

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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**No. 291 April 2018**

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**GET TOGETHER** – There has been sufficient response from the article in last month's Newsletter to start a 'Get Together' in the village hall. The exact details will be finalised in April with the first get together announced in the May Newsletter. Everyone is invited to come along, but it is primarily directed at those who feel isolated or alone, and we are quite happy to ferry people to the village hall if necessary. Entrance is free, and refreshments will be provided, so if you'd like to come along please ring 824969, email [alkhamnews@gmail.com](mailto:alkhamnews@gmail.com) or leave a note in the Parish Council box.

**SAM SWEET CHARITY** presents a stroll down memory lane in aid of motor neurone disease. American supper style in Alkham village hall on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. Tickets £8 each available from Anne Huggins on 824340.

**TRAFFIC** – Geoff Hillier gave a presentation of the results of the Traffic Action Group questionnaire at the March Parish Council meeting and said 82 responses had been received from the 89 households adjacent to the Alkham Valley Road, whilst the replies from those away from the road were lower. Over 90% wanted a weight restriction introduced and 76% were in favour of a 20mph speed limit through the village; 86% wanted a pedestrian crossing and about 80% agreed to single lane entries to the village and a road narrowing by the Marquis. Several respondents said there should be average speed cameras, and this will be looked at again. The next stage is for the Parish Council, after validating the Draft Final Report, to set up a "Traffic Implementation Group" to consult the emergency services and other bodies for their comments and to then submit The Final Report to KCC Highways for their approval to the proposed scheme.

**COMMUNITY BUS** – In the February Newsletter mention was made of a community bus that could be introduced in the Alkham area. At the Parish Council meeting the Thanet Community Transport Association gave a talk about their service, that they have expanded to cover the Dover area. The 'Dial a Ride' is a door to door service to assist the elderly and disabled, who are unable to travel with the conventional bus service, to go shopping or to medical appointments. The annual membership is £20 with a current charge of £3.50 to use the bus and at present the service is under used. They also offer other services such as trips, holidays and group transport. If you would like more information please phone 01843 602030 or, if able, go to [www.transportinthanet.co.uk](http://www.transportinthanet.co.uk). A booklet is also available if you ring the Parish Clerk on 07800 943434.

**THE ANNUAL QUIZ** went well with 10 tables competing. The winning team was from Ellinge and Chalksole and Graham Bissett, who asked half the questions, will take over from Brian next year.

**ALKHAM MEMORIES** - The exhibition of local history material, mostly from the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> centuries will be held in the Village Hall over the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> April from 11 - 4 with free admission. Mark Robson will be giving a presentation 'The Alkham Heroes' at 3.00p.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup>, to be followed by refreshments. All welcome. Bring along your memories to be shared. **Janet Adamson**

**VILLAGE HALL AGM** - The Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00p.m. which is open to all villagers and those involved in organisations that use the Village Hall. All welcome to attend and show an interest in this important village facility. It will be followed by the quarterly Committee Meeting.

**TEA ROOMS** – Edith Neve would like to thank the tea rooms at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre for being so helpful to someone who is unable to get there through illness. They packed the food for Edith to take away and she thinks they are marvellous. They are willing to do this for other people on certain ranges of food.

**JUMBLE SALE** in aid of the W.I. is on the 14<sup>th</sup> April in the village hall. The sales will now start at 10.30am Instead of 11am.

**DO YOU NEED** someone to do occasional cooking, housework, changing beds etc. If so, please get in touch with Shirley on 828098.

## FILM NIGHT

**March 27**

**The Party**  
Comedy drama

**April 24**

**The Limehouse  
Golem** with Bill Nighy

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50  
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## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - Community Led Plan (CLP)

The village is moving forward with the CLP. Funding for a launch day was requested at the recent Parish meeting and is being considered by the Councillors. The launch day intends to be a day full of fun for all the family! The purpose of this event is so the Steering Group can get information from parishioners as to what they would like included in the CLP. This could be ideas ranging from facilities for the elderly to having a new swing for the children. Any suggestions whether big or small would be greatly received. Please give this some thought ready for the launch day. The date for the event is yet to be confirmed.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR** - I wanted to write about lime manufacture chemistry described in the Lime Kiln piece last month. I also thought I should filter my letter through 'Is it true, is it kind and is it necessary?' questions. I think it would be fair to say that it is so filled with chemistry formula howlers that it would make an excellent test question for a school-child to be asked to comment - best regards **Tom Marcus**

**RETIRING QUIZ MASTER** - We want to say how much we have enjoyed Brian's annual Quiz Nights over these past decades and that we will miss his humorous way of asking those ambiguous questions! Thank you, Brian, for having amused us over those brain teasing years. Your Alkham friends.



**GARDEN TALK** - We have been invited to Hockley Sole, where Angie Snape has been creating a colourful spring garden. We meet there on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 6.45p.m. Please note earlier time, to make the most of the daylight. For directions, contact Janet Adamson 01303 893413.

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Our March meeting was a very interesting one at which Jean Hatton told us about the life of Elizabeth Fry. Our next meeting is April 10<sup>th</sup> and our speaker will be Linda Warren, subject *Swinging 60's*. Hostesses are Susan Lees, Lucy McKenzie; Raffle Pam Sayers and VOT Debbie Griggs. New Members always welcome. There will also be a jumble sale on 14th April doors open at 10.30am. **Debbie Griggs**

**PIMLICO BYWAYS** - There is some misinformation being expressed that the Pimlico byways should be restored to bridleways as they had been for centuries. The Pimlico byways have never been bridleways. In 1949 when the PROWs were first recorded ER185, for example, was listed as a 'Cart Road Footpath' which it clearly was as it served the Pimlico hamlet. This didn't really clarify who was allowed to use it. The 1968 Countryside Act attempted to address this requesting that Highway Authorities research what actual rights did exist and reclassify all PROWs as either a footpath, bridleway or byway (BOAT). At this stage ER185, ER25 and ER122 were shown as byways on the draft map. After public consultation and due process they were all recorded as byways and byways they remain. There may be some confusion caused when ER185 was erroneously finger posted as a bridleway. ER185 was part of a KCC promoted 'Alkham Valley Rides' which was created by KCC officers who were no part of the PROW team. They appear to have signed paths at will with no reference to their actual status. Locally these erroneous status indicators have been removed and the correct status restored. **Anthony Barrier (footpath warden)**

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**OZ on APRIL FOOL'S DAY** – Over the years, I've often mentioned April Fool's Day in passing, but never as a topic because its origins are so obscure. The most popular theory concerns European calendar reform. In 46BC, Julius Caesar introduced his Julian calendar that made 1 January the first day of the year. Over the next 1500 years, some European countries moved their first day to 1 April for theological reasons. One such was France, but in 1564 the French King Charles IX moved his first day back to 1 January for secular reasons. In 1582, Pope Gregory also moved the date back to 1 January for all Christian Europe (except Britain). The story then goes that, in continental Europe, those who continued celebrating New Year on 1 April were teased as "April Fools." The only flaw in all this is that there are continental references to "April Fools" from before 1564, and British references from hundreds of years before 1752, the year that Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar. The earliest British reference is probably the Nun's Priest's Tale in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales (1392), describing the tricks played by a fox in catching the cock Chauntecler, but the wording is so ambiguous that the date could be either 1 April or 3 May. Throughout the 16<sup>th</sup> century there were several references in France to 'poisson d'Avril', meaning 'April fish' (still used today.) In 1686 the English antiquarian John Evelyn wrote 'Fool's Holy Day. We observe it on ye first of April.' This was the first clear reference to the tradition in Britain. Finally, on 2 April 1698, a British newspaper reported that 'Yesterday being the first of April, several persons were sent to the Tower Ditch to see the Lions washed.' April Fool's Day was at last a fixture. **(Steve Osborn)**

**ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH PROJECT** - The installation of a toilet and kitchenette is well under way and beginning to look like the Architects' drawings. Considering the amount of building work over the past weeks, we are now hoping for a work party of volunteers to help with the clean-up. We do have a budget for professional cleaners within the reordering but will still need extra help for the areas not covered by that. This clean-up will probably be towards the end of April so if you can, please contact Irene 01304 824845 and let us know your interest. With the help of marigolds, some happy music, coffee and cake this could even turn into a pleasant couple of hours with friends and neighbours. **The Project Team**  
**ALKHAM HEROES** - There will be more information on all the men whose names are on the village war memorial at the Alkham Local History weekend on Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> at 3.00p.m. The work of the Heroes is ongoing and if you can add any further information please contact me or Brian Wimsett. **Mark Robson**

**ALBERT FRANCIS**, the son of James (a Poultry Keeper) and Rose Francis was born about 1898 in Yew Cottage, South Alkham. The 1911 Census reveals he was a 12-year-old school boy. Albert was a Private in the 2nd Battalion, Essex Regiment and died on Thursday, 18th April 1918. At this time his parents were living in Folkestone. Albert was aged 20 when he died, and he is buried at Chocques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais.

**CECIL G ALLEN** was the son of Mrs E Allen of Chalksole Green. The 1911 Census reveals that he was a 13-year-old schoolboy. Cecil enlisted at Woolwich and was in 'C' Company, 11th Battalion, Border Regiment when he died on Tuesday, 30th April 1918. The regiment had been in the Front Line until the 25th April but between the 25th and 30th was 'out of the line' and taking part in military training, church parades and a football tournament. It is recorded that Cecil "died of wounds" which presumably he received whilst at the Front. Cecil was aged 20 when he died. Cecil is buried at Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt.

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**Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)**

<b>Tuesday</b>		Art Workshop from 10am – 1pm Yoga 1.10pm – 2.10pm
<b>Wednesday</b>		Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
<b>Thursday</b>		Yoga 9.30 to 11.00am and 7.30pm to 9.00pm
<b>Friday</b>		Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am
<b>Other Events in the village hall</b>		
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3</b>	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10</b>	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>14</b>	Jumble Sale 10.30am
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>14</b>	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
<b>Monday</b>	<b>16</b>	Bird Club 7.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>17</b>	Village Hall AGM 7pm – all welcome
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>21</b>	Alkham memories – 11am to 4pm – see page 1
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>22</b>	Alkham memories – 11am to 4pm – see page 1
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>24</b>	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>26</b>	PCC AGM – check time

**CHURCH SERVICES**

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 7.00 am	Eucharist 11 am
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11 am	
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Messy Church Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Worship in hall 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's (Capel Old Church) 10.00 am		

**Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)**

07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16 Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16  
9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.07 16.32 17.32 Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - Many of you will remember the late, great actor and comedian Peter Sellers – perhaps as the accident-prone French detective Inspector Clouseau in the Pink Panther series of films, or in some of the other roles that he played. Sitting with a cup of tea in front of the TV and flicking through the channels recently, I came across one of his earlier films - Heavens Above! In it, he plays a vicar. As you can imagine, I was instantly hooked, and ended up spending much longer over my cup of tea than I had meant to. In the film Sellers' character is appointed to a well-to-do parish – completely by mistake. Practising what he preaches, he scandalises his parishioners by taking in various waifs and strays, appointing a dustman as churchwarden, and persuading a local landowner to provide free food for the townspeople. Nobody ever expected him to take Christianity that seriously, and in the resulting chaos it becomes clear that he really will have to go – but how? The Church comes up with a solution – appoint him Bishop of Outer Space! He ends up in orbit, warbling hymns about love and forgiveness to a global audience as he circles the Earth. It was very funny to watch, of course – but it also contained a grain of truth. Just as Sellers' vicar character ended up with little thanks for his sincerity, so not everything Jesus said and did suited everyone. As I write Holy Week is approaching, when Christians remember how Jesus, too, practised what he preached, and how it all ended on the cross. But Easter reminds us that his story doesn't end there, but continues in the lives of those who set out to follow him. Happy Easter! **Brian Williams**

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