



ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 46 June 1997

Compiled by Brian Wimsett, The Old Post Office, Slip Lane, Alkham, CT15 7DE Telephone 824969
An independent publication including editorial opinion, representing no other organisation

You may have read in the last edition that Tony Ingall is leaving Alkham and is passing the newsletter over to me. Tony started the newsletter in 1993 and has since published 45 editions with a circulation of over 300 copies. I'm sure you will join with me in thanking Tony for all the work he has done and wish him and his wife all the best for the future when they return to the west country.

The bigger newsletter has been made possible by the block adverts and the continued line adverts on the back page. There are a number of new advertisers from outside the parish and I am very grateful to them and the existing advertisers for their support. If you have a story, letter, club or anything else which you would like included in the newsletter please put the details through my letter box which is in the door at the top of the path off the bottom of Slip Lane, or send it through the post. If you prefer to provide the details I can write something and ask you if it's all right before publishing.

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PARISH COUNCIL AGM

The meeting was well attended the reason for which will become clear. The officers were re-elected to their respective post and matters arising were roughly as follows:

HIGHWAYS

A letter from KCC was read out which said that expenditure was to be cut across the board; evidently this is the case for all parishes, and is as follows:

Street lighting regular patrols will cease; parish members to report.

Grass cutting verge mowing continues, amenity mowing halved to twice a year.

Gully emptying and drainage

Yearly maintenance abandoned with cleaning carried out on priority basis.

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Winter maintenance planned salting of A and B roads continue, elsewhere salt bins will be replenished when empty once only; re-filling will then be paid for by the parish. If the bins are not re-filled they may be removed.

Weed spraying continues to the edge of the highway and hard edges to footways but no spraying of verges will be carried out.

Safety inspections will be halved from 3 to 6 monthly. Notified potholes should be dealt with swiftly and reports from Parish.

General very limited work will be carried out to A and B roads with none on C roads; same applies to footways. Some patching and surface dressing is included but this is limited.



24 HOUR

INVICTA CARS

BOOKINGS 211111
202030
240604

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Traffic calming and traffic regulation orders will be related to crash reduction benefits and no new footways are planned. What this effectively means is that Alkham will not get traffic calming measures now or for the foreseeable future. George Tyler urged our local County Councillor, Bryan Cope who was present to take up the issue at County level. Tony Ingall suggested at the interval that perhaps we should try to get the Alkham Valley Road re-classified as the B2050 as maintenance would continue. If this was done it would make it even more unlikely that traffic calming measures would be introduced; a Catch 22 situation. The Clerk said that once the A256 Whitfield Bypass was open a traffic count would be carried out on the Alkham Valley Road to see what effect, if any the new bypass had and further decisions would be made in the light of this information.

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Road Watch in a separate letter 20 copies of the Road Watch Card were included plus 2 posters advertising their use. These cards are to be used to identify problems and can be obtained from Sue Lees (Clerk).

OTHER MATTERS Any footpath finger posts which are missing should be reported. The installation of the car park light is ongoing and John Ullmann is to provide the Union Jack for the flag pole. The rocking horse is to be repaired shortly and I have been asked to include an appeal to parents to speak to their children to make sure it is not used too vigorously as additional damage may be caused. There was discussion regarding dog fouling and further information will be given in later editions; in summary it would appear wise to remove any deposits left by your dog as a dog warden maybe watching.

John Garlinge

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PLANNING ISSUES a two horse stable block and provision of a mobile home for a year was approved by the Parish Council for Peter's Close, Ewell Minnis. We then moved on to the main event which was the application to demolish Chalksole Green Farm House and rebuild it on the opposite side of the road.

A local historian had carried out some research and it would appear that the house, although not as it is now has stood there since 1595 and the front dates from the late 1700's.

A letter was read out which appeared to give tacit approval to demolish from DDC when the property was bought. The audience was swelled by members of DDC and the applicant who gave their views. DDC said that their letter did not confirm that planning permission would be a matter of course and any decision was for the Planning Committee.

J H ULLMANN A.M.I.P.E
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The applicant inferred that the Parish Council had been given the chance to comment earlier but had declined to do so. This was strenuously denied by the Chairman. The applicant also said that the house was structurally unsound; visually this would not seem to be the case. It would not be an understatement to say that the Parish Council was appalled by the application. The Chairman did not necessarily think it was the fault of the applicant that this situation had arisen as he felt the fault lay with DDC. The Alkham Valley Society was also totally against the application as were the CPRE. The Parish Council has written to the Heritage Secretary requesting that the building be listed. If permission was given to demolish the council would appeal to the Ombudsman to reverse the decision; if however the building was demolished the opinion was that it should be rebuilt on the same site with an agricultural restriction. The application was unanimously refused by the Parish Council. If members of the parish wish to submit an opinion on the application to DDC or the Parish Council the application number is DOV/97/0370 and the property can be found by taking the first right off Slip Lane and then left at the top of the hill with the property being about 400 metres down the road on the right.

PC Guy Thompson gave a short report (see below also); cars parked on the pavement such that a pram cannot get past cause an obstruction and he is looking for sponsorship for a police information bus which will tour villages.



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POLICE NEWSBEAT Since The beginning of April there have been 6 reported crimes in the Alkham area; 1 burglary to a shed; 1 theft to a caravan; 1 theft from a motor vehicle and 3 thefts. This includes Standen and Wolverton. If you keep valuables in a shed or outhouse, please make sure it is secure.

Home Office figures show that people only spend 1% of the contents on their shed or garage on security. Shed alarms are available from the Neighbour -hood Watch office for under £10. It could help prevent you being a victim of crime. **Traffic** As you may know, we have been out recently doing a road check in the village; we will continue to do this especially throughout the summer. The record so far for the fastest vehicle was a motor bike doing 54mph in a 30mph limit (**PC Guy Thompson**)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

For urgent police attendance at a serious accident or offenders on the scene
999

Report a crime or non urgent police attendance
240055

To speak to PC Thompson Community Officer
01303 289176

CYSTIC FIBROSIS Julie Saltmer reports that a total of £158.86 was raised from the collection around the village for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and thanks all those who helped with the collection and of course all those who contributed. A collection was also carried out in Dover High Street on Saturday the 19th of April, the first for several years and this raised a further £311.

FIRE IN THE VILLAGE On Monday the 28th of April the village resounded to the sounds of sirens as fire engines descended towards the village green. One of the two barns adjacent to Hogbrook Farm was on fire and because of the perceived severity of the blaze the fire brigade sent four appliances, two from Dover and one each from Whitfield and Folkestone plus 2 officers and a Special Vehicle. Loud bangs could be heard coming from the barn but this was the asbestos roof exploding. Apart from the damage to the barn, two trailers and some hay and straw were lost which belonged to Peter Rye who rents the barn to store animal feed stuffs. The Fire Brigade think that the fire may have been caused by children playing with matches; P.C. Guy Thompson has looked into the matter and the C.I.D. are now investigating. A local person informs me that what the fire brigade did not know was that there is the equivalent of a gas sub-station under the ground in front of the barn; had the fire brigade been aware of this then the whole area would have been covered in foam and the adjacent houses evacuated. Fortunately the blaze was quickly extinguished.

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**A SHOW DAY AT THE KENT
COUNTY SHOW**

by Bryony Jackson (aged 10)

We get up at 6am from sleeping the night in the tent. We feed and water the cows then take them for a bath. Most of them like it. When the cows are dry we brush them, paint their hooves with black hoof oil and comb their tails. Then we put dust sheets on them to keep them clean. Just before we are due in the ring we change the cows head collars for smarter ones of leather and chain and tie their numbers on. We brush our own hair and put on white coats so we look equally smart, then we are called to the show ring. We walk round twice. As it is a child handlers class their are a variety of cows and of course our Dexters (editor note - from Sladden Farm). They are all led by young people between the age of seven and fourteen. The judge is looking for good handling, not just the quality of the cow. The judge will tell us all to stand while he examines the cows legs, neck, back and udder if female, then asks cow and handler to walk away from him to see how the cow walks. He does this with every cow. After this we all walk round again and the judge will nod to the person who is the best child handler to line up in the middle of the ring, followed by 2nd, 3rd, 4th and so on. The judge will look again and change the order but this time I get 2nd place. (Well done Bryony)

COUNCIL ELECTIONS You probably know that Labour's Gwyn Prosser is our new MP gaining the seat from Tory, David Shaw. Bryan Cope is our new Conservative County Councillor gaining the seat from Labour with a total vote of 3709. Chris Osmond for Labour was second with 3117 votes and the Liberal Democrats candidate Ian Parker was third with 1929 votes. The Referendum Party and UK Independence Party lost their deposits.

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YOUTH CLUB

The youth club has now been running for over a year. The club meets every Thursday in the village hall between 7 and 9.30pm (ages 8 to 11 from 7 to 9, over 11 until 9.30). The club is run by myself, Neil Bianchie and Bev Allen. During the past year, Neil and myself have attended Youth Leaders Courses, including a minibus driving course which enables us to hire minibuses at a reduced rate from the K.C.C. Youth and Community Service to whom we are now affiliated. Our last outing was a trip to the Ten Pin Bowling Alley at Margate. This was mainly financed by the children themselves who raised the money by taking part in a car wash afternoon on Sunday the 6th of April. Our next event will be on Saturday the 28th of June, when we hope to arrange a "Games and Sports afternoon" followed by a barbecue. All parents and friends are invited to take up the challenge. (Mike Chalkley)

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS The village hall AGM was held on Monday the 28th April when the majority of committee members were present with an addition, George Tyler who was welcomed as a new representative of the Dover and Deal Canine Society. The Treasurer's report for 1996-1997 showed a healthy bank balance. There is still an excess of income over expenditure (£856.17) although not quite as much as the previous year (£1132.42). On the Treasurer's recommendation the committee voted unanimously that the hire charges should remain unchanged. The Chairman thanked the many people who give their time to help the hall and keep the running costs down which benefit all by keeping the hire charges at a very reasonable level. The remainder of

the meeting was taken up with a discussion regarding the building. Although generally in good repair the canopy over the entrance door requires attention and painting is needed externally and internally. As the toilet block requires new flooring the caretaker suggested the Building Sub-Committee consider the idea of rebuilding the block completely, utilising the floor area better and providing an extra room to be used as an office or storage area. Another member floated the idea that the main entrance might now be placed on the side of the car park, the existing door being kept as a fire exit. The meeting closed with the election of officers. Those present voted unanimously to re-elect David Tapsell as chairman, Robert Palmer as treasurer and Peter Mercer as secretary. (Sue Lees)

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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB

I had hoped to present an up-beat inaugural report of the new season but somehow the fates have conspired to produce a disappointing start to the year. We've played three games and lost three. 4th May - bad weather prevented a full game but a 25 over-a-side limited game ended with Chilton scoring 172 for 5 and an Alkham reply of 124 for 5. Notable performances for the home side included Barry Northam 80 not out and Paul Cusden who bowled 2 and caught 1 of the Chilton team.

11th May - Alkham kept Dymchurch to 142 all out before tea, but responded poorly with a sad 99 all out. Nick Price and Ed Bembridge scored 24 and 26 respectively: the honours went to Paul Coleman who took 4 wickets.

18th May - a very strong Old Hartsdonian side scored 246 for 8 (ish) all out. Young James Aunger got Alkham's highest score (9). The captain was rather shy about the details of the game - it was all too painful for him. No doubt this poor start is all part of the skipper's long term tactical plan to lull our opponents into a (false?) sense of security.

Details of future home games are given on the back page of the newsletter. Fixture cards are now available, either call Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082 or come along to a game - players and/or supporters are always welcome. (Paul Tapsell 19th May 1997)

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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

This year is a very special year in the life of the Christian Church in England, as we celebrate 1400 years of Christianity on these shores. 1997 marks the twin 1400th anniversary of the death of Saint Columba who brought the Christian Gospel from Ireland to Iona and the arrival in Canterbury of Saint Augustine who became England's first Archbishop. Celebrations in our diocese take place from 18th to 20th of September this year. On Thursday the 18th September our Archbishop, following his famous predecessor will leave Sandwich Harbour at 10.00am to travel by barge along the river Stour to Richborough. On Friday the 19th September there will be a grand celebration service in the Cathedral at 7.30pm. Sign on the list at the door of St. Anthony's if you'd like a ticket. On Saturday the 20th of September the County Showground at Detling will be the venue for a grand event including exhibitions, souvenir stalls, sports arena, fast food stalls, "it's a knockout", a circus, a band stand etc. lasting from 10.00am to 5.00pm; and in the evening at 7.30pm there will be an evening of live music and dancing for youngsters, also at the Detling showground.

Nearer to home, our benefice's continuing witness to our faith here is marked by our starting rebuilding St. Radigunds, Capel in June. Amazingly we are now in a position to start the project, having £66,142 promised or given. So on June the 1st we shall hold our last service in the old St. Radigund's, and Capel congregation invite members of churches across the benefice to join in that farewell service (the only service in the benefice that day). Here in Alkham we look forward to two Alkham family weddings this month. On June the 21st at 3.30pm: John Sayers and Angela Matthews and on June the 28th at 3.30pm: Paul Tapsell and Sandie Fennell. I do hope to see you at one or other of these events. (Gill Calver: Vicar)

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DIARY OF EVENTS JUNE 1997

REGULAR EVENTS

WEDNESDAY	MOVEMENT TO MUSIC at "Woodstock" 2.30pm. Ring Sheila on 824154 for details
THURSDAY	MOBILE LIBRARY on Vicarage Meadow car park from 10.00am until 10.25am.
FRIDAY	WHIST DRIVE in the village hall at 8.00pm. Contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

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A DAY AT THE RACES Grace Stacey who knew my place as an 8 year old when it was a shop viewed from the school playground some 60 years ago is going to walk from Redhill to Epsom Downs on June the 7 th. (Derby Day) in aid of the Demelza House Children's Hospice near Canterbury. The 30 mile round trip starts from a pub in Redhill and continues from pub to pub until Epsom is reached. I can't help thinking that if I went I'd end up in a ditch somewhere west of Reigate singing Nellie Dean. Grace's son thinks she should have a check up before she goes but Grace is quite confident that it will be no problem and hopes to raise lots of money for the Hospice.

OTHER EVENTS

WEDNESDAY	4	FETE OPEN MEETING - all welcome to attend 8.00pm
THURSDAY	5	YOUTH CLUB in village hall 7-9pm. (9+ years) and 7.30-10.00pm. (12+ years)
SATURDAY	7	BINGO in village hall at 7.30pm. Contact Kathleen Goldfinch on 822776
SUNDAY	8	CRICKET MATCH on village green against Bettshanger Staff at 2.00pm.
TUESDAY	10	W.I. MEETING in the village hall at 7.30pm. (see article)
WEDNESDAY	11	COFFEE MORNING in the village hall at 10.30am in aid of the church fund
THURSDAY	12	YOUTH CLUB in village hall 7-9pm. (9+ years) and 7.30-10.00pm. (12+ years)
SATURDAY	14	NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME at Everden Farm House 2 - 6pm plants, teas etc. + stalls
SUNDAY	15	CRICKET MATCH on village green against Haymakers at 2.00pm.
MONDAY	16	CAGE BIRD SOCIETY in village hall at 7.30pm. Contact David Tapsell on 822282
THURSDAY	19	DOG CLUB in village hall at 7.30pm. Contact Alison Wooding on 01303 840536
THURSDAY	26	YOUTH CLUB in village hall 7-9pm. (9+ years) and 7.30-10.00pm. (12+ years)
SATURDAY	28	WHIST DRIVE arranged by Chris Tapsell at 8.00pm in aid of Canterbury Hospice
SUNDAY	29	CRICKET MATCH on village green against Westbourne at 2.00pm.

CHURCH SERVICES

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
June 1	FAREWELL TO OLD ST. RADIGUNDS - JOINT EUCHARIST BENEFICE AT CAPEL - SUNG 9.30pm		
June 8	Sung Eucharist 9.30pm	Worshipping together 11.00pm	Evensong 6.30pm
June 15	Worshipping together 11.00am	Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30pm
June 22	Joint Benefice sung Eucharist 10.00am at Capel		
June 29	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Mattins (B.C.P.) 11.00am	Prayer Book Communion 8.00am

W.I. NEWS The reverend Gill Carver gave a very interesting talk with slides and display of objects of her time spent with the VSO in Zambia when she was 21, and how when returning there after 22 years found a poorer country with facilities such as schools non-existent and shops empty as there was nothing to sell. Members listened in awe at her experiences; a wonderful and most enjoyable evening. The next meeting is June 10th with speaker Mrs. D Clark on porcelain doll making. Competitions 1 lettuce and jar of chutney.
 (Doreen Wilks)

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 GREENGRASS, gardening & general maintenance, Dave and Christine Tapsell, 822282
 GREENHILL LIVERY YARD, Meggett Lane, South Alkham, D.I.Y./grass liveries, 01303 892056
 HOPTON MANOR, Alkham Valley Road, South Alkham, bed and breakfast, Lilian Walk, 01303 892481
 MARQUIS OF GRANBY, traditional family "pub", good "grub", good "value", good "fun", 822945
 OWLER LODGE, Alkham Valley Road, bed and breakfast, Pat and Bill Owler, 826375
 PETER WEST, Driver Training, 19 Newlyn Meadow, (Police Advanced Driver), 827127
 E R WOODRUFF, building maintenance, carpentry, decorating, Swanbourne Cottage, Wolverton, 824991



ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 47 July 1997

Compiled by Brian Wimsett, The Old Post Office, Slip Lane, Alkham, CT15 7DE Telephone 824969

My apologies to anybody who went to the morning Sung Eucharist at 9.30pm as advertised on the back page of the June edition. I will try and get the service times right from now on. The regular printer is on holiday this month and therefore I have used another printer in Folkestone. Previously we supplied the paper and alternate months the newsletter was either green or yellow but this month for financial reasons it is on white paper. If you have an opinion on this please let me know as I intend to continue with white paper. The main reason for this is that the new printer has a collator which staples the two sheets together. Last month I stapled the 300 odd copies and that is the reason why five of you got two front sheets with the back sheet and I had five back sheets left.



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VILLAGE FETE

An open meeting was held on the 4th of June in the village hall to discuss the final preparations for the fete to be held on the 12th July on Vicarage Meadow to be opened at 2.00pm by Desmond

Sampson who used to be the local vicar. For those people who don't know the chairman of the fete committee is Paul Tapsell, the secretary is Bev Allen and the treasurer is Ann Cook. A lot of work has obviously been carried out to try and make the day a success.

It is hoped that there will be a jazz band as well as the Snowdown Colliery Band. However transportation of the jazz band together with all their instruments is causing a bit of problem. Postman Pat will not be here this year but a group of campanologists from East Sussex probably will be, hopefully not ringing the bells whilst the jazz band are playing. A bit of Hi Di Hi crept in later in the meeting when it was suggested that an area should be roped off and divided into small squares which are then sold. A healthy horse is then let into the roped off area and the square on which it

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deposits, the owner of that square wins a prize. It was not clear what would happen should said horse not oblige or how long to wait but I'm sure it will be sorted out before the fete. Another suggestion was the unrideable bike - would be doubters are invited to have a go and if they can ride the unrideable bike over a specified distance they win a prize. Paul Tapsell is to check the insurance. All great fun.

In addition to the 24 stalls and tents there should also be a tent for the astronomical society to display their telescopes and maps. There will also be competitions for children, Maypole dancing, a tug of war, refreshments and a raffle. There will not be any bingo after the fete this year. Betty Neely who lives at Mount Ararat has plenty of raffle tickets; please ring her on 822688 to get some tickets. For the cake competition please ring Shirley Tapsell on 822638 for particulars.



24 HOUR

INVICTA CARS

BOOKINGS 211111

202030

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Chalksole Green Farm House

The planning application to demolish the farm house and rebuild on the other side of the road has been withdrawn. However a revised application has now been submitted to demolish the farm house and rebuild on the same site. If you have an opinion on this application then you should write immediately to the Director of Planning and Technical Services, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, CT16 3PG quoting DOV/970564.



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DOG FOULING (poop-scoop)

The Dog (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 and associated regulations are finally in place. The new offence is that of failing to remove forthwith, dog faeces from designated land.

The local authority, Dover District Council is at present considering extending the areas within the district on which owners must clear up after their dogs. Presently these are areas such as roads and verges with a speed limit under 40mph, public footpaths, amenity land. Dover District Council is consulting major land owners including parish councils to ensure the scheme is as comprehensive as possible.

Newly designated areas must be properly enforced and DDC has decided to offer the service of it's Dog Wardens to patrol Parish land for an agreed number of hours per week at a cost of about £9 per hour. The cost of prosecution will be borne by DDC but it is possible for the Parish Council to enforce the bye laws but any on-the-spot fines must be paid into central funds.

Further areas which are designated will be reported in the newsletter.

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FUN RUN

My neighbour, Ken Hammond late of the Deal Striders and the Snowdonia Marathon is hoping to organise a fun run for children between the age of 8 and 15. The exact course and programme is yet to be decided but the run will probably start on the village green, go up the footpath towards Oak Wood, along to Mount Ararat then back to the village green, a distance of about 3.5 miles. The help of parents will be required to act as marshals on the course. There will be a nominal entrance fee and medals/prizes will be awarded to the winner and other competitors. Fairly obviously the staging of the event is dependent upon getting enough entries; it's called a "fun run" and that's what it is meant to be. For further information please contact Ken at Meadowside which is at the top of the shared drive behind my place, the first access on the left at the bottom of Slip Lane, or ring me on 824969 to express an interest. Have a go.

MARSHALL & CLARKE PROPERTY AGENTS AND VALUERS

112 London Road, Kearsney, Dover
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and at
1 Cliffe Road, Kingsdown, Deal, Tel. 01304 381622
High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover CT15 6AT
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BUS 193

Town and Around Bus Service are operating a Sunday service until the 14th of September which runs from Folkestone, Marine Parade up the A260 then along the Alkham Valley Road, through Kearsney, Whitfield, Eythorne and Elvington finally terminating at Aylesham. The bus to Folkestone arrives at the Marquis of Granby at 11.54 and Alkham Valley Corner at 12.01 reaching Marine Parade at 12.14. The return buses leave Marine Parade at 15.05 and 17.40 reaching Alkham at 15.23 and 17.58 respectively. More details can be obtained by phoning the bus company on 01303 850856.

FLY TIPPING

If anyone sees fly tipping being carried out and can identify any of the culprits please ring 01304 872428. Dover District Council have asked the Parish Council for this help.

PARISH COUNCIL

A planning meeting was held on the 10th June to discuss the outline planning application to build a residential dwelling on land adjoining May Tree Cottage, Ewell Minnis. The Parish Council were unable to approve the application as there have been no changes since a similar application was submitted in 1991.

CHITTENDEN'S LTD.

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CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION

The Christian Aid collection which was carried out throughout the Parish raised £201.70 which was slightly up on last year. Thank you to all those who gave so generously and thank you to the 9 people who collected door to door; also to the three people who provided refreshments in the village hall for the Christian Aid walkers, Alkham being the half way stage in a 10 mile sponsored walk. (Sue Lees)

OBTUARIES AS REPORTED BY SUE LEES

WILLIAM McLELLAND MUNRO

Those who remember William, better known as 'Jock' will be sorry to hear that that he passed away peacefully at the home of his daughter Jean Bowen on the 5th May aged 94. As a retired MN Captain he lived at Burnside next to the village hall for many years. He will be remembered for his dry sense of humour, twinkle in his eye, and puffing his pipe as he walked his dog round the green.

SAM OSBORNE

Sympathy to his widow, Peggy and family. Sam, aged 84 was a butcher by trade who branched out into farming at Drellingore Farm in 1939. Well liked and respected by all who knew him.

DOROTHY GRAY

Born Dorothy Harvey 90 years ago in Church Cottages, Alkham the daughter of a well known village carpenter and grand daughter of Michael Harvey who came to England to escape the potato famine in Ireland. Although she lived in River with her husband, Reg who pre-deceased her she was always a staunch member of Alkham church and W.I. A lovely lady who could always be relied on to help us with our functions.

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VANDALISM

The perspex in the notice board at Ewell Minnis and the reinforced glass in the notice board by the village hall has been deliberately smashed recently. One pane being fired at close range apparently by an air rifle.

These acts were bad enough but now they have been followed by fire. A camp fire was lit beneath the trees on the lower part of Vicarage Meadow (a dangerous practice in itself), but the fire was fuelled by using the best seat on the Meadow and part of another. These seats are provided by the generosity of people in the village for the use of young and old and particularly with cricket supporters in mind.

Insurance companies do not cover the full cost of repairs to notice boards and replacement seats. This money will have to be met by the Parish Council, whose funds are met by the extra rates which Alkham Parishioners have to pay in their council taxes.

Anyone who sees or hears anything out of place - do not think you might be making a fool of yourself and troubling anyone unnecessarily, please ring the police on 01303 289108 or your Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator or the Parish Clerk on 01304 822661 or a Parish Councillor, any one of which will help you. There have now been two fires in the parish and **ARSON ATTRACTS A PRISON SENTENCE.** (Parish Council)

BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

Heart and circulatory disease is this country's biggest killer. Can you help the British Heart Foundation in the fight against it? We are having a street collection in Folkestone and Hythe on Saturday, 26th July from 10.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m. If anyone is willing to collect for an hour on that day then please ring Rosemary O'Brien on 824480 or Ray Powell on 01303 251065 who would be delighted to hear from you. If you can't collect, perhaps you could buy a British Heart Week silk rose for £1, available from a number of outlets in Folkestone and Dover. (Rosemary O'Brien)



NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

When did you last take the opportunity of attending a service in Canterbury Cathedral, our mother church? This year it is much in the news as we celebrate St. Augustine's arrival in our country 1400 years ago so why not take the opportunity of joining other members of Dover churches to share in an evening service there at 6.30pm on Sunday July 6th. Last year only two of our Alkham villagers managed to attend a similar service.

Our Archdeacon and his wife, Wendy have kindly said that we can use their garden for a picnic tea from 4.00pm onwards so bring a light chair and enter the garden via the door on the north side of the cloisters marked "private". If you can't make that date then why not visit the Cathedral for evensong on Wednesday 2nd July when our parish is prayed for by name.

Nearer to home we send our best wishes and congratulations to Mr. And Mrs. John Sayers and Mr. And Mrs. Paul Tapsell who were married at St. Anthony's last month. (Gill Calver)

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W.I. NEWS

Once again our June meeting started on a sad note, a minutes silence in remembrance of Dorothy Gray, a long standing member who died recently. Our speaker Mrs. Doreen Clark held us captivated with her most enlightening talk on porcelain doll making from mould to finished dolls. She had brought a number with her in various stages of the process which we could handle and admire. She also told of her meeting with the Queen Mother when

she presented a doll named 'Bubbles' which Mrs. Clark had made for her. It now resides in the Queen Mother's apartments in Clarence House. A most enjoyable evening.

Our courageous Top Team Quiz ladies were at least consistent with another wooden spoon for our collection; no wonder they are such excellent cooks. For fete day the tea tent needs more helpers please. Anyone who could make us cakes, buns scones etc., provide plants, prizes, unwanted items or anything we can sell will be greatly appreciated for other stalls. The coffee morning hosted by Betty Neely is on Saturday 26th July at Mount Ararat in aid of the Church funds - all welcome. The outing to Chartwell on the 16th July is on stream, final details on the 8th. The next meeting is on Tuesday 8th July at 7.30pm when the speaker will be Mrs. M Beale who will give a talk on the joys of bread making. The competitions are 6 sweet peas and a treacle tart. The hostesses will be J Scott, W Scopes and P Sayers. (Tricia Wright)

**COOK FABRICATIONS
WELDERS**
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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB

Cricket, like football is (nearly) a game of two halves - it is hoped that Alkham will soon be able to use their half rather more effectively: while the teams fielding is improving all the time the batting this year is frankly disappointing. Of the four games since the last report we lost 2 and drawn 2. 25th May River Woodpeckers - Alkham scored 119 all out (Bembridge 27, Aldridge 28) and River Woodpeckers replied with 120 for 8. 1st June Chilton - Chilton reached 188 for 5 at tea. Alkham reached 103 for 8 in the available overs (Bembridge 24) - drawn game. 8th June Betteshanger Staff - Alkham batted steadily to get 137 for 5 before tea. Betteshanger Staff were kept down to 123 in the available overs. Robert Cowans in his debut match took a fine catch - drawn game. 15th June Haymakers - Haymakers were all out for 145 (another excellent catch for Cowans) but Alkham failed to press their advantage managing only 44 all

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out. The final 4 wickets falling to the Haymakers Mr. Bee in his last match before retiring. We wish him well. The team would like to thank our new scorer Sam, for his starting efforts. As always new talent is always welcome - come along if you are interested in playing, or even if you just want to cheer us on. In the words of the song "The only way is up" (or is it "Even when the darkest clouds are in the sky")

(Paul Tapsell) YOUTH CLUB

This has been a quiet month for the Youth Club, with no extra activities scheduled. The Y.M.C.A. has donated to the club, a new short tennis set that can be played either indoors or outside. Other activities such as pool, snooker, table tennis and soft ball games are always available, as well as many other organised games. Competitions are held in the above activities, and a painting area, mainly for the younger ones is also popular. On the third Thursday of each month, as the village hall is not available, we have cricket and/or rounders on the village green, weather permitting. Could all parents please be aware that, the younger members of the club cannot be allowed outside without a Youth Leader, as we will not be covered by the insurance should anything happen to them. Finally, on Sunday 20th July, at 2pm we will be holding a sponsored walk, followed by a picnic to raise funds for the club.

(Mike Chalkley) A256 WHITFIELD BYPASS

One lane of the bypass in each direction was opened on the 27th May and the old A256 closed for re-conditioning. There still appears to be the same number of lorries bumping and banging their way along the Alkham Valley Road and grinding up the hill by the green. Evidently Folkestone/Channel Tunnel is not sign posted at the junction of the bypass with the A2; this point will be raised at the next Parish Council Meeting. The complete bypass should open on the 2nd of July.

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DIARY OF EVENTS JULY 1997 REGULAR EVENTS

WEDNESDAY	MOVEMENT TO MUSIC at "Woodstock" 2.30pm. Ring Sheila on 824154 for details
THURSDAY	YOUTH CLUB in village hall 7-9pm. (9+ years) and 7.30-10.00pm. (12+ years) except Thursday the 17th
THURSDAY	MOBILE LIBRARY on Vicarage Meadow car park from 10.00am until 10.25am.
FRIDAY	WHIST DRIVE in the village hall at 8.00pm. Contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

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FISH AND CHIPS

For those who don't know a fish and chip van run by Derek and Anne Vickers visits Alkham on Fridays. The van is parked on the village green car park between 7.30pm and 8.30pm which must be handy for those playing whist.

OTHER EVENTS

SATURDAY	5	BINGO in village hall at 7.30pm. Contact Kathleen Goldfinch on 822776
SUNDAY	6	CRICKET MATCH on village green against Coldred at 2.00pm.
MONDAY	7	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING in village hall at 7.30pm - all welcome to attend
TUESDAY	8	W.I. MEETING in the village hall at 7.30pm. (see article)
SATURDAY	12	FETE starts 2.00pm on Vicarage Meadow (see article)
THURSDAY	17	DOG CLUB in village hall at 7.30pm. Contact Alison Wooding on 01303 840536
SATURDAY	19	SOUTH EAST KENT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY in the village hall at 7.30pm
MONDAY	21	CAGE BIRD SOCIETY in the village hall at 7.30pm. Contact David Tapsell on 822282
SATURDAY	26	NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME at Everden Farm House 2 - 6pm plants, teas etc. + stalls
SATURDAY	26	W.I. COFFEE MORNING held by Betty Neely at Mount Ararat in aid of church funds
SUNDAY	27	NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME at Everden Farm House 2 - 6pm plants, teas etc. + stalls
SUNDAY	27	CRICKET MATCH on village green against Burmarsh at 2.00pm.
MONDAY	28	VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETING at 8.00pm in the village hall

CHURCH SERVICES

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
July 6		Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
	6.30 p.m. CATHEDRAL Deanery Ecumenical Service		
July 13	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
July 20	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
July 27	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist 10.00 am at Hougham		

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

So far, during this month we have had only one reported crime in the village (see page 2). We can only keep on top of crime, if all members of the Neighbourhood Watch remember to keep either their street co-ordinator or myself informed of anything they consider to be worth reporting, however small. The Police do not inform us of the exact location, because of the Data Protection Act. We therefore depend on your support to function correctly.
(Mike Chalkley N.W. Co-ordinator)

OTHER BUSINESS SPONSORS

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE, farm shop & tea rooms, open 7 days a week, 01303 893351
 CAPEL-le-FERNE SCHOOL, your local primary school, free bus from Alkham. Telephone 01303 251353
 CANINE beauticians, all breeds of dogs & cats trimmed/groomed, Newcastle House, Ewell Minnis, 822902
 R & B DUCATEL, milk and eggs delivered to your door, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 822620
 GREENGRASS, gardening & general maintenance, Dave and Christine Tapsell, 822282
 GREENHILL LIVERY YARD, Meggett Lane, South Alkham, D.I.Y./grass liveries, 01303 892056
 HOPTON MANOR, Alkham Valley Road, South Alkham, bed and breakfast, Lillian Walk, 01303 892481
 MARQUIS OF GRANBY, traditional family "pub", good "grub", good "value", good "fun", 822945
 OWLER LODGE, Alkham Valley Road, bed and breakfast, Pat and Bill Owler, 826375
 PETER WEST, Driver Training, 19 Newlyn Meadow, (Police Advanced Driver), 827127
 E R WOODRUFF, building maintenance, carpentry, decorating, Swanbourne Cottage, Wolverton, 824991



ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 48 August 1997

Compiled by Brian Wimsett. The Old Post Office, Slip Lane, Alkham. CT15 7DE Telephone 824969

It is encouraging to hear that some of the adverts in the newsletter have generated new business or inquiries for the advertisers. If you do use a business or service as a result of the newsletter please tell them as we rely on them for their support. As a matter of interest the cost of a box advert is £2.50 and a line advert £1.00 per month and subject to available space private adverts can be placed at these rates. The present production cost of 1240 photostats and other expenses comes to about £48 pounds a month so we are on paper making a small profit at present which is put back into the newsletter. About 50% of the newsletter is written by me and the rest by the name attributed at the bottom of the story. I'd be pleased to have further contributors as in the winter months there is less going on. It has been suggested that there be a nature column as Sue Lees tells me there was a rare orchid growing in the church yard. It would also be a good idea to have a column for the children perhaps written by a child. Anyone interested?

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VILLAGE FETE

I am delighted to report that £2650 was raised at the village fete. Thanks must go to Paul Tapsell and his committee for organising it and all the stall holders, volunteers, and other contributors who made this possible. The day started overcast but by mid-morning the weather was glorious and people started arriving such that by early afternoon there were over 300 cars in the car parks and one on the meadow this being the Hollis Motors mini Volkswagen which was cheerfully putting around with excited children on board. The small steam train chugged back and forth whilst bigger steam engines and wagons puffed gently behind.



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The egg and spoon races were very popular with the winners getting 30p, 20p and 10p for a place. Trade at the stalls was brisk with the second hand book stall taking over £220. The healthy horse competition reported in the last newsletter differed slightly as a panel of experts decided on which square the horse would have deposited and put it in a sealed envelope (the square number I understand). A rather odd art to be an expert in unless it was the toy horses Dinky and Pearly who were on show.

Christine Tapsell was delighted to hear she had won the competition for the best cheese straws. For the victoria sponge Mrs. Scopes won with Mrs. Lees and Mrs. Shepherd second and third. Mrs. Poulden won the jam competition with Mrs. Lees second. Mrs. Shepherd won the Catering Cup Award and the whole affair was judged by Eileen West. In the under 7's art competition Chelsea Woodison won with Emily Messenger and Claire Partier second and third. The 8's and over was won by Matthew Hastings with Emily Degrossa and Kirsty Tapsell second and third. Mr. And Mrs. Palmer did very well in the flower and veg. section. The Astronomical Society manned a popular side show with various telescopes and a competition as to how far a tennis ball and football should be apart being a faithful representation of the moon and earth. The ice cream was sold out by half past three and there was a mini crisis on the hot dog stall when Maurice and Pam Sayers ran out of rolls, bread and onion with 15 sausages left. The bands played, bells rung and there was dancing round the Maypole. A great tradition and a great day.

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ADVANCE NOTICES

There will be a fete AGM on Wednesday the 3rd September at 8pm and a Harvest Supper on Monday the 22nd of September both in the village hall. More details next month.

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The bi-monthly meeting was held on the 7 July and the following occurred.

HIGHWAYS A letter from KCC was read out which was a response to a letter from the Parish Council.

Surface dressing between Stombers Lane and Short Lane is currently planned and should be completed by the end of August. The Forstal has been patched. (has been done)

Greenwich Lane Ewell Minnis has been assessed for patching which should take place soon. Sweeping by KCC is not undertaken unless there is a highway hazard but environmental sweeping should be carried out by DDC. This matter was again raised in the interval with regard to mud on the road.

Wolverton Hill fill to a site in Redbarn Lane is almost complete (6/6/97).

Kerbing to both sides of the junction with the Alkham Valley Road is planned. The lay-by which is being filled is not part of the public highway (sic). This was also raised in the interval and further research is to be carried out. It was generally considered that the problem of fly tipping had been brought about by the new landfill tax and particularly the height barriers at council tips.

Footpaths all paths included in the KCC contract will only be strimmed twice a year instead of three times. Replacement stiles should still be available.

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DOG FOULING areas which are being considered to be included as 'no poop areas' are the Village Green, The Churchyard, Green Lane Ewell Minnis and Short Lane. A notice will have to be published in the local paper before they become law and poop bins provided. Fido? was cheapest at £48. A sub-committee will be formed.

PLANNING The mobile home and stabling at Peters Close has been permitted. The application for the Firs was refused.

FINANCES It was felt that the Parish should join the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) at a cost of £17.50 annually. The balance of accounts for the Parish remain high and this is because money had been put aside for the purchase of Vicarage Meadow. This has not happened.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS there was discussion regarding the parking of vehicles on the village green and also on the verge opposite the Marquis of Granby. With regard to the latter KCC was going to be asked to speed up the installation of a deterrent. Wooden posts set in concrete were suggested. The Community Health Council was mentioned with regard to the closure of the children's ward at Buckland Hospital (see article bottom right). On another matter the Chairman suggested approaching DDC for a grant and the private sector for contributions to employ a person (honorarium) to work 8 hours a week within the parish for litter picking, mud cleaning (Ewell Minnis) etc. Views will be sought but in the main it was thought a good idea.

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Telephone 01304 852960

WASTE PAPER

At Alkham Valley Farm shop there is presently one bin for the collection of waste paper. This is generally filled up and extra paper is stored elsewhere at

the farm shop. Rogers, the firm which collects the waste paper has said that one bin is not viable. Therefore the parish is trying to arrange for a second or third bin. The money raised from the sale of the waste paper goes to youth activities in the village so please support the venture and take your waste paper to the bin(s).

FUN RUN disappointingly there were only 4 children entered by their parents for the fun run and therefore it is not possible to hold the event. It would have been 'fun' and perhaps we'll have another try next year. Please contact me or Ken Hammond to express an interest for an event next year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

You may be interested to know I have had two letters. One was very supportive from Mrs. Ashman and the other very critical and too long to print, although if finances allowed I would have liked to have included both.

FREDERIC HALL (Solicitors)

York House Folkestone 01303 851185
and Clyde House, Dover(202411)

NOISE D.D.C. are operating a 24 hour response service to noise complaints until 20th October 1997. Complainants should phone D.D.C. on 01304 821199. For more information contact Alan Hargreaves or Mr. B Gibson.



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DON'T PICK THEM! With reference to the editorial on page 1 someone has picked the rare pyramid orchid. Sue Lees writes on 12th July someone picked it. Shame on that person, wild flowers are best left to grow where they are. Our valley is well known for it's profusion of wild flowers, some rare and many plentiful - but just remember if you chance on a flower you don't recognise look it up in a book, photograph it but don't pick it. It might be one rare flower this year which might become two next year.

OBITUARY Margaret Archer who was related to the Goldfinch family of Alkham, was born in Dover in 1928. She moved to Wolverton with her parents and brother during WWII. She took part in village life being a member of Alkham church and serving on the Parish Council committee for several years. She enjoyed a game of whist and ran regular whist drives in the village hall. She was a W.I. member for over 40 years and was a stall holder at the Dover W.I. market. (Sue Lees)

HOUGHAM HEATING AND PLUMBING

ring "Gary" :- daytime or in
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HORSE SHOW on Sunday the 17th August Wendy Burrows informs me that there is the annual open horse show at Greenhill Farm starting at 9.00 am. Phone 01303 892056 for details.

BOOT FAIR - similarly Helen Scopes rang to say that on the 23rd August at the Willows, Slip Lane starting at 10.30 am. there will be a boot fair in aid of the donkey sanctuary in Devon. Parking is available.

AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

Did you know that there is an agricultural museum at Brook which is half way between Ashford and Wye? I took early retirement and through REACH have ended up as unpaid curator. It's a superb 14th century barn with adjacent oast house with over 1000 exhibits. It's open on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 2.00 and 5.00 pm until the end of September or otherwise as arranged with me. It's worth a visit and there's no entrance fee except for large groups.

COOK FABRICATIONS WELDERS

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BUCKLAND HOSPITAL

There will be an open meeting in the village hall on the 20th August at 7.30pm at which there will be speakers from South Kent Hospital to discuss in general the running of the health service at Buckland Hospital. There will also be the opportunity to raise matters regarding the children's ward.

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

St. Anthony's is an outward looking, as well as an inward looking community. Last year we decided to give away the proceeds of our Harvest Supper to a remote hospital in Zambia. This year on August the 17th Dr. Cairns, who has worked at hospital for many years is coming to speak to us about the project our village helped to support. Do come to our 11.00 am service to hear what he has to say to us. If you can't make the 11.00 am service come to the 9.30 am service at Hougham as he will be speaking there too. On the last Sunday of August we'll be joining in the old St. Mary's Church again, where so many of you share common memories. We're joining in a united Benefice Communion service at 10.00 am. Come and worship in this beautiful old church which we open just a few times a year. (Reverend Gill Calver)



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W.I. NEWS The July meeting was a hot one in more ways than one. Not because hot air was expended, far from it. It was a hot summers evening made more so by the excellent demonstration of bread making and baking. Mrs. Beale made the task look so simple, members went home clutching recipe sheets determined to have a go themselves. However the meeting had started with the sad news of the unexpected death of Margaret Archer, a staunch member for some 40 years or more. Margaret organised the monthly gardening competitions and thoroughly enjoyed entering gardening, cooking and craft competitions herself for which she was to win many awards. Margaret also collected used postage stamps from members to raise money for cancer research. Her presence will be missed. The Group Meeting Treasure hunt will be held at Samphire Hoe on 4th August from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. It is not easy to see how this can be organised on the rather open site but it is an ideal opportunity to see the 'new' piece of England with it's fresh planted flora. The Treasurer Shirley Giles, was pleased to announce that a donation has

been made of £20 towards the House and Garden Fund for the Federation Office in Beer Cart Lane, Canterbury. Next month's meeting on 12th August is to be very informal, giving members a chance for a chat. Do please delve into your photo boxes and find a picture of yourselves 5 years old for a 'who ever was that' competition. (Sue Lees)

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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB

The rather slow start to the season has now been put behind us, and while I cannot really say that we are on a winning streak (as that would require at least two wins in a row), we are getting better in that we have won two of the last four games.

29th June - Westbourne - Westbourne scored 111 all out and Alkham replied with 102, despite a fine captain's innings from I Callaway who scored a respectable 30

6th July - Coldred - Coldred batted first and were kept down to 125 all out, a masterful response from a strangely confident Alkham resulted in a winning score of 128 for 6: Cusden and Price scored 38 and 24 respectively and G Wright managed 19 not out, which should help his average.

13th July - Lydden - Alkham reached a sad total of 55 all out and Lydden replied with 56 for 7, although P Coleman's bowling deserves mention with a total of 9 overs, 3 maidens, 4 wickets for only 12 runs.

20th July - G Brown Invitation XI - batting first Alkham reached 118 all out, a nail biting finish left G B I XI with 115 all out, but it really was all on the last few balls, and all in all a very good game (to quote Brucie).

We are still in need of both players and supporters

so if you are interested in a little light lunch, Sunday afternoon exercise and fresh air please give me a call (Paul Tapsell 01303 892082) and we will see what we can arrange.

Also if anyone has any information as to who broke into the store shed stealing several small items that would be useless to anyone other than us, please let me know. (Paul Tapsell)

YOUTH CLUB

The youth club will be taking a summer break during the month of August. As many members will be on holiday, it was decided, by the leaders that a well earned rest was required. The sessions will resume on the first Thursday in September however Neil Bianchi is unable to continue as a helper. A volunteer is therefore required. Please contact me on 820798 if you are willing to assist. (Mike Chalkley)

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

During the month of July some garden furniture was stolen. A car was broken into by smashing a side window and property was removed. The latter crime occurred on a Sunday afternoon



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between 3 and 5 pm. In broad daylight. There have been several instances of vandalism and petty damage in Short Lane and Glebelands area. This type of crime, although not of a serious nature, causes distress and upset to the people affected. Therefore once again I must stress the importance of reporting anything unusual to your co-ordinator, or the Police if you feel it necessary. Please do not forget, when you go on holiday to inform your neighbours and the local co-ordinator and make sure your property does not look unoccupied for any length of time.

(Mike Chalkley)

SECURITY FIRM

I have been advised that a company called E.E.C. (European Environmental Contractors) are working in the area. They used to be known as FIREGUARD U.K. The company uses high pressure selling techniques to sell security equipment, namely alarms costing in the region of £700 to £1000. They are being investigated by the Trading Standards Officers and anyone who is visited is asked to contact 01304 218151 to report them. Please do not be taken in by the salesmen. They can be very plausible. (Mike Chalkley)

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DIARY OF EVENTS AUGUST 1997 REGULAR EVENTS

THURSDAY	YOUTH CLUB none this month - see article on page 3
THURSDAY	MOBILE LIBRARY on Vicarage Meadow car park from 10.00am until 10.25am.
FRIDAY	WHIST DRIVE in the village hall at 8.00pm. Contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

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Next month there will be more on Sladden Farm as I understand Mr. And Mrs. Smith did very well at the County Show with their Dexter cattle. Also because it is the holiday season there may be more articles of a general interest in the September edition.

OTHER EVENTS

SATURDAY	2	BINGO in village hall at 7.30pm. Contact Kathleen Goldfinch on 822776
SUNDAY	3	Booked for a private party
SATURDAY	9	SOUTH EAST KENT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY in the village hall at 7.30pm
TUESDAY	12	W.I. MEETING in the village hall at 7.30pm. (see article)
SUNDAY	17	HORSE SHOW at Green Hill Farm starting 9.00 am - see article on page 2
MONDAY	18	CAGE BIRD SOCIETY in the village hall at 7.30pm. Contact David Tapsell on 822282
WEDNESDAY	20	BUCKLAND HOSPITAL at 7.30pm open meeting - see article on page 2
THURSDAY	21	DOG CLUB in village hall at 7.30pm. Contact Alison Wooding on 01303 840536
SATURDAY	23	BOOT FAIR at the Willows, Slip Lane 10.30 am. (see article)
SATURDAY	23	CRICKET Harrington Hackers Junior cricket team at 2.00 pm.
SUNDAY	24	CRICKET Harrington Hackers Seniors v Alkham on Vicarage Meadow at 2.00 pm.
SUNDAY	24	COFFEE to be served following church service
SATURDAY	30	WHIST DRIVE arranged by Chris Tapsell phone 824765

CHURCH SERVICES

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
August 3	Evensong Mr. John Crowley 6.30pm.	Sung Eucharist Reverend Dr. M Hinton 9.30 am	Worshipping together Mrs Diane Deer 11.00 am
August 10	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
August 17	Worshipping together 11.00 am *	NO SERVICE	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am *
August 24	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist 10.00 am. at Alkham		
August 31	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist 10.00 am. at St. Mary's		

* Dr. Cairns from Katete Hospital, Zambia where he served as U.S.P.G. missionary is coming to both services to tell us more about this project which all three of our churches support

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 HOPTON MANOR, Alkham Valley Road, South Alkham, bed and breakfast, Lilian Walk, 01303 892481
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 OWLER LODGE, Alkham Valley Road, bed and breakfast, Pat and Bill Ower, 826375
 PETER WEST, Driver Training, 19 Newlyns Meadow, (Police Advanced Driver), 827127
 E R WOODRUFF, building maintenance, carpentry, decorating, Swanbourne Cottage, Wolverton, 824991



ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 49 September 1997

Compiled by Brian Wimsett, The Old Post Office, Slip Lane, Alkham, CT15 7DE Telephone 824969

Another financial year starts for the newsletter with most of the advertisers renewing their subscriptions. As mentioned in last months newsletter there are more items of a general nature this month with three excellent articles from Peter Chambers late of a national newspaper writing about Pimlico, Di Smith about Sladden Farm and Devina Bartlett writing nature notes, the latter being a regular column. There is also a crossword which I hope is not too difficult. The newsletter has been printed early this month because of other commitments so if there are any late breaking stories they will be in next months copy.

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CHALKSOLE GREEN FARM HOUSE

Dover District Council confirmed that the Planning Committee has granted outline planning permission to Mr. Anthony Helstrip for a replacement dwelling at Chalksole Green Farm. This means that permission has been granted to demolish the existing farm house which dates from the late 1700's. The Parish Council, apart from one abstention is still totally opposed to the demolition of the property because it feels that the house is attractive, of historic value, has some architectural importance and the style of the house lends itself to the AONB in which it lies. However once the Planning Committee, which consists of locally elected councillors has given approval it is very unlikely that their decision will be reversed. A site meeting was requested by the Parish Council and various other parties before a decision was made. Dover District Council say that a resolution was to be made to this effect, however when the background to the application was explained to the committee and DDC confirmed that the proposal was in line with planning policy the resolution for the site meeting was withdrawn.

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL

At the meeting on Monday the 28th July the treasurer reported a healthy bank balance boosted with thanks to Betty Neely for funds donated from her coffee morning and in anticipation of the annual donation from the fete committee. The building sub-committee are looking to make general repairs such as the porch roof and exterior paint work. More significant building works are being considered, which could see such changes as a new door/entrance leading directly from the car park into the hall, a new toilet block including facilities for the disabled, and such extras as space for storage or a small committee room. However anything as major as this takes a long time to come to fruition and only preliminary enquiries are being made at the moment. The committee were told of a circa 1900 painting of Alkham church which Eileen West is going to donate to the hall. The hall now has an interesting collection of pictures of Alkham past and the committee looks forward to receiving the new picture. Our thanks to Eileen in anticipation. (Sue Lees)

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Telephone 01304 852960

FIRE yet another fire has occurred in the village this time in the churchyard. A small stack of recently bailed hay was deliberately fired. Fortunately it was spotted before it spread to the nearby trees and was quickly put out.

ORCHIDS you may recollect reference in the last edition being made to a rare orchid which was picked in the churchyard. Jan Martinez who held open days in aid of charity at Everden Farm House tells me that last year a

Bee orchid appeared in her garden and a second this year. A visitor to the garden who knew the farm house many years ago in his youth said the whole area was a mass of bee orchids at that time. There will be an open day on Sunday the 5th of October from 2 to 5pm for the National Garden Scheme.

JAN MARTINEZ

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BUSHEY RUFF

Waters which disappeared from Bushey Ruff and Russell Gardens at the beginning of August were replenished thanks to the Department of the Environment and F & D Water Company. Using a generator waters were drawn out of a borehole in a previously untapped aquifer. The water was pumped into the upper lake between Chilton and Bushey Ruff and also into Bushey Ruff. This will not only restore the lakes, but will prevent the base of the lakes drying out, resulting in damage to the clay lining. Once that is lost it is an expensive business making the lakes capable of holding water. Hopefully pumping will continue until the autumn rains replenish the lakes. (Sue Lees)

LETTER Mrs. Ashman has written to say she is delighted that Green Lane, Ewell Minnis is to be a "no poop area". She asks that I record her thanks to her husband for keeping the hedges and grass verges cut along the lane. I'm sure that the people who use the lane would echo these sentiments.

COOK FABRICATIONS

WELDERS

Broomfield Works, Fernfield Lane

Hawkinge

01303 893011



24 HOUR

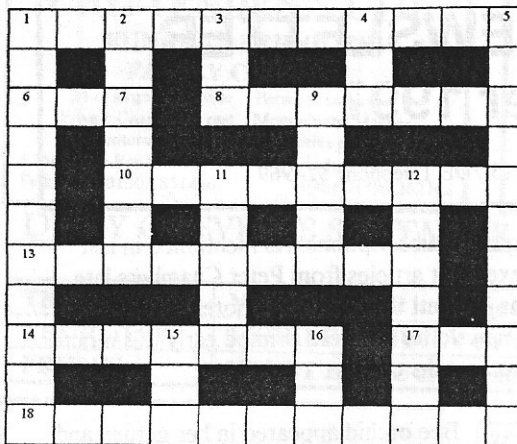
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ACROSS

- 1. English replace Italians in boring metal near pumping station. (11)
- 6. Mean time. (3)
- 8. A house in the country, maybe a box and over the top inside. (7)
- 10. Not a Marquis but a member of the same house, maybe inferior and a bit of a ringer. (5,4)
- 13. On the edge of the Parish but lacks hole possibly. (9)
- 14. Selling without point at first but gets point at last. (7)
- 17. Lair for ex. Eastender? (3)
- 18. Confused star and German in lodgings south of the Parish? (2,9)

DOWN

- 1. There would have been some of these at the village hall last month. Follow them and be more intricate to a point. (3,8)
- 2. Perhaps see tall girl? (7)
- 3. Resin for serviceman. (3)
- 4. Acquire a backward sheep. (3)
- 5. In the parish to the east with fairly small cars going round the north. (5,6)
- 9. Disturb one inside and put on the power. (5)
- 11. Disturb afresh when going backwards around a king. (5) *For those who don't do cryptic crosswords I recommend Anne Bradford's Crossword Solvers Dictionary.*
- 12. Always study here in the parish? (7)
- 15. Man, perhaps a terrorist? (3)
- 16. Urge for example with some gravity. (3)

PRIZE CROSSWORD

In this crossword there are 6 names which appear on the Ordnance Survey map within or close to the parish. The answers, except the 6 have a definition and a cryptic clue. A prize of a bottle of Sainsbury's Cava will be awarded to

the first correct entry picked out of the hat on the 16th September 1997. If you don't want to cut the crossword out then write the answers together with your name and address on a piece of paper and pop it through my letter box.

COUNTRY NOTES

How many of you perform the daily task of walking the dog through the gate at the back of St. Anthony's churchyard and follow the footpath up and over the hills? Maybe you find it a bit of a chore, but there is so much beauty around you to make it a pleasant part of the day. Wild flowers abound, yarrow, daisy, buttercup, thistle, trefoil, ragwort and spurge to name but a few. On reaching the third stile, patches of wild purple thyme are smothered with butterflies and the air is heavy with the hum of bees. If you turn round now the whole valley is laid out before you like a patchwork quilt. When you reach the last stile, walk through the hedge and the field is full of swaying corn. Here the earth is hard, dry and cracked under the baking sun. Clouds of tiny gnats swirl above. My path goes to the right. Here the air is cooler and the lane displays it's colour scheme of pink, white and lilac. Harebells, Rosebay willow herb and ox eye daisy are abundant. Wood pigeons coo and a flash of green reveals a woodpecker. I can smell honeysuckle and hear the faint splash of a waterfall. And so home again. Who says dog walking is a chore? **(Devina Bartlett)**

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PIMLICO Pimlico way flourishes. This bridle way was rehabilitated some five years ago by Alkham villagers and other volunteers after its destruction by Hughie 'Dustbowl' Batchelor. The path turns off Slip Lane and runs west above the Alkham Valley before dropping down a green lane to South Alkham. I walked it recently with my friend Gordon Preston, who has lived more than 70 years in the village. 'Pimlico' --- a strange capital-city name like 'Little London' --- has vanished completely. The farm was abandoned only after the last war but the name has disappeared from the OS Pathfinder map. Gordon Preston remembers the place. 'Fred Prescott was the farmer. He had twelve cows and carried his milk churns to the road at South Alkham for collection.' It was the local tree warden Bob Palmer and the Alkham Valley Society who organised the 'greening' of Pimlico Way, with grants from various sources adding up to several hundred pounds. Forty trees and two thousand hedging plants were dug in over a weekend, as I well remember, with Bob Palmer as gangmaster. John Huggins lent a tractor. Farmer John Barnes (now in Shropshire) supplied manure. The White Cliffs Countryside project publicised the event and many non-

Alkham volunteers turned up. It just shows what 'direct action' can achieve in a community, once the movers and shakers get things started. England has masses of pointless footpaths, but Pimlico Way is not one of them. It goes from one place to another place, and it is a pleasure to walk it. Botanical note: all the plants are indigenous English: ash, field maple, cherry, dogwood, hornbeam and hawthorn. Drought has meant some of the trees are struggling, but the hedgerow is dense.

(Peter Chambers)

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ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

annual outing is to the Wartime Tunnels and Exhibition at Dover Castle on the 17th September. Tickets and further details are available from Mrs. S Tapsell at Bramhall, Alkham Valley Road (Dover 822295). Tickets cost £7 adults or £6 children. A special rate Marquis Fish Supper has been arranged but must be booked in advance before the outing. **HARVEST SUPPER** is 7.15 for 7.30 pm in the village hall on Monday the 22nd September and costs £3.50 with numbers limited to 80. Contact Betty Neely on 822688.

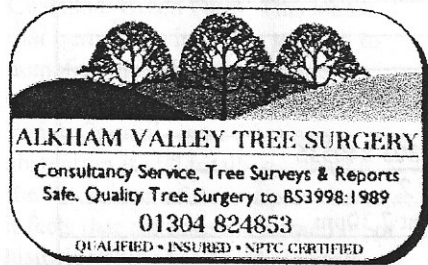
JUMBLE SALE in aid of the P.C.C. at 10.30 am in the village hall on Saturday the 13th of September.

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Telephone 822420**NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S**

It was very good to welcome young James John Golding (grandson of Colin and Daphne Griggs) into the church by his baptism on the 27th July, especially as the event nearly had to be called off when 'Dad' Kevin was taken ill a few weeks earlier. We do hope we shall see many of our parishioners at our Harvest Festival on September the 21st at 11.00am and at our Harvest Supper in the village hall on the evening of Monday the 22nd of September. Proceeds this year will be divided between the Air Ambulance based locally and the Mission Hospital in Zambia which we help to support. Hopefully we shall be better informed this year as to where our money is used after Dr. Cairns visit in August talking about his many years work at Katete Hospital. (Reverend Gill Calver)



CONGRATULATIONS Eric and Sylvia Chambers of 23 Glebelands are now proud grandparents with the birth of Emmy - Jane born to Angie and Denz on the 1st of August weighing in at 7lb 15oz. (Tricia Wright)

W.I. NEWS because of the early deadline this month the W.I. news was reported over the phone so any inaccuracies are down to me (Editor). Devina Bartlett once again devised an excellent quiz and all the ladies worked very hard for an hour or so to get the answers right, with plenty of laughs along the way. This was followed by a competition in which photos of the members at the age of 5 and under were passed round and guesses had to be taken as to who they were now. Devina Bartlett's photograph of herself sitting on a potty aged 3 caused some amusement. The successful guess rate was not very high with Sue Lees getting 8 right, but again there was plenty of laughter. The next meeting is on the 9th of September when the hostesses will be Iris Boswell, Pat Yeoman and Tricia Wright. The speaker will be Mr. Austin

from Tesco's who will be talking about the company. The Alkham W.I. are hostesses for the W.I. group meeting on the 30th September providing cakes and sandwiches. Cherry Leppard is organising an evening meal out on the 3rd October at Etchinghill Golf Club. More details later. (Tricia Wright)

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OBITUARY very sad to report the death of Lynn Jeapes-Hall who died on Sunday the 10th of August, at last relieved of pain after a long illness. Sympathy goes out to her husband Bryan and mother Beattie.

MOOMIN DEXTERS from Sladden Farm attended the Royal Show at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire. Bryony Jackson came with me as my "stockman" having travelled the 200 miles with a trailer on Saturday the 28th June. We took 4 cows, Jenny, Polly, Mulberry and Sunshine. Showing classes took place on the Tuesday with Polly taking a 3rd, Mulberry handled by Bryony was placed 3rd, Sunshine 2nd and Jenny 1st and the championship. It is every cattle person's ambition to have a Royal Show Champion and we were proud to take the honours. This is the Moomins herd's second Royal Championship, we won it in 1994 with Polly (I do not think there are many cattle herds in the country that can boast 2 Royal Show Champions!) We returned from the Royal on Friday the 5th, a long haul home and Bryony and I were very tired after a busy and exciting week. The following Tuesday we set off for our County Show at Detling. This is always a good Dexter show and there were 62 Dexters from all over the south of England. We took a team of Jenny, Polly, Mulberry, Jay, Floss, Pollydoodle (with her calf Doodlebug) and Prince Royal the bull. In the Thursday classes Jenny and Polly took first prizes, Pollydoodle and Jay took seconds and Prince Royal was 4th. Jenny went on to take the top honours by being declared champion again. On Friday we had local Dexter classes confined to exhibitors in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Mulberry won the heifer class and Jenny the cow class. Altogether we had a wonderful show except for the fact that Bryony was taken ill on the Friday and felt too sick to show her beloved Mulberry. In the

end she had to go home and unfortunately missed the young handlers class on the Saturday in which I am sure she would have done very well. On Saturday the 2nd of August we went to the Cranleigh Show in Surrey. Showing on Sunday, Jenny and Polly took first prizes and Mulberry (with Bryony) a third. Jenny was again declared champion making three championships in a row. What a wonderful year the Moomins are having! (By the way both Jenny and Polly are 10 years old). On Saturday the 9th of August the Chertsey Show with Polly, Mulberry and Jay (very, very hot so we didn't take a cow in milk). Polly and Mulberry took first prizes with little Jay placed 5th; Polly took the Championship (now 4 championships in a row). (Di Smith)

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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB

The Good News - I am pleased to report a 100% success rate as far as this month's report on the cricket club is concerned. The Bad News - we only played one game. First the result: Burmarsh 27th July, Alkham batted first and reached 96 all out on a difficult wicket; high scorers were Nick Price with 27 and Paul Coleman with 20. In addition Sam Marlowe (promoted from scorer to player for the second time) maintained his average with another solid performance. Burmarsh replied 84 all out, bowling honours going to Paul Coleman who got 4 wickets for only 12 runs. All in all a very pleasant game, made all the more enjoyable by the result. The other 2 games scheduled for this month (Woodchurch away and Burmarsh at home) had to be cancelled because of lack of players. This is always disappointing but even more so when the Woodchurch game is only one of two long-standing trophy fixtures in our season; it's one thing to lose after a good game but quite another to lose by default. So far no one has responded to my requests for either players or supporters, nor has anyone expressed an interest in becoming a non playing member of the Club; we are first and foremost a village club and it seems a shame that so few villagers seem to be interested in what we do. If anyone is interested in playing occasionally or to make up the numbers please give me or Captain, Ian Galloway (01843 823231) a ring. (Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)

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DIARY OF EVENTS SEPTEMBER 1997**REGULAR EVENTS**

THURSDAY	YOUTH CLUB in village hall 7-9pm. (9+ years) and 7.30-10.00pm. (12+ years) except Thursday the 18th
THURSDAY	MOBILE LIBRARY on Vicarage Meadow car park from 10.00am until 10.25am.
FRIDAY	WHIST DRIVE in the village hall at 8.00pm. Contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

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ROCKING HORSE A vigilant resident noticed the horse needed urgent repair works and we must thank Eric Cook, Cook Fabrications Ltd., for dealing with the matter immediately and at a very low cost to the rate payers of Alkham

ALKHAM CHURCHYARD Once again has had its annual cut and trim. Chris, David, Richard, Allen and Paul Tapsell have worked extremely hard, with help from John Crockford. The churchyard and graves look well - thank you. (Sue Lees)

OTHER EVENTS

WEDNESDAY	3	FETE OPEN MEETING in village hall at 8.00pm
SATURDAY	6	BINGO in village hall at 7.30pm. Contact Kathleen Goldfinch on 822776
SUNDAY	7	CRICKET MATCH on village green against Coldred at 1.30pm.
MONDAY	8	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING in village hall at 7.30pm - all welcome to attend
TUESDAY	9	W.I. MEETING in the village hall at 7.30pm.
SATURDAY	13	JUMBLE SALE - in village hall at 10.30am - see article page 2
MONDAY	15	CAGE BIRD SOCIETY in the village hall at 7.30pm. Contact David Tapsell on 822282
WEDNESDAY	17	ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY annual outing - see article page 2
THURSDAY	18	DOG CLUB in village hall at 7.30pm. Contact Alison Wooding on 01303 840535
MONDAY	22	HARVEST SUPPER in village hall 7.15 for 7.30pm - see article page 2
TUESDAY	23	DOVER AND DISTRICT HORSE SOCIETY AGM in village hall at 7.30pm
TUESDAY	30	W.I. GROUP MEETING in the village hall at 7.30pm.

CHURCH SERVICES Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119 Wardens - Betty Neely 822688 - Betty Preston 822421

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sept. 7	Evensong 6:30 pm	Joint celebration Harvest Festival : Sung Eucharist 11.00 am at St Lawrence Church, Hougham as part of their Country Weekend	
Sept. 14	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
Sept. 21	Worshipping together 11.00 am Harvest Festival celebrations	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
Sept. 28	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist 10.00 am at Hougham		

FAREWELL To Tony and Sheila Ingall. Sadly they have left for Minehead. To show the appreciation for starting the newsletter a donation in the form of a gift voucher from the Parish Council was made on behalf of Alkham residents accompanied by best wishes on one of Margaret Knowle's cards. (Sue Lees). Editor note: I think Tony was quite remarkable and unsung. Every month apart from compiling the newsletter he delivered over 50 copies to the remotest parts of the parish, a car journey of over 2 hours. He is quite a character as well with a dry sense of humour - my best wishes to them.

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GREENGRASS, gardening & general maintenance, Dave and Christine Tapsell, 822282
GREENHILL LIVERY YARD, Meggett Lane, South Alkham, D.I.Y./grass liveryes, 01303 892056
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ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 50 October 1997

Compiled by Brian Wimsett, The Old Post Office, Slip Lane, Alkham, CT15 7DE Telephone 824969

Only two people entered the crossword competition and both had different but acceptable answers to one down. The prize is therefore split between Sue Garlinge of Newlyn Meadow and Margaret Ashman of Green Lane, Ewell Minnis. Well done to both of you and thanks for entering. I now have a modem so should anyone wish to send me a fax then please ring me and I will turn the computer on. There is also a large post box by my back door big enough for distribution folders and contributions. Should any parents want to wish their child happy birthday, I would be pleased to print it in the newsletter - write or give me a ring.

Gary Docherty
Hougham Heating & Plumbing
 Telephone : 01304 208419
 Mobile: 0836 582112
 10 Lady Garne Road, West Hougham

The Parish Council meeting was held at the village hall on Monday the 1st of September. Various topics arose which are reported below together with other comment or opinion.

Highways - the parish council had written to KCC regarding the lack of signing at the end of the Whitfield Bypass. The reply from Mike Smith agreed that the Channel Tunnel and Folkestone should (have been?) be signed but he thought it unlikely that it would have much effect on regular users of the Alkham Valley Road. He pointed out that when the new A20 was opened the traffic dropped by 2000 vehicles per day to around 5000 and he hoped that it would drop further because of the new A256. One could come to the conclusion that a flow of around 5000 vpd along the Alkham Valley Road is acceptable to the highway planners. Should funds become available KCC will implement a traffic calming scheme, but this is unlikely unless another scheme is cancelled. The Chairman mooted the question that perhaps the Parish Council should part fund a traffic calming scheme. At first sight this would appear to be nonsense as we pay taxes to finance such schemes. However perhaps the only way to get a suitable traffic calming scheme is to part fund on the premise that it is better to have something than nothing, and in part funding we may have a chance to say what we want. It was noted that nothing had been heard from our local councillor Bryan Cope who had been written to repeatedly especially about -

Winter Maintenance - as previously reported salt bins were not going to be maintained by KCC. Contingency plans will be made by the Parish Council. There are 9 bins and estimates will be sought with a refill cost of between £9 and £25 per bin.

Jacqueline Bentley
Advanced Trainee Psycho
Therapist - BA Hons C.Q.S.W.
If you wonder what this is but think it might be for you then give me a ring
 01303 893743

The verge opposite the Marquis of Granby A letter from KCC was read out which said that because of the village situation wooden bollards would be appropriate to deter off road parking but as they were a bit more expensive a contribution would be sought from the parish council. A spirited argument was put forward by Colin Griggs for galvanised steel posts and on the vote this motion was carried. A resident in Newlyn Meadow thought that stopping the off road parking would result in cars parking in Newlyn Meadow (see last page). Discussion followed in which it was thought that signing should be provided to direct cars to the village car park. The parish council however sympathised with the writer and would review the situation should a problem develop. There was some discussion in the interval regarding Wolverton Hill and Ewell Minnis. There was sympathy for the lay-by owner at the bottom of Wolverton Hill in as much as he would have to pay to bring it up to highway standards if KCC were to adopt it. The heavy lorry traffic on the hill is a problem as it was thought was the general increase in traffic at Ewell Minnis. Unfortunately little can be done to redress the situation regarding heavy lorries as a 6' 6" except for access is very difficult to police.

FLAG POLE - the flag is now flying but no one could have imagined that it would start its life at half mast as a mark of respect for Diana, Princess of Wales. Thanks especially to Ernie Cook, John Ullmann and Sue Lees for their efforts in getting the flag pole. Other topics which were discussed included the car park light for which an ultimatum is to be issued; the mending or replacement of the metal rocking horse; dog fouling; height barriers at Council tips; emptying of the waste paper bins at the farm shop.

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CHALKSOLE GREEN FARM HOUSE the Parish Council has written to Dover District Council saying that they feel the whole planning matter was totally mismanaged particularly with regard to the help that the applicant was given in preparing his application. D. D. C. replied that they found it difficult to understand why the Parish Council had complained other than that the decision did not accord with their view. They went on to justify their actions and said that the Parish Council could forward the matter to the Ombudsman who would decide if there was maladministration; the planning decision however cannot be reversed. The Parish Council intends to proceed with its complaint.

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DONATION my thanks to Tom Pepper of 1 Old School Cottages for his monetary donation to the newsletter.

ANNE CALIVAR who farmed at Upton Farm for the last 18 years was tragically killed when her light aircraft crashed in Northumberland in early August. Our sympathy goes to her three daughters and other relatives and friends. The family dog survived the crash and is to return to Alkham.

FREDERIC HALL

(Solicitors)

York House Folkestone 01303 851185
and Clyde House, Dover (202411)

JANET BATHGATE ULLMANN

the wife of John Ullmann passed away on the 14th August. They had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July. A wonderful wife and irreplaceable friend to John she was born into the Mathieson clan from the Kyles of Bute. A marvellous and moving service was held at River Church with all denominations present where a poem was read, written by her well known poet sister, Peggy Robertson. Cremation took place at Barham.

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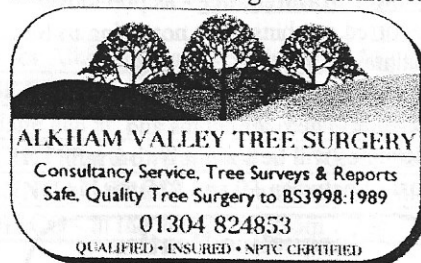
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BETTY WHITE with husband Graham ran the Metropole Bars in Dover before coming to the Marquis of Granby. Betty was a lovely person and one of the most popular old style land ladies Alkham has ever seen. It has been said that in the sixties and seventies under Betty's expansive open heartedness the Marquis became the first pub in the Dover area to be open 'all hours' especially after 'hours'. Betty has left many happy memories to all her knew her. She died on the 29th of August aged 81. (Sue Lees)

LUCKY ESCAPE a car hit the kerb between Bramhall and the start of 30mph limit west of the village,

careered across the road before ending upside down in the field. The driver, I understand, was pulled from the car by 2 women before it burst into flames.

BURGLARY on the evening of the 11th September a van parked on the verge opposite the Marquis of Granby. The van occupants then proceeded to burgle the adjacent new house. The thieves were disturbed when the owner returned home. I understand one of the criminals is in police custody. Prowlers have also been reported and two further burglaries have taken place one of which was the theft of garden furniture.



MILK DELIVERY

Ricky and Bridget Ducatel wish to thank customers who have remained loyal to them since they took over the Alkham milk round from Willy Wenham 10 years ago.

Unfortunately the round is no longer economically viable as supermarkets are hard to compete with. Ricky and Bridget are now concentrating on their egg delivery service which covers an area from Alkham to Dover to St. Margarets. Please ring 01304 822620.

S.E. KENT HEALTH AUTHORITY

George Tyler opened the meeting on the 20th August explaining public concern about the future of paediatric care in local hospitals, especially Buckland. There were 14 people in the audience. Disappointingly there were no parents or young children present. Those who represented the Health Authority explained that the Royal College of Surgeons who dictate the training of doctors have affected the issue of paediatric care. Junior doctors hours have been reduced to 56 per week but the range of illnesses they must cover increase yearly. It is not possible to give satisfactory training at a hospital the size of Dover's, but it can be done if it is centralised at William Harvey, Kent and Canterbury and Thanet's, Queen Elizabeth's the Queen Mother. This way the junior doctors will be able to identify rarer childhood illnesses. This will not result in the withdrawal of all paediatric care from Dover but a safe service is needed not a penny pinching one. There will always be trained staff at Dover to resuscitate children but consultation must be at

Ashford and in house treatment. The majority of children hospital stays is for 2 days and the recuperation is at home where it is shown that children benefit from home nursing. The main effect this will have on people is transport. Parishes such as Alkham need to write in with comments and details of transport requirements. However no promises for free transport can be given. (Sue Lees)



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COUNTRY NOTES

despite cornflower blue skies and the harsh glare of the sun, Autumn is now upon us. Low mists in the early morning and a distinct nip in the air. The corn stands in great golden wheels in the fields, a sign of harvest celebrations to come. Here at Chalkdown, flowers are seeding, the hanging baskets are looking tired and apples ripen and fall on the heads of the unwary. It is time to start clearing up the garden now, in readiness for the spring bulbs. In the lane, elderberries hang in ripe clusters like purple beads and a virginia creeper displays scarlet red leaves. Rosehips and Old Man's Beard decorate the hedgerows, and in the fields swallows gather on the telegraph lines, waiting to fly off to distant lands. Bonfire smoke scents the evening air and the darkness closes in on us much earlier now. There is a distinct chill in the air tonight, time to light a fire and make a hot drink I think. Only 13 weeks to Christmas.

Harvesting Rhymes

September blow soft
Till fruits in the loft
A cherry year, a merry year;
A pear year, a dear year;
A plum year, a dumb year.
Till St. Swithin's Day be past,
The apples be not fit to taste.

(Devina Bartlett)

I think that 'Country Notes' is a great addition to the newsletter and I'd like to thank Devina for her contribution.

Capel-le-Ferne play group is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.45 to 11.45 am. For further information please contact Jane Scot 01303 257098 or Hayley Couzins 01303 256754.

COOK FABRICATIONS WELDERS

Broomfield Works, Fernfield Lane
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ALKHAM FETE the annual meeting held in the village hall was very poorly attended. However the chairman said this did not reflect any lack of enthusiasm of the helpers on Fete day, which once again had been a huge success. The takings of £2910.15 demonstrated just how successful the day had been.

Considering the fete remains very traditional, it draws many people and has become a meeting place for friends old and new. The grand draw made £420.20 with four other stalls (including the tea tent) making a profit of over £200. The balloon ride raffle, a newer enterprise was very popular. As annual expenses continue to rise the fete committee was unable to quite make the record breaking donations of 1996 but Alkham Church and Village Hall were delighted to receive £950 each. The committee was elected with Paul Tapsell re-elected as chairman. He then announced that the



24 HOUR

INVICTA CARS

BOOKINGS 211111
202030
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treasurer Ann Cook and the secretary Bev Allan were unable to continue in office. They have both worked well for the committee and were thanked for their contribution. Nominations were taken for secretary and Sandie Tapsell was unanimously voted in for this position.

Two names were put forward to be treasurer as neither were present - their permission and advice will have to be sought. One suggestion put forward was that next year the celebrity opening should be dispensed with and a roll of drums or crash of cymbals used instead. The chairman closed the meeting thanking all those present and absent for their continued help and trusts that 1998 will be as successful. **(Sue Lees)**

SEKAS has given me details of their forthcoming astronomical events. Between October and April on the first Fridays there is public viewing in the Sportsfield car park at Canterbury University and at Walmer Castle on the last Fridays in the roadside car park (01304 367711). On Saturday the 11th of October there is the Canterbury Festival between 7.30 and 10.00pm in

Toddlers Cove, Whitehall Close (01227 766470). On Saturday the 1st of November at the University of Kent there is a Convention from 9.15am to 6.00pm at which Dr. Patrick Moore will be present, plus other speakers and attractions. The cost is £4.50 or £1.50 without the lecture. (01303 241933)

John Garlinge

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W.I. NEWS last months visit to Chartwell was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all who were able to make up the party. A vote of thanks was given to Cherry for organising yet another super outing. Our meeting on the 9th September was one with a difference, a visit from Dave and Lyn from Tesco Stores who stood in for Mr. Austin who we understand has transferred to another branch. We all looked slightly amazed as trays of bread and cookie bags were brought in, what a feast! The pounds rolled on as we sampled numerous delicious American type cookies passed round by Dave from the Customer Services Department, while Lyn soldiered on buttering all the different types of bread from the in-house bakery; beer bread, cheese bread, soda bread, different textures with fruit, and/or seeds - too many to remember. To our cries of 'no more' Dave very kindly donated the remaining loaves and cookies to our raffle plus a bottle of sherry. He then very bravely tried to answer our suggestions or grievances. A very good evening and our thanks to Tesco for entertaining us so superbly. Our next outing is on the 3rd of October for an evening meal at Etchinghill Golf Club; the coach leaves the village bus stop at 7.30pm. Good Neighbours are having a jumble sale on the 11th of October in the village hall; doors open at 11.00am. Half yearly W.I. Council meeting on the 28th of October at the Lees, Folkestone 10.45 to 3.30pm. Anyone wishing to attend please let Doreen Wilks, our President know, or Betty Neely our Secretary. Next meeting 14th October, hostesses Devina Bartlett, Helen Scopes and Susan Lees. Speaker Mr. G Bise on the coastguard service. Competition, last rose of summer plus toy in any medium.

(Tricia Wright)

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

September was a busy month at St. Anthony's. Congratulations, on their marriages, to Mr. And Mrs. Christopher Potts and Mr. And Mrs. Neil Tyler. We

also welcomed Amy Daisy Pilcher and Benjamin Conner Norris into the church by their baptisms. Our Harvest Thanks Giving Service was made into an extra special celebration when Catherine and Albert Polden renewed their marriage vows after 25 years of marriage - a partnership which started all those years ago at St. Anthony's where Al also remembers his years spent as a choirboy. **(Gill Calver)**

because they are both from Alkham
Sue Lees has written

Marriage 20th September 1997 two people from Alkham, Neil son of George and Pam Tyler of Hill View, Short Lane and Sharon daughter of Doug and Dolly Bartlett of Cob Cottage, Ewell Minnis were married in St. Anthony's. The page boy was David and the bridesmaids were Jodie, Chantelle and Marie. A friend of the bride, Lorna sang a solo and the honeymoon is being spent in Florida.

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB it's always nice to end the season on a high point which is why we won the final game out of our last four, so here goes! 17th August Great Chart (away) Alkham scored 139 for 9 with Levett scoring 52 and Coleman 33 not out. Great Chart responded with 140 for 5 despite bowlers Coleman and Moores each taking two wickets for 24 and 19 respectively. 24th August Hackers match (home). The Hackers got 229 for 7 (Goodever-Docker reaching 123 not out). Alkham replied with 156 all out - see what a difference one man can make. 'High' scorers were Price 37 and Brown 33. 31st August Westbourne (away). Alkham reached 114 (Price 43). Westbourne responded with 115 for 5 (despite Sawyer in his first game getting 2 for 14) 7th September Coldred (away). Alkham managed 123 all out (Cusden 25, Coleman 40) due to Coldred's main bowler Applebee 9 for 20! Coldred were held to only 89 all out (Price 7 for 20 including a hat trick) after reaching 88 for 4 wickets!


Many thanks to Barbara Palmer for her coffee morning in aid of the club, and thanks to those people who have turned out for the team, especially the several new local players who joined us this year; welcome aboard. Watch out for notices for the AGM and the nets sessions. **(Paul Tapsell)**

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THURSDAY	YOUTH CLUB in village hall 7-9pm. (9+ years) and 7.30-10.00pm. (12+ years) except Thursday the 18th
THURSDAY	MOBILE LIBRARY on Vicarage Meadow car park from 10.00am until 10.25am.
FRIDAY	WHIST DRIVE in the village hall at 8.00pm. Contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

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OTHER EVENTS

SATURDAY	11	JUMBLE SALE - for Alkham Good Neighbours at 11.00am
TUESDAY	14	W.I. GROUP MEETING in the village hall at 7.30pm.
THURSDAY	16	DOG CLUB in village hall at 7.30pm. Contact Alison Wooding on 01303 840535
MONDAY	20	CAGE BIRD SOCIETY in the village hall at 7.30pm. Contact David Tapsell on 822282
SATURDAY	25	BEEKEEPERS ANNUAL SHOW - in the village hall all day to 5.00pm
SATURDAY	25	YOUTH CLUB DISCO - in the village hall from 7.30p

CHURCH SERVICES VICAR GILL CALVER 01303 244119 WARDENS - BETTY NEELY 822688 - BETTY PRESTON 822421

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Oct. 5	Evensong 6:30 pm	Sung Eucharist 7.30am	Worshipping together 11.00am
Oct. 12	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
Oct. 19	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
Oct. 26	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist 10.00 am at Alkham		

Please note that all church services are held in our church hall in Albany Road during the rebuilding of our church (otherwise stated)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BOLLARDS I would like to refer to the Parish Council's decision to erect a barrier to deter people from parking on the verge opposite the Marquis of Granby. It is accepted that a decision has been made to erect this deterrent, however I feel that if this is to be done then the 'fencing' should be in keeping with the setting of the village. To this end I feel the proposed material to be used, namely galvanised piles, do not comply with this. They may be longer lasting but they are basically ugly. I would much prefer to see wooden posts, possibly chain linked, or concrete 'mushroom' posts, such as those that support the old granary at Hogbrook Farm. I would like to know what other villagers think? If they do feel as I do then perhaps they should pass these thoughts (before it is too late) onto the councillors. **John and Sue Garlinge, Newlyn Meadow**

BYWAYS My son and I go out on our mountain bikes most weekends and cycle along roads and by-ways. Recently logs have been put across the by-ways making it very difficult and hazardous to cycle along them. Please would the people who put them there think about the other people who use the by-way. **Ken Hammond, Meadowside.**

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS see page 1 for winners. The 6 place names are highlighted. For those who did not enter and wonder how the answers were arrived at then for instance, 18 across 'Confused star and German in lodgings south of the parish' (2,8). Confused star = st ra: and in german is 'und': lodgings is 'digs'. Put 'und' in 'digs' you get 'digunds' which added to 'st. ra gives the answer 'St. Radigunds'.

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- CANINE beauticians, all breeds of dogs & cats trimmed/groomed, Newcastle House, Ewell Minnis, 822902
- GREENHILL LIVERY YARD, Meggett Lane, South Alkham, D.I.Y./grass liveries, 01303 892056
- HOPTON MANOR, Alkham Valley Road, South Alkham, bed and breakfast, Lilian Walk, 01303 892481
- MARQUIS OF GRANBY, traditional family "pub", good "grub", good "value", good "fun", 822945
- OWLER LODGE, Alkham Valley Road, bed and breakfast, Pat and Bill Owler, 826375
- PETER WEST, Driver Training, 19 Newlyn Meadow, (Police Advanced Driver), 827127
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Beattie Jeapes would like to thank Gill Calver, friends and every one else for their help and compassion following the death of Lyn in August of this year.



ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 51 November 1997

Compiled by Brian Wimsett, The Old Post Office, Slip Lane, Alkham, CT15 7DE Telephone 824969

Is it just me or does it appear that if there is a power cut in Kent due to lightning it always seems to be in Alkham with lights blazing elsewhere? As far as I know there were two last month although one was of courtesy of SIRT I who were carrying out works for British Telecom in Hogbrook Lane.

TRAFFIC CALMING - as reported in last months newsletter the only chance of getting any traffic calming in Alkham was for another scheme to be cancelled elsewhere thereby leaving funds available for other works. This has actually happened and the probability is that some traffic calming works may be implemented before the end of the financial year, this being March the 31st 1998.

In 1995 a public consultation document with a questionnaire was distributed with the Alkham Monthly Newsletter for public comment. This document showed a 'gateway effect' at either end of the village, two traffic islands (one by Valley Cottages and the other just east of Newlyn's Meadow) and a footpath opposite the Marquis of Granby down to Hogbrook Lane. About 75% of the people who responded to the questionnaire were generally in favour of the scheme as presented.

The priority for carrying out traffic calming schemes is based on the number of accidents which occur. There is not a high recordable accident rate through Alkham and therefore the village has a low priority rating (probably zero). Therefore with the funds available it will only be possible to implement part of the scheme.

Representatives of the Parish Council have met Alan Ross who is in charge of the highway area in which we live and the proposal is to install the 'gateway effects' with cross hatching in the centre of the road from the Folkestone 'gateway' to somewhere near the Marquis of Granby. Any other works may be done at a later date should funds become available.

A 'gateway effect', where space permits, is produced by installing a central island in the road and covering the road with red asphalt adjacent to the island. Either side of this will be combined village and 30 mph signs. At the Folkestone side of the village the 30 mph signs will be moved such that they are just before the first bungalow on the south side (Hazeldene). An order will have to be made such that this can take place and I understand that this order is currently being processed. On the Dover side the road is not wide enough to accommodate a central island.

It's good news that something is going to happen and also that there may be a possibility of further works being carried out in the future.

John Garlinge

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BOLLARDS In last month's issue it was reported that the Parish Council had voted to put galvanised steel posts on the verge opposite the Marquis of Granby. There have been various representations regarding the inappropriateness of this decision. It is believed that the Parish Council is to discuss the matter further.

CHURCHYARD Gill Calver would like to remind people that the churchyard is a sacred place and is not a place for parking cars or leaving behind the results of dog fouling.

HARVEST SUPPER The day before the Harvest Supper the village hall was broken into and thieves stole all the beer, cider, cheese, biscuits and 4 pints of milk. A particularly heartless act and it is thought that the theft was carried out by young children who because of their age cannot be interviewed.

The two Betty's (Preston and Neely featured anonymously in a later story) would like to thank everybody who made the Harvest Supper a great success. With the auction and raffle over £400 was raised which was shared equally by the Katete Hospital in Africa and the Kent air ambulance service.

OBITUARY sympathy goes to Ricky, Christine and Mrs. Callaghan, husband daughter and mother of Bridget Ducatel whose untimely death at the age of 49 in October came as a shock to all. Bridget and Ricky met through their love of music and ballroom dancing. Bridget will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

CONGRATULATIONS on the birth of Daisy Mai to Jenny and Andrew who is the grand daughter to Pam and Maurice Sayers.

ALKAMHURST KENNELS

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POPPY DAY is on November the 8th so please support the collectors who will be going from house to house in the previous week. The Remembrance Sunday service is on the 8th in St. Anthony's at 10.30 am. (Betty Preston)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Jan Martinez wrote regarding the Parish Council's choice of steel bollards on the verge opposite the Marquis of Granby. She feels that wooden bollards would be much more in keeping with the area. (as a matter of interest so do I)

FREDERIC HALL

(Solicitors)

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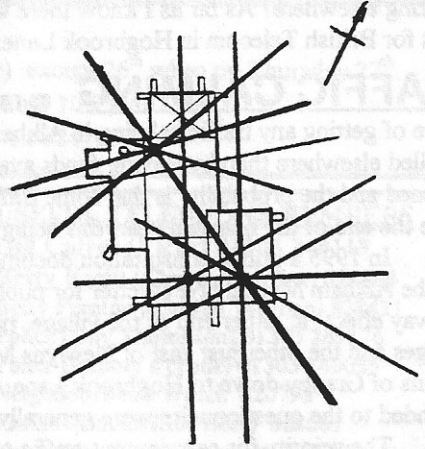
One Sunday whilst dog walking with my neighbour Ken Hammond we met a man with divining rods in the churchyard. On asking what he was looking for he said 'ley lines'. Checking the dictionary I wrote to him and asked if he'd like to write an article of general interest for the newsletter.

The Pattern of the Past - a Dowser's view

Since biblical times, when Moses found water using his rod, dowsers have been quietly at work throughout the world. In addition to the well known ability to find water, dowsers find their rods responding to lines of energy, sometimes called 'geodetic' lines, which are found on ancient roads and tracks as well as ecclesiastical buildings, which exhibit geodetic patterns, not found elsewhere.

Whether these patterns were present before the buildings were erected, or were modified by the building and its use through the centuries, has been, and still remains a controversial subject. What is certain however, is that the energy lines, previously identified, and deliberately channelled into the service of mankind by those responsible for constructing the building many centuries ago, can still be verified today by dowsers rods. The beautiful church of St. Anthony's of Pamiers in Alkham is enhanced by a structure of energy lines, commonly encountered in churches of the 1100 AD period, in which the nave is centred upon a major line, with a fine tracery of energy lines converging on a focus point, usually the font, and an area directly before the altars. We may speculate, as many have done before us, as to how and why these phenomena exist and we may never come to a satisfactory conclusion, but we must ponder on the source of such positive energy with which these sites are endowed and wonder at the untold mysteries which are part of our everyday lives. (Richard J West)

Draft Energy Line Survey - August 1997
Site: St. Anthony's of Pamiers
Alkham
Circa: 1199



COOK FABRICATIONS WELDERS

**Broomfield Works, Fernfield Lane
Hawkinge 01303 893011**

DONATION my thanks to Beattie Jeapes for her kind financial donation to the newsletter. All monies received go into the Alkham Monthly Newsletter building society account from which the printing costs of about £45 is deducted monthly plus about £4.50 in other expenses. Except for September when there was a misunderstanding with the new printer a small profit is made. However not all the advertisers will remain for the year so some months there may be further losses which should be covered by the donations and any monthly profit (I hope).

APOLOGIES in last months News from St. Anthony's congratulations were given to Mr. And Mrs. Christopher Potts on their wedding. This should have read Mr. And Mrs. Christopher Button, Christopher being the nephew of Kath and John Norris who live in Alkham. Also apologies to Kathleen Goldfinch whose bingo disappeared from the diary of events on the back page. I have decided to stop taking the Guardian.

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24 HOUR

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ALKHAM SMALL WONDER'S are miniature horses known as Pearl, Dinky, Crystal and Blackberry. They are taken to numerous events to help raise money for charity and the children especially love them. It gives the youngsters a chance to come into close contact with horses and get confident with them before moving onto the bigger type. I am in the middle of training the two new one's (Crystal and Blackberry) which takes a year to get them to the show stage. Dinky has been trained for people in wheelchairs and she loves the work. I am very proud of the horses which in a day's show are visited by over one hundred children; treats are apples and carrots. We get lots of thank you mail which is very encouraging; perhaps you saw them at the Alkham fete?
(Ann Hibbert 824808)

COUNTRY NOTES At last we have some much needed rain, although the mud is not so welcome! Rivers of water gush down from the top of Slip Lane, bringing with it twigs and fallen leaves. The past few nights I have lain awake listening to the wind roaring in the trees and the sound of the rain against the window.

Huge clouds rush along, swallowing up the smaller ones in their path. Sometimes, just before a down pour, the sky takes on a greyish purple colour and then, of all of a sudden, the rain sweeps in across the hills. In the garden everything looks very bedraggled. Anything with any height has been beaten down. All thoughts of tidying up are hampered by the muddy conditions, and next years bulbs sit in the porch whilst we sit by the fire. The mornings as well as the nights are much darker now.

The blackbird call is the first I hear. He flutters out from under the hedge, almost invisible. Food seems plentiful at the moment, but I have noted increased activity on the bird table. Sparrows, blue tits and the occasional jackdaw share breakfast with our tame doves. Starlings are late risers and pay the price for their laziness when they are met by an empty table. As I write this piece the sun is shining, not a cloud in sight. The lanes are rapidly drying up and there is bird song in the air. It is easy to be lulled by it all, but the leaves continue to fall in the gentle breeze and a jumper is welcome. Autumn is underway, and winter beckons. (Devina Bartlett)

HAIRDRESSER

HOME VISITS

**Make up classes November &
December**

**Ring 823487 evenings
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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS

The Group Meeting held on the 30th September I am Informed went very well and ended with a happy party atmosphere after a hilarious competition devised by Devina and Susan; well done your talents have been noted and no doubt you will be called on again. A vote of thanks to all who contributed to the excellent variety of food provided.

A most unusual event happened an hour or so later. A much loved mum had not arrived home and after some frantic phone calls and extensive search certain ladies had discarded all thoughts of bed. Suitable attire was thrown on to continue the search and on the point of phoning the police the errant mum returned much to the relief of all involved. There was a simple explanation; another member had taken her for a drink outside the village. Peace and calm once again descended on the village.

Our evening outing to Etchinghill Golf Club was excellent apart from one or two hiccups. The food was very good and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Thanks again to Cherry for another super do.

At our meeting on the 11th October Mr. Wise gave us a fascinating talk supported with a video of the Coast Guard Service. It was an insight into the enormous variety of duties this dedicated band of Civil Servants go to in order to keep us safe in treacherous seas and conditions.

Whenever help is needed a prompt liaison with the police, fire and RNLI ensures immediate action and help is on the way.

It is our birthday party on the 18th of November so will all members kindly bring a plate of food. A lady from the Body Shop will be there to entice us with her goodies. There is a shopping trip to Maidstone on the 27th of November with the coach leaving the village bus stop at 9.30am and returning at approximately 4.30pm. Christmas sinner will be on the 11th of December at the Hope. Choice of menu and deposit to Cherry at our next meeting, 11th of November 11th at 7.30pm. As this is our annual meeting when we select and vote in the President and Committee for the following year there will not be a speaker. Competition: collection of stew pot vegetables plus a recycled item. (Tricia Wright)

ALKHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

The jumble sale held on Saturday the 11th of October raised £80. The Good Neighbours was formed about 12 years ago to raise funds for the senior citizens annual dinner. To begin with it was financed by the sale of reject T shirts, sweatshirts etc. These were the products of a firm owned by the sons of Cath and Ron Ficken who used to live at North Hill House. When Kath and Ron moved to Kingsdown we decided to continue running events to raise money for the annual dinner. All villagers who are over 60 are invited to the dinner and in the case of couples when only one is over 60 both are invited.

The meal consists of 3 courses plus cheese and biscuits, coffee, mints and wine. We make a nominal charge of £2 a head; this does not off course cover the cost but provided we get good support at the fund raising events during the year we will not have to increase the price. Some of the events we have are the Easter egg raffle, jumble Sales, coffee mornings, Christmas bazaar and raffle. The next meeting on the calendar will be the Christmas bazaar and draw. Please support us and buy some raffle tickets when we come round. With your support we hope to continue this very enjoyable event. p.s. anyone who wants an invite to the dinner and we miss, please be sure to let us know. (Rosemary Polden and Doreen Lott)

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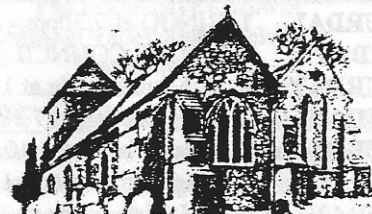
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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

As you walk through our churchyard, you will see a new memorial wall being erected



adjacent to the existing one. It will enable those whose loved ones' ashes are interred in our Garden of Remembrance in years to come to place a tablet on the wall in their memory. We have permission from our diocese to erect a wall very similar to the existing one. We would however, like to use up the available spaces on the existing wall before starting to use the new one. There is at present one tablet on the wall with no inscription and one place left in the middle of the wall, as if left for the relative of one of the names nearby. Yet we have no records in our church detailing for whom these spaces have been reserved (if indeed that is the case). Please contact me if you can give us information about the gaps. On the first Sunday of the month we have a special opportunity at our "All Souls Day Services" to remember those of our families and friends who have died over the years. Those from our village who have lost love ones in the last year are especially welcome. At each of our benefice services there will be an opportunity to light a candle for a loved one during the service and special prayers will be said for them. On November the 9th we shall hold our usual Remembrance Day service at 10.30am with an act of remembrance and wreath laying round the War Memorial. This year our friends from Capel will be joining us and, as I shall be leading a similar service with my pupils at Dover College, Mr Brian Williams, from Folkestone will be leading the service in Alkham. And finally those of us who still love the words of the Old Prayer Book, I shall be using that for the Said Communion at 8 o'clock on November the 30th so set your alarm clocks early. p.s. for those not managing to get to the first Sunday of the month, do pop in and pick a church newsletter as you are passing (Gill Calver)


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REGULAR EVENTS

WEDNESDAY YOUTH CLUB in village hall 7-9pm. (9+) and 7.30-10.00pm. (12+) except 26th when on Thursday 27th.
THURSDAY MOBILE LIBRARY on Vicarage Meadow car park from 10.00am until 10.25am.
FRIDAY WHIST DRIVE in the village hall at 8.00pm. Contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

SATURDAY 1 BINGO at 7.30pm - contact Kathleen Goldfinch on 822776
MONDAY 3 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING at 7.30pm - all welcome
SATURDAY 8 W.I. jumble sale at 11.00am
TUESDAY 11 W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
SATURDAY 15 Church bazaar at 10.30am
MONDAY 17 Cage bird society at 7.30pm contact David Tapsell on 822282
TUESDAY 18 W.I. birthday party at 7.30pm
THURSDAY 20 Dog club at 7.30pm contact Alison Wooding on 01303 840535
MONDAY 24 Village Hall Committee meeting at 8.00pm
WEDNESDAY 26 Alkham Valley Society AGM at 8.00pm - all welcome

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gill Calver (Vicar) 01303 244119
 Betty Neely (Church Warden) 822688
 Betty Preston (Church Warden) 822421
 Police (Guy Thompson) 01303 289176
 Police (Report a crime) 01303 240055
 Neighbourhood Watch 820798
 Parish Council (Sue Lees) 822661
 Newsletter (Brian Wimsett) 824969
 Women's Institute (Betty Neely) 822688
 Other queries Brian or Sue as above

CHURCH SERVICES

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Nov 2 All Souls Day	Evensong 6:30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping together 11.00am
Nov 9 Remembrance day	Remem. Day Service 10.30am	No service (join with Alkham)	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
Nov 16	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
Nov 23		Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist 10.00 am at Capel	
Nov 30	Said communion 8.00am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Mattins 11.00 am

Please note that all church services are held in our church hall in Albany Road during the rebuilding of our church (otherwise stated)

OTHER BUSINESS SPONSORS

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE, farm shop & tea rooms, open 7 days a week, 01303 893351
CAPEL-le-FERNE SCHOOL, your local primary school, free bus from Alkham, 01303 251353
CANINE beauticians, dogs & cats trimmed/groomed, Newcastle House, Ewell Minnis, 822902
FLAIR cane and pine furniture, 36 Guildhall St. Folkestone, phone 01303 258744
GREENHILL LIVERY YARD, Meggett Lane, South Alkham, D.I.Y./grass liveryes, 01303 892056
HOPTON MANOR, Alkham Valley Road, South Alkham, bed and breakfast, Lilian Walk, 01303 892481
MARQUIS OF GRANBY, traditional family "pub", good "grub", good "value", good "fun", 822945
OWLER LODGE, Alkham Valley Road, bed and breakfast, Pat and Bill Owler, 826375
PETER WEST, Driver Training, 19 Newtyns Meadow, (Police Advanced Driver), 827127
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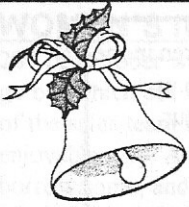
ALKHAM OPEN GARDENS

1998 there will be a meeting to discuss an Open Gardens Event on Monday the 10th of November at Bramhall (Alkham side of Garden Centre). Please come and join us and see if you can help in any way with

this project. If you cannot attend but would like to help please contact Susannah Tapsell at Bramhall - 01304 822295

Aunt Kitty's Christmas Cake

1 1/2 lbs. self raising flour, 1/4 lb. cherries, 1 lb. light brown sugar, 1 lb. raisins, 1/2 lb. margarine, 1 1/2 lbs. currants, 1/2 lb. lard, 6 eggs, 1/4 lb. ground almonds, 1/2 bottle of cream sherry, 1 dessert spoon of coffee.
 Mix flour, sugar, ground almonds, cherries, raisins, currants and coffee together. Melt the margarine and lard, then add the beaten eggs.
 Mix in all the ingredients together, adding the sherry last. Line the tins with greaseproof paper and pour the mixture into the tins 1 1/2 inches from the top. Pre-heat the oven to 300 F (150 C) and cook for an hour, then decrease to 250 F (130 C) for 2 1/2 to 3 hours.
 Aunt Kitty always claimed "If it cracks on top it's a good un!"
(Devina Bartlett) THIS RECIPE MAKES TWO CAKES APPROX 10" ROUND
 (you can double check this with Devina if you like but I have re-read for typing errors)



ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 52 December 1997

Compiled by Brian Wimsett, The Old Post Office, Slip Lane, Alkham, CT15 7DE Telephone 824969

Merry Christmas - with regard to the latter I must point out that there was a typing error in last months newsletter. It was reported that the Women's Institute was having a Christmas sinner on the 11th December in the Hope. This should of course have read Christmas dinner and I apologise for any expectations that may have been aroused.



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TRAFFIC CALMING the necessary order to process the re-siting of the 30 mph. signs in the village is under way. At the west side of the village the signs are to be moved 134 metres towards Folkestone and on the east side 2 metres towards Dover. On Hogbrook Hill the signs will move 30 metres towards Hougham. At the Parish Council meeting the audience was reminded that the Parish Council had a mandate to proceed with the proposals. This is indeed the case as those parishioners who responded to the public consultation document, 91% said that they thought the village needed traffic management measures with 71% in agreement with scheme put forward. The County Council's policy on traffic calming is that it should slow the traffic down and also stop rat runs. Of the 5000 or so vehicles which use the main road daily the overwhelming majority are doing so as they perceive that the Alkham Valley Road is the quickest route between Dover and Folkestone and also the M20. The traffic of course has every right to use the road but it does mean that on average there is a vehicle going through the village about every 10 seconds. For some traffic to divert to the primary route the driver or lorry owner would have to be convinced that the A20 was the better road to use. To achieve this there would have to be some delay to traffic going through the village. The first part of the traffic calming scheme will not accomplish this but the second part of the scheme could achieve this by putting a priority single lane at some point in the village, currently this is proposed to be just past the Marquis of Granby where the road narrows but unless further funding or a contribution from the parish is forthcoming it is very unlikely that phase two will ever be implemented.

J H ULLMANN A.M.I.P.E
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BOLLARDS at the Parish Council meeting there were representations from Paul Harper and Val Bugden regarding the placement of bollards on the verge opposite the Marquis of Granby. Paul Harper gave a history of the parking opposite his bungalow, and said he was totally opposed to the proposal. I understand he is taking legal advice. Val Bugden had sent a letter from the Marquis of Granby raising various points. In summary these were; where do the people who use the church, public telephone box and visitors to the bungalows by the Marquis park? Val accepted that in the summer months some people at the pub used the verge but there appeared to be no deterioration over the 13 years of her tenancy. A more positive approach was required by installing signing and the provision of a layby instead of the bollards. The Chairman suggested that they should contact Kent County Council. The proposal at present however is to install wooden posts (the Parish Council over turned their original decision regarding galvanised posts) from the footpath to the village hall to where the verge starts to rise near Newlyns Meadow.



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CHRISTMAS FOLKLORE Have you ever wondered why you hang baubles on the Christmas tree, or why we put up a tree in the first place? There are many customs associated with the festive season, so how did this one come about?

Glass baubles on a tree came about as the result of a drunken game among glass blowers, who being very busy worked up a thirst. Many drinks later they began to see who could blow the biggest glass bauble. These were later to be discarded but their wives being clever, called them spirit balls and sold them on the local market. They proved popular and a thriving business was born. Christmas trees originated from the pagan act of worshipping the oak tree. Attempts by early missionaries failed to stamp out this practice, so it was absorbed in the Christian faith, swapping the oak for a fir tree, as it's original shape symbolised the Holy Trinity. Prince Albert made it the popular part of Christmas that it is today. The popular image of Santa in a bright red suit, and black boots was invented by the American Coca Cola company. Sorry but it's true. In the early days he was portrayed in many guises. Then Coca Cola decided to use him in their Xmas adverts. The artist Haddon Sundblom, using the colours of red and white created the character we all recognise today. Finally the abbreviation 'Xmas' is not in fact slang or laziness on the writer's part. The X represents the Greek letter 'chi', which is the first letter of 'Christos', meaning Christ. Happy Christmas to you all - **Devina Bartlett**



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HISTORY OF ALKHAM at the next W.I. meeting, Sue Lees is to give a talk on the history of Alkham. It is an open meeting so everyone is invited including men, and it is on Tuesday the 9th of December with a suggested arrival time of around 8.00 p.m. Should be good, and I understand you may get a cake and a cup of tea.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY for children in the

village hall on the 14th December at 2.30 p.m. -
all welcome. Please bring a present for your
child with their name on it for Santa's sack.

For further information please contact
Lorraine Beaney on 822138

VILLAGE HANDYMAN as reported in the August edition the chairman of the Parish Council had mooted the enlightened idea of having a village handyman to carry out various tasks paid for by local grants and private sponsorship. Dover District Council responded to the matter of street cleaning, and not unreasonably pointed out that they employed people to carry out this task and their performance was judged on results. They said however that it may be possible to include in their contract a dedicated provision for a street cleaner funded by the parish. The matter is being progressed.

SOME OTHER MATTERS WHICH AROSE AT THE PARISH

COUNCIL MEETING on the third of November - with regard to winter maintenance, the Parish Council is going to contact KCC to obtain a cost for replenishing the salt bins. There are 8 bins each of which take about half a ton of salt, with the cost of the salt itself being £46 per ton. It was suggested that the bin in the Forstal (by the Marquis of Granby) should be moved and put by the entrance to the Old Rectory in Slip Lane. The rocking horse is to be removed as it is in a poor state and DDC are to be contacted to see if a grant can be obtained for a new one. The replacement seat, the original of which was burnt by unthinking vandals has been received and is awaiting installation to a secure base. The street light at the village hall car park is now operational. The Parish Council is pursuing its complaint against Dover District Council with regard to the way in which it dealt with the planning procedure connected with Chalksole Green farmhouse. Betty Neely volunteered to be the local representative for Age Concern. Bob Palmer despaired regarding the breaking of the bars on the goal post in Vicarage Meadow. As soon as he repaired them they were broken, and they will not be replaced again. Seems to be phyrrie vandalism! Bryan Cope, our local councillor is still not replying to letters from the Parish Council. I'm sending him a copy of the newsletter. KCC had been written to regarding the road surface and overgrown hedges in Meggett Lane. KCC hope to include road repairs in this financial year and they have written to land owners regarding the hedges. KCC were also asked if they could put up signing to deter HGV's using Wolverton Hill. KCC said there were no suitable alternative routes but confirmed the lorries carrying chalk have now finished.

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HOME VISITS

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Ring 823487 evenings

01303 258774 daytime

OPEN GARDENS 1998

A committee has been formed to organise the third Open Gardens weekend in the village.

Preliminary enquiries suggest 12 gardens will be open to the public week ending 25/26 of July 1998.

It is hoped as many people as possible will be able to help to make it yet again a successful event. Any enquiries please contact Sue Tapsell or Sue Lees.

FLY TIPPING - the Waste Management Group at KCC have written to the Parish Council regarding fly tipping. As you are no doubt aware a landfill tax was brought in to persuade local council's to adopt other measures with regard to the disposal of waste. For this reason 1.75m high barriers have been erected to stop non household waste being deposited at tips for which KCC would then have to pay to dispose of at a cost to the rate payers. KCC accept that larger private vehicles will not be able to access these tips but they hope that it will not lead to an increase in fly tipping. The Environmental Agency is alert to such illegal dumping, which carries a fine of up to £20,000. They also point out that there are alternative ways in which some household waste can be disposed of, such as bulky waste items. Further details can be obtained from DDC on 01304 872408 extension 5170 or 5173. If anybody sees fly tipping being carried out please report it to DDC on 821199, asking for the relevant section.

CAROL SINGING

Door to door carol singing to raise money for Cancer Research will take place on Tuesday the 16th of December, starting earlier than usual so children can take part. Do come along at 6.30 p.m. to the bus stop by the village green and join in the singing.



APOLOGIES to Pat Yeoman for omitting to say how delighted she was to share in the happy event of the arrival of grand daughter Daisy Mai to her son Andrew, and Jenny the daughter of Pam and Maurice Sayers. Andrew and Jenny live in Perigord, in SW France.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT Rosie Beth arrived safe and sound on the 10th of November a baby daughter to Patsy and Stephen Comfort, sister to Polyanne and grand daughter to Pam and Maurice Sayers.

A FINE SON came early but very welcome to Sandy and Paul Tapsell on the 24th of October, first grandson to Susannah and Richard Tapsell.

PLEASE DO LET US KNOW ABOUT BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS AND ALSO BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS - THE GRAPEVINE DOES NOT TELL ALL. (Sue Lees or Brian)

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS The half yearly Council meeting on the 28th of October was well attended if the scramble for car parking was anything to go by, which put a bit of a damper on the day. As four of our members were part of the sales team for 'A Century in Photographs' the time flew in a most enjoyable way. A book was bought on behalf of our W.I., so any member may borrow same, and return, which I think was an excellent move. Mrs. Susan Marshfield spoke of her time at Buckingham Palace, when on one occasion she had to walk barefoot across the gravel in the forecourt, not at all pleasant; other than that she had many happy memories.

At our last meeting on the 11th of November, we voted in our committee and President, the only change being Christine Tapsell who has courageously agreed to be our new treasurer, as Shirley is moving to pastures new in Folkestone. A sincere thank you to her for all the hard work put in on our behalf. Our best wishes to Mike and Shirley for the future happiness in their new home.

11th December is Christmas dinner, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. at the Hope. Any members who need transport please contact a committee member who will arrange one. 16th of December meet at 6.30 p.m. at the bus stop for our carol singing around the village. Young, old or in between please join us (remember torches). Helen will bring Oliver the donkey again.

18th of December church cleaning at 10.00 a.m. for the usual marigold ladies. Our meeting on the 9th of December is an open meeting to enable as many parishioners who would like to join us and benefit from the talk by Sue Lees on the history of Alkham. Please come to the village hall at 8.00 p.m. which should have given us time to get the boring stuff over and done with.

Competition: 2 baking potatoes (home grown) and a limerick.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year (Tricia Wright)

THE CHRISTMAS ROBIN Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat, Tesco's have had their greeting cards in store since the beginning of September and Sarah Kennedy, on Radio 2, received her first one on November the 7th! It gets earlier every year, doesn't it? Open any box of cards and you are sure to find a friendly robin design. Usually against a background of snow, he perches on spade handles, holly bushes and bird tables. Why is he such a popular character? The robin by nature is an inquisitive and cheeky bird. He appears as if by magic the minute you put your wellies on, in anticipation of a tasty morsel. He is tamer than other birds and his bright red chest makes him very distinctive. Gradually folklore and myth have grown around it, particularly where Christmas is concerned. In one legend, the stable in which the baby Jesus was born, was very cold. Joseph had gone out to look for firewood, but the fire was burning low and in danger of going out. Some tiny birds seeing this, flew into the stable and fanned the embers, singeing their feathers in the process. Mary was so grateful that she turned their blackened chests red in gratitude. Another tells of a robin at the crucifixion, seeing the crown of thorns pricking the head of Christ, flew down and attempted to remove them, smearing himself with his blood in the process. These legends are fairly recent. The myths surrounding the robin go back much farther. In pagan times he was the 'fire bringer'. Because of his red breast, it was thought that he brought warmth to the earth. There were severe penalties for anyone who harmed or killed a robin. (Devina Bartlett)

MOBILE LIBRARY

please note that the times for the library bus visiting the Vicarage Meadow have changed due to recent flood damage at Sandgate library. The revised times are 9.25 a.m. to 9.50 a.m. but still every Thursday.

E MAIL because of my fax modem I've joined the Internet to see what it's like. You can E mail me on briwim@aol.com but I think it's highly unlikely.

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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S



November the 16th was a special day in the diaries of young Samuel Thomas Barker and Adam James Power as they were both welcomed into our church on baptism. It was also a special day for the regular congregation of St. Anthony's as we joined together in pledging donations towards the renovation and heating plans for the church. Fifteen pledges were received, donating a total of just under £8000 which was a marvellous effort from a small group of worshippers. Our church will be launching it's appeal to the wider village so watch out for our leaflet. December has it's usual Christmas services. Don't miss our traditional carol service at 6.30 p.m. on the 21st followed by refreshments in the village hall. An event which appeals very much to children from throughout the benefice and their families is the informal blessing of the crib. We build up the crib with the help of our youngsters, sing the well known carols and hear the Christmas story. It all ends with a darkened candle lit church. Do come with as many youngsters as you like for that special service at 6 p.m. on Christmas eve. And finally we're taking the early slot at Alkham for our late night Christmas eve service this year. It will be at 10.15 p.m. Our Benefice Service for Christmas day will be at Hougham at 10.45 a.m. Do have a very happy Christmas. (Gill Calver)

Jacqueline Bentley
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REGULAR EVENTS

WEDNESDAY YOUTH CLUB in village hall 7-8.30 p.m. (age 9+) and 7.30-10.00pm. (age 12+)
THURSDAY MOBILE LIBRARY on Vicarage Meadow car park from 9.25 am until 9.50 am.
FRIDAY WHIST DRIVE in the village hall at 8.00pm. Contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

SATURDAY 6 Good Neighbours bazaar 10.30 a.m.
SATURDAY 6 BINGO at 7.30pm - contact Kathleen Goldfinch on 822776
MONDAY 8 Private party in the evening
TUESDAY 9 W.I. meeting at 7.30pm and open to public at 8.00 p.m. (see P1)
SATURDAY 13 South East Kent Astronomical Society at 7.30 p.m.
SUNDAY 14 Children's Christmas party at 2.30 p.m. (see page 2)
MONDAY 15 Cage bird society at 7.30pm contact David Tapsell on 822282
TUESDAY 16 Carol singing starts at 6.30 p.m. (see page 2)
THURSDAY 18 Dog club at 7.30pm contact Alison Wooding on 01303 840535

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gill Calver (Vicar) 01303 244119
Betty Neely (Church Warden) 822688
Betty Preston (Church Warden) 822421
Police (Guy Thompson) 01303 289176
Police (Report a crime) 01303 240055
Neighbourhood Watch 820798
Parish Council (Sue Lees) 822661
Newsletter (Brian Wimsett) 824969
Women's Institute (Betty Neely) 822688
 Other queries Brian or Sue as above



CHURCH SERVICES

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Dec 7	Evensong 4:00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping together 11.00am
Dec 14	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 4.00 p.m.
Dec 21	Benefice carols 6.30 p.m.	Said communion 8.00am	no service
Dec 24	Late night Eucharist 10.15 p.m.	Christmas Eve - Benefice blessing of the Crib 6.00 p.m. at Alkham Midnight Eucharist 11.45 p.m.	no service
Dec 25	no service	no service	Sung Eucharist 10.45 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS SPONSORS

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE, farm shop & tea rooms, open 7 days a week, 01303 893351
CAPEL-le-FERNE SCHOOL, your local primary school; free bus from Alkham, 01303 251353
CANINE beauticians, dogs & cats trimmed/groomed, Newcastle House, Ewell Minnis, 822902
FLAIR cane and pine furniture, 36 Guildhall St. Folkestone, phone 01303 258744
GREENHILL LIVERY YARD, Meggett Lane, South Alkham, D.I.Y. and grass liveries, 01303 892056
HOPTON MANOR, Alkham Valley Road, South Alkham, bed and breakfast, Lilian Walk, 01303 892481
MARQUIS OF GRANBY, traditional family "pub", good "grub", good "value", good "fun", 822945
OWLER LODGE, Alkham Valley Road, bed and breakfast, Pat and Bill Owler, 826375
PETER WEST, Driver Training, 19 Newtyns Meadow, (Police Advanced Driver), 827127
E R WOODRUFF, building maintenance, carpentry, decorating, Swanbourne Cottage, Wolverton, 824991
UPHOLSTERY, antique & modern - free estimates for re-upholstery and repairs tel. 01303 891017

COOK FABRICATIONS WELDERS

**Broomfield Works, Fernfield Lane
 Hawkinge 01303 893011**

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH report 19/11/97

No serious crimes were reported last month. There have been some small acts of vandalism in the village, thought to be caused by just a few youngsters. PC Guy Thompson should be back on duty soon and this should help.
 A fiesta van, with either Guildford or Surrey on the side, and a registration of RBJ has been seen in the area. The occupant is a white gypsy type male who is offering to tarmac drives in an aggressive manner. If you are annoyed by him, please contact the police. Now the dark evenings are with us, and Christmas is approaching, it is a busy time for burglars. The most vulnerable times are between 3 and 4 p.m. when parents nip out to collect children from school and fail to lock up properly. Most burglaries occur between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. when property is left empty and neighbours are indoors watching television. If you are away from home, some plug in switches are available on loan, free of charge, from your local co-ordinator. We also have some information on security available for you to read. If you are interested please ask your co-ordinator. **(Mike Chalkley)**
 (The Neighbourhood Watch Committee have voted that the Newsletter should receive £25 - I really am most grateful)

CHURCH BAZAAR despite bad weather we were delighted with the turn out of people both to sell and to buy. A grand total of £235 was raised which goes to the general upkeep of the church. **(Sue Lees)**

ROBIN'S SONG

Robin's sang in England,
 frost or rain or snow,
 all the long December days,
 endless years ago.

Robin's sang in England,
 before the legions came,
 before our English fields were tiller
 or England was a name.

Robin's sang in England,
 when forests dark and wild,
 stretched across from sea to sea,
 and Jesus was a child.

Listen! In the frosty dawn,
 from his leafy bough,
 the same brave song he ever sang,
 a robin's song now.

(Devina Bartlett)