

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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Non-profit &
delivered free
to the Parish of
Alkham



FLOODING – John Huggins is to be congratulated for the works that he has carried out to his field by Slip Lane adjacent to the ditch that he previously dug. Small trees, hawthorn, field maple and hazel have been planted next to faggots of sticks by the edge of the field which should, in time, form a partial barrier to the water.

DOVER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN - The public consultation period for the plan lasts for 6 weeks, finishing on the 17th of March and the details can be found on their website www.doverdistrictlocalplan.co.uk. It is a well-designed site with a lot of information on but clicking 'Where I Live' and then 'view proposed sites' will take you to a page with Alkham on. Land to the east of Short Lane is shown as an area for possible housing but this area was shown on their 2010 plan and there is the possible extension of the gypsy site at South Alkham. There are seven other headings which can be commented on.

FLY TIPPING – In this time of lockdown there has been an increase in despicable fly tipping. The photo shows a Slip Lane layby on the 23rd of January which was reported to Country Eye by Jackie Grebby.



TRUSTEES - Alkham Village Hall is held on a charitable trust by Trustees, who are its legal owners, on behalf of the Parish and the day to day running of the Hall is in the hands of a Management Committee. The main responsibilities of the Trustees are: 1. To deal with any matters arising with third parties from the legal ownership of the Hall. 2. To ensure that any proposals of the Management Committee do not run counter to the Charitable Trust upon which the Hall is held. 3. To comply with any requirements of the Charity Commission and to deliver to it an Annual Return. For legal reasons, the bare number of Trustees is two, but a comfortable number would be four. Due to the unfortunate demise of Clive, we are looking for at least one committed person in the village to take on the role of Trustee. Official appointment is by Deed and necessitates the transfer of ownership of the land, which is dealt with by a solicitor. Anyone interested in taking on the role of Trustee please contact the Secretary Janet Adamson, in the first instance, at janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com.



WE HAVE DONE something to make people happy during lockdown. We have set up a trail of kindness rocks for people to find all around the village! We hope that it will really encourage people to feel happy during the difficult lockdown. If you want to add your own, this is what to do: 1. Get some good shaped rocks; 2. wash the rocks with soap and water; 3. Once they are dry, grab some paint pens or acrylic paint; 4. Draw on the rocks with the paint pens in whatever pattern you would like to do - make sure it's kind; 5. Paint them with some gloopy PVA glue mixed with water and leave them to dry so they don't wash off in the rain; 6. Leave them out around the village for people to find! That is what you do.

Nina (age 7) and Robin (age 4½)

A SEVEN FOOT high snowman was built in front of a house in Alkham and this too added some lockdown cheer. It's unlikely that the dog helped with the build, but she is looking pretty pleased with herself.



NOT IN COMPETITION but added appreciative voice: the refuse collectors, postmen, all those who are woven into our lives with their service. Thank you. **Jo Walker**
COLOUR – If you would like to see this newsletter in colour then either email brianwimsett@hotmail.com or go on the website www.alkham.org.

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CALLING ALKHAM KNITTERS - From Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) around the UK a big thank you, which I would like to pass on to all those involved, was received this week from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Glasgow for the recent parcel we sent, and the email stated that they have enough hats but would like more blankets if possible. There are several patterns for NICU blankets online, but they should be made small enough to fit in an incubator i.e. about 12 x 18 ins or 18 x24 in and not have any patterned holes which little feet or fingers can get tangled in. If anyone has time and spare wool and would like to get involved, please phone me. **Mairi Jones 07766410442**

WHAT IS FAIRTRADE? - Fairtrade is a simple way each one of use can make a difference through our everyday choices. It is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. Fairtrade aims to enable the poorest farmers and workers to improve their position and have more control over their lives. The Fairtrade mark means that: A minimum price is paid to Fairtrade producers covering their costs of production; the producers receive an additional Fairtrade premium, an extra amount of money to invest in their communities on economic, social or environments projects; workers on farms also get rights under Fairtrade like decent wages and they are allowed to join unions; The Producers in Fairtrade co-operative always get a democratic say in decisions – women included. By supporting Fairtrade in your weekly shop, it benefits others considerably; and also demonstrates a better understanding of where our food (and other Fairtrade products) come from. Both Dover Deal have Fairtrade town status and it is very important that we continue to work with the Community to maintain this status; our aim is to have a Fairtrade District. We have the support of both town councils and DDC. As it is Fairtrade Fortnight From 27/2/21 to 7/3/21 our activities will include a virtual meeting with a speaker on 3 March 2021 – anyone interested in attending and /or wanting to know more about our Fairtrade groups please contact pambrivio@ntlworld.com. Additionally, we have donations of Fairtrade Footballs to make and if anyone has contact with youth groups who would be interested in receiving a couple, please get in contact. Thanks

A CONSULTATION Directory provides a full list of KCC's past, current and planned consultations. It will help to let them know what you think about the local services and policies that matter to you and also look at planned, current and past consultations and look at the results. If you register and tell them the issues you are interested in, they will contact you when an activity is due to take place, or you can join in as and when they happen. You can also register to be emailed when the feedback for a particular consultation or involvement activity is published on this website. To access the consultation document, go to <https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/>.

NEW TOILETS are now open daily from 8am to 4pm in Kearsney Abbey and the new visitor facilities will be opened when the lockdown restrictions are eased. The car park is open along with a temporary café. Further details are on their web site www.kearsneyparks.co.uk.
PIZZA – A local resident said there was a good pizza delivery to Alkham and to let people know; Google 'Alkham Valley Pizza Project' to access their site.



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BOOK – Steve Osborn has been writing a 300 word monthly article in this newsletter for the last twenty years and an A5 size book that contains the articles for the first 10 years has been printed. It has a glossy cover and is printed on 100gsm silk finish paper, has 124 pages and each article has a small picture depicting the theme. The book costs £2 and if you would like a copy please contact me by ringing 01304

824969 or emailing brianwimsett@hotmail.com. **Brian**

FEEDBACK – Barry Sheppard emailed to say that he has lived at Ellinge for 38 years and the Christmas/New Year period was the worst he has ever known for transgressions by 4x4s, motor bikers, horse riders and pedestrians which is continuing. In addition, a van arrived in Slip Lane and deposited motorbikes and riders who then rode up Pimlico Way. John Richards, whose grandma lived in Upton Cottages at the bottom of Pilgrims Way, played as a boy on the byway and emailed to say that he was appalled at what the 4x4's were doing to Pimlico Way and that something needs to be done. His grandmother lived opposite Prescott's milking parlour and John has strong images of George Prescott crossing the road with a yoke and two churns of milk on his shoulder.

THE ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - The bird nesting season is officially from February until August and tree or hedge cutting should be done outside of the nesting season. The busiest time for nesting birds is from 1st March until 31st July which varies according to species.

HANDFORTH – If you missed the Parish Council meeting on the media it can be seen on <https://youtu.be/IgGmYeAm0jk>. It's chaotic and amusing and don't argue with the person who is controlling Zoom. It was also good to get a bit of light relief in these difficult times.

THE FISHER KING

A kingfisher above a clear chalk stream
Is filmed in Dover, Countryfile's next dream.

It flies, it hovers, then attacks a fish
And pins it flapping on the bank, you wish

For resolution, for what happens next,
Instead you hear voice-over and a text
Prewritten to remove your anxious doubt
That one grew thinner and the other stout.

At last you can relax and take a breath,
Whatever's shown it wasn't instant death.

Some kinds of agony you recognize
As forming part of life before your eyes.

It's breathless without hope that's hard to face,
That suffering denied a last embrace.

Gail Swainston

Benjamin Bayshee's 1727

Physical Directions for March and April

March

March in Mans body breeds
humors great,
and divers colours* that
dangerous be:
Then give heed to that ye
shall eat,
yet bleed and Bath with
modesty.

*Divers colours: various sorrows

April

This moneth all things thier
strength Renee
the pores are oppen and
Bloud abounds:
by letting bloud you shall not
Rue,
off purging also no harm
Redounds.

Jackie Grebby



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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7 th	Prayer 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am
Sunday 14 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am	
Sunday 21 st	Prayer 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 28 th	United Parish Eucharist 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 - As I write, it's a Sunday afternoon and I'm feeling slightly the worse for wear. No, I didn't have a wild night last night - but I did have my first Covid vaccination yesterday. Aspirin got me through two services this morning, and I'm telling myself that short-term pain is worth the long-term gain – which I'm sure it is. It was in March of last year, during Lent, that the first lockdown began and everything suddenly changed. Mothering Sunday services didn't happen; by Palm Sunday I was filming myself making paper palm crosses for others to try making at home; and the Easter Garden took shape on the vicarage driveway, hurriedly decorated with a tray of pansies from a supermarket. Most just shrivelled up in the spring sunshine, but a couple of them seemed to celebrate the hope and joy of Easter by not just surviving but blooming all the way into October. As I write, Lent is just about to begin. Forty days and nights, not just without cake, chocolate and other such things, but without things that usually make everyday life what it is. This Mothering Sunday will probably be another of those occasions when we would normally be with family and friends but may well end up sending flowers through the post and chatting on Skype instead. So here's some hope and encouragement for Lent: think of those pansies - they wouldn't have grown on the vicarage driveway had it not been for the pandemic. Perhaps in the same way, we'll look back on this time in years to come and find that there are things that we've gained as well as lost – perhaps small things, like the pansies, easy to miss for the moment– but still growing, all the same. **Brian Williams**

POLICE 999 or 101

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