

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 321 October 2020

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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FLINTS – Bev Hubbard of Greenwood Manor, Slip Lane, recently had the first MOT on his car and all 4 tyres, which were visibly in good condition, were found to have cuts to the tread which on 3 of them went through to the cords making them illegal. The Volvo Dealership confirmed that the cuts were more than likely have been made by flints. The flints mainly come from Pimlico Way at its eastern end where it slopes down to Slip Lane and water erosion and use by trail bike users has caused the surface to break up so much that after any rainfall flints are washed onto the lane. Flints also arise from the erosion of the lane's banks, probably caused by large vehicles, and at least 8 other people who use Slip Lane have had 14 tyres replaced because of flints. If anybody else has suffered punctures or cuts to their tyres please email Bev on bev@btinternet.com to help him understand the size of the problem and the impact the damage and costs incurred has had on residents and users of the lane, for his discussions with Kent County Council.

FLINTS – Further to the above article Bev has been in contact with Kent Rights of Way manager regarding the matter who acknowledges there is a problem but with a tight budget cannot promise that he can resolve the situation. He did arrange for Kent Highways to clean the lane with a JCB using the bucket to scrape and clear the surface of Slip Lane. This is to be applauded but the only long-term solution is to pave the slope and hopefully funds will be found.

NEW RESIDENTS IN DRELLINGORE - We have recently been fortunate enough to be able to take ownership of the barns which were once part of Little Drellingore Farm (just past the pumping station on the valley road). We're excited to be creating an environmentally and ecologically friendly family home for our two daughters (aged 11 and 7). Although we live a little further down the M20 in Ashford, as newcomers to Alkham we're keen to learn as much as we can about the site, the area and the community, and also hope to use local materials and expertise once work commences. If you have any information about the history of the site, the ecology of the area, or know someone with vernacular building skills, we'd love to hear from you via family@drellingorebarns.com. One thing we're especially keen to find out about is the natural, pre-agricultural plant life. Here's hoping that we get to know you soon! **Jeanette and Daniel**

ROAD CLOSURE – Little Everden Road will be closed between the 14th September and 11th October. This is part of the road which goes from the top of Slip Lane to Hawkinge and markings on the road indicate it is a new soakaway where the road floods. The diversion is via Lockering Lane.

VALLEY VEG BOX has been successfully operating during lockdown and continues to provide quality local fruit and vegetables in your area, direct from our Kentish farmers and growers. We supply seasonal produce happily doing our bit in helping to keep Britain farming. Please check our website for details on collection and delivery: www.valleyvegbox.com. We are soon to be opening a farm shop in the Alkham Valley Garden Centre which will make a trip more worthwhile; whether you are shopping for plants, having lunch or coffee with friends, looking for that special gift or buying your essential horsey gear and feed from Southern Equestrian Supplies, you will now be able to incorporate your weekly produce shop! We will update you on our progress via our website and we so look forward to hearing from you and seeing you – SOON!' (one-off free article)

FOR SALE - French dresser with open shelves, cupboards and drawers and original fixtures. Painted but left unwaxed so easily changed to preferred choice. Length 188cm, Height 183cm, Depth 51cm, bargain at £200 and buyer collects. Also for sale, collection of Blue and White China - Copeland, Spode etc. **Irene 01304 824845**

DOGS – Please will people who walk their dogs along the bottom of Short Lane clean up after the dogs have fouled. Part of the road is owned by the householders and one owner encountered 5 piles of dog poo while strimming.

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A MARKER POST was unearthed in the garden of Catherine Cottages, opposite Glebelands, with the inscription DP and dated 1798. It is an old parish boundary marker, presumably Dover Parish, and in the past the 'beating of the bounds' took place by progressing round the parish and beating each boundary marker. It was important to define the boundary to prevent encroachment by neighbouring parishes and because the parish was responsible for the poor and other matters.

SPEEDWATCH – Kent police, who are legally responsible for health and safety, will not allow Speedwatch to take place in Alkham because of the Covid 19 virus. The reason for this is that most of the group carrying out the watch are over 70 and considered to be in an extremely vulnerable category should a passing driver stop and confront them. However, if younger and fit people joined the group it may be allowed. To report speeding or any topic related to Alkham Valley traffic at present e-mail alkham.hgvincident@btinternet.com.

LORRY WATCH - If you would like to report something about lorries the e-mail address is as above. **Glyn Jones**

AT PRESENT there are only 6 registered members in the Speedwatch and Lorrywatch group so a roadside observation team cannot be fielded. If anyone is interested in helping please email glynmarine1@btinternet.com. **Glyn Jones**

PIMLICO – Martin Scherer has given the approval for one person to use a metal detector on his land adjacent to Pimlico Way, but it appears there are other detectorists doing the same. Martin is concerned that historical artefacts will be removed without his knowledge so if anyone sees a detectorist on the land please let him know by emailing Martin@ABACAN-Consultants.net. If you have a camera, please take a photo and let Martin know.

NOSTALGIA - In the past when driving down from the north you knew that you were in Kent when the lovely burgundy and cream buses came into view. Brian Williams, our vicar, wrote about being a bus conductor and John Vince has contacted



to say that he too was a bus conductor in his university vacations based at Folkestone bus garage and thoroughly enjoyed it. With the advent of large companies with bland paintwork and driver only buses this is a thing of the past as are other holiday jobs such as working at Brocks Fireworks in the 1960's and filling wooden crates to be sent to Kampala for the Ugandan independence celebrations. There was a possibility of being blown up doing the latter and if you have similar nostalgic memories, please let me know. **editor**

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OZ has sent a poem this month and the events occurred in May 2011 on a Russian cruise ship and he wrote the poem in March 2017.

YAROSLAVL

A noisy night on the Nikolay Chernyevsky,
Fuelled by vodka, stories and sweet songs.

Deep sleep and silence followed, as we

Scraped through the last lime-encrusted lock before Moscow.

Dawn rose with velvet fog-swirl

Over guerrilla-green fields,

We tumbled tousled and yawning into Yaroslavl,

Babylon-like city of grey-cemented walls,

Entwined with icon-lined Byzantine monasteries,

And a myriad of churches with green and gold onion roofs.

As I crossed the town square in late afternoon

A sudden fierce wind corkscrewed the road-dust into the air

And all the church bells jangled wildly for 5pm prayer.

My brain exploded for a moment, and then suddenly,
mysteriously, all was well.

Steve Osborn.

Rob Lees, who was not a fan of the Alkham Cycle club, wrote an amusing story about his cycle trip to France

BIKING TO BOULOGNE - Motley crew of ten cyclists assemble at Eastern Docks, no sign of lycra or helmets, and embark for Calais. Breakfast at Yvettes on Place D'armes of croque m'sieur (posh cheese on toast) and pernod. Scenic ramble to Ardres, forest, canals etc., and back to Wissant including all the cafés. Decide against climbing Cap Gris, Cap Nez (been there) and have a few beers instead. Amble on to Ambleteuse and a couple of beers before wandering on to Wimereux. Main stop of day, get it right. Swim first before it becomes dangerous with too much booze, then lunch of moules frites washed down with copious carafés. Climb back to coast road for descent to Boulogne. Minor disaster on descent – clownish colleague knocks me flying and I have to limp last kilometre to Hengist. Arrive on car deck to find nine

bikes but no bodies. Finally manage to stagger and crawl alone up to passenger deck. About to moan at colleagues and order beer when some idiot announces 'Point Alpha' (15 minutes to dock) and have to start climbing down again. Arrive at Folkestone. Colleagues disappear again so have to limp alone to pub, where, a little later, I forgive everyone after all. Total distance covered about 50k, time 10 hours. Must do it properly next time, take it seriously, dress up in all the fancy gear, make a race of it, and spoil the fun.

MASQUERADE

In the street when we meet
Each other smile and greet
I wear my mask.

With leisure a pleasure
The friends that I treasure
I wear my mask.

When I pop to the shop
Precious things I forgot
I wear my mask.

Is it fear? Blink a tear
You must not come too near
I wear my mask.

See the eyes no disguise
You tell me no more lies
But I wear my mask.

Gail Swainston

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CHURCH SERVICES

| Date | Alkham | Capel | Hougham |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|
| Sunday 4 th | Prayer 6.30 pm | Eucharist 9:30 am | Worship 11.00 am |
| Sunday 11 th | Eucharist 9:30 am | Worship 11.00 am | |
| Sunday 18 th | United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am followed by <i>Annual Church Meeting (APCM)</i> | | |
| Sunday 25 th | United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am | | |

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11, 10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

Sat: 9.11, 10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32

Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32, 18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Yes, it's true! Since last month, Yours Truly has been a victim of crime! For the first time ever, the plum tree in the Vicarage garden had surprised us by producing a decent amount of fruit. We returned home one afternoon to find it stripped - not a single plum left, nothing even lying on the grass. Admittedly, it was hardly the Crime of the Century - people suffer far worse, as indeed we have ourselves in the past - but there was still the sense of disbelief, violation, sadness and uneasiness at the thought of someone having been there uninvited. Harvest, when we give thanks for God's goodness to us, is approaching. It would be wrong to be selfish over our small part of it – after all, in Ancient Israel it was the custom, when the harvest was gathered in, to leaving some of it for the those who really needed it. Had someone called at the door and asked if they could have had a handful of plums, the answer would have been yes. But we hadn't got as far as gathering in our harvest, and nothing was left for us or anyone else, whether they needed it or not. When I was teaching, I met plenty of children for whom a handful of plums would have been a rare treat. I would like to think that our plums went to someone like that. Of course, it may be that someone, somewhere, is conscious of what the Prayer Book calls 'misdoings.' They might even be 'heartily sorry' and find the remembrance of their misdoings 'grievous' and the 'burden of them intolerable'. In which case, they could always try easing their conscience with a donation towards the St Mary's Lychgate Appeal... **Brian Williams**

POLICE 999 or 101

Newsletter

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