

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett  
The Old Post Office  
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE  
Telephone 01304 824969  
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

## No. 320 September 2020

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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

### 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September. Prior booking essential - please contact Catie by text or phone: 07976 649726 or email:Catie@TheWebbers.org



## B P S window cleaner

Window cleaning specialists no house too small. We use a reach & wash purifying system that means no streaks or smears and no chemicals. Our poles reach those hard to get areas. Safely clean conservatory roof. We fully clean all windows, doors & frames.

Call Paul on 01304 823763 or  
07971389039

## CAR & VAN SERVICING

**MOTS, TYRES & EXHAUSTS  
BRAKES, CLUTCHES & REPAIRS  
DIAGNOSTICS**

Free collection & delivery or courtesy car arranged  
**POULTON SERVICE & EXHAUST CENTRE  
HOLLOW WOOD ROAD, DOVER CT17 0UB  
01304 201235**



All types of paving, driveways, walls, groundwork's and a full garden design  
**Free quotations – local family run business**

07818024487 or 01304 825355  
e-mail: [quotes@dbworks.co.uk](mailto:quotes@dbworks.co.uk)

## Computer Problems Fixed 01303 241325 / 07968 129902

Computers, Laptops, Smart devices all set up & sold. PC Upgrades, Repairs & Installations. Virus removal. Office Networking and data security. Internet & Email problems solved. Most jobs £55.  
Tuition and IT Consultancy available.  
Websites built and hosted from £10 per month.  
See [www.computers-in-kent.co.uk](http://www.computers-in-kent.co.uk) for free advice and full details

## Alkham Court

*Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast*  
Meggett Lane, South Alkham  
5 Star: Gold Award

Peaceful location overlooking Alkham Valley  
'Winners Best B & B in SE England'  
Tourism SE Award

Web: [www.alkhamcourt.co.uk](http://www.alkhamcourt.co.uk)

Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

## R. Cunningham Roofing

Flat and Pitched Roof Specialist. Prompt and reliable every time. All aspects of roofing under-taken - \* Insurance work \* Written Guarantees \* \*Friendly advice \* Free Estimates – Poly-carbonate Fascias \* Soffits \* Guttering \*Lead work \* Re-pointing Tiles \* Slates \* Kent Peg Tiles \* Chimney repair  
**Telephone 01304 821042 or 07725 402939**



**Tyres fitted at your home or work**

- Car • Van • 4x4
- Low profile
- Runflats
- Computerised balancing
- Laser wheel alignment

Contact Howard Cole  
**07889 242604**

[www.tyrevan.com](http://www.tyrevan.com)

**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> October when the pre-vetted solar installers will bid for the work. Registration opens on 1<sup>st</sup> September and if you would like to take part go to [www.solartogether.co.uk/dover](http://www.solartogether.co.uk/dover) and they will give you a personal recommendation from 26<sup>th</sup> October for you to decide. If you have any questions ring Solar Together for free on 0800 014 8721.

## Private Tutoring

princetutoring.webplus.net



Give your child's education a boost with one-to-one assistance from a qualified and experienced teacher

- SCIENCE for all ages • GCSE exam preparation
  - Improve A-Level Biology grades
- Literacy & numeracy skills – reading & writing, 11+
- Supporting special educational needs
  - ENGLISH as a FOREIGN LANGUAGE (EFL)

Tracey Prince BSc (hons), PGCE, QTS, CELTA, CRB

## BESPOKE JOINERY

Staircases - including geometrical  
Summer houses, conservatories  
doors and windows

John Prince 01304 828098



Your Local One Stop Flooring Shop

[www.actioncarpets.co.uk](http://www.actioncarpets.co.uk)

Folkestone: 01303 246505

Dover: 01304 207007 Whitfield: 01304 20700

Call for a free estimate or visit a showroom

We Have All Floors Covered

## River Chimney Sweep

Insurance approved certificate issued with every sweep

Other installations include

Stove installation: Chimney liners

Bird cowl: Chimney repointing

Stove servicing and repairs

Call Marcus Wright

Tel: 01304 761081 Mob: 07971 699220

[www.riverchimneysweep.co.uk](http://www.riverchimneysweep.co.uk)

Registered OFTEC Stove Installer



Boarding for Dogs, Cats & Small Animals  
Canine Hydrotherapy - Pet Food Shop  
Alkham Valley Road - 01304 822420

## Coastal Mowers and Plant

Garden Machinery, Power Tools  
& Small Plant

Repairs – Service – Sales

07867 368 508

01304 829224

Unit 3, Honeywood House, Honeywood  
Road, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3EH



## A. P. S. UPHOLSTERY

Established 34 years

Workshop: Ewell Minnis CT15 7EA

Tel: 01304 828185 email: [upholstery@inbox.com](mailto:upholstery@inbox.com)

Find us on Facebook, Instagram Twitter, Yell.com

## Jordan's Plumbing

No job too small from dripping tap  
to central heating installation  
reasonable rates

Please phone 07543345716

**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](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future), email [planningforthefuture@communities.gov.uk](mailto:planningforthefuture@communities.gov.uk) or write to Planning for the Future Consultation, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consultationHome)

## White Cliffs Fencing and Landscaping

Hedging, Forestry work, Garden Maintenance, Garden Walling, Hard Landscaping, Garden Makeovers, Decking, Turfing, Garden Clearance  
T: 01304 721068 M: 07804 220567  
info@whitecliffsfencingandlandscaping.co.uk  
www.whitecliffsfencingandlandscaping.co.uk  
Professional Landscape Gardener



### Treat yourself to a massage in the comfort of your own home!

Call or text Helen on 07434 840 932  
email relaxingtouchmassageuk@gmail.com  
www.relaxingtouchemobilemassage.com

## Andy Gee

Gas Safe registered heating and plumbing engineer  
07807586902 or 01304 207378  
andygee1709@hotmail.com

**Pilates + Classes @ Alkham Village Hall**  
Friday morning 9.30am to 10.30am  
£5pp Julie Watt, REPs qualified instructor  
Just turn up or phone 07825109670  
Email pilates.mbs@gmail.com

**ROBERTS** 07824  
PAINTING & DECORATING 357704

Exterior & Interior Redecoration Experts

Free Quotes~Fully Insured~2 Yr Guarantee

### angela miller driving tuition Grade A Instructor

discounts for block bookings  
beginners - intensive - refresher  
Alkham based - please call for more details  
07976 747 246



### Whitfield Computer Services

Lee Eversfield fdsc  
Hardware & software problems \* Installations  
Upgrades \* Repairs \* Internet set-up  
Virus removal \* General advice

\*No fix, no fee

Tel: 01304 204227

E-Mail: lee.eversfield@btinternet.com

\*Special rates for OAPs

### EAST KENT PADDOCK MAINTENANCE

Topping, Rolling, Harrowing, Spraying,  
Fertilizer spreading, Fence repair and  
erection, water tanks and piping.

Tel. Nigel Peddle 01304 824004 or  
07810203324

### Young's Accountancy Services

Accountancy, Bookkeeping, Company Tax,  
Payroll, Personal Tax and VAT services  
Mob: 07561 112178 Tel: 01303 259734  
contactyoungstoday@gmail.com  
www.youngsaccountancyserviceslimited.com

### OIL BOILER SERVICE Est 1987

Friendly Family Service  
For routine service and emergency  
breakdowns contact  
P & V QUENBY LTD  
01227 760428 07768 594147



### SIMON PRICE & Co

Electricians Contractors  
Data and voice installations  
01303 252764  
www.simonpriceandco.co.uk

## ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates

Please ring Shirley for information 01304 828098

In exceptional circumstances the key is available from Brian on 824969

Tai Chi and Pilates have restarted

Other bookings are possible – please contact as above.

### CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer 6.30 pm		United Parish Eucharist 10.0am
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Worship 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	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 75<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

Hall booking Tracey Prince 828098

W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

Footpaths [antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk)

AVS [cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk) 821641

Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784

MP Natalie Elphicke - 01304 379669

KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929

DDC – Jamie Rose 07802 428353

WEBS [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org) &  
[www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk)