

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 328 May 2021

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

**Non-profit &
delivered free
to the Parish of
Alkham**

LOCAL ELECTIONS are being held on the 6th of May in Alkham Village Hall for KCC Councillors and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Those standing for the KCC Councillor post are David Beaney, who lives in Ewell Minnis, for the Conservative Party, Rick Blackwell for the Democrats, Pamela Brivio for Labour and Cooperative Party and Nicolas Shread for the Green Party. Three people are standing for the post of Police Commissioner and they are Graham Colley Liberal Democrat, Matthew Scott Conservative and Lola Oyewusi Labour.

PARISH COUNCIL - Our new website will be live on Monday 19th of April and if you need to contact the parish council my email address remains unchanged: clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. The next meeting of the council will be on Wednesday 5th of May at 7pm via Zoom and please check the website near to the time for the agenda. **Irene Bowie Clerk to Alkham Parish Council**

STOMBERS LANE – An email was received regarding Stombers Lane which is the road at the bottom of the dip by the valley road close to the 1930's pumping station. The road is generally one lane wide and in some places in poor condition. Irrespective of the this it is being used as a rat run to Hawkinge with some people driving at speed and this can only get worse when the new houses are built near the top of the road. The Parish Council have been asked if they would contact the Highway Authority to erect signs to say that the road is only for resident's use and deliveries (access only). The writer also thinks there should be a width restriction at the entrances to the village and a 20mph speed limit. This was echoed in the Traffic Action Group questionnaire results presented to the Parish Council 2 years ago and a progress report is still awaited.

FREE FIREWOOD - Pimlico vineyard has been planted with over 500 walnut, hazel, elder, and sweet chestnut. Beside commercial sales these will feed wildlife, reduce flooding risk and even make a small contribution to fighting global warming risks. Sadly, it seems Pimlico will lose most of its mature Ash trees to Ash dieback. The dead trees standing will be felled. The main trunks will be planked but that will leave loads of branches. If you want firewood, have a saw and trailer or means to cart away all you want, then send an e-mail to Martin@Pimlico-Way.Co.UK . **Martin Scherer**

PILGRIMS HOSPICE – Mike Moore who lives at Drelligore is running in the Folkestone 10K on the 30th of May and is raising money for the Pilgrims Hospice. If you would like to find more about what their amazing staff and volunteers do and also donate money for the hospice, please go to the Just Giving page on <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mike-moore11>.

GEOFF HILLIER – Charlotte and I wish to convey our deep gratitude and appreciation for the contributions, and hours, even days, of dedication that so many put into making St. Anthony's church so extra beautiful for Geoff's funeral. Particular thanks go to Catie Webber and Shirley and Tracy Prince for their special input which was generously supported by a very large number of other Alkham friends. From exquisite arrangements to simple bunches of glowing spring bulbs, they demonstrated for us the affection and respect in which Geoff was held, sentiments which I know he had felt in equal measure for our Alkham friends. We would also like to thank those who, prevented by government restrictions from entering the church for the service, nevertheless attended by their presence outside. Thank you all so very much. In addition to this, we have also received so many cards and letters of condolence which have been heartwarming and comforting in our dreadful loss of Geoff. Our thanks go out to everyone for their support at this desperate time. **Rosemary Hillier**

VILLAGE HALL – To help prevent transmission of the Covid virus as the restrictions ease on the opening of venues it will be necessary for people who come to Alkham village hall to enter their details. This can be done by scanning the QR code poster that is displayed at the entrance or if the latter is not possible to enter their name and contact details in the folder provided. This is to make sure that they can receive public health advice if they may have been exposed to Covid 19.

B P S window cleaner

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

Call Paul on 01304 823763 or 07971389039

CAR & VAN SERVICING

MOTS, TYRES & EXHAUSTS
BRAKES, CLUTCHES & REPAIRS
DIAGNOSTICS

Free collection & delivery or courtesy car arranged
POULTON SERVICE & EXHAUST CENTRE
HOLLOW WOOD ROAD, DOVER CT17 0UB
01304 201235



Improved

All types of paving, driveways, walls, groundwork's and a full garden design

Free quotations – local family run business

07818024487 or 01304 825355

e-mail: quotes@dbworks.co.uk

VALLEY VEG BOX EAT FRESH STAY HEALTHY

We supply local seasonal weekly veg boxes for collection or delivery. Please see our website for more information and our weekly produce updates.

www.valleyvegbox.com
sales@valleyvegbox.com
Tel: 07814 023141

Alkham Court

Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast
Meggett Lane, South Alkham

5 Star: Gold Award

Peaceful location overlooking Alkham Valley
'Winners Best B & B in SE England'

Tourism SE Award

Web: www.alkhamcourt.co.uk

Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

R. Cunningham Roofing

Flat and Pitched Roof Specialist. Prompt and reliable every time. All aspects of roofing under-taken - * Insurance work * Written Guarantees * *Friendly advice * Free Estimates – Poly-carbonate Fascias * Soffits * Guttering *Lead work * Re-pointing Tiles * Slates * Kent Peg Tiles * Chimney repair
Telephone 01304 821042 or 07725 402939



Tyres fitted at your home or work

- Car • Van • 4x4
- Low profile
- Runflats
- Computerised balancing
- Laser wheel alignment

Contact Howard Cole
07889 242604

www.tyrevan.com

FILM NIGHT – People have been asking if Film Night will start again in the village hall when the Government allows. Geoff Hillier and I ran the event and I generally set things up and took the money on the door but didn't stay for a number of films. Therefore, I will not start Film Night by myself so please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com or ring 01304 824969 if you would like to help. **Brian Wimsett**

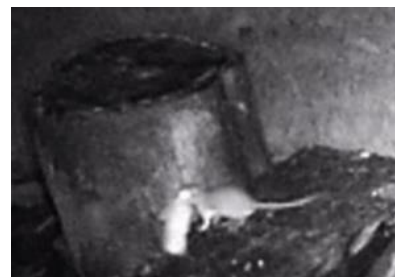
TAI CHI will be restarting in the village hall from Wednesday 19 May from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. If you would like further details, please contact Anna Dashwood on 01304 205 405 or 07736 849 194 or go to the web site www.pfstaichi.com.

BUS RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM - Dover

District Council has been awarded £15.8m to support the development of a Bus Rapid Transit System between Whitfield and Dover and the Priory railway station. This has arisen from the building of many houses in Whitfield and those proposed at the old Connaught Barracks which could amount to 6,250 new homes in total.



The road will run from Whitfield across a new bus, cyclist and pedestrian bridge over the A2 and through the business park past Tescos and on to the improved Dover Road which runs past the Connaught Barrack site. The junction at the top of Castle Hill will be improved as will others into the town and those to the Priory station. It will take some years to complete and it's unlikely to have an effect on the number of new drivers coming down the valley.



ANIMALS – Last month there were photos from my Apeman camera. During the night the fox, badger and mice arrive with the mice being the most active and the badger coming a bit late. **Brian Wimsett**

SUMMER GRANTS SCHEME 2021 - Local community groups looking for funding are encouraged to apply to Dover District Council's Community Grants Scheme. Building on the success of previous years' schemes, the Council has increased the Annual Community Grants Fund to £130,000 this year to help local community groups deliver projects in a Covid-safe way. The grant has been split into two rounds for the summer and winter and £65,000 is now available for the summer round. Community groups who benefit the local area can bid for grants from £100 up to £2,000. Bids will be accepted from Monday 12 April 2021 until 12 noon on Monday 24 May 2021 and successful applicants will be notified in early July. Community groups and charities can apply for a community grant online at website www.dover.gov.uk/Community. For more information, please call: 01304 872277 or email: communitygrants@dover.gov.uk.

Prince Tutoring

Give your child's education a boost with one-to-one assistance from a qualified and experienced teacher



- Science and maths GCSE, Kent Test preparation, biology for midwifery, essay writing and A-level biology
- Literacy & numeracy skills – reading & writing, 11+
- Supporting special educational needs



tracey.prince@hotmail.co.uk

Tracey Prince BSc (hons), PGCE, QTS, CELTA, CRB

BESPOKE JOINERY

Staircases - including geometrical
Summer houses, conservatories
doors and windows

John Prince 01304 828098



Your Local One Stop Flooring Shop

www.actioncarpets.co.uk

Folkestone: 01303 246505

Dover: 01304 207007 Whitfield: 01304 20700

Call for a free estimate or visit a showroom

We Have All Floors Covered

River Chimney Sweep

Insurance approved certificate issued with every sweep

Other installations include

Stove installation: Chimney liners

Bird cowl: Chimney repointing

Stove servicing and repairs

Call Marcus Wright

Tel: 01304 761081 Mob: 07971 699220

www.riverchimneysweep.co.uk

Registered OFTEC Stove Installer



GRAHAM WEST

General Maintenance

Electrical Installation Specialist

General household repairs, Painting decorating

Small plumbing, Woodwork

Specialist electrical installations

07973330890

GRAHAMWEST28@GMAIL.COM

Coastal Mowers and Plant

Garden Machinery, Power Tools
& Small Plant

Repairs – Service – Sales

07867 368 508

01304 829224

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



A. P. S. UPHOLSTERY



Established 34 years

Workshop: Ewell Minnis CT15 7EA

Tel: 01304 828185

email: upholstery@inbox.com

Find us on Facebook, Instagram

Twitter, Yell.com

ADDERS – Bev Hubbard sent an article written by Rodger McPhail about adders and this adds to previous articles in the newsletter. In early April having spent the winter months underground the adder slithers into the weak spring sunshine having not eaten for six months, but food is not on their minds; it is the mating season. Rival males indulge in spectacular ritual combat, rearing up side by side and twisting and wrestling at great speed. After mating the snakes disperse and spend the summer in solitary pursuit of mice, voles, lizards, frogs and fledglings. Adders never use more energy than is necessary and spend a lot of their time basking getting a great deal of their energy directly from the sun, and so efficient is their metabolism that they only require six to ten meals a year. Most snakes live in climates that are hot enough to incubate their eggs. The adder insures against our northern summer by basking at every opportunity and incubating the developing embryos inside her body, eventually giving birth to between six and 20 live young in August or September. This adaptation has allowed the adder to range further north than any other reptile. The young adders are dark brick-red, except for the end of the tail which is lime yellow which can be wriggled like a little maggot to entice froglets and baby lizards. Adders are surprisingly vulnerable and are preyed upon by birds, badgers and hedgehogs. Disturbance and loss of habitat has caused the adder to disappear from many places where it was once common resulting in isolation, leading to inbreeding and congenital weakness. In the past decade, the adder population has declined by more than half and could be extinct in Britain in 20 years. Humans have a primal and deep-rooted mistrust of snakes. From Genesis to *Harry Potter*, they've had a bad press. Now, at last, we are treating this much-maligned snake with sympathy, and naturalists are doing their best to halt its decline. **(edited article)**

LA BELLE DAME

I met an angel on the train

Travelling with High Speed One

St. Pancras, Dover, down the line

Till journey's done.

I felt protected, safe but free,

She spread her pearly sheltering wing

I knew whatever she might be

The birds would sing.

I heard a gentle feathery sound

That hung and shimmered in the air

Her voice from nowhere, all around

Caressed my hair.

Then I awoke, a flash of pain

The seats quite empty, she had gone.

But knowing we might meet again

I'm not alone.

Gail Swainston

UP TO £200 Micro Grants available for creative groups in Kent to start or restart creative activities in local community centres or village halls once restrictions allow. Funding Aims: Get creative, bring people back together, reduce loneliness & share skills. Applications to be submitted by 9pm 30th May 2021. To apply, you can fill in the online form via <http://bit.ly/GC-Kent> or charlotte@vaengland.org for more information and to receive the application form.

WHITE CLIFFS LANDSCAPING

Fencing & Garden Design Experts



Tel: 01304 721 068 Mobile: 07804 220 567
Email: info@whitecliffslandscaping.co.uk
www.whitecliffslandscaping.co.uk

Andy Gee

Gas Safe registered heating and plumbing engineer

07807586902 or 01304 207378
andygee1709@hotmail.com

T N B RENOVATIONS AND LANDSCAPING

Free quotations and competitive pricing
Please ring Ben 07554737149
or Toby 07931830363
facebook.com/tnbrnl
tnbrenovationsandlandscaping@gmail.com

Pilates + Classes @ Alkham Village Hall

Friday morning 10.00am to 11.00am
£5pp Julie Watt, REPs qualified instructor
Just turn up or phone 07825109670
Email pilates.mbs@gmail.com



Whitfield Computer Services

Lee Eversfield fdsc

Hardware & software problems • Installations
Upgrades • Repairs • Internet set-up
Virus removal • General advice

*Special rates for OAPs

*No fix, no fee

Tel: 01304 204227

E-Mail: lee.eversfield@btinternet.com

EAST KENT PADDOCK MAINTENANCE

Topping, Rolling, Harrowing, Spraying,
Fertilizer spreading, Fence repair and erection,
water tanks and piping.

Tel. Nigel Peddle 01304 824004 or
07810203324

OIL BOILER SERVICE Est 1987

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

Tai Chi

Wednesday, 5.30 – 6.30 PM
Alkham Village Hall
contact Anna Dashwood
01304 205 405 / 07736 849 194
www.pfstaichi.com



SIMON PRICE & Co

Electricians Contractors
Data and voice installations
01303 252764
www.simonpriceandco.co.uk

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates

Please ring Shirley for information 01304 828098

In exceptional circumstances the key is available from Brian on 824969

If you come to a service please remember to bring a face covering, use sanitizer when you arrive, leave contact details, observe social distancing at all times, and mix only with members of your household or support bubble. Thank you!

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2 nd	Prayer 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am
Sunday 9 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am	
Sunday 13 th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 7.00 pm		
Sunday 16 th	Prayer 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 23 rd	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 30 th	United Parish Eucharist at St Mary's Capel 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 - Sitting with a cup of tea and clicking through the channels with the TV remote, I came across an old film that I hadn't seen in years. And since Emperor of the North features spectacular landscapes and steam trains, my cup of tea lasted much longer than intended. Set during the Great Depression in 1930s Oregon, the plot features a battle of wills between a crazed train conductor (Ernest Borgnine) who will stop at nothing to see that no one ever gets a free ride aboard his train, and a tramp (Lee Marvin), whose reputation for outwitting Borgnine has led other tramps to dub him Emperor of the North. Another, younger man (Keith Carradine) attaches himself to Marvin. Jumping aboard moving trains and hiding in freight cars, the older man looks out for the younger one as they face trial and tribulation together. But the partnership crumbles; the young man is interested only in himself, and in stealing his mentor's crown. When Marvin and Borgnine finally fight it out aboard a flat wagon, he just stands and watches. It's a temptation almost as old as time itself. We depend on each other for so many things in life - but at the same time the thought of being the one who gets noticed, takes the credit and wins the admiration of others is so enticing. The New Testament tells us that even Jesus' disciples struggled with it; more than once he had to remind them that for them, true greatness lay in serving others rather than in being served themselves. A similar point, perhaps, to Marvin's parting shot to his selfish protégé in the film's final scene as he throws him from the train into a pond: You had the juice, kid, but not the heart... **Brian Williams**

POLICE 999 or 101

Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors
clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Hall booking Shirley Prince 828098

W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641

Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784

MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669

KCC Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929

DDC Jamie Rose 07802 428353

Web site www.alkham.org