

# ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and magazine

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**BURNS NIGHT** - We are not far away from Burns Night on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 and we will be celebrating the bard once again in the village hall on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January. Come and enjoy a three course traditional Burns Night Meal with a complimentary dram. I'm delighted

to say that Haggis will be addressed by two Scots this year, possibly in stereo!! The meal will be followed by Scottish Country Dancing and a traditional rendition of Auld Lang Syne. Tickets, priced at £20.00, are strictly limited to 50 and are already selling fast. Bring your own drinks and glasses. Please contact Graham Bissett at graham.bissett@talk21.com or on 07789 690786. **Graham Bissett**

## **PARISH COUNCIL HIGHWAYS UPDATE – Speed and Safety on Alkham Valley Road**

-You may have noticed the new **"It's a limit, not a target"** posters along Alkham Valley Road this past month. These are provided by Kent Highways, and we will continue placing them out periodically as regular reminders. Sadly, the signage message isn't cutting through: our Speedwatch team has recorded **over 9,000 vehicles speeding** in the past year and police have issued 5000 warning letters, the team can make a bigger impact if we have more volunteers (contact Glyn Jones or Trevor Johns on 07764 978110). When the A20 dual carriageway opened in 1993, the Alkham Valley Road was downgraded to an unclassified rural route, intended mainly for local traffic. Three decades on, the reality is very different. Every survey—by residents, the Parish Council, and external agencies—continues to show that speeding and through-traffic are by far the community's biggest concerns. Progress has been limited. Kent Highways have agreed only to reduce the speed limit from **50 mph to 40 mph** on a short section north east of the village and look at re-installing the **speed indicator device** south of the village. Unfortunately, this still leaves the wider problem unchanged. Meaningful safety improvements we believe will require: **Physical traffic calming**, including one-way build-outs at both ends of the village, combined with **Lower speed limits along the full length** of Alkham Valley Road, as well as a **7.5-ton HGV restriction (except for access)** to reduce heavy unsuitable traffic rather than just the existing advisory "not suitable for HGV" signs. The Parish Council will now escalate the matter to our MP, Mike Tapp, who has expressed support for the request for a long-term strategic solution. Our Highways Team will continue working to secure the measures residents have repeatedly called for ... *continued on page 2*



**THANKS** to all those who supported the Barn Dance on 22<sup>nd</sup> of November. All the tickets were sold out and a rip-roaring evening was had by all, dancing to Jiggy With It. In addition, we raised £400 for the village hall redevelopment fund. Keep your eyes open for another dance in the Spring. **Graham Bissett**

**VALENTINES** at Alkham Village Hall. Hot on the heels of Burns Night we'd like to gauge some interest for a Valentines Event at the Village Hall. The plan will be to hold a fun Mr & Mrs Game Show type activity hosted by yours truly and have a Valentine party after. A simple meal can be arranged if there is demand and we will have a bar to buy drinks. Please let me know if you'd like to support the fund raising for the village hall with this event and join us to recreate the fun of the Saturday Night Game Show experience for all the family and enjoy a love themed night with those dearest to you! If you'd like to attend on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of February please drop me a line. **Kev Rolfe 07857 305044.**

**CROSSWORD** – As there isn't any church or W.I. reports now it was suggested that a crossword would be a good idea so there is a cryptic crossword on page 2 and eight of the answers are to do with Alkham. Please have a go.

**Brian Wimsett**

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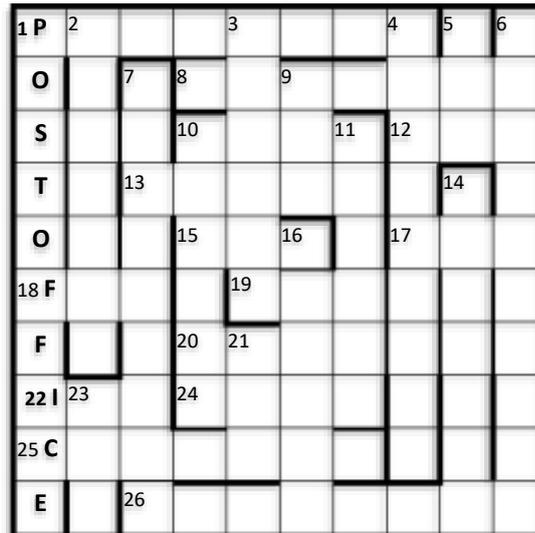
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crowninnfingleshamevents@gmail.com

**8 OF THE ANSWERS** (numbers in bold) relate to Alkham Parish. If you would like to submit a solution, please leave it in the local mailbox at the rear of 1 down (Old) or email a photo or scan to brianwimsett@hotmail.com



**7** This part of Alkham makes town lover agitated (9)

**9** Myself and Newton are this (3)

**10** Small cars with extra nitrogen make for the high ground near Alkham (6)

**11** A new cat without a tail made a local farmer's name and is now part of Alkham. (6)

**14** Meat from an animal sounding dear (7)

**16** Model takes in an award provided (6)

**21** Artificial language confuses one (3)

**23** Woman found in a shed (3)

**24** Noticed early English in Poles (4)

**25** Resembling membrane chord around old one (7)

**26** Garden cities for green communities (8) 2 words

### Across

**1** Game found when owners dog was linked to the contents of a banquet (8)

**8** It's real about movie losing two characters resulting in withdrawal (7)

**10** Chaps going round Italy create an air (4)

**12** A river found in the Essex estuary (3)

**13** Watch movement found in disturbed old fireplace (5)

**15** Initially new hard society becomes a caring body (3)

**17** Seventh letter causes a movement to the right (3)

**18** Incomplete experience results in a charge (3)

**19** Heavenly body of note (3)

**20** Near the house in Scotland in passing (4)

**22** Ending found on someone who practices (3)

**24** Noticed early English in Poles (4)

**25** Resembling membrane chord around old one (7)

**26** Garden cities for green communities (8) 2 words

### Down

**1** Place to send things after duty (10) 2 words

**2** This local area is a place of constant study (7)

**3** Horses do this with wonky hinges (6)

**4** This house on the Slip is always fresh (9)

**5** North American chopper following Tesla makes a charge (3)

**6** Belgium shortly coming back with European countries to make a local estate (10)

... **The Defibrillator Training Course** has not been booked yet as we still need three more candidates to make up the numbers. The course will be in the Village Hall and will be about 2 hours. Let any councillors know if you're interested or ring Den (07488 357140). The planning permission has finally been approved by Dover Council for the Pétanque terrains. Kevin Rolfe will continue to keep everybody up to date (please see below). Finally, Have a great Christmas and New Year and thanks for your support. **Alkham Parish Council**

**Pétanque** - During November the Parish Council received the final planning permission to go ahead with the Petanque Terrain. Particular thanks to Parish Councillor, Trevor Johns, who's tenacity through this excruciating DDC application process has been invaluable. Work will commence now over the winter months but we are totally reliant on volunteers to help with the work. If you have any time at all, even if that's just helping with Tea & Coffee while others are doing more manual work please let me know and I can add you to the Alkham Volunteers What's App Group. The plan will be to get finished by Easter but to allow for weather and repair to the area we're going to plan a grand opening for the first Bank Holiday weekend in May. Thank you all for your support, understanding and help. Speak soon, or message me directly if you'd like any information, want to ask questions or get involved. **We're nearly there, well done everyone. Thanks Kev M: 07857 305044**

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**CRICKET** – In last month's newsletter there was an article about cricket which mentioned that the Alkham team used to play on Newlyn's Meadow on a Saturday and retire to the Marquis for lunch and the photo shows them striding out to the wicket in the morning to start batting in the 1930's. On the left of the photo is the Marquis where they retired for lunch and no doubt the return to the crease was probably not so orderly. The meadow was owned by the farmer who lived at Hogbrook farm named Vic Newlyn and was agricultural and very uneven so in 1938 when the dyke was dug the pitch moved to what is now the village green. The games were then played on a Sunday and was much more genteel with the ladies providing tea, sandwiches and cream cakes at the break. Sue Lee's, the Parish Clerk and village historian suggested that the housing development which was built in the 1990's on the old field be called Newlyn's Meadow but the apostrophe was lost. **Brian Wimsett**



**POPPY APPEAL** This year our Poppy Collection has made a tremendous £896.29 - the best ever. Many, many thanks to the generous residents of Alkham and Ewell Minnis - and to their visitors who donated to the Poppy Appeal. Also thanks go to the Marquis, Alkham Tea Room, Alkham Garden Centre and Southern Equestrian. They all had collection boxes on their counters. And last, but not least - thank you Helen, Shirley, Larry, George, Debbie and Ann for helping me with the door-to-door collection. Thank you everyone. **Rachel Fountain**

**BOOK CLUB** - If you are thinking about a gift for a country-loving friend, you might want to consider a beautifully written book that we enjoyed reading in October, its title "Raising Hare". In it, the author Chloe Dalton depicts how a woman's accidental discovery of a helpless orphaned leveret, arouses her compassion and urges her to aid in the survival of the tiny bundle without impacting on its wild nature. What ensues is a touching account of an extraordinary build-up of understanding and trust between a human and one of nature's charmingly shy creatures. Our final book choice for this year is "All the colours of the Dark", by Chris Whitaker. A far cry from our last gentle read, this book is an emotional roller-coaster, immersing the reader in an epic tale of teenage abduction, murder and despair. The main theme running through the story is a relentless pursuit of justice and a search for the seemingly impossible, with the support of love and loyalties. **Margaret Danstead**



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## ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL

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E: [bookings@villagehall.alkham.org](mailto:bookings@villagehall.alkham.org) W: [villagehall.alkham.org](http://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 VILLAGE EVENTS

Thursday	29	Tea & Chat 2.30 to 4pm
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### CONTACT DETAILS

**POLICE 999 or 101**

**NEWSLETTER** [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

**PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS**

[clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

**HALL BOOKING** – See top of box above

**AVS** [joannawalker777@gmail.com](mailto:joannawalker777@gmail.com) 821641 [alkhamvs.org](http://alkhamvs.org)

**MP** Mike Tapp

**KCC** email [Paul.King@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.King@kent.gov.uk)

**DDC** [cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk](mailto:cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk) 07796444860

**LOCAL SITES** [alkham.org](http://alkham.org) [alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

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**VANESSA JONES** - It is with great sadness to announce Vanessa Jones (formally Oakley) from Glebelands, Alkham, peacefully passed away on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025, aged 69. She is survived by her husband Tim. The funeral service will be at 1400hrs on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 at Barham Crematorium. Following the service, friends and family are welcome to attend and share memories at the Railway Club, River. In place of flowers donations to the Cinnamon Trust will be collected at this event. May Venessa's memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved her.