

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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THE CAR PARK to the village hall was regularly run over by passing vehicles with the result that large puddles formed. Road planings have been rolled into the puddles and half barrels put on top.

THE PARISH COUNCIL is hoping to set up a register of vulnerable people in our community. If you would like to be on that register or if you need assistance, please email: alkham.assist@outlook.com. We will reply as soon as we can and will direct you to organisations who may be able to assist you during the Covid pandemic. The Parish Council would also like to collect a register of professionals or ex-professionals in the village who could be called on in an emergency. So, if you are, or were, a doctor, nurse, registered first aider, paramedic, police or fire officer please send your details to alkham.assist@outlook.com.

CALL FOR A CHAT with Ruth - If you are on your own or feeling isolated and would like a chat Councillor Ruth Marczin-Bundy is happy to hear from you on 07906 213716. Please note that this is not relating to parish council matters or medical concerns, but Ruth would like to offer a friendly conversation with anyone who would like to chat.

MARQUIS - With another lockdown coming in to play for a month, the Marquis of Granby is having to close its doors once again. Where the support has been overwhelming since re-opening in July, it is our time to give back and support our community in Alkham and assist where we can by offering free "school meals" and help to feed the over 70s and vulnerable throughout the national lockdown who are unable to leave their homes within the village. In order for us to be able to offer this, we ask that you call or email manager@marquisofgranby.co.uk with an address and information stating if this is a "school meal" or for an over 70s individual(s). We will be delivering the food for the elderly and vulnerable on a Friday afternoon and ask that one parent accompanies their children on a Friday at the time agreed by both parties for you to pick up your meal. **Hugh Thompson**

CLAGGY WALKING - muddy shoes? If so, there is an excellent shoe scraper by the church porch, preferable and more efficient than the bar of the wooden bench along the footpath to the open fields and the benches in the lychgate. **Jo Walker**



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS - The lights on the village Christmas tree will be switched on early in December and unfortunately, we won't be having our usual gathering and party - we'll make up for it next year! As always thanks to all our supporters including Tracey Prince, Will and Nadine and all the Marquis of Granby staff, Ken Spencer, Brian Wimsett and Leigh Taylor.

Den Barnard

CHRISTMAS CRIB SCENE

We probably won't have the usual delightful crib service at St Anthony's, so let's try a socially distanced one. From December 1st we will organise a cork board in the open air porch of St Anthony's Alkham for children to come and pin up their cut out figures of drawings from crib scenes and they can rearrange the crib scene to their liking. We are sure there are budding artists who can knock up great sheep, donkeys, Joseph, Mary, the star, wisemen etc. Remember baby Jesus doesn't arrive until Christmas morning and remember to treat other people's prior drawings with respect when moving them around. Please also observe the usual social distancing rules and stay safe. For up to date details about Christmas please go to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH.



Looking forward to seeing great Christmas spirit despite COVID. **Catie Webber & Reverend Brian Williams**

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WALL – A vehicle, probably a lorry which didn't stop, hit the flint wall to Halton Court at the bottom of Slip Lane causing the wall to collapse and block one side of the road.

The intention is to rebuild the wall as it was originally.

BIN – The bins owned by the village hall were stored outside with a piece of wood across and someone removed the bar and stole the recycling bin. A more secure bin store has been made and a new bin ordered.

PIMLICO WAY and the connection to Everden have been closed to 4 wheeled vehicles for 6 months from the 9th November.

THE SOAKAWAY on Little Everden road has been completed with gullies to take the water and appears to be working.

CONSERVATION AREA - If you want to cut down, top or lop trees in a conservation area you must notify your local planning authority six weeks before work begins; the authority will then consider whether a TPO is necessary. If you want to demolish your building, you will need Planning Permission and Permitted Development rights are different. This means you need to make planning applications for some forms of development such as two-storey extensions and dormer windows. See www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk for details.

TYRE DAMAGE - Further to the article requesting information from local residents to be sent to me regarding damage caused to their tyres from flints on Slip Lane, I can report that 9 residents, including myself, have within the past 12 months had to replace 22 tyres at a cost of some £3,500. This number is likely to increase as drivers will not realise that they have any tyre damage until they either have a puncture or fail their MOT due to deep flint cuts in the treads. A further 5 residents have informed me that in the past two years they have had to replace 6 tyres with a total cost of £900 which means that within the past two years 14 Alkham residents have had 28 tyres replaced due to cuts from flints on Slip lane with a total cost of £4,400, which is totally unacceptable. These flints have been deposited on the lane from the damaged surface on the lower part of byway ER25 due to lack of regular maintenance by Kent County Council Public Rights of Way, who blame lack of funds. Residents of Slip lane who have suffered the most tyre damage and costs have canvassed Kent PROW regularly but regrettably so far without success. Public safety concern for all drivers that use Slip Lane should be that they could be driving with damaged tyres and that a tyre could "blow" at any time possibly resulting in a major accident and regrettably, even a fatality. The postman whose round is the top part of Slip Lane down as far as Malmains Manor, has been questioned more than once by his bosses within the past year about the number of punctures that his vehicle has suffered and residents are now concerned about the financial justification of this round and the possibility of our postal delivery service being curtailed due to the damage caused to Post Office vehicles using Slip Lane. **Bev Hubbard**

TEMPLE EWELL Primary School Reception 2021 - If you are looking for an outstanding school for your child please call the school on 01304 822665 and they can send you a virtual tour. In 2017 Ofsted said that the pupils were happy, safe and exceptionally well cared for.

TAI CHI – Anna Dashwood runs a Tai Chi class in Alkham village hall on Wednesday evening from 6pm to 7pm and she would like more members. For details please see www.pfstaichi.com or phone 01304 205405, 7736849194 or e-mail anna@pfstaichi.com.



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BOTANY LABOTOMY

On an outing to a botanical garden with a friend it struck us that the names of the plants were similar to those of diseases and this piece of nonsense was my friend's result:

Do you suffer from Plumbago?
Is your back a little sore?
Or perhaps it's Pyracanthus
That you caught in Singapore?
You've a nasty little Hosta,
Which I think I'll have to lance,
And I notice your Spirea
Has been leading you a dance!
Are you getting quite forgetful?
Is Nemesia the cause?
Does your Antirrhinum pain you
When you're walking out of doors?
You've had Skimmia Rubella,
I can see that by your nose,
And Cornus Capitosa
Has played havoc with your toes.
How is your Viburnum Tinus?
Have you lost your sense of smell?
Use a Syringa Reflexa,
That should help to make it well.
I'm afraid your Macrocarpus
Isn't really up to scratch,
And DO avoid Nigella
It's a nasty thing to catch.
Still, I think you're doing nicely,
Watch that Quercus in your knees.
Take your Berberis twice nightly.
Cheerio! Next patient please.

Jackie Grebby

HEROES – An email was received regarding Edwin Alberic Musk who has a Commonwealth War Grave in St. Anthony's churchyard. He was a leading signalman in WWII and died aged 45 on the 27th January 1946. He is not listed in the Alkham Heroes page on the alkham.org web site and therefore assume that he died of injuries sustained during the war. If anybody has further details, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

OZ on MAYHEW - At school in the 50's, my favourite reading matter in the library was the many bound volumes of *Punch* from the 19th century and onwards. *Punch* was a satirical magazine, started in 1841 by Henry Mayhew and Mark Lemon. Henry was born in London in 1812 to Joshua Mayhew, a wealthy solicitor, and grew up in a huge family of sixteen other siblings. While still at Westminster School, Mayhew ran away to sea, working as a midshipman for the East India Company. After his return, he worked with his father as a solicitor, and then as a dramatist and journalist. During this time, he wrote many plays, some very successful, and books on science, religion, education and travel. Of special mention are the books on Germany, where he lived briefly in 1865. In 1846, as one of the founders of *Punch*, Mayhew fell out with others and left abruptly. By 1849, Mayhew had begun to publish *London Labour and the London Poor*, an ambitious survey in 82 monthly instalments, the last issued in 1851. By 1856 Mayhew started another new venture to publish *The Great World of London* in monthly sections, 9 of which were brought together in a volume at the end of the year. He then incorporated this with *The Criminal Prisons of London* to form *The Criminal Prisons of London and Scenes of Prison Life (1862)*, which he considered to be the most important work of social criticism he had written. In that book, by revealing the starvation, disease and daily threat of transportation, in both the poor and prison occupants, his plain but harrowing descriptions, often in the words of those he spoke with, did much to stir the public conscience towards reform. Mayhew died on 25th. July 1887. **(Steve Osborn and Gillian Heywood)**

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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
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I have not produced a schedule of services for December, as at the moment it remains to be seen whether the current restrictions will have eased by then. I will do my best to ensure that up-to-date information is available via our website, Facebook page, and on church noticeboards. **Brian Williams**

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

- As December approaches, Advent Calendars and chocolate are the first things that come to mind for many. Beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, Advent is a time of reflection and spiritual preparation for Christians. In church, the readings recall God's promises spoken by the prophets; John the Baptist at the river, warning the crowds to prepare for the coming of one who is greater than he is; and Mary accepting God's invitation to be the mother of Jesus. It is intended to be a solemn time, and accordingly on the first Sunday of Advent the church is bereft of flowers, the hangings are a sombre purple, the winter gloom pierced only by the first candle on the Advent Ring. However, this time of watching and waiting – just over three short weeks -tends to get cut short. Week One, and the rest of the world is already busily shopping, partying, and wishing everyone a Happy Christmas. Week Two, and a Christmas tree has replaced the church flowers. Week Three, and pleas that it's still too early to sing carols risk being met with accusations of unseasonal grumpiness. Week Four, and the place is festooned with cards, bottles, toffees, and biscuits from those who have already set off to spend Christmas with family elsewhere. That, of course, is what usually happens. As I write, Lockdown 2 is under way, and I'm meeting enquiries about Christmas services this year with more of a sense of hope than expectation - but then I remember that I



succeeded in celebrating Easter by lighting the Paschal Candle at the Easter Garden on the Vicarage drive. Maybe the solemnity of Advent will seem longer than usual this year – but Christmas will happen! A Happy Christmas, and a Peaceful New Year.

Brian Williams

POLICE 999 or 101

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641

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