

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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## No. 294 July 2018

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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**ALKHAM FETE** - It's finally upon us - this year's Fete is on 14<sup>th</sup> July from 1pm. As always, we need as much help as possible putting the tents up from 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning - please come along with your second favourite heavy hammer! - and there are always jobs to help with up to and including clearing the meadow afterwards; many hands make light work, so please come along and share the load. We have a number of new attractions this year, as well as the traditional favourites, including Lamb Racing (sign up early to become an "owner" in one of the four races), a "Smashing" Shy, Morris Dancing, Tai Chi, the Band, The Astronomical Society (and alien guests), "The Parish Council Gazebo", Tractors, Firemen, Vintage Cars, a Wedding Dress display and refreshments (including cakes, tea, ice creams, burgers and beer and "Pimms"-ish), and more stalls than I care to name (further details, and requests for help, elsewhere in the newsletter). You have received a couple of books of Raffle tickets (£1 per ticket, £5 a book) with your Newsletter - please sell some and let me have the counterfoils and cash beforehand. This is THE village event of the Year, so please come and be a part of making it a success. Any questions - give me a call on 07947 016697. **Paul Tapsell**

**ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL** is seeking to recruit a Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, salary according to experience in accordance with the NJC salary scales. Hours are approximately 10 per week. Please see page 2 for more details.

**The first Village Hall 'Tea and Talk'** get together event was held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May when 13 parishioners gathered at the hall. Tea and biscuits were provided, free of charge, and those who came along were able to chat and be amongst friends in an informal atmosphere. The aim of these sessions is to encourage those who don't have the possibility to meet up with people on a daily basis to come along and spend a couple of hours a month in the company of others. These informal get togethers are held in the Village Hall, between 2pm and 4pm on the last Thursday of the month. The next will be on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June and the following one will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> July. All are welcome. **Geoff Hillier**

**ALKHAM HEROES TRIP** - On Tuesday, September 11th, Den Barnard and Mark Robson are taking a coach to France to visit various sites linked to the First World War. Full details on page 3.

**OPERATION STACK** - Highways England want to hear your views on the proposed approach to develop one or more lorry holding areas to reduce the congestion in Kent caused by any cross-channel disruption. The full details are on the Internet at <https://t.co/D49PURG8j8>.

**ALKHAM FETE - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July. Cake Stall and Refreshments.** We would be very grateful for donations of cakes for the cake stall and refreshments at the fete. These will be for sale in the village hall. Cakes can be brought to the village hall from 12 noon on the day or we can collect on Friday evening. For more details please ring Janet Barrow 01304 829585 or Sue Ross 01304 825736 - Thank you.

**PLANTS** - Please could I ask for any plant donations for the fete; I am quite happy to pick them up. Carol Mannall, Poets End, Short Lane. tel 01304 826514.

**FETE BOOK STALL** - Do you have any jigsaws you would like to donate to the Book Stall? We would also like any children's books - all ages - jigsaws, and box games, e.g. snakes & ladders, ludo, card games etc, that you no longer need and would like to donate. Happy to collect - please call Mike/Rachel Fountain on 823173 or 07905206702. Thank you.

**WANTED** small workshop for a local carpenter moving into the area. A new resident to the village is looking for a small workshop / large garage / farm outhouse to rent mainly for storage, but occasionally as a carpentry workshop. If you have anything suitable, please email [info@5wayscarpentry.com](mailto:info@5wayscarpentry.com). All offers greatly appreciated.

**KEYS** - A Yale and mortise key were found by the slide on the green. Please phone 01304 822365 for details.

## FILM NIGHT

June 26<sup>th</sup>

**Darkest Hour**  
Gary Oldman

July 31<sup>st</sup>

**Finding your feet**  
Timothy Spall, Imelda Staunton

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50  
Please bring your own refreshments

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**ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL** is seeking to recruit a Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, salary according to experience in accordance with the NJC salary scales. Hours are approximately 10 per week. Duties for this home-based appointment include attending a minimum of 8 monthly evening Parish Council Meetings per year on the first Monday of the month; preparing the agendas; taking minutes and giving procedural advice; carrying out the Council's administrative tasks; keeping financial records; preparing accounts and the annual budget and preparing records for audit purposes; dealing with general enquiries and correspondence; updating and co-ordinating the Parish Council website. The ideal candidate will have previous experience in a similar role, good IT, organisational, administrative and financial skills, be able to work on their own initiative. Applicants should forward their CV, with a covering letter explaining their suitability for the role to [clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk). The closing date for applications is Monday 24th June 2018. Interviews will take place during June/early July 2018 in Alkham.



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**ROAD NAME** – The Parish Council decided that the name of the road off Slip Lane up to Chalksole could be called White or Chalky Hill. In the March edition of the Newsletter there was an article about the Lime Kiln, which was on White or Chalky Hill. In 1846 notice was given regarding a meeting in the Marquis of Granby to discuss the enclosure of the Common Land and Limekiln Hill was included. **editor**

**ALKHAM BOOK** – I have completed three new pages for the Alkham History book, which are: Ellinge particularly coal and iron, plus more details of farms at Everden; North Hill House and Common Hill House including the associated road; Glebelands. Also, the brewery at Upton, brickyard at Fernfield and the lime kiln have been added. If you'd like a copy, please email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com) or ring 824969. **editor**

**SPOTTED** – A person walking through the land at Chalksole is certain that he saw a wallaby hopping across the field. This did seem unlikely but looking on the Internet one was seen at Bethersden last year and a kangaroo recently caused havoc on the A20 near Lenham.

**30mph** – Lyminge Parish Council have taken the initiative and are distributing A4 bin stickers which say 30mph 'Please - slow down in our village'. Seems like a very good idea.



**GARDEN TALK** - After some lovely sunny weather and fine evenings, we hope the trend continues when we next meet, on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 4A Newlyn's Meadow. Liz and Larry Lambourne are our hosts from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Our June meeting was the story of Frank Sinatra, which was very interesting. Next meeting will be on July 10<sup>th</sup> when we have a Ukulele Band. Hostesses are Debbie Saunders and Susannah Tapsell, Raffle Susannah Tapsell and VOT Sue Harman. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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**ALKHAM HEROES TRIP** - On Tuesday, September 11th, Den Barnard and I are taking a coach to France to visit various sites linked to the First World War. Our first stop will be at Vimy Ridge. This was the scene of particularly fierce fighting which involved some of the Alkham men though is now known as the scene of a famous Canadian victory. The land on which the memorial stands was donated by the French to the Canadians and is a moving memorial to the men who died here. You are able to see and walk through the trench system and gain an insight into the strategic importance of the Ridge. We are hoping that we will also be able to have a guided tour of the tunnels in which troops sheltered and gathered before battle. This can only be booked on the day so will depend on demand at the time. There is plenty to see and absorb on the site if a tour of the tunnels is not possible. This will be our lunch stop too. The afternoon will be a time for reflection on the direct impact of war. We will visit the French National Military Cemetery at Ablain St-Nazaire which also houses a memorial to those killed in the region and where several Alkham men are named. We will then travel the short distance to Neuville St-Vaast to visit a German War Cemetery. Den and I have carried out a recce of the trip and feel this is a fitting way to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. If you would like to join us the details are: Cost: £30 (inc a Ploughman's lunch); Depart Alkham: 07.20 return: 19.00 (approx.). Payment will be required on booking and, if you have to drop out it will be up to you to find replacement and cover your costs (we've been caught out on this before!). We anticipate great interest so advise early booking. Please take payments to Den (01304 824845) at Halton Court. You will need a passport and an EHIC card is recommended. **Mark Robson**

**OZ on STONE** – It's 75 years since summer 1943, when Allied forces were busy planning D-Day, the attempt to land in Normandy. One of the problems was delivery of petrol to the forces after landing, as tankers and ship-to-shore pipelines would be susceptible to attack. In 1942 an undersea pipeline was proposed by Admiral Mountbatten, and agreed between him, Geoffrey Lloyd (Secretary for Petroleum), and Arthur Hartley (Chief Engineer of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company). The strategy was code-named Operation Pluto (Pipe-Lines Under The Ocean). Later that year the government instructed Siemens Brothers of Woolwich to design a suitable pipeline. Initial designs showed numerous problems when stress-tested, particularly with joints. And it was here that three more of the war's unsung heroes emerged, when Siemens employed a specialist lead business, W P Stone of Brockley, to devise a technique for jointing the 700-yard lengths of lead alloy pipes. After successful trials in the Thames, Stone was awarded the contract, and the three Stone brothers, Frank, Albert, and Ron began making the joints at Woolwich and Callenders Cables of Erith. They worked 18 hours a day and 7 days a week producing the joints for 492 miles of pipeline from Dungeness to Boulogne and Shanklin to Cherbourg. Of necessity the work was done in such secrecy that the Stone family had no idea what the brothers were up to. In October 1944 the Boulogne pipelines delivered 3,000 tons of fuel a day, rising to 4,500 tons by the end of the war. By 1949, over 90% of the pipeline was salvaged, the value of which far exceeded the recovery costs. After the war Frank extended the family business into lead shielding for the expanding nuclear and medical industries, working as a consultant until the age of 83. He died aged 90 in 2004. **(Steve Osborn)**

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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>  | Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm                                |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am                           |

**Other Events in the village hall**

|                 |           |   |
|-----------------|-----------|---|
| <b>Monday</b>   | <b>2</b>  | Parish Council meeting 7.30pm – all welcome |
| <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> | Alkham Fete on village green from 1pm       |
| <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>31</b> | Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1              |

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

|   |
|---|
| <b>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</b> |
| <b>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</b>   |

**CHURCH SERVICES**

| DATE                      | ALKHAM   | CAPEL          | HOUGHAM        |
|---------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>    | Evensong 6.30  | Eucharist 9.30 | Worship 11am   |
| Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>    | Eucharist 9.30   | Worship 11am   |                |
| Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> | Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm                |                |                |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>   | Worship 11am   | Evensong 6.00  | Eucharist 9:30 |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>   | Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am                       |                |                |
| Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>   | Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's (Capel Old Church) 10.00 |                |                |

**From the vicarage** - By the time you read this, the Royal Wedding will be a dim and distant memory, from way back before the World Cup took over our TV screens. But think for a moment – which memory of that day most sticks in your mind? For me, it was the number of people who remarked on *that sermon*. Actually, it wasn't Bishop Michael Curry's fourteen minutes of fame, as some of the newspapers seemed to suggest – he is, after all, in the USA what the Archbishop of Canterbury is in the UK – but his thoughtful, carefully prepared and energetically delivered sermon (I did read it) certainly got him noticed on this side of the Atlantic. Sermons are strange things. I sometimes turn up on a Sunday with what I expect to be an absolute winner, and nobody says a word about it afterwards. But there have also been times when I've struggled to come up with anything that I felt was worth saying to be told afterwards, "*Great sermon – thank you!*" I remember being recognised by a receptionist at the opticians once. She told me that she had heard me preach a couple of years previously on one of her occasional visits to church, and then completely surprised me by reminding me of exactly what I had said. Why did Bishop Curry hit bullseye? I think people were expecting ten minutes of boredom. Instead, they had fourteen minutes of anything but. They listened, and whatever they thought of what they heard, many were still talking about it days afterwards. That's success. The much loved and sadly missed Rabbi Lionel Blue used to say that God shows his hand in the unlikeliest of places, airport lounges and parties included. Add weddings to that list! **Brian Williams**

**POLICE 999 or 101**

Newsletter [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

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