most of the properties in the parish and can be used for other purposes such as delivering the raffle tickets and other parish business. **Brian Wimsett**

ALKHAM WI would like donations of cakes please for the refreshments stall in the village hall. Anyone wishing to bake a cake and drop of on the day of the Fete would be much appreciated.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - New Summer Menu available now.

Mediterranean night - Join us for a Mediterranean Night on **Thursday 17th July**, indulge in sun-soaked flavours and live music in a truly relaxed atmosphere! **Silva's Service BBQ** - Silva invites you to his very own BBQ on our terrace, on **Monday 25 August**, where you will experience the flavours of Portugal and the Silva service we all love. There will be live music and a cocktail bar

DEFIBRILLATOR

The Ewell Minnis telephone box defibrillator has been installed. It has been supplied by the charity 'Defibs for Dover' and our contribution

has been covered by 'The Electric Twelve Club', the business charity organised by villager Kev Rolfe. Defibs for Dover have offered us a free Life Support and Defibrillator Training Course for twelve people. We don't have a date for it yet but if anyone is interested particularly from Ewell Minnis please let Den Barnard know or any of the Parish Councillors.

BRIC-A-BRAC - The stall is very popular at the fete, which is on the 19th of July, and we are looking for decent saleable items but not the ones you might find in charity shops or boot fairs thanks as they don't sell. Please have a rummage around and if you have anything which you think might sell, please ring Jane on 07340 749788 for details and donation.

SAVE THE DATE- I'm holding a charity bingo night on the Saturday 26th of July at 7pm at Alkham village hall. Money raised on this night will be split between Pilgrims Hospice and Dementia. If you would like to come along for the evening and would like to book a table, please contact me on 07796360473. Bring your own refreshments and there will be raffle prizes on the night and if anyone would like to donate a raffle prize please contact me. **Debbie Griggs**



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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - I'm hoping to arrange an Alkham CC v Alkham Residents cricket match on (probably) the afternoon of the August Bank Holiday Sunday (24th Aug); if you are interested in playing, for either side, please text me on 07947 016697 and I'll set up a WhatsApp group to sort out the details. It's likely to be a T20 game (Alkham CC rarely lasted more than 20 overs when batting in any format) and will probably involve some beers and maybe a barbecue, and there may be an opportunity to have a game or two of Petanque after the cricket! As you can tell, plans are at a fairly early stage! **Paul Tapsell**

BEE SWARMING Season and Asian Hornet Threat - Bee hives are in full swing now and as the population of a colony increases it becomes necessary to move out. The queen bee will take off with many of the bees to look for a new home leaving a proportion of the colony to 'make' a new queen to revive that hive. In the middle of July last year a swarm descended on our house and made a sterling effort to get into our roof. We fought them off but gave in and with the help of local beekeepers made a home for them out of part of a beehive, a wheelbarrow and a few plywood offcuts. We then spent several hundred pounds on a hive and apparel and became beekeepers. Unfortunately, as can happen in 1 in 4 cases, the colony did not survive the winter but they did leave a hive full of honey. In our case it was not the Asian Hornet who decimated our bees, there are plenty of other threats such as varroa mite, cold, mice or death of the queen to list a few. Alkham featured on a recent channel 5 TV programme, "The Secret Lives of Bees" when they explained the problem of the Asian Hornet. The programme presenter walks up Slip Lane and into the garden of a local beekeeper before showing the Hornet's nest high in a tree. The Hornets are exterminated in the nest and the nest retrieved for analysis. The battle continues this year and Hornet traps have been placed and are being monitored. Keep your eyes open for these large wasp-like creatures and report any sightings to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk. We were waiting for another swarm to drop in and supply us with more honey but have now placed an order for a new colony of bees with the local bee keeping association. That new home needs a new family. **Alan Latham**



HOW THE BEE GOT ITS STING - If you know your Greek mythology you'll easily picture the wedding banquet of Zeus and Hera. Not a small affair as even the animal kingdom was invited and summoned by Zeus to offer their best dishes for this momentous occasion. As a prize for the best entry Zeus proposed to grant the winner a wish. Thus, on the day of tasting, Zeus came to a very small amphora filled with a sweet scented amber-coloured concoction. Its maker was asked her name which was Malissa and she was very surprised to be told her offering was by far the best thing the gods had ever tasted and she was declared the winner and Zeus asked what she wished for. Melissa's reply was that the scorpion had been given a sting, the snake had fangs, bulls had horns whilst she, the bee had nothing to defend herself with and could Zeus give her a suitable weapon. After deliberation with Hera, Zeus ruled that the bee would be given a stinger but if she used it, she would lose her life. And indeed, bees when they sting lose that part of their body and die. Beware what you wish, all the way from Greek antiquity. **Isabelle Smith**

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FETE – Further to the article on page 1 the fete has changed as well. The photo shows the headmaster of Alkham school opening the fete in 1910 which was held at the Vicararage and was very formal with all the ladies wearing hats although they

probably had the usual attractions such as a coconut shy. The other photo shows a headmaster in 1930 outside the Marquis and cars have changed as well and the Triumph Roadster had a dicky seat where the boot is. **editor**



DOGS – The majority of dog owners know how they should be looked after and have them microchipped, put a collar on them with a tag that gives their details and clear up the mess when they go to the toilet including by gardens or hedges. Barking can be a problem for neighbours and dogs can be shot if they chase livestock. Keep it on the lead if you meet another dog on a lead or on the road, especially when meeting cyclists or horses. Keep them under control when in public places and leash them if they don't respond to command. The Highway Code says and backed by the law that they must be restrained in vehicles. Don't assume that everyone likes dogs and saying he's friendly may not help particularly with children. Dogs are lovely animals especially when they follow this advice. **A parishioner**

ALKHAM BOOK CLUB - We continue to enjoy a wide variety of books that lend themselves to discussion, not always on serious or controversial subjects. Our April choice, "The Story Collector", by Elvie Woods, transported us back to a forgotten age of rural charm where strange coincidences and luck were innocently accepted as the influence of 'fairy folk'. Set in a peaceful Irish idyll, the peace of the community is shaken up by two unlikely American visitors. The tale built up to moments of tension and mystery and was generally regarded as a pleasurable and relaxed read. In May we turned from frivolous more to a more serious topic of post-war trauma. The book we read, J.L.Carr's "A Month in the Country", was a gentle and sensitive glance into a short period of time experienced by a nerve-shattered man, as he found peace. His road to recovery began with his 'month in the country' amongst the kindly rural folk. **Margaret Danstead**

THE NATIONAL TRUST are not showing themselves in a good light in regard to Studley Royal Water Garden, Yorkshire, re pheasant shooting. The land is in private ownership and shooting is legal but NT are responsible for the gardens and opening the grounds to the public. During shooting season, the grounds are closed Friday, for shooting pheasants, which commands a high price to shoot there. The shoot at Studley takes place near water. Thus, many birds are not killed outright but wounded and full of lead shot. They then fall into the water. These wounded birds struggle to survive in the water, without being humanely killed or having any remorse shown to them by the shooters. No doubt shooting scenarios are played out in numerous, privately owned, estates yet administered by the National Trust and open to the public. It does call into question the value of NT Membership if you find this kind of cruelty abhorrent. **A parishioner**



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Other events in the village hall

Tea n Chat July 31st 2.30pm to 4.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th July		Eucharist 10 am	
Saturday 12th	Messy Church 3.00 – 5.00 pm please confirm		
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9.30 am		Worship 11am
Sunday 20th		Eucharist 10am	
Sunday 27th		Evensong 6p.m.	Eucharist 11am

Usually a Eucharist at St Radigund's, Capel at 11.00am on Thursday

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Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28

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Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

FROM THE VICARAGE - Our son, who works as a school science technician, arrived home with a flowerpot containing a lemon tree grown from a pip. Having started life in a corner of one of the science labs it now needed a "forever home." We found it a spot on the kitchen windowsill, and it has been there ever since. It was just a couple of inches high with a few glossy green leaves when it arrived. But despite our best efforts, it didn't grow. The leaves lost their shine and shrivelled away. Just a stalk remained – and so it has been ever since. It looks dead, but the stalk remains green. It isn't growing, but it refuses to die. Believe it or not, there are gardening tips in the Bible! For example, Jesus once told a story about a landowner who, having planted a fig tree and not had any fruit from it for three years, told his gardener to cut it down. But the gardener persuaded his boss to wait – he would dig around the tree and put manure on it. If it still didn't bear fruit, then it could be cut down. Jesus' stories always have a double meaning. Jesus knew about plants – and people. His point was that we can all be like fruitless trees - going through life being foolish and selfish, and messing things up. But at the same time we can always make new beginnings and turn our lives around so that we "bear fruit", as Jesus would put it. Most people would have thrown that lemon tree out by now. But whenever I look at it, I think of Jesus' story about the fig tree, and about second chances. So I'll dig around that little tree, feed it, and see what happens... **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

and magazine

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ALKHAM FETE – Despite the ominous weather forecast the fete on the 19th of July was sunny and a good crowd of people turned up on the village green. The fete was opened by Neil Burrows who was chairman of the Parish Council for 20 years and placed around the green were numerous tents and side shows including sheep from Wolverton Farm plus the Astronomical Society; there was also displays of the defibrillator and Tai Chi and later there were children's games and a tug of war. The photo shows the dog parade and this year it was decided not to have a winner but each dog got a treat and Dexter the German Shepherd got two so was effectively the winner. There will be more details about the fete in next month's newsletter and thanks go to Paul Tapsell and his team for organising it plus Den Barnard and all the people who helped on the day.



VOLUNTEERING - The unofficial volunteer group continues to grow in Alkham and we're always wanting more people to join. There is no one leading this group and we keep in touch via a What's App group and word of mouth. We are just a bunch of local residents who care enough to help each other out with difficult or larger jobs in and around our homes, often for the greater good of the village. We'll also help out with requests from the Village Hall and the Parish Council to maintain and upkeep the public areas they are responsible for. We're looking for more volunteers to join us, be that with a particular skill, like fixing benches and noticeboards, heavier labour like building the village hall planters, easier labour like litter picking or simply turning up to make some drinks or refreshments and a chat. Saturday the 28th of June a heavier work party took place clearing up the Burn on Vicarage Meadow and alongside Newlyn's Meadow, moving compost, post fixing and hedge trimming followed by July the 12th which saw litter picking Vicarage Meadow ahead of the fete, no doubt we'll need another group to help right after the fete. It's important to know that not everyone is available every time but if you'd like to join, even if only occasionally, get in touch. **Kev Rolfe M: 07857 305044**

CRICKET MATCH - Plans are moving ahead for a Alkham Cricket Club v Alkham Residents cricket match on the Vicarage Meadow Sunday 24th August starting at 2 pm; we're aiming to have a T20 (twenty over) game followed by a barbecue, some beers, probably a raffle (all in aid of Club funds), and some Petanque (and, possibly, Croquet); if you're interested in playing please let me know (or sign up on the sheet by the Pavilion at the Fete on 19th July). Players of all (or no) abilities, ages and/or sexes are all welcome - we're just determined to prove that the Alkham Cricket Club (established 1839*) is still alive! **Paul Tapsell 07947 016697.** (*the year, not the time!).

NEWSLETTER – Last month's article 'Changing Times' might have given the impression that the newsletter was not continuing because of social media. I received a couple of nice emails to say that some of the on-line platforms have people giving their own strong views and that the newsletter is always impartial and a hugely preferential source of information. As long as there is news to report and people send me articles, which are always welcome, I will continue to publish the newsletter.

Brian Wimsett

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VILLAGE HALL - Many of you will know that Alkham Village Hall has recently been given a slight facelift with much of the work being done for free by residents. The Managing Committee of Trustees would like to thank everyone for their support and we'd like to invite everyone to an open meeting of the village hall committee on Saturday August the 9th 10am-11am. We'll do our very best to provide some refreshments but the intention is for members of the parish to meet up and discuss what they'd like from a Village Hall in the coming years and how it might be achieved. We have stated already that as the Village Hall approaches 100 years old we believe it's time to fundraise and apply for grants to replace it with a new Village Hall for the next 100 years. If you think you could help in any way please come along and have a chat. Village Hall Committee. **Kevin Rolfe**

CYCLE PATH

The new Fastrack from Whitfield to Guston is a lovely stretch of road which cost about 34 million pounds with a new bridge



over the A2 and links the housing development at Whitfield to the centre of Dover. One of our bike rides was to Dover and up Castle Hill to Guston and then on to East Langdon and the busy entrance on the A2 roundabout at Whitfield. The new road bypasses the latter and from Guston it's straight to Whitfield and the Alkham turn at the roundabout on the A2 which makes for a pleasant ride. However, we are generally the only people on the new road at that time which is restricted to buses. **Brian Wimsett**

FIRE AND RESCUE - People across Kent and Medway are being invited to have their say on Kent Fire and Rescue Service's (KFRS) forward plans to protect rural residents and businesses from the risk of fire or other emergencies and with around 85% of the county classed as rural, it's important to give your views. The plan outlines how KFRS already supports people who live and work in the countryside, and how the service intends to enhance its response to risks associated with rural living. The proposal also considers the relocation of a water rescue vehicle. Please go to eu.surveymonkey.com/r/kfrspublicconsultation2025 or if you know of someone who doesn't have access to the internet, please pop by and help them to give their views.

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ON THE THEME of changing
times, 25 years ago the W.I.
staged a pantomime in the
village hall when Helen Scopes
brought her donkey into the
hall accompanied by Devina
Bartlett as Mary much to the
surprise of the audience. The



donkey behaved itself and the panto was well received. In the year
2000 a Millennium Cross was placed on the top of St. Anthony's tower
by Cal Scopes on a cold and blustery day with a good crowd watching



on and the vicar Gill Calver
was there who later went on
to be a chaplain to the Queen.
It would be a great pity if
either were to close and Brian
Williams the parish vicar has
written an article which is
shown below. **Brian Wimsett**

I WAS REMINDED by Brian's comments about the changing fortunes
of the WI and St Anthony's in last month's *Newsletter* of a
conversation I once had with someone whose local village church
had recently closed. The strongest objections to its closure, he said,
had come from people who hardly ever went to church! When I
retire, responsibility for the Parish will pass to the Area Dean and the
churchwardens to begin with - what will happen in the longer term
remains to be seen. When I arrived the average weekly attendance
at St Anthony's was 16. People prayed and cared for not just each
other, but for the whole village. But that changed with Covid - like
many churches, St Anthony's struggled to recover after the
pandemic. St Anthony's remains popular for christenings, weddings
and funerals. Easter Day and Remembrance Sunday were well
supported last year, as were our Christmas services - but regular
Sunday services are a different matter. We have bellringers, and a
willing team who decorate the church for Christmas and Harvest. But
to stay alive, a church needs a congregation. To remain sustainable,
we have had to reduce our Sunday services to just one a month - on
the 2nd Sunday at 9.30. ***So, please could you give just one hour a
month to keep St Anthony's going?*** Do you like singing? Come and
sing the hymns - you could try singing the harmonies; Come and
pray for yourself, for others and whatever is on your mind. If words
won't come, light a candle; Think about what you hear. You don't
have to agree with all of it. Parish churches aren't funded by the
taxpayer. Please could you consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme
and giving a little towards St Anthony's running costs? ***Please
support St Anthony's - don't lose it. Brian Williams***



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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
Friday	6.30pm to 7.30pm Yoga with Janet

Other events in the village hall

Tea n Chat August 28th 2.30pm to 4.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd Aug		Eucharist 10.00am	
Saturday 9th	Messy Church 3.00 – 5.00 pm Capel 01303 243784 to confirm		
Sunday 10th St L	Eucharist 9.30 am		Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 17th		Eucharist 10.00 am	
Sunday 24th		Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 31st	Eucharist at St Mary's Capel le Ferne 10.00 am		

Usually a Eucharist at St Radigund's, Capel at 11.00am on Thursday

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 email Paul.King@kent.gov.uk

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

LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

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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 and 91 bus

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - From the 21st of July until the 29th of August 2025 CHILDREN EAT FOR £1; Children enjoy a main course for just £1 from the. children menu with every adult main / large

plate from our A La Carte Menu /Summer Menu. Note (one Child Main to one Adult Main available from Monday to Friday 12pm - 3pm and 5.30pm - 6.30pm excluding Bank Holiday Monday.

UPCOMING EVENTS - Thursday 21st August 2025 - ENTRECOTE

NIGHT. Only £25 per person for a three-course set menu, with the

option of bottomless Red & Rose wine poured from magnum throughout your meal. (reservation recommended). **Monday 25th August 2025 (Bank Holiday) - SILVAS SERVICE BBQ + Cocktails & Live**

Music from THE DIAL. For more information please visit our website.

DINOSAUR DAY in Pencester Gardens, Dover on Wednesday 6

August when Dover's very own 'Jurassic Park' comes to life with opportunities to train "friendly" dinosaurs, to join a walkabout

with a giant T-Rex, and to meet and greet some smaller dinosaurs too, all overseen by a team of experienced dinosaur wranglers! The event is FREE so just turn up throughout the day

from 10am to 3pm. Children of all ages will be enthralled by the 'Dinosaur Safari' shows at 11am, 1pm and 2.30pm, together with

a dinosaur walkabout at either end of Pencester Gardens at 12pm. There are other themed activities such as walking with the dinos,

meeting reptiles, dinosaur crafts and many more activities.

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. 377 September 2025

Non-profit &
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Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

ALKHAM FETE AND MEETING - A huge "Thank You" to everyone who helped and/or attended the Fete on the 19th of July- despite the awful weather forecast, someone upstairs was smiling on us and it stayed dry. We raised about £3,300 which will be shared (mostly) between the Church and Village Hall which was an excellent result. I won't single individuals out for their help; you were all brilliant! We' will be having the post-fete meeting on **Tuesday 30th September at 8 pm** in the village hall to discuss the event, agree the donations and plan for next year; please come along. Thanks again. **Paul Tapsell 07947 016697**

PLANT STALL -Thank you to everyone who donated the huge collection of plants we had for sale on the



plant stall at the fete, the final figure is not in yet but we raised over £600 pounds this year. We

intend to be back bigger and better next year so put your cuttings in please. **Anita, Alison, Vernon and Trevor** ... They are to be congratulated for growing and obtaining so many plants, a terrific achievement.

THE ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL were very kindly presented a Garden Gift Voucher by the Alkham WI in commemoration of the 110 years of the WI in the UK. I'm sure the Alkham WI will confirm all their future plans themselves but we at the Village Hall will miss them and we thank them for the gift. With the ongoing planting works to the frontage and car park we know the gift will be used in a suitable way to recognise the donation. Thank You. **Kev Rolfe**

CRICKET MATCH – The Alkham Cricket Club v Alkham Residents cricket match on the Vicarage Meadow will be on Sunday 24th August starting at 2 pm; we're aiming to have a T20 (twenty over) game followed by a barbecue, some beers, probably a raffle (all in aid of Club funds), and some Petanque (and, possibly, Croquet). New players are always welcome regardless of ability so please contact me. **Paul Tapsell 07947 016697**

QUIZ NIGHT on the 26th of September at 7 pm at St. Radigunds church Capel with Tony the quiz master; bring your own drink and nibbles, £5.00 per person. To book ring Audrey on 07869 574577. **Carol Mannall**

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING COURSE - We have four people who have expressed interest in the second Defibrillator Course but we need a minimum of twelve to book it. It is not essential to have training to use either of our two village defibrillators but the training will give you confidence if you find yourself in an emergency. The course is free and is only a couple of hours and could make all the difference between life and death. Please contact Den Barnard (07488 357140) or any Parish Councillor if you are interested. Remember that to use the defibrillators dial 999 and you will be given the code to access the machine and the operator will guide you through its use. **Alkham Parish Council**

THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING for September has had to be postponed until Monday the 8th of September. **Den Barnard**

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THINGS IN THE NIGHT - An email was received from a lady in Short Lane regarding her husband who likes to practice his golf chipping on their lawn. On five consecutive nights the golf balls disappeared so they



installed a camera to catch the thief. The culprit was caught on camera and it was a fox who removed the balls one by one and then disappeared through the hedge. Evidently the fox thought they were eggs which they store in their dens for the winter so the poor fox and family will be disappointed when the winter comes. If anybody discovers 20 golf balls, you will know where they came from and if you email the newsletter I will ensure they are returned.



FOX HUNTING

An email was received about fox hunting which was made illegal, but trail hunting is allowed, which the writer says is a smokescreen for it

to continue. If you have an opinion on this, you can join the campaign to stop this by going to protectthewild.org.uk/our-campaigns/proper-ban-on-hunting/proper-ban-hunting-petition/ or The League Against Cruel Sports or your MP. The photo shows the hunt leaving the Marquis in 1990. **Brian Wimsett**

BOOK CLUB - As Jane Austen and her novels were being featured on TV in the Spring, we chose "Persuasion" as our June book of the month. After a brief discussion at our meeting of the book's style and content, much of our time was spent on talking about the life of the author and the possibility of a visit to the Austen residence/museum. Our book choice for July, "Cross Stitch", was also suggested through interest in a TV series—namely "Outlander"—a far cry from the classic choices of the previous two months! The book, by Diana Gabaldon, is an attempt to give the reader a semi-historic experience of life in Jacobite Scotland, with all its dangers, violence and superstition. The main character is introduced at the start of the novel as a returning wartime nurse, in 1945 looking forward to peace and happiness with her husband. By 'novelist licence' she is thrown out of one life back two centuries! The response to this book were varied with some members eager to read another in the series whilst others disliking it. We normally choose a 'feel-good' novel for August as many read it on holiday. We shall find out at the end of the month whether "Fortune's Rocks" by Anita Shreve meets that criteria. **Margaret Danstead**

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ST. ANTHONY'S - As a previous Alkham resident and churchwarden, St Anthony's holds a special place in my heart. I was saddened to see from Revd. Brian's report that the church is going to be on what I interpret as "life support" after his retirement next month. Founded by the monks at St Radigunds Abbey, has it come, that after 800 years of continuous use, and with a higher, and more prosperous village population than ever, this beautiful Grade 1 listed building is potentially to become, like at Swingfield, a heritage curiosity open once a year? Has individual wealth come at the cost of collective poverty? I don't have the answers, but I do have some observations. As the worshipping congregation reduces and ages, the administrative and financial burden on those remaining becomes, at a point, unsustainable. Community will and action, aided by the Friends of St Anthony's working with the church family, is the only way to ensure its future viability. At least have a public debate about what you want for the future of the building. Reimagining the use beyond Sunday worship is needed. That's why we put the kitchenette and toilet in some years ago. As a demonstration of support, could the Parish Council meeting be held in the church from time to time? Basically, it's about breathing new life into St Anthony's and bringing her out of intensive care. After all, Alkham Fete was rumoured to be dead some years ago, but had a resurrection thanks to Community willpower and a lot of hard work. With God's help, miracles can and do happen. **Linda Gaskill**



IN THE 1930'S the church used to be full and had a choir. The Preston boys are seen in the photo standing in the school playground in front of what is now the Old Post Office looking very saintly. Gordon is in the middle and was a great character but as he'd admit was unlikely to be canonized although Charlie on the left might have qualified.

Brian Wimsatt

BINGO NIGHT - I would like to thank everyone who came to the bingo charity night which was held on the 26th of July at the village hall where we raised £1565 which will be split between The Pilgrims Hospice and Dementia. I would also like to thank the Marquis of Granby, Alkham Valley Garden Centre, The Fox and The Royal oak at Capel for all your raffle prizes that you donated which I really appreciated. It was lovely to see everyone thank you once again.

Debbie Griggs

THANK YOU for the recent kindness that people have shown us and the kindness received after the recent passing of Vernon's Dad. **Vernon and Anita James**



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E: bookings@villagehall.alkham.org W: villagehall.alkham.org

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
Friday	6.30pm Yoga :07812678124 janet28@protonmail.com

Other events in the village hall - see alkham.org

Tea n Chat September 25th 2.30pm to 4.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th			Eucharist 11.00 am
Saturday 13th	Messy Church 3 -5pm– contact Pam 01303 489006 if coming		
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30 am		Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 21st		Eucharist 10.00 am	
Sunday 28th		Eucharist 10.00 am	

Usually a Eucharist at St Radigund's, Capel at 11.00am on Thursday

POLICE 999 or 101 NEWSLETTER brianwimsett@hotmail.com
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 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 and 91 bus

FROM THE VICARAGE - The Book of Genesis makes it all sound so simple; when Abraham left home he took his wife, his brother's son, their possessions and their dependants, set off for Canaan, and that was it. But looking around my office and thinking of all that I've got to do before I take my wife, our son, our possessions and our dependants (cats, cockatiels and tropical fish) and set off for retirement, it doesn't look as simple as all that - there's still so much to do. It still feels early to be saying our goodbyes, but our time here – nearly thirteen years - is nevertheless drawing to a close, with my final service in the parish at the end of September. Many years ago, long before I was ordained, I was a server at the church that I used to attend. When the vicar left, he gave a long farewell speech, thanking everyone who had supported him in his ministry by name – except me! Someone noticed, and asked me how I felt about being left out. I answered – truthfully – that I hadn't needed him to say anything. He had never failed to show his appreciation for anything I had done. I have been privileged to be the Parish Priest here. Our years here have been happy years, and I'm grateful for the love, prayers and support that I've enjoyed from so many, both within our church families and also among the wider community. Whatever help anyone has given, I've appreciated it all - and I hope that I've shown it. Last word to St Paul: *Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell... The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.* **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. 378 October 2025

Non-profit &
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to the Parish

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

LET'S MAKE ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD SAFER – TOGETHER

Over the past year, the Parish Council has been working with Kent Highways and our County Councillor to press for urgent safety improvements on Alkham Valley Road. This work feeds into the *Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)*, the document that sets out our parish's priorities for road and traffic changes.

What we asked for: Traffic-calming build-outs at both ends of the village; Lower speed limits along the valley; A 7.5-ton weight limit to keep heavy lorries out (except for access).

Where things stand: Speed limits: Kent Highways has agreed to reduce speeds east of the village towards Dover. To the west, recorded speeds are too high for any reduction to be approved.

Traffic-calming build-outs: Initially considered but rejected because Kent Highways no longer provides the type of lighting required since moving away from overhead power poles.

HGV restrictions: No progress has been made on a weight limit, despite the risks to safety and damage to the road.

Why it matters - speeding is not just inconvenient – it is dangerous. Speedwatch volunteers have recorded thousands of vehicles exceeding the limit in both 30mph and 40mph zones. In the past year alone, police have issued more than 5,000 warning letters to drivers. Without effective traffic-calming, speeding will continue to put residents, walkers, horse riders, and all road users at risk.

What you can you do? This is where the community makes a difference. Change will only happen if Kent Highways and decision-makers see how strongly residents feel. You can help by:

Speaking up: Write to Kent Highways, our MP, and our County Councillor to call for action.

Joining Speedwatch: More volunteers mean more monitoring and stronger evidence for change.

Showing up: Come to the next Parish Council meeting and make your voice heard. The more people who attend, the harder it is to ignore us. Highways are the responsibility of Kent County Council. Dover District Council does not have a role in preparing or changing the HIP. If you have concerns or suggestions about road safety in Alkham, please bring them to the Parish Council so they can be raised in discussions with Kent County Council. Together, as a community, we can keep up the pressure and work towards making Alkham Valley Road safer for everyone. **Alkham Parish Council**

GREAT EVERDEN MANOR which is on the high ground behind Alkham, has been granted prior planning approval for the conversion of a disused agricultural barn of what was Great Everden Farm to a 9-bedroom hotel. Prior approval means that certain things must be done before work can commence and these appear to be matters to do with construction. There were numerous objections to the application, which were mainly regarding noise, accessing the hotel and the rural environment but the application was primarily approved as it is in accordance with permitted development.

THANKS go to Brian Williams (Revd) for all the good work he has done in the three parishes over the last 12 years and we wish him well in his retirement.

Alkham ... it is encouraging that the bell ringing continues which is a lovely village tradition and the Harvest Supper.

THE HARVEST SUPPER is on the 13th of October in the village hall at 19.00. It will be £7.00 a ticket and could I ask for volunteers to prepare a casserole in a slow cook or a dessert please. There will be the usual auction after supper so any produce you have to give like vegetables, fruit, jam or chutney you can drop at the church for the Harvest Service, or I can collect. Please ring Carol on 07946106742. **Carol Mannall**

NEWSLETTER – With vicar retiring and the Alkham W.I. closing it will be more difficult to fill the newsletter so if you fancy writing something I'd be pleased to receive it. **Brian Wimsett**

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VILLAGE HALL MATTERS - In August the Managing Committee opened their doors to one of their monthly meetings and without expectation there was quite a reasonable turnout. Although due to unexpected circumstances only two committee members were in attendance rather than cancel, the meeting went ahead and there was a very open discussion about the future of the village hall which very much dominated the conversation. The future has to still be for a new hall however bookings are down and with the changes to regular bookers such as the WI there will need to be some fund-raising action to change things. I'm pleased to report there were no specific complaints at the current time and any concerns raised, related to worries about timings and noise although our very closest neighbours took a very pragmatic position that was reciprocated. The improvements to the Car Park area continue with the co-operation and support of our neighbours and a gang of dedicated volunteers. Planting will start over the coming months although the budget is the highest priority as it is with all things. There are to be more social events and some villagers are already making plans to arrange fundraising events with more news to follow. The take away message is that you do not have to be part of the Managing Committee to help out at the Village Hall, you can participate in or organise an event with our full support, then step back until the next time. We all have such busy lives that not everyone can commit the same amount of time but we can all play our part. **Kev Rolfe**

THE VILLAGE HALL VOLUNTEERS have done a great job in resolving the rotting palisade fence problem adjacent to the car park by battering earth to retain the fence and gardens.

FOX HUNTING – In last month's newsletter there was an article based on an email received from a parishioner that said that trail hunting was a smoke screen and that fox hunting was continuing. Following that an email has been received from a parishioner who firmly disagreed with this and said: There is only one hunt left in Kent and that huntsman provides an excellent service driving miles around the whole of Kent for horse owners and livestock farmers, collecting and even shooting animals that have to be disposed of. A tradition that has gone on before the word 'recycle' was invented- as it goes to feed the hounds. The hunt genuinely lays trails and are constantly watched and filmed by protesters, who are trespassing on land and ruining the trails. The hunt would be crazy if they suddenly went after real foxes. However sometimes the foxhounds cross the scent of a real fox and it is hard to call them off this scent as they have been bred to be the best at scenting foxes over hundreds of years but the huntsman always tries to correct this. I think if you add an article asking if people would like to sign a petition to ban trail hunting, you need to balance it with an option to try and save foxhounds being able to work and the huntsman providing a genuinely excellent service collecting deadstock.

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CYCLISTS – On Wednesday the 4th of July 1894 the Dover Cycle Club Annual Ride stopped for a photo on what is now the Alkham Village Green and on the right in the background is the Vicarage with the green then owned by the church remaining much the same. It must have been an evening ride with hats and moustaches being the order of the day and the Alkham Valley Road would have been pretty rough but perhaps they went to the public bar (or some to the saloon) for refreshment and a smoke at the Marquis of Granby with almost all then going to church on a Sunday. The times again have changed as after WWI there was a welcome home with a 'Meat Tea and Smoking Concert'. **Brian Wimsett**

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - 🍁 Our New Autumn Menu Has Arrived!

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NEWSLETTER -With new adverts and allowing for non-payments the newsletter made a profit in the financial year September 2024 to August 2025. All monies go into the NatWest Club account and the overall revenue was £576 which covered the cost of printing about £300 and posting copies £83 but a new printer was required at a cost of £140. The cost of adverts for this financial year will be reduced accordingly as it's not the intention to make a profit and also allow for any months where there is not enough material to fill the newsletter.

WHERE TO CATCH YOUR BUS

Stagecoach has made some changes and the graphic shows the Alkham 91 stops. There should be a larger graphic in the bus shelter by the village green or Stagecoach site.





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E: bookings@villagehall.alkham.org W: villagehall.alkham.org

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
Friday	6.30pm to 7.30pm Yoga with Janet

OTHER EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

6 th 7pm	Parish Council
7 th 7.30pm	White Cliffs Metal Detectors
13 th 6pm	Harvest Supper
30 th 2pm	Tea and a chat

CONTACT DETAILS

POLICE 999 or 101

NEWSLETTER brianwimsett@hotmail.com

PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS

clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

HALL BOOKING – See top of box above

W.I. SECRETARY Janet Barrow 829585

AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org

MP Mike Tapp

KCC email Paul.King@kent.gov.uk

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

LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

91 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

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ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

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TRAFFIC - An email was received regarding the Parish Council article in last month's newsletter and the writer has written to them about it. Apart from important items such as speeding, volume of traffic, HGV's, blind bends and dangerous egress from properties he said that the Highway Authority self-righteously state they continue to work and co-ordinate on the Highway Improvement Plan but he says there have been no noticeable significant improvements; other residents agree and say that they will never do anything (see comment at the end). KCC Highways have now decided to reject the build-outs because the type of lighting required cannot be provided by KCC since moving away from overhead cabling and he questions whether solar panels have been considered as they are used elsewhere in such situations and that clarification should be requested on this issue. He is appalled that none of the responsible authorities have accepted any of the road safety and traffic concerns raised by Alkham Residents and Parish Council and that they haven't taken any effective action regarding the continued road safety issues which they have a statutory obligation to address. **Parishioner ... in May 1998** the first stage of the traffic calming was installed in Alkham and the Parish Council chairman said he would push for stage 2, which he did, and it included gateways and a footpath in the narrow section by the Marquis of Granby. **Brian Wimsett**

2025 POPPY APPEAL - The Royal British Legion is launching the appeal on 24 October 2025. This means that the **Alkham Poppy Sellers** will be out and about selling poppies and badges over the following couple of weeks. We know that Alkham villagers and their friends are very generous from previous years and have high hopes that 2025 will be better than ever - a Bumper Poppy Collection. On Remembrance Sunday - 9 November - there will be a service in St Anthony's Church to remember those in the Armed Forces who gave their lives in the two World Wars. This will be followed by laying a wreath at the war memorial in the Churchyard, and two minutes silence. **Rachel Fountain**

THE 91 BUS times have changed and the bus now goes to Buckland Hospital and the new timetable is on back page.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - Entrecote night returns on the 13th of November; Dinner Festive set menu - perfect for Xmas parties, see details on mog website; Festive a la carte - see details on mog website. Xmas Day booking fast - Don't miss out.

AUTUMN BARN DANCE -- The Barn Dance is back! The date? Saturday November the 22nd. The time? 19.30 to 23.30. The venue? Alkham Village Hall. The Band? The same as before, but now we have a name - Jiggy With It! The caller - you know who! The cost £12.50 per head - profits to the Village Hall Re-development Fund. Tickets will include a ploughman's supper as before but bring your own drinks. Please call Graham on 07789690786 or email him on graham.bissett@talk21.com to reserve your places. No physical tickets will be sold. There are only 70 places available so book early to avoid disappointment. Over 30 tickets already gone. **Graham Bissett**

SAVE THE DATE - We are holding a quiz night on the 15th of November and Tony Holman will be our quiz master for the evening. It will be held at Alkham Village Hall 7 to 7.30pm start. Please bring cash on the night also bring refreshments and nibbles; 6 people to a table £5 per person there will also be a raffle and we have few tables left as some of you have already booked. Contact Debbie Griggs on 07796360473 if you would like to book a table. **Debbie Griggs**

SATURDAY October the 25th, Family Games Night and American supper plus raffle 7.30pm Alkham Village Hall. The cost is £5 per adult and £2 for children to raise money for Kent Air Ambulance. To book please phone Debbie Saunders on 07810890637.

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PETANQUE at the Village Hall

We had a small social gathering to play some Pétanque at the end of the summer. Despite a very good attempt to wash us away the clouds broke and the sun came out in time for us to play some games, chat, catch up with friends and make new ones. We're not quite at competition level but let's just say we have more than one with a

good arm and a good eye. Unfortunately, Dover District Council have still not responded within the timescale that they themselves set but our Parish Council continue to act on our behalf so that we can have the new terrain put in over the winter months. There are many more social activities planned during the darker months, please join us and support your Village Hall. **Kev Rolfe**

LEES CLIFF CAR

RIAGES Work has begun on the restoration of the funicular railway in Folkestone which was built as an extension of the South Eastern Railway in 1843. The cost was met by a £6.7m fundraising target together with a £4.8m grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Each carriage weighs 1.5 tons and since its opening it has carried 36 million people and is one of only four water-balanced lifts in the United Kingdom.



BOOK CLUB - We found Anita Shreve's 'Fortune's Rock' a bit of a shocker for its pre-permissive society timeframe. It concerned a scandalous love affair between a married doctor and a determined and privileged teenage girl. In spite of consequences and lives affected, the unlikely passionate relationship continued to flourish through good and bad times. Our book choice for September 'At Risk', was the debut novel from Stella Rimington, former head of MI5. She has drawn on her own experiences to produce this fast-moving action-packed thriller. The tensions, dangers and convincing detail keep the reader alert and page-turning.

Margaret Danstead

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FRIENDS OF ST. ANTHONY is a secular body formed in 2009 to look after the fabric of the church and in 2011 there was £23000 in the bank and since then we have paid about £30,000 for works to the building. It is not clear what is going to happen



to St. Anthony's Church, but it will remain in one form or another and further money will be required. There was a committee but because of people leaving Alkham or dying there are only two people remaining although 6 people continue with regular payments. If you would like to get involved or donate, please contact Den Barnard (denbarnard@yahoo.com 01304 824854) or myself, details in the



banner on the front page. The picture on the left shows the church in medieval times as a tower with buttresses which eventually became the magnificent Grade 1 listed building we have today. **Brian Wimsett**

CHURCH SERVICES – As you are probably aware Brian Williams retired as the vicar for Alkham, Capel and Hougham and currently there is no one to replace him. However, some services have been arranged and if you would like to attend, they are as follows:

19th of October Hougham 11.00am

26th of October Capel 10.00

2nd of November Capel 10.00am

9th of November Remembrance service Alkham 10.30am

16th of November Alkham 09.30am

23rd of November Hougham 11.00am

30th of November Capel 10.00am

SCAMMERS 159 – With regard to money if you believe that you have been contacted by scammers you can call 159 which has had a million calls since its launch. When calling 159 you'll be asked to provide the name of the bank you want to be connected to either by saying it out loud or using your keypad and you will then be directed through to your bank's customer service department. Calling the service costs the same as making a national rate call and Stop Scams UK, the industry body behind the scheme, is working towards making 159 a universal number offered by all telephone providers, similar to 101, 111 or 999. (Extract from a Martin Lewis article)



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ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Hall Bookings Team: M: 07585 398235

E: bookings@villagehall.alkham.org W: villagehall.alkham.org

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
Friday	6.30pm to 7.30pm Yoga with Janet

OTHER EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

2	Parish Council meeting 7pm
13	SEKAS 7pm
15	Quiz – see page 1
22	Barn Dance – see page 1
25	Games Night – see page 1
27	Tea & Chat 2.30 to 4 pm

CONTACT DETAILS

POLICE 999 or 101

NEWSLETTER brianwimsett@hotmail.com

PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS

clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

HALL BOOKING – See top of box above

W.I. SECRETARY Janet Barrow 829585

AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org

MP Mike Tapp

KCC email Paul.King@kent.gov.uk

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

LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

91 BUS TIMES

To Dover 744 0816 0959 1133 1327 1501 1724

Sat 0959 1133 1327 1501

To Folkestone 0919 1053 1247 1421 1619 1628 1809

Sat 1053 1247 1421 1624

Assumed correct check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables

Yin Yoga

Alkham village hall £8

Friday 6.30-7.30pm

Capel village hall £10

Monday 6.30-7.45pm

Contact Janet 07812678124

janet28@protonmail.com

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.pfstaiichi.com

ANDY GEE - Gas Safe registered heating and plumbing engineer

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ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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to the Parish

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THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS on the fir tree at the top of the village green will be switched on at 5.30pm on Saturday the 6th of December. There will be mince pies and mulled wine around the tree and if we are lucky enough Santa will be there for the children, and if we are all in the Christmas mood there is a concert in the church starting at 7.30pm with the

Valley Voices. There will be a charge for the concert as it is for the charity's fund-raising event. **Graham West**

A MUSICAL EVENING IN ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH on Saturday the 6th of December at 7.30pm – Join us for an evening with the 'Snowdon Male Voice Choir' and special guests the Alkham Community Choir 'Valley Voices'. There will be an interval to enjoy wine or soft drinks and a raffle; we look forward to seeing you all. Tickets will be on sale from the 8th of November at £10 each from Harlan Webber (07976444707) and Ken Spencer (07534144617). **Ken Spencer**

THE CHRISTMAS WALK 2025 will take place on Saturday the 27th of December starting at the Alkham Village Hall at 10.30am and taking footpaths here and there in good company with offspring from and happy dogs in attendance, ending about 12.30pm more or less. Footwear at your discretion. **Jo Walker**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES – On the 21st of December there is a Carol Service at St. Anthony's Alkham at 6pm and on the 24th there will be a Crib Service at 4.30pm. There is also a Carol Service at Capel on the 19th of December at 7pm and the usual services at Alkham on the 14th at 9.30am, Capel on the 7th at 10am and the 28th at 10.00am and on the 25th at Hougham at 9.30am. I would also like to thank everyone who helped me with the harvest supper; we raised £247.50 not as much as previous years I am afraid but every little helps. We are also having a jumble sale 29th November at 10.00-12.00 St Radigund's to try and raise some money if you are able do come along. If you have any queries with the church do get in touch with me. **Carol Mannall, Church Warden 07946106742**



NEWSLETTER

I would like to sincerely thank Anthony Barrier and Anne Saunders for delivering the newsletters to the rural areas for so many

years but for very good reasons they can no longer continue. Angela Miller will be taking over from Anthony and Ben will deliver to the Standen area. As I have more adverts and don't wish to make a profit, the price of a large box is now £2 a month and £1 for a small box. **Brian Wimsett**

ON BEHALF of St. Anthony's may I, as local organiser of Ride and Stride for Friends of Kent Churches, thank Margaret Dansted for her stamina and dedication on a wet and wild day, in raising £245 for that organisation, half of which comes back to our parish. May I also thank her many sponsors. **Richard Tapsell**

ALKHAM BOREHOLE – It is good to see that the water level in the borehole at Wolverton is at 33.73m



which compares with the close to flooding level of 46.76m as it was in February 2024 and hopefully it will stay low for some time.

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TIGER MOTHS – In the Second World War there were a number of emergency landing strips where badly damaged aircraft could land as a safe haven and not block the runway on the major airfields. There were two near Alkham one of which was at Chalksole and the other and more important one was at Swingfield which is about two miles from Alkham towards the A260. John Huggins sent a picture of three Tiger Moths which made an emergency landing on his airfield at Chalksole recently because of poor visibility over the coast on their way back from Switzerland. The Tiger Moth was used in WW2 mainly for training and maritime surveillance but also did light bombing missions so perhaps some landed near Alkham over 80 years ago.

TRAFFIC – The person who sent the email about traffic problems that featured on the front page of the November newsletter has said there has been no reply from KCC. He says what KCC do not seem to understand is that explanations of the reason for their breach of responsibilities does not justify their inactivity or absolve them from their duty of care to the public from known safety risks.

ATTENTION ALL DOG OWNERS - It is an offence under the Clean Neighbourhood and Environmental Act 2005 to allow your dog to foul in public areas this includes pavements, footpaths, verges, play areas, roads, playing fields and green spaces. This act requires all dog owners and walkers, including children to clear up after their dog and place the bag in a bin. It is also an offence to leave the full bag hanging on trees or gates. This is a particular problem in Short Lane and is getting worse. It is very unpleasant for people with pushchairs, young children, gardeners and road users. One resident recently had their hedges cut on and the poor hedge man had to deal with a lot of dog mess which is pretty nasty for him and for us as we try to improve the hedges. Offenders can be fined up to £1000 by the local authority. **Please pick up after your dog!** The Short Lane Residents



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MALMAISON MANOR is one of the historic houses in Alkham and is situated near the centre of the village on Slip Lane. It has recently had a lot of work carried out on it which includes the house itself and the flint wall around it to which a pair of magnificent gates and brick faced uprights have been added which shows off the beauty of the house. In the 18th century it was a simple timber framed house called Coombe Hole but was gradually enlarged and given the regency look in the 19th century. In 1900 the famous music hall Lupino family lived there with two sisters living in the adjacent Rose Cottage and the Lupino daughters and family often gave performances in the village. Alkham Villa as it was called at that time had a generator installed and in 1911 displayed electric illuminations across the gateway to celebrate the coronation of George V much to the delight of the local children. In 1955 it was owned by the socialite Princess of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn of German and Austrian nobility who entertained famous guests in Germany until 2010 and died in May this year aged 105 and perhaps she entertained guests in Alkham.

Brian Wimsett thanks to Sue Lees who did the original research.

CRICKET – In letters to the papers someone agreed that a golfing professional shouldn't be allowed to smoke at the Olympics as it was not sport. There was a response to this saying that he had obviously not taken part in a village cricket match where someone is smoking a roll up in the field and some bowlers run in with smoke behind resembling an express train and it was not uncommon to see containers of beer and this included the umpire. It's unlikely that this happens at Alkham but in the past they used to play on Newlyn's Meadow on a Saturday and retire to the Marquis at lunch time and then continue more boisterously in the afternoon. Perhaps they were the good old days. **Brian Wimsett**



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clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

HALL BOOKING – See top of box above

AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org

MP Mike Tapp

KCC email Paul.King@kent.gov.uk

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

LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

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Wootton Village Hall

Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM

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