

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

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Non-profit &
delivered free
to the Parish of
Alkham



KEEP FIT – It's great to see things getting back to some normality as the lady's keep fit class resumes on the football pitch on a sunny day with beautiful trees and Alkham in the background.

FILM NIGHT – It was very encouraging to get an offer of help with Film Night from someone who has recently moved into the village. In addition, two other people offered to help so I will start it again. In the summer we found that the number of people coming to the films dropped considerably because of holidays and other factors so the first Film Night will be in September assuming that the government regulations allow it. **Brian Wimsett**

GARDEN TALK - During this last year we have been spending more time in our own gardens. We have really enjoyed the vibrant seasonal colour despite a wet winter and cold dry spring and are now planning ahead for the summer.



The Garden Group had to cancel all arranged meetings in 2020 and, unfortunately, the take up on individual booked visits was very poor, despite the effort put in by the owners. So now seems the right time to consider the way ahead. Could any villager who is willing to host a gathering to view their garden in an afternoon or evening, with possibly some light refreshment, or who is prepared to arrange a programme of events, please contact me? Janet Adamson 01303 893413 email: janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com

WEB SITE – The new Parish Council web site is up and running and can be accessed by going to www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. It has a lot of useful information which includes Planning Applications, the Local Plan, Alkham Community Plan and Lorry Watch and various other topics relating to Alkham.

CONGRATULATIONS to David Beaney on becoming our KCC Councillor following the recent elections. David lives in Ewell Minnis and takes over from Geoffrey Lymer who should be thanked for all the work he did for the community. Geoff was not afraid of controversy and was also quite happy to criticise his own political party putting the community and those without a voice before the party he was supposed to support. Matthew Scott was re-elected as the Police Commissioner.

RUBBISH - On our many village walks, recently we've noticed rubbish strewn across the green within yards of the nearest bin! On more than two occasions bags of dog waste. No trees nearby to hang it in but 2 yards from the bin! Can we all try to be more considerate through our lovely village. Thank you. **Brenda Smith**

BUS - The 8 o'clock 91 bus to Dover is now the 91a as it seems that a lot of school children are picked up from Hawkinge before coming down the Alkham Valley Road, hence the bus has, rather inflexibly, been designated for children only. Tough on people who have to use this bus to reach work. The matter has been referred to the Alkham Parish Council, so we expect a firm and timely response. The advantage is that if you miss the bus, you have another hour to admire the Barnards' wonderful panoply of seasonal flowers. For which, much thanks. **Jo Walker**

SURGERY diagnosed with empty waiting room syndrome: Lovely for Staff? But are we fed up with remote control medicine and peremptory services? To the barricades! **Citizen-client Walker**

FOUND In a black squashy case, a pair of blue framed, probably prescription spectacles in Slip Lane area. Please ring 01304 821641.

HOLIDAY LET available on small local farm with garden, patio and barbecue. There is a large utility room, a farmhouse range, 2 beds plus a sofa bed and spa bath. Dogs are welcome. For further details please ring Angela Peddle 07760224174

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A LOVELY PHOTO of the fox taken in my garden by the Apeman camera. With this picture in mind, it is pleasing to hear that government has promised to make any necessary changes to UK law to recognise that animals can feel pain. This can be described by the word sentient which is the capacity to be aware of feelings and sensations. As owners know,

their pet has a personality of its own and is aware of feelings and this applies to all animals. Sheep graze in the field as a flock for the inevitable but a local pet sheep startled my dog some years ago when it was intent on giving her a head butt. It will be interesting to see what any legislation achieves. **Brian Wimsett** fox in colour alkham.org

ADDERS - Further to the article last month about adders, Trevor Johns sent an email with the adjacent photo and said it gave him a hell of a shock when he "appeared" on top of our side gate right next to the house.



SPLATOMETRIST – Continuing with the nature theme, Kent Wildlife Trust is carrying out a bug survey. Before making a journey in a vehicle clean the number plate and when you reach your destination count the bugs squashed on the number plate using a splatometer grid. The latter is provided by the Trust when you sign up by going to kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/bugs-matter and runs from June to August.

DDC COUNCILLOR – A suggestion has been made that if there are any matters regarding the Alkham Valley that result in communication with Kent County Council, Dover District Council or Alkham Parish Council that a copy be sent to our Dover District Councillor Jamie Rose to update him. His email is cldr-jamie.rose@dover.gov.uk, and hopefully he can exert pressure on those concerned and also see how well he responds regarding representing Alkham and its residents.

BROADBAND – The Parish Council have been asked if they can help with the problem of low Broadband speed on upper Slip Lane and the Ellinge area. In central Alkham a speed of 35mbps or better can be achieved but in upper Slip Lane it is generally 8mbps and at Ellinge it can be as low as 0.5mbps. It was pointed out that Ewell Minnis, a similar rural location, is supplied via a separate Openreach fibre line and is probably receiving up to 80mbps. If you would like to give evidence of slow speed, go to www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-broadband-for-very-hard-to-reach-premises which finishes on the 11th of June.

PIMLICO WAY - The byway closure is due to expire on 9th of May unless KCC decide to extend it because of the problem with off-roads. In the past the track was just used by horses and carts and then in the 20th century by tractors. At the bottom of Pimlico Way on the south side is the valley road which in the middle ages ran as a river. Because of this the track was sometimes used by the pilgrims walking from St. John's Commandery near Swingfield Street to St. Radigunds on the other side of the valley as the river was shallower at South Alkham and then continuing up Meggett Lane. Their usual route was down Slip Lane and across what is now the village green, along Short Lane and then up the byway known as the Priest's walk.

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CONQUERING SEASICKNESS on cross-channel ferries - The South Eastern and Continental Steam Packet Company was formed when the South Eastern Railway reached Dover in 1845 and, with the French Northern Railway, a scheduled service from London to Paris became a reality. The fleet comprised of ten small paddle steamers, each 140 feet long. Those early ferries, over 175 years ago, had a remarkable turn of speed but, coupled with being very small paddle steamers, it made them very uncomfortable. The arrival of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway brought competition, faster ferries, and more discomfort! In the mid-1870s, an attempt was made to provide a service offering comfort in an enormous ship with four paddle wheels and a length of 350 feet. But at low speeds it became difficult to control and, on her trials, she crashed into the wooden pier at Calais, demolishing about 50 yards of it. The failure of the Bessemer was soon followed by the arrival at Dover of the catamaran Castalia. The English Channel Steam Ship Company was formed to promote this strange newcomer to the great cause of reducing the horrors of sea-sickness. Throughout her short career everyone agreed that there was hardly any problem with sea-sickness. When the Castalia was retired she was purchased in the early 1880's by the Government for use as an isolation hospital. **Jackie Grebby**



RUSSELL GARDENS - A natural play area which includes a play hut, log climbing frame, cantilever swing, seesaw, and balance beams along with boulder play and natural pea shingle safety surfacing has opened at Kearsney.

SPRINGTIME

It's time to give up the past
Nothing can last

For ever

It's time to give up the past

You know whatever

You do

To keep it true

To keep it just

Like you remember

That what you thought

You knew

Just tangles up

Life's a dissembler

So

It's time to give up the past

Nothing can last

For ever

Gail Swainston

A FOWLHOUSE THEFT AT ALKHAM

At the Dover Police Court Patrick Kane, tramp tinker, was charged with stealing 18 ducks' eggs and 8 china nest eggs, value 2s 6d, the property of Charles Newlyn, of Alkham, on the night of April 29/30 1907 plus an overcoat from Upton Farm. Mrs. Martha Ribbens, wife of the landlord of the Carpenters' Arms, South Alkham, said: I saw the prisoner last Tuesday, April 30th, about 7.30 in the morning. He came to the bar and had half a pint of beer. He started talking about eggs, and produced a duck's egg from his pocket, and asked if I would give him 2d for it and said that if I put it under a hen, I should soon have a duck. I told him he had better keep it. The prisoner denied all knowledge of the theft, but seven china nest eggs were handed over as having been found his possession and he was remanded in custody.

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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6 th	Prayer 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am
Sunday 13 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am	
Sunday 20 th	Prayer 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 27 th	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 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 - I can still remember the Sunday morning when I climbed into the pulpit and began my sermon with a tale of three vicars. I hadn't been in the parish long and was still in the process of discovering what I had taken on. There were three vicars, I began, who had bats in the belfry... Suddenly someone spoke: So have you! I haven't told that story since. According to the Book of Genesis, among the things that God made on the fifth day of Creation was everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And it was good. Our modern church at Capel – St Radigund's – might attract the odd ant or spider, but not much more than that. Medieval churches, however, seem to be the ones that bring us closest to nature. It was as a curate that I discovered that bluebottles could navigate towards communion wine from the other end of a church with pinpoint accuracy. I was once taking a service in another church and discovered a bluebottle that had already taken the plunge – I lost sight of it as it crawled under the altar, presumably looking for somewhere to sober up. Spring has been chillier than usual this year, and apart from a few dead wasps nothing much had appeared until I came to light a candle the other day and found a ladybird sleeping next to the wick. I went to another candle – and there was another ladybird. When I came to extinguish the candle at the end of the service, another ladybird was already crawling up it, heading for home. Yes - it's taken me twenty years to discover that church candles attract ladybirds. Everything that creeps upon the ground seems to be in a church somewhere...

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
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