

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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**THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY** is pleased to inform the community that we will be opening our doors from the 4<sup>th</sup> July subject to Government announcements and rulings. It has been a challenging few months for all of us however we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel and look forward to hosting you all again soon. With this in mind, amendments have to be made in order for us to keep our customers and staff safe! Will and I have been busy creating comfortable dining space in line with current government information both with the terrace and the main indoor dining areas. Hygiene is at the forefront of our minds so signs, anti-spacing measures and hand sanitiser units will be in use as well as strict cleaning regimes for the staff to abide by and keep you all safe. We envisage that relaxing measures will take place outside before inside dining is permitted. Our terrace has ample heating and cover, with three areas being completely sheltered from the elements and will be bookable via the website, email or telephone as done previously. We will also be offering recipe boxes and takeaway dishes so you can enjoy our hospitality from your own home! We would also like to put to the community of Alkham if a delivery service would help those who would still like to enjoy our lovely dishes from the comfort of their home without having to leave the house? If we could gauge some feedback from you, please could I ask you to email [manager@marquisofgranby.co.uk](mailto:manager@marquisofgranby.co.uk) - In the meantime, I hope you are all doing well and have been able to keep yourselves safe through these unprecedented times! With some positive news, the latest addition to the Marquis family will be joining us in mid-July with Nadine and Will expecting their first child! **Hugh Thompson Manager**

**THE ALKHAM GARDEN CENTRE** – A parishioner has said that the Garden Centre is now be doing take away food & drinks, sandwiches, scones, cakes etc. They hope to open an outside seating area, with waitress service from 15<sup>th</sup> June.

**PORT LYMPNE RESERVE** is open from 15<sup>th</sup> June, but all non-concession tickets must be purchased online in advance and park members and season ticket holders must also pre-book such that visitor numbers can be responsibly managed.

**TOGETHER 4 DOVER COVID 19 SUPPORT** can do shopping, and prescription deliveries for isolated residents who do not have the support of family or friends from Monday to Saturday between 9am and 5pm. Please ring 01304 892519 or email [help@together4dover.org.uk](mailto:help@together4dover.org.uk). For referrals to our Food Support, Laundry Help and Counselling Support call DDC Community Hub on 01304 821199.

**VILLAGE HALL** – During the lock down the inside of the hall is getting a new coat of paint and the floor has been polished thanks to Shirley Prince. We are also awaiting a quote to fill the sunken area in front of the hall which floods with water. The erosion is caused by traffic running over the car park and the superficial covering will be protected by three half barrel planters which can be replaced if damaged.



**ON OUR REGULAR WALKS** we have noticed an increasing number of water bowls put out for thirsty canines, especially along Slip Lane. These are most welcome, and on behalf of my own walking buddy, we extend our appreciative thanks. We have, of course, reciprocated and there is a water bowl outside our gates too. From a grateful dog walker. (Name and address supplied)

**NEWSLETTER** – If you would like to write an article for the newsletter please email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com).

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**EVERY HEDGE COUNTS** and other things we can all do to help slow flooding. Kent County Council will help fund hedge/ tree planting and restoration in the Alkham Valley to 'Slow the Flow' of water running down hillsides. Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership have been working with KCC to implement Natural Flood Management in areas of Kent experiencing episodes of flash flooding. Natural Flood Management is about putting back the natural processes into the countryside, which we have lost. Intense rainfall events with excessive volumes is in part due to hotter summers increasing evaporation. Loss of trees, hedges, ponds, wetlands and floodplains, straightened rivers and streams, soils depleted of organic matter, bare soils and compacted soils means this larger volume of water moves faster through the landscape. The drains and enclosed streams and rivers cannot cope. We have paved over gardens, filled in ponds, removed hedges and trees and built on our soils. Putting back the natural processes 'Slows The Flow' of water, provides habitat for our declining wildlife and can make farming more resilient to future climate issues. We want to put in hedges, trees and ponds, re-create wetlands and restore rivers and streams wherever it is possible. We have funding to work in areas particularly struggling with flooding. In Alkham we have added some hedging into the landscape. We would like to do more of this. Adding permeable surfaces to driveways and paved areas allows water to infiltrate into the ground. Putting in rain gardens, green roofs, hedges, ponds and water collection butts will all slow the flow of water. Farmers and landowners are working to improve the health of soils which means better infiltration of water as well as other measures. They are adding cover crops, increasing soil organic matter, trying to reduce soil compaction, planting hedges and trees and putting in ponds; see [www.nffn.org.uk](http://www.nffn.org.uk), Nature Friendly Farming Network. We can give advice on how to hold water on your property to benefit the wildlife and reduce flooding. Every hedge counts. For further information contact Partnership Officer, Annie Thurgarland at Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership [annie.thurgarland@kent.gov.uk](mailto:annie.thurgarland@kent.gov.uk) or phone 03000 410900.



**THINGS** have changed a bit since the 1930's when this photo of St. Anthony's church choir was taken in the school playground with the (Old) Post Office behind. At the back right are Charlie and Gordon Preston and Gordon worked at Hogbrook Farm having to milk their cows in Newlyn's Meadow before school. He then delivered milk in a pail round the village which was dispensed with a measure and because there was always spillage he had, by law, to give an extra splash. Charlie went on to be a shepherd and both were great characters.

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**ROB LEES** was a great character who lived in Alkham and he wrote the article below in 2010 which is whimsical and amusing.

**GIVING UP GOLF** - The first tee at Sene Valley Golf Club and I've sliced badly again. I gaze out across Hythe to Dungeness, the sun glinting off St. Mary's Bay, and I wonder. Just manage to beat 90 for the round, but other



than finding a few blackberries I'm not happy. The week before, taking advantage of spring low tides, I was driven to Sene Valley and out to Greatstone. A nice bay of cockles on the incoming tide, a few pints at the New Romney Tavern, then, on the way home, found some mushrooms in Donkey Street. The following day on the first tee at Kingsdown and this time I hook. Sunlit sea below me, Deal to the left, ferries off Dover to the right, and I wonder again. Beat 90 (just) but no blackberries and not happy. The week before I was driven to Kingsdown but dropped with prawn net at the base of the cliffs below the Golf Club. A few happy hours in the sea and rock pools, and I wander along the beach with a nice bag of prawns to The Rising Sun pub, where I happily drink beer, waiting for my lift; drinking and playing dominoes with guests from Heathrow in The Marquis that night. Even on shift work, able to play weekdays all over the South East, all our handicaps are still ridiculous. So we drink more beer and try to win some money. Not easy at only 2p a point. That night I have a dream. A dream from youth, where I seem to spend every summer day on the beach and every other moment in the Temperance Billiard Hall drinking Bovril. It's an omen. So I pack up golf (I hated it in the winter anyway), join a snooker club, and add winkles to the free seafood from Abbots Cliff or Ramsgate Bay!

**OZ on SUMMERTIME** – I wrote this poem in July 2018 to celebrate that summer's extraordinary heatwave. It recycles some ideas from my August 2000 story on the PROMS and looks forward to a more normal summer in 2021.

At the solstice, summertime starts  
and the days shorten to autumn.  
Strange that the temperature rises  
as the time to enjoy it decreases.

It's a season of sun, sea and sand,  
a time for beer, wine and ice cream,  
pasties, fish and chips alfresco,  
and a seat at the Albert Hall Proms.

I'll know that autumn is here when  
committee agendas fall like  
leaves through the letterbox and the  
Last Night of the Proms is over.

**Steve Osborn**

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The village hall is closed until further notice

### CHURCH SERVICES

There are no church services but the vicar, Brian Williams, has put something on-line at

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

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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** - As I write, the statue of a former Tory MP, philanthropist and slave trader has just been fished out of Bristol Docks, and the fate of other statues is under review. Recent events have led to soul searching not just in the USA but also here in the UK, and we have to reckon with the fact that not everything that Britannia got up to when she ruled the waves was universally appreciated by the rest of the world. But where does it end? For example, Charles Dickens is remembered as a fine novelist and tireless campaigner for social justice – but a rotten husband. Does he deserve a statue? Does anyone? *All have sinned, and fallen short of the glory of God*, wrote St Paul to the church in Rome. Nobody's perfect. Tucked away in the New Testament is a personal note from Paul to his friend Philemon. It concerns Onesimus, thought to be Philemon's runaway slave. While with Paul, Onesimus had come to faith, and Paul had grown fond of him: *I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, he wrote, whose father I have become*. Paul was sending Onesimus back to Philemon, offering to make good any loss that he had suffered, and urging him to receive Onesimus *no longer as a slave but... as a beloved brother*. No doubt the debate about which statues should stay and which should go will go on. I'm not sure that Paul would have been very interested. Rather, he might have encouraged us to stop and think about how we look upon others – and challenged us to change the world for the better by receiving them as if they were our sons or daughters, or beloved brothers or sisters. What a world *that* would be... **Brian Williams**

**AS FAR AS** the reopening of churches is concerned, it's nothing like a return to business as usual. We have a lengthy risk assessment to carry out, and I gather that the practicalities are such that some churches are deciding to remain closed for the moment. We are looking at what might be feasible before deciding what to do. I will let you know once we know what we are doing. **Brian Williams**

### POLICE 999 or 101

Newsletter

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Hall booking Tracey Prince 828098

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