

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish

Non-profit & delivered free
to all properties in the Parish



A CAT has been visiting a house in Newlyn's Meadow on a regular basis and is being fed by the owner, as can be seen in the photograph. It is thought that the cat may be a stray so if anyone recognizes it please ring 824969 or email brian.wimsett@hotmail.com.

VILLAGE HALL – Tai Chi classes are to resume in the village hall on Wednesday nights subject to the following of government guidelines. In addition, hirers must sign a form to confirm that they will follow the rules as set down in the Conditions of Use which the hall has just introduced because of the Covid 19 virus. These include the requirements that the hirer must sanitise all affected surfaces in the hall at the end of the session with the cleaning products provided and that the use of the kitchen is not allowed. Other groups of up to 6 people are permitted to book the hall subject to social distancing, following government guidelines and agreeing to the Conditions of Use. The hall has carried out a safety audit, put up the necessary signs and anti-bacterial wipes are provided at the entrance for hand use and cleaning purposes. The hall is run by a small group of unpaid volunteers and does not have the resources of private gyms but wants to help the local community as much as it can to get back to some semblance of normality.

TRACEY PRINCE, local private tutor and qualified teacher, is pleased to announce that her yearly Kent Test summer workshops will proceed this year as normal from the 23rd July. Every Monday and Thursday morning through the summer. Year 4s and 5s welcome. Please ring 07814354122.

CAN I JUST say a big thank you to Southern Equestrian Supplies for staying open during the Covid 19 lockdown. They also stock horse feed and dog food the one that is kept in stock is Chudleys working dog crunch and Chudleys classic. If anyone has chickens they also sell layers pellets, mixed corn and layers crumble. I would also like to wish all businesses in Alkham all the very best and urge all people in Alkham to support their local businesses during these hard times. **Debbie Griggs**

BECAUSE of these strange times I was not able to get round to saying goodbye to everyone. So here goes, to all the keep-fit ladies, the book club ladies and to all the good friends I have made over the years, thank you for your friendship, how lucky we are to live in Alkham! Best wishes **Shelley Jackson**.

FROM THE VICARAGE - I am very sorry to have learned that some people were offended by my article in the July Newsletter. It was certainly not my intention to offend anyone, and I apologise unreservedly for any distress that my writing may have caused.

Brian Williams

THE MARQUIS reports that their terrace has been a godsend and the local support has been brilliant! They are going to put their recipe boxes and takeaway offering on hold for a few more weeks whilst they get to grips with the changes that have been made due to Covid 19 virus.

GARDEN TALK - Despite everyone being very busy in their garden, and some looking lovely at present, unfortunately we have not been able to meet this year so far - and will not be able to do so before September, at the earliest. However, home visits are already being rescheduled for next year, which gives us something to look forward to. **Janet Adamson**

CHURCH ROOF – St. Anthony's church needs about 6000 tiles replacing at a cost of £15,000. It is a Grade 1 listed building and needs to be preserved for future generations for religious or secular purposes. To try and raise the money 'buy a tile' was started at £5 per tile. To date 18 people have donated £615 and if anyone else would like to buy a tile please phone Susannah on 01304 822295, Den on 01304 824845 or Brian on 01304 824969.

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PIMLICO WAY – The byway which runs from South Alkham and across the top to Slip Lane is called Pimlico Way and at the point where the latter diverges to the right and a byway continues to Everden there is a brick foundation. Sue Lees records it as

a pond where the water coming down the hill runs into it and Brenda Trundell, who lives in South Alkham, remembers it as a pond when she was a girl. However, KCC Heritage maps have marked it with a red dot which means an archaeological site and building. It goes on to say it is brick-built, roofless structure rectangular (approx. 2m x 2.5m) protruding about 50cm above the ground. Removal of surface scrub has revealed a concrete ramp with surface ridges leading into the structure. The ramp and location suggest the possibility that this is a Second World War gun emplacement, although the wall is thin compared to other examples. If anyone has any further information, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

DATA BOX – In the year 2000 a Data Box was produced for Alkham to include details of Alkham and recollections; these are two of them:
Wally Sharp's grandparents and father (bn 1898) lived on Great Everden Farm and when his granny wanted to go to Dover she had the long walk across fields and down the hill to Alkham where she rode in a Landau which carried 4 passengers, run by "Two-fisted Miller". Wally thought the price of the journey was 4 pence (about £1.30 today) and Two-fisted Miller also brought the Landau out on a Sunday to run pleasure trips. Wally's father attended school at Hawkinge where both boys and girls were taught to sew in those days. Later his father was to become a farm labourer and told this tale of ploughing time. He worked with the more senior ploughman, Mike Childs, who sent him downhill to The Carpenters Arms at South Alkham to buy a stone jar of beer for himself and wine for Mike. These were tied to the plough and they would take a swig each time they ended a furrow.

Gordon Preston – When Hawkinge aerodrome was being built before WWII, Gordon was 16 ½ year's old and he and, two brothers named Dougie and Harold Richards, went there looking for work. The foreman said "follow me" and gave them the work of fixing girders together for the hangers some 70ft in the air and they got over their fear of height in a few days. At that time a labourer was earning 9 ½d per hour and a skilled man 10 ½d so when they were paid ½d they thought they were rich – they discovered much later that they should have been paid far more as danger money.



This photo of the Alkham Cricket Club was taken in 1965. Gordon is in the middle of the back row and was also in the choir picture in last month's newsletter. Wally is front right in the photo, and both were great village characters.

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THE KENT DOWNS Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty invite you to participate in the public consultation on their Draft Management Plan 2020-2025. The plan will provide the strategy for conserving and enhancing this nationally protected landscape and provides a bold vision for the future and welcome you to take part in the consultation and help shape the plan before it is finalised and published. Highlights include building climate resilience, mitigating climate change, nature recovery and biodiversity enhancements, sustainable development, access and inclusivity, and supporting health and wellbeing for all. The Draft Plan was prepared before the Covid-19 pandemic and it will be important to consider how it should respond to the crisis. Please go to www.kentdowns.org.uk to take part in the survey. You can comment on the Alkham Facebook page as well.

OZ on CHOIRS – I was amused by last month's newsletter photograph of St Anthony's church choir in the 1930s, because it reminded me of similar scenes from the 1940s and 1950s. In 1947 I enrolled in the choir of St Andrew's Church, Deal, joined two years later by my younger brother. It was a useful introduction to choral singing, with eight boy trebles, and about the same number of adult voices. In 1950 the Royal Marines School of Music returned to Deal from the Isle of Man, where they had been evacuated since 1940. The choirmaster of the Royal Marine Depot Church of St Michael and all Angels, a retired Marine music professor, recruited boys, ladies, and male voices from all over Deal, including my brother and me, to supplement the Marine personnel in the choirstalls. It was a magnificent choir of some forty voices, singing at three services each Sunday, and at rehearsals on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Rehearsals were followed by free and optional use of Marine leisure facilities such as the swimming pool, boxing ring and gloves, table tennis, darts and snooker, all supervised by Marine instructors. That was a long time ago. Since then I've continued singing with other choirs in East Kent until March this year when the Covid-19 virus struck. From being a recipe for good health, especially in the frail and aged, singing in public as well as talking, shouting and playing brass instruments, are at the moment regarded as extremely dangerous to health. Some people dispute this, but I find the evidence to be sufficiently convincing to stay off the stage for as long as it takes to eliminate the virus. **Steve Osborn**

EARLY EARLY

The sun steeds are saddled

Their harness set shining

Backed into the chariot

Ready for driving

Their feet strike the flints

Breaking sparks in their rising

Scattering darkness

Impatient and dancing

Necks flexing out to the eastern horizon

And breaking the edge of the world without warning.

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Please see the article on page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2 nd	Prayer 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Sunday 9 th	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 16 th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
Sunday 23 rd	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 30 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 - Churches can reopen; so there I was, kneeling on the floor. *Training for ministry never covered this*, I told myself. Not that I needed training to use a tape measure to lay strips of masking tape on the floor of a church 2 metres apart. Being there on my hands and knees brought back a memory from my student days in South London, where I first became involved with the Church. The then Bishop of Southwark lived in the parish and would sometimes invite himself to take part in services at the church where I had become an altar server. Positioned centrally in the church was a plinth. On this stood a large altar upon which, at the appropriate point in the service, the bread and wine for communion would be placed. It was at that point on the day in question that the Bishop, flanked on either side by a server, approached the altar. Suddenly, there was a resounding crack. The wooden surround to the plinth gave way beneath his right foot and for a moment Bishop, robes and accompanying accoutrements seemed destined to land in an undignified heap in front of the altar. Miraculously, the servers intervened and somehow retrieved the situation. Then I remembered my own narrow escape at a funeral in a muddy, rain-soaked churchyard. While in full flow, I found myself sliding sideways down the bank that I had been standing on and surprised myself, not to mention the mourners, by somehow staying upright. I stood up and looked down at the floor. *Memories are strange things - what will people say about me in years to come?* I asked myself. *Do you remember Reverend Brian? How he used to stick masking tape everywhere....?* **Brian Williams**

POLICE 999 or 101

Newsletter

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