

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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RESPONSES TO LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER ARTICLES



THE CAT which was featured as a possible stray is owned by a person in Alkham. It is a popular cat as it visits at least 5 other people around the village, one of whom emailed the photo; the look of contentment says it all.

FUND RAISING – Further to the article about St. Anthony's church needing 6000 tiles replacing at a cost of £15,000, Barrie Matcham has suggested that if there was a Garage Safari and a Boot Fair in Alkham then that would be a good way of raising some money. To find out if the proposals are viable please ring 01304 826100 or email tinamatcham@yahoo.co.uk.

CRICKET PHOTO - Barrie Matcham named all the people in the photo of the cricket team of which he was third left and John Richards emailed to say he was third from the right also in the back row. The others in the photo are from the back; Chris Dodds, Malcolm Norris, Bill Harvey – who provided the photo, Ron Prescott, Denis Jarvis, Stephen Matcham and Mike Goldfinch.

A DRONE has been flying above properties in Ewell Minnis and the police have been informed. If you have any information, please ring 101 to contact our PCSO.

KEEP FIT - Just before lockdown the Keep fit ladies had booked a celebratory lunch at the Marquis. We were going to celebrate 20 years of meeting every Wednesday and enjoying keeping fit, through music, exercises, dance and good company. I started keep fit in 2000 following a heart bypass, on the premise that if I had to do cardiac exercises then maybe others would like to join in, strictly for charity... They did and following a few hiccoughs while I had another bypass, stents and angioplasty, keep fit has gone from strength to strength. Over the last few years, we have donated approximately £500 a year to all manner of local and international charities just by enjoying ourselves. Sadly, Covid has temporarily brought us to a halt and I think we should wait until more certain times to resume, especially as I would find breathing and exercising in a mask just one dance step too far!! So, I wish you well and keep doing those routines in your own space. **Susannah Tapsell**

A SMALL ICE CREAM cornet and no chocolate toppings please. Happy to report that Jack, who lives in Alkham, got his wish.



FISH AND CHIPS – A mobile van will be coming to Alkham, as an experiment, and parking by village hall on Friday 25th September between 4.45pm and 6.00pm. The menu includes freshly cooked cod, haddock, scampi, sausage, burgers as well as veggie food and gluten free. Children are also catered for and please pre order (if possible) on 07955 926 835 by 4.00pm or by emailing hotchef1968@hotmail.com.

GREAT EVERDEN MANOR – This was originally Great Everden Farm, which is to the west of Alkham, and is now a special occasion holiday house costing £2000 a night or £10,000 per week. It is very well appointed and a lovely location but locals have complained to Dover District Council's Environmental Health about the loud noises, which could be heard in Ellinge, Chalksole and upper Slip Lane and elsewhere, caused by a recent booking which continued into the early hours of the morning.

GARDEN TALK - Our need to enjoy our gardens continues at this time, even if we cannot all meet together. Following the precedent set by Rosemary & Geoff Hillier in July, in September Catie & Harlan Webber would be pleased to see anyone wishing to view their colourful garden at 18, Newlyn Meadow any time between the 7th and 11th September. Prior booking essential - please contact Catie by text or phone: 07976 649726 or email: Catie@TheWebbers.org



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PIMLICO WAY – In last month's newsletter there was an article about a brick foundation on Pimlico way which was thought to be either a pond or a gun emplacement. Two ladies who were children in the 1930's thought that it was a pond but Martin Scherer who owns the land says that the site was originally a quarrymen's hut for flint used to build Pimlico and some South Alkham properties. In WW2 the authorities were concerned the Germans would land somewhere between Hythe and Dungeness and race up the coast to take Folkestone Harbour from behind and then up the Alkham Valley to take Dover from behind. They therefore dug out the site of the quarryman's hut to take a tank and erected earth retaining walls made of brick, hence the ramp with ridges; the hut was then put back on top. In addition, 'Dad's Army' dug foxholes one of which was thought to be a Saxon grave, but Martin was advised that it was a fox hole. Martin will restore these sites and erect information boards to tell the history of Pimlico for the public to see if funding becomes available...

THE HISTORY – Just past the garden centre and almost opposite Meggett Lane is Pimlico Way which is about ¾ of a mile long and runs across the hill to Slip Lane. Roughly halfway along was the hamlet of Pimlico whose name originates from the colonisation of North America and an indigenous tribe called Pamlico. The land to the south of Buckingham Palace leading down to the river Thames was known as 'Five Fields', a market garden that supplied London with fresh food. This area is now known as Pimlico and its name came from a man called Ben Pimlico who in the 17th century owned several public houses in the area, one of which was called 'Olde Ben's Pimlico Tavern'. Ben Pimlico was born in the Dover area and the hamlet near Alkham was probably named after him. It consisted of two houses, which were last occupied in the 1950's and in the 1970's the council refused planning permission to restore them, so they were demolished. It is possible that Pimlico Way was used by pilgrims to walk from St. John's Commandery, just outside the parish, to St. Radigund's which is diametrically opposite on the other side of the valley.

The above information is from a 'Short History of Alkham' which includes photos of Pimlico. The book is A4 with photos on just about all the 52 pages and costs £2.50. If you would like a copy, please see contact details in the newsletter heading on the previous page.

SNAKES - The grass snake is non-venomous, over a metre long and is usually a grey-green colour with a black and yellow collar behind the head. Adders are not an aggressive species and rarely bite people unless disturbed, but any bites should be immediately checked at a hospital or vets. They are shorter but stockier than a grass snake and are usually grey-brown with a distinctive zig-zag pattern along the back. Slow worms are often mistaken for snakes but are a lizard and much smaller than adult snakes and have eyelids (unlike snakes) and a fatter, less forked tongue. **Kent Wildlife Trust** (edit)

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL says that solar panels are a good investment and are holding an auction on 6th October when the pre-vetted solar installers will bid for the work. Registration opens on 1st September and if you would like to take part go to www.solartogether.co.uk/dover and they will give you a personal recommendation from 26th October for you to decide. If you have any questions ring Solar Together for free on 0800 014 8721.

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SPOONER - It sometimes happens that individuals, by their actions, donate their surnames to the language as uncapitalized everyday words, as in 'sandwich', 'wellington' and 'boycott'. Another such word is 'spoonerism', defined by *Chambers Dictionary* as "a transposition of initial sounds of spoken words - eg 'shoving leopard' for 'loving shepherd'. From



Rev W A Spooner...a noted perpetrator." William Archibald Spooner was, for over sixty continuous years, a member of New College, Oxford, first as a scholar, then Fellow, and, finally, Warden from 1903 to 1924. He was a tiny albino, with an unusually large head and pale blue eyes. William Hayter wrote that "All his life, Spooner looked like a white-haired baby. His appearance hardly changed." Spooner was, in his own words, never more than "a moderately useful man" and, arguably, would have remained unnoticed save for the spoonerisms. Many of these, such as 'tasted a whole worm', 'hissed my mystery lectures', and 'half-warmed fish', are now regarded as apocryphal, invented by undergraduates and colleagues to tease their beloved 'Spoo', although he did once admit to announcing a hymn as 'Kinquering Kongs'. Of more lasting interest are the well-documented examples of Spooner's transpositions of ideas. After a puzzling sermon, he remounted the pulpit to say, "In the sermon I have just preached, whenever I said Aristotle, I meant St Paul." Eleanor Jourdain recalled that once, at dinner, Spooner upset a salt-cellar and then dripped claret on the salt "until he had produced the purple mound which would have been the end-product if he had spilled claret...and had then cast a heap of salt on the pool to absorb it." Spooner died peacefully in 1930. For epitaph, we need only his words, comparing his misattributions with those of Homer and Shakespeare: "I err in very good company." **Steve Osborn**

Gail Swainston lives in Ewell Minnis and like Steve Osborn is a fan of poetry.

Your body's lean
Still eyes serene
Who knows what nightmares
you have seen?
Welcome to your dream.
Your chains are freed
You must succeed
You have a family to feed
And a life to lead.
But can you leave that horror
Endless squalor
Far behind you now you follow
Your new tomorrow?
Your body's lean
Still eyes serene
Who knows what nightmares
you have seen?
Welcome to your dream.

Gail Swainston

PLANNING – If you wish to comment on the Government's planning proposals to streamline the process go to www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future, email planningforthefuture@communities.gov.uk or write to Planning for the Future Consultation, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 3rd floor, Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF. **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL** is taking part in the NHT Public Satisfaction Survey on highways and transport services and six web-based surveys on specific issues: Highway maintenance; Accessibility; Walking and cycling; Public transport; Road safety; Tackling congestion. Go to kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consultationHome

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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6 th	Prayer 6.30 pm		United Parish Eucharist 10.0am
Sunday 13 th	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 20 th	Worship 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 27 th	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 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 - My first experience of the world of work was a summer vacation job as a bus conductor during my student days – a long time ago now. Bus conductors are now extinct. If you don't remember them, watching an episode of the 1970's TV sitcom *On The Buses*, which still appears on TV from time to time, will explain all. Watch out for Jack. I did what he does in the show, though without being a chain-smoking womaniser (honest!) or persecuting bus inspectors (at least, not deliberately). I remember one character who claimed to be one of the longest serving conductors with the company – at least at our depot. He might even have started before the war, returning to the job as others did after serving his country. With horn-rimmed glasses and trademark white cap, he was notoriously loud - and somewhat eccentric. He came up in conversation once when I was sitting with another crew in the canteen. *You know he was a Japanese POW*, someone said. As I led the service at the Battle of Britain Memorial marking the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, I suddenly remembered him. A mist descended, swirling around as we kept silence, remembering a generation now all but gone, the stories they told passing into history. My memories of youth are of college, friends, a vacation job that I enjoyed and dreams of a future that lay ahead. I suddenly realised that his must have been of jungle warfare, fallen comrades, the brutality of a POW camp and dreams of home. I led the prayers, and then we committed ourselves to work for peace and for the relief of want and suffering. I hope that perhaps he might have liked that... **Brian Williams**

THE SALT BIN outside the lychgate to the church is being used as a bin for dog poo bags. If anyone is using it for that purpose, please stop as a local will have to clear the bin. This also applies to the beer cans and other detritus left there.

POLICE 999 or 101

Newsletter

brianwimsett@hotmail.com

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