

**THE ALKHAM
VALLEY SOCIETY**
Protecting the Valley since 1977

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The aims of the Alkham Valley Society, as set out in its Constitution, are as follows:-

- to stimulate public interest in the area of interest.
- to promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit.
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area of benefit.
- to protect the surrounding countryside.

The Valley is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It contains ancient woodland, special landscape areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Conservation area. There are 17 Grade 2 listed buildings of historic or architectural interest, and the Church of St Anthony of Pamiers, a Grade 1 building, has in its churchyard 15 listed Grade 2 headstones.

The Society's formation, as a voluntary organisation in 1977, was in response to the destruction of hedgerows, ancient woodland and downland by a farmer/developer unfamiliar with the Kent countryside and deaf to the protests of the local residents.

Some of the Society's achievements over the years are as follows:-

- (i) in 1977 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) were served to protect Lockering Wood and also Sladden Woods.
- (ii) in 1982 trees were planted along the Valley at sites identified, and paid for, by the Society.
- (iii) in 1991 and 1993 hedgerows were planted by the Society along the Pimlico Right of Way.
- (iv) In 2010 the Society was closely involved with the archaeologist and the Alkham Valley Historical Research Group in raising the funds necessary to keep the Wolverton Warrior and his sword, beaded necklace and other artefacts for display locally in the Dover Museum. The Warrior was buried in a Bronze Age grave above Wolverton, dated to c.1800 BC.
- (v) In 2017 the Society recommended other ancient woods along the Valley for protection by TPOs issued by the Dover District Council.
- (vi) In 2022 the Society enabled the Kent Highways to install new steps and handrails on the public footpath ER161.
- (vii) the Society has always kept a watching brief on housing developments throughout the Valley and made objections when it deemed appropriate.

The Society works with organisations, such as the Kent CPRE, the Kent Wildlife Trust and the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, which share many of the same aims of the Society to protect the Valley and keep it as a special and beautiful place to live in. It also likes to work, where relevant, with the Kent County Council, the Dover District Council, the Alkham Parish Council, Alkham Speed Watch and the Alkham Byways Group.

With the increasing problems with climate change and the condition of the planet, there is all the more reason to protect and conserve the nature of our environment. The Alkham Valley

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Society is as relevant today as it was when it was founded 45 years ago and can continue to play an important part in protecting and conserving the beauty of the Valley.

More recent matters which the Society could be concerned about and involved in, might include pushing for and supporting the calming of traffic through the Valley and controlling speeds through the Village and on surrounding lanes.

The Society try to arrange interesting and enjoyable events during the year, such as a talk on a topical subject, a visit to a special site and a Christmas Walk around parts of the Valley.

An Annual General Meeting is held in November at which Officers are elected, the Executive Committee's Report for the year is presented and the Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts are tabled.

The Society's Constitution states that *'Membership is open to all who are interested in actively furthering the purposes of the Society'*. There is an annual membership fee of £5 per person and £10 per household. It is hoped that those living in the Alkham Valley will wish to support the aims of the Society and become members. Please contact the Secretary, Jo Walker – on her email: joannawalker777@gmail.com or at her address: Rectory Cottage, Slip Lane, Alkham, Dover, CT15 7DA.

Jo Walker
Hon Secretary