

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 53 January 1998



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

A new year starts, and a happy new year to you all. However the new year will not start with the youth club which has closed down because Mike Chalkley cannot run it by himself. I understand Mike would be in agreement to start it up again if some adult helpers volunteered to come along. If you would be willing to help please give Mike a ring on 820798.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT I believe that the purpose of the Newsletter is to report what has gone on without unwarranted opinion or bias, however.... Having been to the Parish Council meetings it is clear that they are working on our behalves and fulfilling the task for which they were elected. They are the first step in the democratic process which continues through the County Council to Central Government. It appears at the moment that the second stage is not working as our local councillor, Bryan Cope has not responded to correspondence from the Parish Council. I don't know whether this means he has dealt with the issues raised and is too busy to reply,

or he is simply not replying. I wrote to Bryan Cope and said that in the first instance I intended to write an article in the Newsletter highlighting his apparent inaction and would welcome his comments. To date I have received no reply so there appears to be some consistency. There may be a reason for the inaction, but if there isn't then the whole purpose of local government could be lost with the result that the voice of the Parish is not heard at County level. More next month.

Mrs. Ashman wrote to me to ask if anybody knew why the countryside was festooned with cobwebs this October. I also had wondered why this happened having seen the field behind Sladden Wood looking like a winter wonderland, and therefore I did some research. A common country belief was that this foretold clear and calm weather conditions, but in point of fact it is the latter which causes it. Particularly in Autumn when warm air currents rise from the ground, spiders climb up to elevated positions on grass or thistles and emit long strands of silk from their abdomens. When the lines are long enough the spiders become airborne and shortly (or sometimes not) get entangled in the nearby vegetation. This is called 'ballooning' and in some years (presumably this year) millions of tiny spiders are carried through the air each day, and when evening comes and condensation forms on the lines, they drift down to the ground where they again build a small web. In the morning large areas are covered in glistening silk which in the past reminded people of goose down, and the time was known as 'goose summer' from which the word gossamer comes.



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Firstly, all the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators would like to wish all their members a happy and crime free New Year. We appreciate all the help and support the village is giving to the scheme. We have not had any crimes reported in the village over the past two months. This is good news, but it does not mean that we can relax. Criminals will always commit crime, if given the opportunity. P.C. Guy Thompson, who was our local community Policeman, will not be returning to duty in our village anymore, as he is now working at Deal Police Station. We would like

to thank Guy for all the hard work that he put into the village whilst he was here, his presence has already been missed over the past few months. The next Wine and Wisdom evening will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 17th January at 7 p.m. for a 7.30 p.m. start. Tickets are available from your local co-ordinator, price £4.00. A fish and chip supper plus a glass of wine or a soft drink are included in the price, vegetarians will also be catered for. Finally, these dark cold nights, please keep an eye on your elderly neighbours, especially those that live alone. If you don't see them, make sure that they are all right. (Mike Chalkley)

POPPIES many thanks to all the collectors and supporters - although £50 down on last year we did send £140 plus £68.55 church collection to the Royal British Legion. Many thanks to Chittendens of Folkestone who still make up the poppy wreath for us in remembrance of Adsey Cowans. The charge of £10 is paid by the Parish Council. Mr. Ron Dryden read the lesson in the church and laid the wreath at the War Memorial. (Betty Preston)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY just a brief note to mention the Valley Society annual walk to be held as usual on the 27th December. A medium length walk (2 hours or so) to make up for those second helpings of Christmas pudding. We leave the village hall car park at 10.30 a.m. and will repair to the Marquis upon our return. Advance warning: 1998 will be the 21st year of the Valley Society and we are hoping to mark the occasion with a membership drive and increased activity. If you would like the Society to become involved, or lobby on any particular local amenity or environmental issue, please call me - or better still talk to me on the annual walk. New or renewing members should contact either me or Bill Rolfe - 822402 (Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)


SALT BINS the Parish Council would like to point out that the salt in the bins is for use on public highways and not for private use. A bin costs £25 to refill and this cost will have to come out of the Parish Council funds, not the Kent County Council budget. So effectively anyone who uses the salt for their own needs is doing so at the expense of each and every parishioner. If a salt bin does become empty please tell the Clerk to the Parish Council, Susan Lees on 822661.

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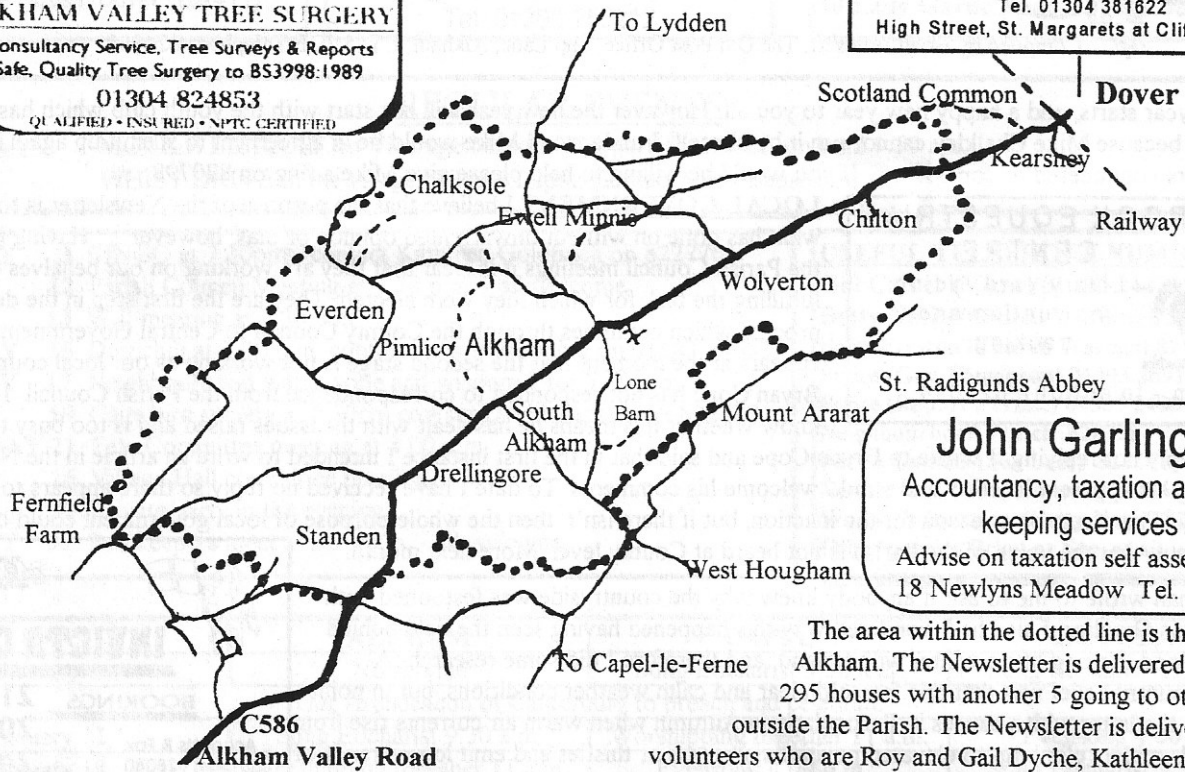
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The area within the dotted line is the Parish of Alkham. The Newsletter is delivered by hand to 295 houses with another 5 going to other people outside the Parish. The Newsletter is delivered by 12 volunteers who are Roy and Gail Dyche, Kathleen Goldfinch, Ken and Dot Hammond, Charlie Preston, Gordon and Betty Preston, Grace Stacey, Christine Tapsell, Paul Tapsell, Shirley Tapsell, Barry and Coco Ward, Alan Woodgett and the outlying properties by myself. I'd like to thank the volunteers for all their help over the past few years in rain and shine, because without them the Newsletter would not be possible.

COUNTRY NOTES As I write this, there is two inches of snow outside. In the space of a couple of hours the world has become monochrome; trees stand brittle against the grey skies, filled with trapped snow. Of course by the time you read this it will be 1998 and the sun could be shining. For now though everywhere is silent and still. January sees twelfth night, time to take down the Xmas decorations. Folklore tells us that care must be taken when discarding anything evergreen. It should be burnt or buried with due reverence to avoid bad luck. January the 13th sees St. Hilary's day, reputed to be the coldest day of the year. The 22nd is St. Vincent's day, an old country rhyme tells us Remember on St. Vincent's Day, If that the sun his beams display, For, tis a token bright and clear, Of prosperous weather all the year.

Finally, January 25th is St. Paul's day. In the 16th and 17th centuries the people were urged to pray for a sunny day, as dull weather was supposedly an omen of war and disaster - so fingers crossed! I would like to wish all my readers a very happy new year and thank them for their appreciation and continued support. **(Devina Bartlett)**

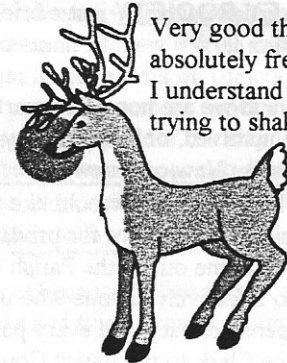
THE WINTER GARDEN
 The snowdrop is a member of the daffodil family and is usually the first sign of new growth, as tiny green tips appear above the frozen ground. It has long been considered a sacred plant symbolising chastity and purity. The Victorians associated it with death, because of it's proximity to the bare earth and likened it's outer petals with that of a shroud. It was considered extremely unlucky to bring a single bloom into the home.

WINTER BIRDS spare a thought for hungry birds during this cold spell. Different birds are partial to certain foods. Blackbirds like apples, robins like a mealworm or two and Starlings like bacon rinds. Of course, if you have neither the time or inclination, they will eat almost anything to fill their empty bellies. Here is a recipe that I use:

Boil and mash some potatoes, add some lard or dripping and any kitchen scraps you have. Seeds, crusts, rinds, cheese, raisins or porridge oats are all good. Mix it all together and place on the bird table. Sit back and count the different species that come to enjoy the feast. **(Devina Bartlett)**

We have a new contributor this month
 In the bleak mid winter
 frosty winds did blow,
 Ladies of the W.I.
 Carol singing did go.
 With donkey, friends and children
 faces all aglow,
 In the bleak midwinter
 not so long ago.
(Doreen Wilks)

Very good they were too in absolutely freezing conditions. I understand the donkey kept trying to shake of it's antlers
(I think this is a reindeer but it's the best I can do!)



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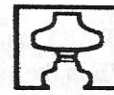
WOMEN'S INSTITUE NEWS Our 69th birthday party on the 18th of November was a wow! Two trestle tables absolutely laden with the most fantastic variety of party food, was marvellous. I overheard some of the members from other W.I.'s saying they had never seen such a wonderful array, which was topped off with a birthday cake made by Betty Neely. We rounded off the evening with a little soiree, five of us dressed to kill in jumble or ragbag attire sang about our W.I. to the tune of 'sisters', which will never sound the same again. An absolutely super evening. Our shopping trip to Maidstone was a good day out; the rain stopped, the sun shone - a good omen, we all enjoyed ourselves immensely. The coach was half an hour late for the pick-up, no fault of the driver, which meant the village came to a standstill on our return, until we had disembarked, but no angry sounds of horns; the ladies of the village had returned. What a wonderful evening we had on the 9th of December; Susan excelled herself with all her photographs of the village and villagers she has collected over the years, and it was great to see so many of our friends who came and joined us. I think it made Susan's night, it certainly did mine. Our Christmas dinner on the 11th of December went off without a hitch; no cancellation due to weather this year. Judging by the constant chatter and peels of laughter, a most successful evening. Thank you Cherry, you are an ace. The next meeting is 13th of January, new members always welcome. Olive Harvey will entertain us with her holiday slides; should be good. Competition - slice of home made cake, if you have any left and container of home grown cress. Wishing everyone a happy and peaceful new year. **(Tricia Wright)**

VILLAGE HALL MEETING Members who attended the November Committee Meeting were able to view for the first time the recently donated painting of Alkham Church, but agreed that people would be able to admire the picture better when hung at a lower level. A letter of appreciation for this gift will be sent to Eileen West. Weed control of the car park remains a problem and the rough surface creates difficulty for the elderly and infirm. Tim Castle is to roll a chipper/planer across the surface to alleviate the hazard. The treasurer, Bob Palmer, reported a steady increase in funds. This fact has encouraged the building sub-committee to consider a major face-lift to the hall. Ernie Cook has drawn up plans and these were placed before the committee. The object is to extend the hall on the south side, providing an improved entrance directly onto the car park, a lobby area will help overcome the winter draughts. Adjoining this will be a storage area, thus giving more space in the hall itself, and there will be improved toilet facilities for ladies and gents and an additional toilet for the disabled which will include a babies changing area. The present entrance door will be retained as a fire exit and a new fire exit door placed in the west wall, thus providing a 'straight' line exit should an emergency arise. The committee whole heartedly approved of these plans. Ernie Cook is to cost out the project and means of obtaining grants are to be sought. **(Susan Lees)**

CHRISTMAS PARTY was attended by 22 children and they were entertained by Pauline, who played games including pass the parcel, musical mats etc. They enjoyed a nice tea with crackers, and Father Christmas came around at half past four. A great time was had by all. **(Lorraine Beany)**

I've had two E Mails much to my surprise one from Anthony Helstrip and the other from David Saltmer - thanks.

J H ULLMANN A.M.I.P.E
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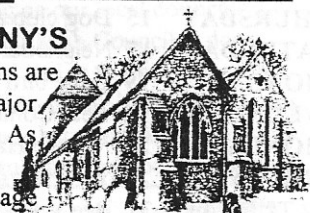


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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

As many of you already know, plans are afoot at St. Anthony's for some major renovation and redecoration work. As I write this, we are awaiting news from the Lottery and English Heritage fund as to whether we have been awarded a grant to help with this work. We at St Anthony's have already pledged from our regular congregation, over £8000 towards the sum needed and at our Christmas services we distributed appeal leaflets to all those of you who came to use our beautiful old church during the celebrations of this season. Please don't forget to read those leaflets and be as generous as you can in helping our village keep St Anthony's preserved for generations to come. As we look forward to the new year, we are pleased to announce the launch of our new Sunday Club in the benefice for children between the ages of 5 and 10 years. The new St. Radigund's church at Capel has been built adjoining the church hall, giving us a site which is ideal for such a venture. The club will meet regularly at 9.30 am. each Sunday starting on January 18th, and has a keen group of five leaders, all of whom have had considerable experience of working with young children. Capel is of course the village where many of our children attend primary school and is only 10 minutes up the hill from Alkham so we do hope some of the village children might be able to join in this new club which, from what I've seen so far, looks like being fun. Do contact me on 01303 244119 if you are interested in receiving further details. Our Archdeacon of Canterbury was very sad he could not make the dedication of our new Capel church and was keen to come and visit us. So he will be leading our services on the morning of January 4th at both Capel and Hougham. We shall not be having a service at Alkham on that day in order to enable parishioners to come to either Capel or Hougham to hear John Pritchard preach an experience not to be missed. You might like to take this opportunity of visiting our new church too, if you haven't already seen it. And finally mark a red letter day in your diaries for February 1st when Dover College choir will once again visit our village to sing evensong for us at 4.00pm. Those of you who have heard them sing before will know they are well worth coming to hear. A very Happy New Year to you all. **(Gill Calver)**



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REGULAR EVENTS

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 3 BINGO at 7.30pm - contact Kathleen Goldfinch on 822776
MONDAY 12 Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 p.m. - all welcome
TUESDAY 13 W.I. meeting at 7.30 p.m.
THURSDAY 15 Dog club at 7.30 p.m. contact Alison Wooding on 01303 840535
SATURDAY 17 Neighbourhood watch wine and wisdom 7 for 7.30 p.m.
MONDAY 19 Cage bird society at 7.30pm contact David Tapsell on 822282
WEDNESDAY 21 Fete Committee meeting at 8.00 p.m.
MONDAY 26 Village Hall committee meeting.
FRIDAY 30 Private party in the evening.
SATURDAY 31 Bee keepers meet at 2.30 p.m. - 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

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
January 4	No service	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 11.00 a.m.
Our Archdeacon of Canterbury to preach and celebrate			
January 11	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 4.00 p.m.
January 18	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 4.00 p.m.*	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.*
January 25	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist 10.00 a.m. at Alkham		

- The Revd. Carol Irwin, a Methodist minister from Folkestone will preach to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

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CANINE beauticians, dogs & cats
trimmed/groomed, Newcastle House, Ewell
Minnis, 822902

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family "pub", good "grub", good "value", good
"fun", 822945

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

HAIRDRESSER

HOME VISITS

Make up classes in December

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01303 258774 daytime

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY The 20th Annual
General Meeting held on the 26th November 1997
was attended by only sixteen members. The
secretary, Peter Chambers, was unable to attend and
Bill Rolfe acted treasurer and secretary for the
meeting. Paul Tapsell, chairman, reported that the
Society had seen involvement in the problems

resulting from low water flow at the Kearsney end of the valley i.e. the lack of water in Bushey
Rough and Russell Gardens; and making representations in the form of objections to the two
planning applications proposing the demolition of Chalksole Green Farmhouse. The Society
will continue to be involved in both matters. The annual Christmas walk had been well
supported and thanks must be given to Albert and Grace Moynan for making walkers so
welcome by not only showing them around the farm with its ancient barns and farmhouse
formed out of part of the old abbey buildings, but also providing a much appreciated warm
beverage. The summer outing to Dover Castle and war time tunnels had been cancelled due to
lack of support. The Chairman ended his report by asking members how they see the present
role of the Society. All agreed that the society's role to monitor and protect the countryside in
and around the Alkham Valley remains the same. It is an active society but it needs to be seen
to be active. The society was formed because of a threat to the environment and it would come
to the fore if a similar threat was to occur again. Brian Hall was able to enlighten members on
the immediate proposals for Bushey Rough. It is now accepted that the clay floor to the lake
was broken when the islands were formed a few years ago, and an experiment is to take place
demonstrating how a small flock of sheep can be used to 'puddle' the clay in the traditional way.
Susan Lees provided an exhibition of photographs and newspaper cuttings showing how the
society fought 20 years ago to retain the trees and woods that people admire so much, and
even possibly take for granted, in the Alkham Valley today. (Susan Lees)

You may have noticed that Hopton Manor who advertised above, has disappeared. This is because Lillian and Ron Walk have sold the property and are moving to be nearer their family. We wish them all the best for the future and thank them for supporting the newsletter.



ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 54 February 1998

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

Your distributor of the Newsletter may have asked if you would like to sign a petition regarding the Kent County Constabulary's proposals for the policing of parishes. A letter was read out at the Parish Council meeting which said there would be a new Community Support Team based at Deal, phone number 01304 218151. The rest of the letter was fairly upbeat about the various benefits this would bring. The Chairman of the Parish Council however, aired the generally held view, that the letter was a load of rubbish. In effect there will only be 6 officers for all the parishes in south east Kent. Recent events, covered in this newsletter, highlight the problem of not having a dedicated Community Police Officer. The petition is to be presented to the police, asking them to return to the previous, and very successful, Community Policing Policy. If you have not signed the petition and would like to, there is a copy in the Alkham Valley Farm Shop.

VANDALISM It is quite depressing to see the state of the village notice board, which has been smashed almost beyond repair. The rubbish bins have also been vandalised, and this follows on from the burning of the one of the wooden benches. In addition, over the Christmas period, six cars which were parked on the village car park were vandalised. Martin Ray, who lives in the Old Vicarage, took down all the particulars and tried to phone the Police. The response from the local police was an answering machine; he phoned again after an hour to get the same recorded message. Finally he phoned Maidstone, but in summary, the whole situation was hopeless.

OFF ROAD DRIVING at the Parish Council meeting the recent use of Pimlico by off road vehicles, was raised. The vehicles drive up from the Alkham Valley Road and then appear to criss-cross the by-way at the top, generally flattening the ground and leaving tyre tracks. It seems a pity, because in my opinion, the view to South Alkham on the walk from the side road near Colfir Farm to Pimlico is outstanding. It was also said that the vehicles and trailers parked on the verge of the Alkham Valley Road at the bottom of Pimlico was a problem and that K.C.C. should be contacted to put up bollards on the verge.

HORSE sadly a horse had to be put down on the 11th of January after an accident on the Alkham Valley Road, near Pimlico.

Jacqueline Bentley
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PRECEPT which is the right to raise money under the rates for the Parish was discussed. In previous years there has been a shortfall in revenue and there are also additional costs due to vandalism and filling of salt bins etc. It was therefore unanimously agreed that the precept should increase by £2.50 a year to £8.50.

THE HORSE rocking that is, has gone. Fred Scales, our Dover District Councillor who was present at the P.C. meeting, confirmed that the Technical Services Department has supported the acquisition of a new horse. It now has to get over the finance committee hurdle, which seems to get higher by the year.

SALT BINS other parishes have taken the view that the filling of salt bins is a matter for the County Council and are not re-filling their bins. The general consensus was that the Parish Council would be failing in it's duty if it did not re-fill the bins and they would continue to do so, whilst fighting the case with K.C.C. The latter is the cheapest at £24.27 per bin and they will carry out the work.

BOLLARDS as last month, they will be installed from the footpath to the village hall to where the ground starts to rise by Newlyns Meadow, probably this month.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR further to the article in last months newsletter, I wrote to Mr. Bruce-Lockhart who is the Leader of the Conservative Group, enclosing a copy of the article and other information. On the 13th of January, Bryan Cope our local councillor phoned me, and inferred that he was working in the background and wasn't a great letter writer. He said he would write to Sue Lees regarding the outstanding Parish Council matters but at the time of going to print (22nd) no letter has been received. More next month.

VANDALISM - THEFT *I have been asked to print the following:* Steps have been taken to stop the continued disregard of other peoples property. Culprits will no longer be able to hide behind their "too young to be interviewed" shield. It is the responsibility of each and every parent to know where their child/children are and what they are doing, not leaving them to their own devices for a long period. The level of crime/vandalism during the last two years is completely unacceptable and a number of the parishioners are determined to pursue every available avenue to turn this about and return the village to pre 1996 standards.

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GWYN PROSSER M.P.
On the 13th February in Alkham Village Hall between 10.00a.m. and 12 noon our local M.P. is holding an advice surgery. If you feel there is something Gwyn can help you with, or if you have an issue you would like to raise please do come along. No appointment is necessary.

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TREES IN CONSERVATION AREAS In 1974 most of the central part of Alkham was designated as a conservation area. This area covers all gardens and grounds on both sides of Slip Lane up to and including Malmains Farm house; Malmains Manor; the Church and graveyard; the Marquis of Granby; Vicarage Meadow down to the ditch, the vicarage and both sides of the track leading down to the common. A map, giving more details of the Alkham Conservation area has been placed on the notice board at the village hall. If you wish to fell, lop or top or uproot trees (including conifers) within the conservation area, you must give the District Council 6 weeks notice in writing. It is an offence to carry out such work without the consent of the District Council. No fees/charges are payable for obtaining the Council's consent. Letters of notification, or any queries should be addressed to Mr. M Delaney, Planning Department, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PG, telephone 01304 872481. (**Bob Palmer - Tree Warden**)

FREDERIC HALL
(Solicitors)

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

THANKS to Roy Adams of School Cottages for vetting the accounts of the Newsletter for last year. For this year I have collected the money from the advertisers and now have enough money for the year to cover the monthly £45 photostating cost and £4 expenses. Also thanks to Bill Rolfe for his kind donation, which has been added to the Newsletter Building Society account.

TRAFFIC CALMING I am informed by Alan Ross from K.C.C. that the new 30 m.p.h. signs will be put up in March, which is the end of the objection period. If everything goes to plan, with the new electricity supply for the Folkestone side being in place, then the traffic island and central white lining will also be carried out in March. The work must be carried out in this financial year, which ends on March the 31st, otherwise the money is lost.

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COUNTRY NOTES we would be forgiven for thinking that spring has arrived, if the past few days are anything to go by; the birds certainly think so anyway. I have seen blue tits in and out of our many bird boxes, weighing up the pro's and con's of each one. Then there is the beautiful dawn chorus, which has started around 6.30 a.m. instead of the usual 4.30 a.m. Here at Chalkdown, the garden is showing signs of new life. Fuschia's are coming into leaf and bulbs push their heads above the damp soil. We even have a lovely flower on a summer pink. The japonica has big fat buds and the redness of the flower can be clearly seen. Of course the inevitable cold snap, that lurks just around the corner, waiting to catch us out, will probably burn and damage the new growth and set everything back again. In the lane, everywhere is thick with mud from the recent rains. Debris litters the roadside, washed down from further up the hill, but everything looks green and lush. Ivy leaves are dark and glossy and there are fat catkins on the hazel trees on the banks. At the 'Willows', a patch of Bergenia by the gate, is already in flower, and a recently planted crab apple, is a mass of red fruits. At present the sun is shining, turning the damp lawn into a glittering carpet. It feels

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quite warm and the light breeze carries the scent of damp earth, but the sun sits in the sky and in an hour or two it will disappear behind the hills. Then we shall close the curtains and throw a few more logs on the fire. (**Devina Bartlett**)

COUNTRY WILDLIFE : THE WREN the Wren (Troglodytes, Troglodytes) is one of our smallest birds. It's rounded body and short dumpy tail are quite distinctive. Both male and female have the same plumage, but only the male sings. It frequents tree roots, banks and outbuildings. The male builds various nests and the female chooses the one which she prefers. She lays between 5 and 12 glossy white eggs speckled with tiny black or red brown spots. One interesting characteristic is the male can be polygamous, that is he can have more than one female in his harem, particularly if food is plentiful. Another oddity is communal roosting especially in severe weather. As many as 30 individuals can be found in a nest box. This shared heat gives them a much higher chance of survival, as the death rate amongst such tiny birds is very high. (**Devina Bartlett**)

Britain has a wide range of wild mammals, there being at least 69 indigenous species, with another 29 migratory species (bats and marine mammals), which occasionally visit. Some of these species are on the brink of extinction, so conserving them is essential if we wish to see them in the wild. The loss of woodlands, hedgerows, river bank vegetation and wetlands has led to the decline. The mammals which need help in and around the Alkham and Dover area are: the dormouse which has disappeared from half it's range during the last century: the water vole is suffering from a major long-term decline, as is the brown hare and the 14 species of bat population which breed in Britain: the common seal population has fallen since the 1988 outbreak of phocine distemper and whales, dolphins and porpoises are all less common off our coasts. The danger to our mammals is through habitat destruction and isolation, changing land use, poisoning and pollution, persecution, accidental killing or disturbance and the introduction of non-native mammals. (**Bryan Jeapes-Hall**)

IF CANDLEMAS BE FAIR AND BRIGHT
WINTER WILL HAVE ANOTHER FLIGHT;
IF ON CANDLEMAS DAY IT BE SHOWER AND RAIN
WINTER IS GONE AND WILL NOT COME AGAIN.

Candlemas falls on the 2nd February. Before the Reformation people lit candles on this day, to signify that Jesus was the light of the world. The candles were blessed at special services and then taken by the congregation to light their homes. (**Devina Bartlett**)

COPPICING is taking place at Neck Wood (top of Wolverton Hill on the left). If anyone wants to visit the wood by car they should park in the village car park and walk up.

MUD ON ROAD was raised in the interval (metaphorically) at the Parish Council meeting. Mrs. Beany felt Ewell Minnis was missing out on road cleaning and said using push chairs was very difficult. The Chairman said he would ring DDC again and maybe their hit squad would come out! In my opinion the Chairman's idea of a dedicated paid person in the village is the best answer.

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BLACK DOG - I have been asked to write that the latter has been biting people at Ewell Minnis, and is a problem.

AFTER CHRISTMAS Olive Harvey wrote to the Newsletter and said that she wants to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, good wishes and prayers at this time of her illness; they are so greatly appreciated. She says it is impossible to thank everyone individually, but sends sincere thanks to all.

WINE AND WISDOM for Neighbourhood Watch went very well. There were 13 tables and Pat Kelly with his team from Newlyn Meadow won. A good evening with plenty of wisdom, wine, fish and chips, not necessarily in that order. The wooden spoon was won by a team which included two contributors on this page, neither being me or the vicar.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS Our meeting on the 13th of January started on a sad note; we stood and held a minutes silence, our thoughts and prayers for Frances Harvey who had died a few days earlier. I understand she was a founder member of our W.I., a very happy, much loved lady. May she rest in peace. We also send our thoughts and prayers to our dear Olive, who is still in hospital being very brave and courageous, recovering from the partial amputation of her left leg. Also to Ester whilst her husband, Charlie, fights to recover from his triple bypass operation. We have started the new year on a very unhappy note. Because of Olive's hospitalisation, Mr Harman came and gave a most interesting talk and slide show on the river Dour. Not many of us knew it started at Watersend, and made its way through the valley and finished in the Western Docks. He also spoke about the Nailbourne with slides and photographs when in full flood; a lovely sight. It is possible it may flood this winter, dispensing with the myth of only once in seven years. No forthcoming events for this month, so take a deep breath and relax, as it's all go in March. The speaker at the next meeting on February the 10th will be Mrs. Beale with her suggestions on cooking for one or two.

Competition: 3 home made rock cakes, 6 snowdrops. (Tricia Wright)

FRANCES HARVEY was born in Alkham in 1902 and died in January 1998. She came from a very well known local family of Kirby who still farm at Chalksole. She always had a keen interest in Alkham whether it be past or present. She was a founder member of Alkham Women's Institute, church organist and a Councillor in the 1960's on Dover Rural Council. She also gave music lessons to people in the village. Her keen interest in the past meant many local legends, which she always talking about, were handed down to the present generation. She married Tom Harvey, son of the village builders and carpenters. Their son, two grandsons and one grand daughter survive them. (Sue Lees)

AGE CONCERN is now Age Concern Dover Town and Rural and are offering services at the Riverside Centre, Maison Dieu Gardens, Dover to people over 60. These include day care, bathing, chiropody, hairdressing, lunches, snacks, recreational activities and hearing advice. At present transport is not available. For details plus prices, please phone Mrs. Jane Honnor on 01304 207268, weekdays 10 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. (Betty Neely)

LORRIES - at the Parish Council meeting it was said that lorries are a problem on Wolverton Hill. A pamphlet from C.P.R.E. was displayed regarding this problem, which also exists on the Alkham Valley Road. If anyone has a couple of hours, then do the following: Take a normal weekday and count the lorries in both direction, recording the number of axles (don't include farm vehicles or minibuses - they also say exclude delivery vehicles, but since most are rat-running, I think they should be). Do four half hour periods, one in the morning and afternoon and two between 11.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. (adjust to peak time if necessary). Add up the total, multiply by 8 to give the average daily traffic (ADT); also get per minute by dividing the total by 2 and 60. Predict the future by multiplying both by 2.54 (low) or 3.1 (high). Send the results to local councillors, press, TV and C.P.R.E. at 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1 WOPP - 0171 976 6433. They have free booklets, Losing Lanes to Lorries and Improving Local Transport Policy.



NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

Well it's certainly not before time that we made a real attempt to renovate our south aisle roof. Those faithful few at the 11 o'clock service on January 18th witnessed the amazing sight of Mrs Raye Luckhurst putting up her umbrella to hold it over the organist at the beginning of each hymn throughout the service. If there is anyone out there who still hasn't responded to our renovation and heating appeal, please think seriously about whether you want your village to have a church in the future or not. As you probably know, our target is £35,000 and our regular congregation has pledged £8,000 with promises of some £15,000 from charitable trusts. (Donations to THE TREASURER, St. Anthony's Restoration Appeal, Yew Tree Cottage, South Alkham CT15 7EL). Meanwhile life in our benefice goes on. Our Sunday Club started with 19 children between the age of 5 and 11 years. They meet every Sunday at 9.30am at St. Radigund's church in Capel. Phone Gill (the Vicar) on 01303 244119 if you want more details. During February we have that welcome treat of the Dover College Choir singing evensong on the first Sunday at 4.00pm. The choir go from strength to strength. You may have heard them on Classic FM at Christmas and they are just preparing to make their first CD. How fortunate our village is to have them leading our worship at St. Anthony's again. Lets make that an occasion for a full church! And don't forget its Shrove Tuesday on February 24th so join us for Ash Wednesday Communion on the 25th at either 10am or 7.30pm in our new church at Capel. (Gill Calver)

HAIRDRESSER

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REGULAR EVENTS

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

TUESDAY 3 Fete committee meeting at 8.00 p.m.
TUESDAY 10 W.I. meeting at 7.30 p.m.
FRIDAY 13 Gwyn Prosser 10 to 12 village hall - see page 1
SATURDAY 14 South East Kent Astronomical Society at 7.30 p.m.
MONDAY 16 Cage bird society at 7.30pm contact David Tapsell on 822282
THURSDAY 19 Dog club at 7.30 p.m. contact Alison Wooding on 01303 840535
SATURDAY 21 **BINGO at 7.30pm - contact Kathleen Goldfinch on 822776**
SATURDAY 28 Bee keepers meet at 2.30 p.m. - all welcome

PLEASE NOTE REVISED DATE FOR KATHLEEN'S BINGO

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
February 1	Evensong (Dover College) 4pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.
February 8	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 4.00 p.m.
February 15	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
February 22	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist 10.00 a.m. at Capel		
February 25 Ash Wednesday	Joint Benefice Eucharist 10.00 a.m. at Capel		

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 liveryes, 01303 892056
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



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

As reported on the front page of the Newsletter, several cars were broken into, over Christmas whilst parked outside the Village Hall. Also, on Monday the 29th of December between 3 and 3:30 p.m., two cars were broken into on the Alkham Valley Road. We now require a new street co-ordinator for the section of the Alkham Valley Road between Slip Lane and the Dover end of the village. Sue Lees, who used to cover this section has taken over Hogbrook Hill Lane and the area surrounding the Marquis from Shirly Giles who has left the village. Please contact myself or Sue if you are interested. Finally I would just like to thank all those who helped organise the Wine and Wisdom evening on 17th January. (Mike Chalkley)

Alkham's made it through the nasty wind
 It's also made it through the storm,
 This little village still remains
 As beautiful as when born.

If you chance to look around
 There's always beauty there,
 You will hear the birds all singing
 And see the lovely autumn fare.

As you pass by all the puddles
 You may think - it can't get any wetter,
 But I'm sure now that January's here
 That the weather really will get better.
Margaret Ashman - Ewell Minnis

MILLENNIUM grants are available for ideas to celebrate the millennium in the village. Ideas are needed and therefore a sub-committee will be set up. Anybody interested in being on the committee, please contact Sue Lees on 822661.
NOTICE BOARD as the notice board in it's present location is very vulnerable to mindless vandalism, Val Bugden who owns the Marquis of Granby, has kindly offered to have it located on the front right hand side of the pub, near the red unused door. Seems like a good idea, but if you have any objections, adverse comments or any other suggestions to make, please contact Sue Lees on 822661.

NO SMOKING please note that for insurance reasons, smoking is not now allowed in the village hall.

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 55 March 1998



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

PETITION two hundred and thirty five signatures were collected by the distributors of the Newsletter and the Farm Shop on the petition asking the Kent Constabulary to return to their previous, and very successful, Community Policing Policy. Many thanks to all those who took the extra time to knock on doors and ask people whether they would like to sign. Sue Lees took the petition to the police and I understand there was a fairly swift reaction, with the assigned local police officer getting in contact and it is hoped he will be at the next Parish Council meeting. A copy was also handed to Gwyn Prosser M.P. at his surgery on the 13th of February. We await the outcome with interest; the reaction so far has been encouraging.

GWYN PROSSER had a deputation of 12 people at his surgery regarding the increase of cesspool emptying charges; this topic is covered in more detail below. There were also 6 or 7 other people who saw him about other personal problems. As local hack I went to see him with the result that he would like a copy of the Newsletter sent to him at the House of Commons every month, which is quite pleasing.

HOSPITALS As you are probably aware proposals have been put forward by the East Kent Health Authority on the future of local hospital services and a period of consultation is taking place until the 8th of May. A body called the Community Health Council has a statutory role to reflect the interests of the local population in matters relating to the National Health Service. It is therefore holding a series of public meetings to enable local residents to hear the proposals and then to question, or comment on them. The local meetings are on the 11th of March at the Burlington Hotel, Earls Avenue, Folkestone and on the 12th of March at the Connaught Room, Dover Town Hall, both starting at 7.00pm. In addition anybody can make their views known by contacting the Community Health Council at 5 Town Walk, Folkestone, CT20 2AD, telephone 01303 851127.

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Bryan Cope phoned the Secretary to the Parish Council just before I went to print last month and was very pleasant; he said he preferred to use the telephone. The Parish Council are going to discuss at their next meeting whether they think this method of communication is acceptable.

However, on the 16th of February I received a letter from Bryan Cope, which I assume is a copy of a letter sent to Sue Lees, in which he briefly addresses the points raised in the previous unanswered Parish Council letters. I will report on the Parish Council meeting in the April edition of the Newsletter.

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CESSPOOL CHARGES The main drainage stops at South Alkham and all the properties (some 15) at Drellingore and Lower Standen are on cesspools which coincidentally are opposite the two pumping stations and water catchment areas. Other properties which are not in the village confines are also on cesspool drainage. Dover District Council had proposed to abolish the subsidy which they give for emptying cesspools. There have been representations to the Council asking them to reverse the decision and I understand that a recommendation is going to committee on the 26th of February (after I have gone to print) for the subsidy to be reduced by £150 a year for each property. The present subsidy is based on the rateable value and therefore the cost could further increase if the rates for next year go up. It doesn't appear likely that the original proposal to remove the subsidy completely will happen at this time. If it had, Mr. Bishop of 2 Drellingore Terrace would have paid a staggering 600% increase on his present cost of £250 which is still above the charge for being on main drainage. Since 1996, the pollution effect of non main drained areas has much greater emphasis than social or economic grounds. Main drainage can be provided if criteria laid down by the Environmental Agency is met. An application has been made by Woodnesborough Parish Council and the recommendation is that other parishes wait until the outcome of the application is known. This should be in the next couple of months. From the maps showing aquifers and cesspools it would appear that Alkham's case isn't as strong. The cost of a scheme would have to be met by the local council or residents.

TRAFFIC CALMING a site meeting revealed that the road at the Folkestone end was not wide enough for an island to go in the centre and widening will therefore be necessary on the footpath side. It is also hoped that the parish council street lighting will be extended to the last bungalow, Hazeldene, on completion of the scheme. There was also a meeting at Bushey Ruff regarding the traffic problems on the Alkham Valley Road. Local residents complained about various issues which included the high entry speeds and exit speeds, cars parking on the verges, pedestrian movements across the road and the number of heavy lorries. As a result of this, a traffic count is currently being carried out. A hoped for ban on heavy lorries is not practicable, as it would be difficult to enforce and a width restriction is not acceptable. There is a width restriction at Fordwich but there it is possible for the emergency vehicles to access from both directions without undue delay. A general opinion was that if the second phase of the Alkham traffic calming was carried out (a single lane with footpath near the Marquis) then this would help as it would reduce traffic volumes because of longer journey times, with traffic diverting to the A20.

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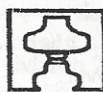
BLACK DOG last month's newsletter said I had been asked to write that a black dog had been biting people in Ewell Minnis and was a problem. Mr. Ashman has written to me and said that he vehemently objected to the article as it effectively branded every black dog in Ewell Minnis as a biter. I do take his point and I apologise to him and any other person who may have been upset by the article. Mr. Ashman suggests that the best way of dealing with such problems is to contact the proper authorities (Dog Warden).

Jacqueline Bentley

Advanced Trainee Psycho
Therapist - BA Hons C.Q.S.W.

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CUTTING YOUR NAILS

did you know there's a rhyme for this?

Cut them on:

Monday, you cut them for health;
Tuesday, you cut them for wealth;
Wednesday, you cut them for news;
Thursday, a new pair of shoes;
Friday, you cut them for sorrow;
Saturday, you cut them for true love
tomorrow,

Sunday, your safety you seek, the devil
will have you for the rest of the week.

Also, did you know that Britain adopted
the decision of the International
Standardisation Organisation in 1971 to
call Monday the first day of the week?

Source - Brewers Dictionary of Phrase
and Fable. (Editor)

PIMLICO the horse accident which was stated to have taken place at 'Pimlico' in the February Newsletter, actually took place at the junction of the byway known as 'Pimlico Way' with the Alkham Valley Road at South Alkham. Newcomers to the village may wonder where Pimlico was sited. It was once a hamlet of three cottages with a pond, yew tree and farm buildings. If one takes the Pimlico Way track from South Alkham, as it bears right from Marsh's Hill through to the five barred gate on to the level field, this is the site of one of the three cottages. A few yards along would have been a pair of cottages, one large and square, the other a small lean-to. The last of the cottages burnt down sometime after the second world war. However, the farm buildings, pond, yew tree and deep well finally disappeared when Hughie Batchelor amalgamated several small fields into one and regraded all into one large field, in the late 1970's. It took the Parish Council and the Alkham Valley Society years to get the old track restored on a permanent basis. This was commemorated in tree and hedge planting and naming the track 'Pimlico Way'. (Sue Lees)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY on the 4th of April at 7.30 pm in Dover Town Hall they are performing J S Bach's 'St. John Passion'. It will be a semi-dramatic performance with Kent Opera baritone, John Hancorn both singing and acting the part of Jesus. It is the first performance by a Kent choral society of a new English translation. The crowd i.e. the Choral Society will be dressed in every day clothes rather than DJ's. Tickets are £6 and are principally available from Dover Town Hall. Further information from Janice Foad on 01303 242694.

THE MAGPIE One for sorrow, two for joy, three for girl and four for boy. We all know the nursery rhyme associated with the magpie. A much maligned bird, and in some cases justified. Plundering the nests of other birds and eating their eggs and chicks is not socially acceptable to humans. But that is what they eat, amongst other things. A handsome bird belonging to the crow family, it has distinctive black and white plumage, with a wedge shaped tail that is approximately half its body length. The nest is made from sticks and lined with mud and grass. The female lays her eggs in April and usually raises one brood a year. Both parents feed the young which hatch after about 17 days. They are inquisitive birds and are known to steal bright objects. (Devina Bartlett)

COUNTRY NOTES the past few days have seen hard frosts in the morning. The grass is crunchy underfoot, each blade edged with tiny ice crystals. The sun rises, an orange ball in a pinky sky. A frozen layer of mist hangs over the valley. A flock of sheep wait to be fed, their warm breath condensing into white clouds of steam. Today, however everything has changed. Thick fog has settled along the valley. In the lanes moisture drips from over hanging branches. It is a silent world today, everything is muffled. Through the gate at the back of St. Anthony's I let the dogs off who disappear into the gloom. Excited yelps indicate rabbits, their eye sight is better than mine! Tree roots across the path are slippery and a hazard for the unwary. Hamish hurries back to reassure himself that I'm still there but Jake is gone. The damp is starting to make me feel cold. Moisture gathers on the edges of my eye lashes, I can feel it on my face when I blink. Repeated calls eventually bring back two dirty wet dogs. They at least have enjoyed themselves. For me, I would have been glad of an extra jumper. (Devina)

BUTTERFLIES over the past few years we have been asked to carry out a butterfly survey, by the Butterfly Conservation Society Ltd. We started the survey at Ringwood, where we used to live and then continued when we moved to Alkham. At Ringwood in 1996 we recorded eleven different species. In 1997 at Alkham, off and on over a three to four month period we also recorded the same number. I now have a list of the common garden butterflies to be seen around Alkham and these are the Large White, Small White, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock. Less common butterflies in the area are the Brimstone, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Painted Lady, Comma and Meadow Brown. You may see the Speckled Wood, appropriately in the woods around here and you may see the Orange Tip. The Green Veined White, Gatekeeper, Small and Large Skipper, Small Copper, Wall Brown, Marbled White, Small Heath and Ringlet are the least common. Butterfly decline has been due to the changing landscape, when hedges were uprooted and woods removed. This is gradually changing as hedges are re-instated and trees planted. If you would like to know the best things to plant to attract butterflies then please ring me on 824482. Butterflies have already been seen this year in Alkham, probably Red Admirals which have been in hibernation and have come out early. (Bryan Jeapes-Hall)

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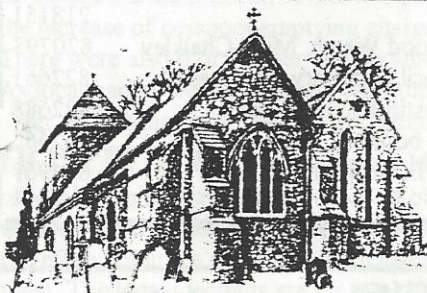
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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

We shall be celebrating Mothering Sunday in our traditional way in Alkham this year, with an informal service at 3.00 pm followed by tea in the village hall. We do hope as many mums and grandmums as possible will be joining us, with as many other family members as can make it.

Don't forget our church A.G.M. on Thursday the 2nd of April in the village hall at 7.30 pm. If you would like to join us for that meeting you would be most welcome. It would be good to see some new faces who wouldn't mind occasionally being sidespeople or readers at our church services.

Anyone wishing to vote needs to be on the church electoral roll. See one of our Church Wardens for further details. (Gill Calver)

ALASTAIR HARVEY and family would like to thank people for their condolences and contributions to the church restoration fund in memory of Frances.

ALKHAM OPEN GARDENS 1998 the committee wishes to thank the many people who have offered to help at the Open Gardens Weekend on the 25th and 26th of July 1998. Subject to confirmation, there should be twelve gardens open to the public and exhibitions of old farm implements, and badgers and their habitat in a further two gardens. The Village Hall will also have an exhibition staged by the White Cliffs Countryside showing the flora and fauna of the chalk downs and St. Anthony's church, being the centre piece, will not only be decorated with flowers but will have exhibitions of art, craft and old Alkham photographs. All will be open from 10.30 am to 5.00 pm each day the cost being £3 per person per day, children 50p. Monies raised will go towards the reparation funds for St. Anthony's church. The organist cannot be protected with an umbrella for ever! If anyone has any particular contacts regards publicity, or suggestions or comments, the committee would be happy to hear from you before the next meeting on March the 30th (telephone 01304 822295). As money is needed for expenses prior to the weekend there will be a coffee morning at Bramhall, the home of Susannah Tapsell on Easter Saturday (**Sue Lees**)

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS not a lot to report apart from the absolute delight of seeing Ester bring Charlie home from hospital. I understand he is making good progress, but is still very weak. Welcome home Charlie, great to have you back. Unfortunately our dear Olive is still hospitalised, but making good progress, and trying very hard to build up her strength; she thanks us all for the kind thoughts and good wishes. At our February meeting Mrs. Monica Beal had a few surprises up her sleeve for us, with her unique style of cooking for one or two. I must admit it never occurred to me to cut the top of milk cartons, or other suitable ones and use the remainder as microwave cooking utensils. The cus-cus salad with lemon balm was certainly different from anything a number of us had previously tasted, so was the rocket - Wow! We have got a busy month ahead of us, on the 3rd is the millennium committee at 7 pm at Devina's; on the 11th is the Whitfield afternoon W.I. birthday party and on the 12th church cleaning at 10.00 am, followed by the Temple Ewell W.I. birthday party; on the 19th at 6.30 pm is the Marlowe Theatre outing; on the 24th it is the half yearly Council meeting at Margate; on the 30th there is the Open Gardens Committee at 2.30 pm at Bramhall and finally on the 31st there is the Group meeting at Capel-le-Ferne. The next meeting is on the 10th of March when the speaker will be Mr. J O'Brien, the photograph image 'Moments in time'. Competition is an Autumn photograph and a bowl of bulbs. (**Tricia Wright**)

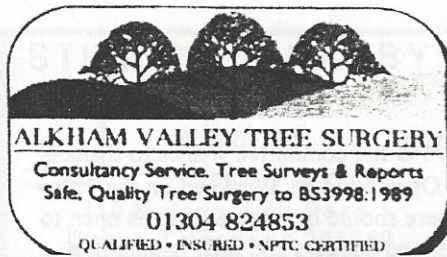
ROAD CLOSURE on or after the 2nd of March Belsey Lane, Ewell Minnis will be closed for highway works from Warren Lane to Greenwich Lane for 4 weeks or until such time as the works are complete. The alternative route is via Ferne Lane.

JANUARY 1901 the local newspaper reported that the French were to start trial boring to find the depth of the iron ore at Ellinge. Shortly after, the plant arrived at Priory Station and was conveyed by traction engine to Ellinge. The boring was to ascertain whether the iron ore found some 250 metres down, was the same thickness as that found at Dover (4 metres). The boring would be continued into the coal seam below to see whether it was in viable quantities. Presumably the outcome was not favourable. Coal was discovered when the first serious attempt on the Channel Tunnel was started in 1882. The Shakespeare pit never produced enough coal and in 1925 a report was issued dealing with the industrialisation of East Kent, as the significance of coal and iron only 60 miles from London was not to be overlooked. It was estimated that about 250,000 extra people would be required to operate the coal mines and steel mills. Eight new towns were to be built (Chislet, Shepherdswell etc.) and a railway line up the Alkham Valley to carry ironstone from Drellingore. Alkham could have been a mining village - I understand sub soil rights are still held!

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WHAT'S ON (in village hall except where stated)

Regular events

THURSDAY Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 to 9.50am
 FRIDAY Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

MONDAY 2 Parish Council meeting at 7.30 pm - all welcome
 TUESDAY 3 Millennium Committee meeting - see below
 SATURDAY 7 Jumble Sale for village hall funds at 11.00 am.
 SATURDAY 7 Bingo at 7.30 pm. - contact Kathleen Goldfinch on 822776
 SUNDAY 8 Private booking
 TUESDAY 10 W.I. meeting at 7.30 pm.
 SATURDAY 14 Over 60's dinner at 6 pm.
 MONDAY 16 Cage bird society at 7.30 pm. - ring David Tapsell 822776
 THURSDAY 19 Dog Club at 7.30 pm. - Alison Wooding on 01303 840535
 SATURDAY 21 South East Kent Astronomical Society at 7.30 pm.
 SUNDAY 22 Mothering Sunday tea following church service - see over
 SATURDAY 28 Beekeepers at 2.30 pm. All welcome

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704
 County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
 and work number 01795532547
 District Councillor, Fred Scales 201382
 District Councillor, Trevor Bamfield 202334
 Vicar, Gill Calver 01303 244119
 Church Warden, Betty Neely 822688
 Church Warden, Betty Preston 822421
 Police 218151
 Neighbourhood Watch, Mike Chalkley 820798
 Parish Council Secretary, Sue Lees 822661
 Women's Institute, Betty Neely 822688
 Village Hall booking, Sue Lees 822661
 Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969

CHURCH SERVICES			
D A Y	A L K H A M	C A P E L	H O U G H A M
March 1	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.
March 8	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
March 15	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
March 22 Mothering Sunday	Worshipping together 3 pm. With tea after in village hall	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.
March 29	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m. followed by the A.G.M.	Said Communion 8.00 am.

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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, DIY and grass liveryes, 01303 892056
MARQUIS OF GRANBY, traditional family "pub", good "grub", good "value", good "fun", 822945
OWLER LODGE, Alkham Valley Road, bed and breakfast, Pat and Bill Ower, 826375
PETER WEST, Driver Training, 19 Newlyn Meadow, (Police Advanced Driver), 827127
E R WOODRUFF, building maintenance, carpentry, decorating, Swanbourne Cottage, Wolverton. 824991

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MEN WANTED to join the Millennium Committee. At present it is an all lady affair consisting of Devina Bartlett, Helen Scopes, Betty Neely, Tricia Wright, Sue Lees and Sue Cook. The first meeting will be at Devina's on the 3rd of March. If you want to join then please phone Sue Lees on 822661.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH it is good to report that there have been no reportable crimes, or vandalism for that matter in the parish over the last month. I am also pleased to say that Ken Hammond, who lives at Meadowside on Slip Lane, has volunteered to be the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for the section of the Alkham Valley Road between Slip Lane and the Dover end of the parish. (Mike Chalkley)

SPARROW HAWK you can see on page three that Jan Martinez is once again advertising in the Newsletter. She included in her letter that there seems to be a resident sparrowhawk at Everden, lurching when he can on small birds which she has been feeding. He has learnt that they congregate around the feeders and has now taken to hiding himself at the bottom of the yew hedge and lies in wait to pounce. Jan is designing the planters and planting at the Eastern Docks and she has noticed of late, Sparrowhawks wheeling above the cliffs and is thankful that we haven't managed to exterminate everything. (I don't know what the sparrows think about it though)



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ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 56 April 1998

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

POLICING Des Connolly, the Community police officer for Alkham was at the Parish Council meeting on the 2nd of March. The Chairman invited him to address the Council and audience at the start of the proceedings. He explained that he was also responsible for the parishes of Hawkinge, Capel, Hougham, Swingfield, Denton, Wootton and Lydden and that 95% of his time was taken up in Hawkinge. There is a Community Support Team of three officers, one of whom is Guy Thompson who was previously the officer responsible for Alkham. Their function is to take some of the administrative duties off the Community Police Officers and also to coordinate the use of other agencies such as KCC and the DVLC in fighting crime. To contact Des one should ring 289176 and if there is no response, the call diverts to the Support Team at Deal. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme has now been combined with the Community Support Team and it is apparent that the police are trying to pass more responsibility to the parish council and local community regarding rural crime problems. Lyminge has organised themselves and pay for an office for the Community Police Officer and the parish Neighbourhood Constable.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSTABLE this is a variation on the Special Constable as they work in a specific area: their own neighbourhood. Applicants should be between 18 and 50 years of age, with people up to 55 being considered on merit. Those selected are then fully trained to act as a police officer with full powers of arrest. Volunteer duties are for at least four hours a week, with only expenses being paid. Should anybody be interested in carrying out this worthwhile job: please ring 0500 787 700 and leave your name and address on the answering machine. You will then be sent an information pack detailing the duties and requirements of a Neighbourhood Constable. Should anyone volunteer, I would consider making my old shop available rent free, for use as an office for the Neighbourhood Constable and the Community Police Officer.

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HIGHWAYS

most of you will no doubt have seen that a start has been made on the first stage of the traffic calming. The road is being widened just west of Hazeldene such that a centre island can be installed with attendant keep left signs and central beacon. There will be a gateway effect formed by village/30 m.p.h. signs and coloured road surfacing, with the same at the Dover end but without the island. There will be central road hatching at the Folkestone end down to the Marquis of Granby, where the bollards on the opposite verge are to be installed at the same time. Thanks must go to Alan Ross of KCC for pushing the works through.

New gradient and directional road signs have been ordered for Wolverton Hill, and KCC propose installing three or four posts either side of the Pimlico Way junction at South Alkham to deter vehicles from parking on the verge.

ROCKING HORSE

an £1800 grant has been allowed by Dover District Council for the replacement rocking horse for Vicarage Meadow. Thanks must go to our Dover District Councillor, Fred Scales, who put the argument to two Committees. The catalogues are now going to be examined and an order placed. I wonder if the new one will make the same continuous squeaking noise?

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

this is not a Parish Council Meeting but as the name implies, an annual meeting of the parishioners. Reports will be given by the Chairman, the Treasurer and any one else who is invited to speak. It is an opportunity for parishioners to question the parish council and also to make their views known, so please do come along. It is on the 6th of April at 7.30 p.m.

in the village hall. Inspector Fudge from the Kent Constabulary is attending and will speak about Community Policing. The village petition regarding the latter certainly had the desired effect and stirred things up, with lots of letters from the police and visits from the local constable. Questions will be taken, so if you'd like to make your views known or ask any further questions about policing, then this is the opportunity to do so.

CESSPOOLS

Fred Scales, our local District Councillor, should also be thanked for the work he has put in with regard to the problem of the proposed removal of subsidies for emptying cesspools. The outcome was as reported in the last newsletter, that the subsidy is being reduced by £150 per household. This, in most cases, makes being on a cesspool very expensive when compared to main drainage. Fred Scales is sorting out the paper work regarding the latter for properties west of South Alkham.


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29th MARCH, 5th APRIL
DREWS FIELD A257**
**DEAL BOOT FAIRS
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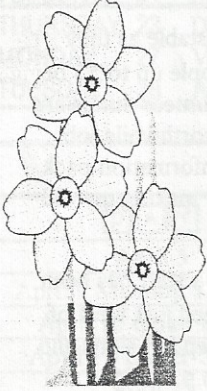
10 Lady Garne Road, West Hougham

OTHER P.C. ITEMS

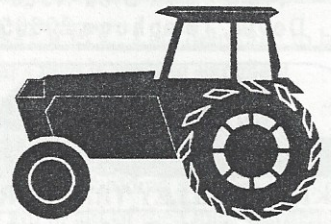
it was very pleasing to see our County Councillor, Bryan Cope, at the Parish Council Meeting. He promised to raise some points which arose during the meeting. Evidently there is not enough room to put the notice board by the Marquis of Granby so it is to be repaired and probably left where it is. Alan Ross and DDC are to be approached and a cost obtained for placing a further PC light near Hazeldene. The papers regarding the handling of the planning application to demolish Chalksole Green Farm by Dover District Council have been completed and will be sent to the Ombudsman. In the interval mention was made of vehicles which are parked obstructing the footpath. The layby at the bottom of Wolverton Hill was referred to again and the Chairman said he would raise it with KCC; it is however at present on private land. Rob Lees has put a car park sign up on the lamp post on the corner of the village green. The proposed village hall extension will cost between £30 and £40,000. KCC could provide 50%, DDC 25% and the Parish 25%. The Village Hall fund has £5000 and the request was for £5000 from the Parish Council. The item will be raised at the annual parish meeting. Paul Tapsell reported on the recent KAPC meeting. There is no money for road repairs as only £1.2 million pounds has been granted to KCC rather than the £4.0 million needed. Parish Councils can no longer automatically designate a school governor. The police carried out a radar speed trap on the Alkham Road at Bushy Ruff. The results were pretty awful with one vehicle being logged at 60mph, whilst another was going so fast it was too dangerous to stop. They are keen for stage two of the Alkham traffic calming to go ahead as this may cut the volume of traffic on the road.

COUNTRY NOTES

the past month has seen just about every sort of weather. Roaring gales, lashing rain, thick fog, blazing sunshine and frost & ice. But despite all of this, the countryside is slowly coming to life. There are birds everywhere, rushing to & fro searching out suitable sites. The rooks in the woodland behind us wake early. They swoop around their lofty kingdom cawing loudly. Some return to the treetops with twigs clamped in beaks to build or re-arrange old nests. There is much squabbling & flapping of wings for the best sites, and in the ensuing chaos, their precious materials fall to the ground. The early morning sunshine turns the lawn into a diamond carpet. Catch it right and you can see every colour of the rainbow glittering before you. A starling sits in the apple tree, watching me watching him. He is a handsome bird with his iridescent plumage of greeny purple black displayed for all to see. An occasional burst of song advertises his presence to any passing mate. Our domestic doves are already proud parents of a tiny naked chick. A bit early yet, I'm told, but it seems to be thriving. In the garden the primroses peep out of a carpet of dead leaves, alongside a pretty clump of lungwort with its spotted foliage. The daffodils are a welcome splash of colour on the bare earth. The first bunch of the year sit on the kitchen table and fills the air with their slight scent. A promise of things to come. (Devina Bartlett)

**TUG OF WAR**

the organisers of the Hougham Fete have been in contact and would like to challenge us to a tug of war, firstly at their fete and then ours. A team of between 5 and 8 men is required who will additionally be required to dress up as women, probably of the Monty Python type. When I said that I only weighed ten stones the organiser from Hougham said that they might have similar problems and perhaps the answer was to tie the rope to a horse and cart in the manner of the Italian advert on television. Should be great fun and would volunteers please ring Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082 as soon as possible.

**HEDGES**

John Garlinge (the eponymous advertiser) joined the South of England Hedge Laying Society about a year ago and has so far attended two training sessions. On the 14th of March, John attended a third course at Uckfield, during which he realised that it was in fact a competition to select the most improved novice pair, with winners receiving the Ernie Briggs Memorial Shield. Paired with Ian Lamb from Brighton who had had six lessons, they had to lay about 40 foot of hedge in 6 hours. Competing against 10 other pairs John and Ian won and were presented with the shield which is being engraved at present. When my neighbour and I were out dog walking (a misnomer, because that's about the only thing my dog doesn't do) we came across a group of people hedge planting by Green Lane, Ewell Minnis in appalling weather. It seems a very worthwhile thing to do and congratulations to John for his success.

DAY OUTING TO HEVER CASTLE

will take place on Friday the 17th of July. The coach fare is £6 and the entrance fee is also £6. The coach will depart from the village at about 9.30 a.m. and will return by around 5.30 to 6.00 p.m. Anyone wishing to join the party, please contact Cherry Leppard on 01303 251105

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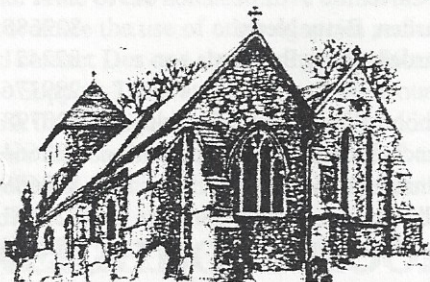
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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

What wonderful news from our treasurer that our restoration appeal fund now stands at £22,040 pledged or given so far. We are hopeful that by the end of May, we shall know the result of our application for a grant to the Joint English Heritage and National Lottery Scheme which Sue Lees spent so long preparing before submission last June. So watch this space for further news of progress on our building. Our bell ringers tell me that we are also in dire need of some new ropes for the bells, which means another expense if we are to continue hearing that wonderful sound, so dear to the village. Meanwhile services go on as normal! Do come and share in our Easter celebrations at 9.30 a.m. on the 12th of April. Lets have a full church to celebrate that new life which the resurrection of Jesus promises each one of us. Happy Easter. (Gill Calver)
Editor - the bell ropes cost £90 each, there being four in all. If anyone would like to make a donation towards the cost of their replacement, please see David Tapsell or Sue Lees.

OVER - 60'S DINNER

the twelfth annual dinner held for the over 60's of Alkham in the village hall, on Saturday evening the 14th of March literally started with a bang: the microwave exploded, but this was coped with and dinner started promptly at 6.30 p.m. when 55 villagers took their places at the attractively laid tables (the colour theme this year being blue and yellow). The meal was served by the Polden family and helpers and consisted of four courses, accompanied by red or white wine. The guests included Mr. and Mrs. Brian Luckhurst and Mr. and Mrs. Ficken (ex-villagers) who twelve years ago were the original organisers of the dinner. Sad news awaited us after the meal, when Mrs. Polden announced that the twelve year era was coming to an end, and there would be no more yearly dinners. Mrs. Polden went on to say that she and her family felt that they could no longer carry on organising the yearly event: it was all getting a bit too much for them. This news was sadly received by all present. To show their appreciation for all the many years' effort put into the annual event, the over 60's presented Mrs. Polden and family with flowers and a weather vane topped by a skittle player, skittles being the game enjoyed by the Polden family. In passing I would like to mention that the weather vane was made by Mr. Cal Scopes. The evening's entertainment was provided by Tony Finn and his keyboard. Well all good things come to an end and after a good meal, presentations etc. and our thanks said, it was time to wend our way home. (Betty Neely)

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS

Mr. Joseph O'Brien entertained us at our March meeting with his 'Moments in Time' captured by photographic image. He gave us a new insight into the art of photography, how to view and see beyond the obvious; to try to imagine why that particular scene caught the photographer's eye and induced him or her to retain that moment for future generations to enjoy and learn from. A most interesting subject and our grateful thanks to him. Our congratulations to Margaret: one of her beautiful paintings has been chosen to be included in the 1999 W.I. calendar. Well done Margaret, you always make us so proud of you. On Saturday the 4th of April there is a jumble sale in aid of the WI, helpers and sale, items 10 to 10.30 a.m. with doors open at 11.00 a.m. On Saturday the 18th of April Helen is giving a coffee morning from 10.00 to 12 noon at the Willows; everyone is welcome. The next meeting is on the 14th of April with Miss L Kay speaking 'a light hearted look at education'. Competition: pot holder also known as a planter; selection of mixed herbs. (Tricia Wright)

THE BELLS, THE BELLS

you may have heard the bells ringing at St. Anthony's lately, sometimes in unison and sometimes not. I meet Jeannette Cowan when dog walking and I have asked her if she would write a little piece for the newsletter..... On Thursday evenings between the hours of 8 and 9 o'clock we practice bell ringing in St. Anthony's. There are eight of us, two being new to the art, myself and Ken Hammond. The 'professionals' are the Tapsells, Richard, David, Alan, Paul and his wife, who make it look so easy. It is a very enjoyable hour and on the 19th of March we had a newcomer, who was Brian our reporter for Alkham. (Jeannette Cowan) Editor - I thought I'd go and see what they were up to as Ken has also mentioned it to me. Richard showed me the bells, and David the ropes. You hold the rope and pull the Sally (or was it the other way round?) It was good fun and the clanging you heard was probably me. The Tapsell brothers and one son played from the printed sheet starting 1,2,3,4 each pulling the respective bell and then alternating for some time. That was the impressive bit you heard. On the 22nd of March, Mothering Sunday, Mssrs. Tapsell rang the changes with Ken Hammond doing the solo at the end.

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WHAT'S ON (in village hall except where stated)

Regular events

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 FRIDAY Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

THURSDAY 2 Alkham PCC AGM 7.30 p.m.
 SATURDAY 4 W.I. Jumble Sale at 11.00 am.
 SATURDAY 4 Bingo at 7.30 pm. - contact Kathleen Goldfinch on 822776
 MONDAY 6 Annual Parish meeting at 7.30 p.m. - see page 1
 SATURDAY 11 Coffee morning at Bramhall for open gardens at 10.30 a.m.
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 TUESDAY 21 Millennium committee meeting at 7.30 p.m.
 THURSDAY 23 Dover Deanery Synod (Alkham PCC) at 7.00 p.m.
 MONDAY 27 Village Hall AGM at 8.00 p.m.
 TUESDAY 28 AGM WI markets

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 and work number 01795532547
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 Police 289176
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 Parish Council Secretary, Sue Lees 822661
 Women's Institute, Betty Neely 822688
 Village Hall booking, Sue Lees 822661
 Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969

CHURCH SERVICES

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
April 5	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.
April 9 Maundy Thursday		Sung Eucharist 7.30 p.m.	
April 10 Good Friday		Good Friday meditation 2-3 pm	
April 12 Easter Sunday	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 11.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 6.30 p.m.
April 19	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
April 26	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist at Hougham at 10.00 am		

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 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

Jacqueline Bentley

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*If you wonder what this is but think it
 might be for you then give me a ring on*

01303 893743

OLIVE HARVEY I am delighted to be
 able to report that Olive is making excellent
 progress and is quite her old self again.

OPEN GARDENS on the 11th of April at
 Bramhall, Sue Tapsell is holding a coffee morning
 starting at 10.30 am in aid of the Open Gardens.

1997 Survey of Rural Services - self evidently, rural areas
 are dependent upon private transport. 9000 rural parishes were surveyed and in summary:
 82% had no food-only shop:70% no general store:43% no post office:92% no police
 station:93% no public nursery:91% no day care for the elderly:91% no bank or building
 society:99% had no Job Centre or Benefit Agency Office:68% no youth club:41% no WI. We
 have the first two (Alkham Valley Farm Shop) and the WI, but none of the other. The
 challenge is to provide public community transport (one conclusion). Sue Lees has the
 original from which these details were abstracted should you wish to read more.

DOG FOULING Dover District Council confirmed that within the 30 mph
 limit, which soon will be from Short Lane to Hazeldene, that dog fouling is an offence on the
 road, pavement, footway, grass verge and gutters. The village green is also included but the
 churchyard is not. I understand that church land is considered consecrated land and therefore
 dog owners should not allow their dog to foul the churchyard. Gill Calver however, may put
 up signs. Wolverton Hill to Fryers Ferne Farm is not included because it is not in a restricted
 speed area. Someone I met recently in Folkestone, has just had to pay a £100 fine for
 allowing his dog to foul the footpath, so there does appear to be dog wardens about.

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 57 May 1998

Free-self financed-non profit



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

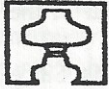
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VILLAGE HALL

at the Annual Parish Meeting (see page 2) the Chairman, George Tyler said that it was very unlikely that the Capital Fund would ever be used to purchase Vicarage Meadow from the Church Commissioners and with the advice of the auditors it has been decided that the fund will be used for the benefit of the village. The Parish Council has therefore unanimously agreed to support the Village Hall Committee and provide a £5000 contribution towards the cost of the village hall extension, when the works are carried out.

DAFFODILS

and painted railings. Credit must go to Peter Chambers who lives in Martinvale for bringing his neighbours, Barry Spicer and Ernie Cook together and planting the line of daffodils on the village green just the other side of the railings between the cricket pavilion and the village hall. Further thanks must go to Ernie Cook who has also given the railings a fresh coat of paint.

WILLIE WENHAM

if you have lived in the village for less than ten years then this name will mean very little to you. Older inhabitants will remember our colourful milkman who went round the village in a pair of shorts in all weathers. His wife recently visited Margaret Ashman of Green Lane, Ewell Minnis from Canada where they went to be near their son and said that Willie had recently had a fall and is in hospital. Willie was 80 years old on the 17th of April. Those with video recorders can no doubt dig out a Cilla Black, Surprise - Surprise from 1987? when Willie was featured on the show to honour his retirement. Some of the villagers were in the chorus of the show, aptly named the 'Gold Tops'. Quite an event - perhaps we should have a screening in the village hall?

BELL ROPES

you may have read in last months edition, an appeal for money to buy four new ropes for the bells in St. Anthony's. I am delighted to report that the generous members of the congregation and other parishioners donated more than enough money to buy the ropes. Two people who wish to remain anonymous, kindly donated £90 each, this being the price of a bell rope. One £90 came from outside the village and was in memory of Bill Collard who use to ring the tenor bell. Money left over will go to the Church Fund.

TRAFFIC CALMING

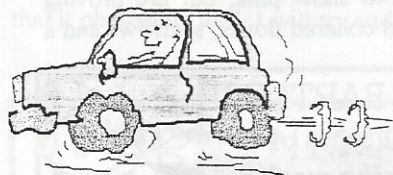
at the time of going to print the first stage of the traffic calming is almost complete. Hopefully it will induce drivers to reduce their speed. Des Connolly, our Community Police Officer acknowledged the fact that the Alkham Valley Road was the natural route for most drivers accessing Folkestone or the M20 (it's a long slip road really). At the Annual Parish Meeting the chairman said that we should push for stage two of the traffic calming scheme and this was echoed by the Alkham Valley Society, when Paul Tapsell spoke. As reported last month, a joint approach is to be made by Alkham and Temple Ewell to persuade KCC to implement the scheme. The A260 improvement scheme around Hawkinge has been approved as the correct route. From just north of Densole it is proposed that the continuation of the A260 bypass will now head north east to the traffic lights at the top of Lydden Hill, on the A2. This junction would be grade separated, with the A2 free flowing over the top of a roundabout. The Dover Society has written to the Minister of Transport urging him to include a further road which would go from this roundabout in a north east direction, to join the new A256 Whitfield bypass north of Whitfield. This, they argue would take vehicles off the Alkham Valley, a jewel in the East Kent countryside, which is becoming increasingly threatened by traffic. They are probably right but there is yet to be a Public Inquiry for the second part of the A260 and with the government's moratorium on road building, it will probably never be built. Our thanks go to the Dover Society for highlighting the traffic problem along the valley.

SPEED CHECK

the police intend to, or may have by the time you have read this, carry out speed checks through the village in the near future. At Saltwood, Des Connolly reported that when a speed check was carried out the majority of the drivers exceeding the speed limit

were locals. Assuming there are 150 cars in Alkham, this constitutes 6% of the volume of traffic going through the village every day, so it seems unlikely here. I understand a local was prosecuted for doing 36 mph through the village in the last speed check.

(if you have any comments on the layout of the Newsletter please let me know)



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THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

was held on the 6th of April in the village hall. The chairman, George Tyler gave his report and said that because of the loss of the rate support grant and other cost increases, the amount paid to the parish by a householder in band G has risen from £9.85 to £21.90 this year. He went on to say that there had been various disappointments through the year, such as the increase in vandalism and petty crime, Dover District Council's Planning Department's attitude, the lack of DDC part funding for a village handyman and the general cut back of funding for highways, footpaths and street lighting.

BRYAN COPE our County Councillor, gave a short speech and showed the audience a copy of 'The Next Five Years' which details the clear targets which the County Council has set itself. These include jobs, the countryside, towns, the environment, transport, education, those in need and community matters. On our behalf he had managed to persuade KCC to reduce the salt bin re-filling charge by £131.

TREVOR BAMFIELD, our District Councillor was next to speak. He regretted the large amount being spent on legal costs regarding health and housing, some £300,000. He also said that if noise was a problem, decibel reading equipment was available from the Whitfield offices. He considered that the planning decision by DDC to permit the demolition of Chalksole Green Farm House was a complete disaster. In all matters the parish view is paramount and he would always support that view.

FRED SCALES our other District Councillor also gave a short speech in which he said that he felt that the rural communities were being knocked and in conclusion said that on our behalf he had attended over 100 meetings in the last year.

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY Paul Tapsell said that their function was to protect the village and the valley and was working with Temple Ewell regarding traffic calming. Later this year there will be a working party to trim the thriving hedge on Pimlico Way, which the Society planted some ten years ago. It is the 21st year of the Society and he would endeavour to increase activity as well as membership.

INSPECTOR FUDGE the guest speaker, said that the damage to the notice board offended him as much as it did us. Since the Community Support Team had been set up in January, there had been over 1800 calls answered and said he was optimistic that the set up would continue. Guy Thompson is liaising with Neighbourhood Watch and will do a survey and give feedback to them. Roger Anstis is aiming to have 70 Special Constables by the end of the year. He thought that the closure of the youth club and the increase in vandalism was related. In Aylesham there had been feedback via the youth club as to who carried out the vandalism.

PC DES CONNOLLY said that crime in East Kent was at an all time low and that he had no great concern about the level of crime in the village. He was appalled by the vandalism to the bus shelter and said that he intends to find out who was responsible for the damage to the notice board. In the last 12 month period there had been 17 accidents on the Alkham Valley Road. He said that he intended to start a monthly surgery and that it would be great if someone volunteered to be a Neighbourhood Constable.



BADGERS now is the time of year that badger cubs are coming out of their setts. Many will not make it through the first year as they are killed on the roads, die naturally or because of badger diggers who take young and old. If a mother is taken when she is lactating the cubs will die. If you find a dead or injured badger, please phone 824482 as we can sometimes help by finding the sett to feed the young. The word badger comes from the French, becher which means digger. (Bryan Jeeps-Hall)

COUNTRY NOTES the past week and a half have been so cold and as I write this, the rain is falling steadily outside. The garden birds undaunted, sing and sing to each other. Nesting is well under way. A family of young Starlings can be heard in the roof space above our heads as we sit down for our meals in the kitchen. The chick which our own dove reared, is now out and about flying and feeding itself. They have a further two fluffy fledglings to minister to and look quite harassed at times. In the garden, the daffodils have now given way to the tulips and wallflowers, though a slightly later flowering triple headed daff scents the damp air. Still cushions of purple aubretia bloom against the old stone wall at the back of the pond. The water has attracted a pair of Mallard ducks, nicknamed Des and Deirdre! He is a very handsome bird with his greeny blue head and black beady eyes. Both are wary and run off when approached, wagging their tail feathers indignantly at being disturbed, only to return a few minutes later when they think you have gone. The buds on the apple tree are beginning to show pink, but are proving irresistible to a pair of Bullfinches who appear regularly for a snack. The rain has stopped now and collared doves, sparrows and a robin are lined up on the fence, feathers fluffed and bedraggled. They are waiting to be fed and probably like us wondering where spring has gone. (Devina Bartlett)

THE STARLING (Sturnus Vulgaris) one of our most common birds. Much of its success is their ability to eat many different foods. Fruit, seeds, insects, worms and household waste can all be consumed by these greedy birds. Huge flocks can gather to eat, the added numbers are protection against predators. It is also a possible reason why thousands gather to roost for the night. The male builds the nest and then tries to attract a female. Between 3 and 6 small blue eggs are laid. Incubation is about 11 days. Most pairs will hatch out a second brood if there is enough food (Devina)

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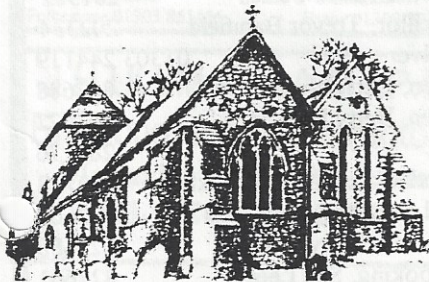


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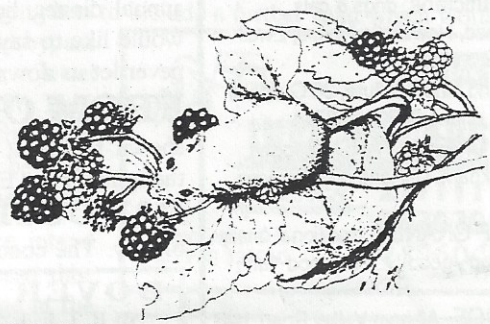
NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

Thanks to all those who contributed so generously to the replacement of our church's bell ropes, which we now can replace. Don't forget that we are still looking for donations towards our heating and restoration fund (£13000 to find). Those of you who have special memories of St. Mary's old church just outside Capel village will be glad to see we are opening it again for worship on the morning of Pentecost Sunday (May 31st) at 11.00 am. Do join us and bring your friends to see this beautiful church now in the hands of the Churches Conservation Trust but so important in the history of our benefice. (Gill Calver)

REWARD of £100 will be given by Colin Griggs of the Alkham Valley Farm Shop to anyone who gives information leading to a conviction, regarding the damage to his plastic tunnels. On Thursday the 16th of April, probably in the hours of darkness, somebody with size 8 to 10 boots came across his neighbours ground and slashed the plastic sheeting on his nursery tunnels causing £500 worth of damage. Please ring Colin on 01303 893351 if you can help solve this crime.

CYSTIC FIBROSIS a street collection will be held on the 9th of May in Dover High Street. Anyone who can help for an hour would be extremely welcome. Also, many thanks to everyone who contributed to the 1st River Brownies, Blue Peter Breath Easy Bring and Buy Sale, which raised over £120 (Julie Saltmer)

My thanks to Margaret Knowles, of Pastoral, Slip Lane, for letting me have some copies of her marvellous drawings. Space permitting and assuming that it photostats well, I will try and put one in every month.




W.I. NEWS we had a really great evening at our last meeting on the 14th of April, but before I go any further, will you please accept my most sincere and humble apologies. I really did get it wrong! A pot holder is exactly that, a holder to pick up either a pot or a pan. Anything hot, not, most definitely not, a planter. Why it cannot be called a pan holder or oven gloves, I will never know? So sorry. Now to get back to April the 14th. During our President's report she mentioned that the half yearly meeting at Margate had been a very nice, happy, pleasant day, and Mr Richard Baker had given an amusing, easy talk. Good! Whoever it was who suggested Miss Kay as our speaker on the 14th deserves a medal, or something similar. What a wonderful lady she is. She kept us captivated with her light hearted look at education, a most informative history lesson on how our education system, as we know it, evolved. Also a wonderful personal family history, being the 13th and the last of her father's children she took us back to Victorian times with highlights of her and her parent's childhood. Now 84, looking and talking 20 years younger, she kept us enthralled for a good hour. Thank you Miss Kay for such a pleasant and enjoyable talk. The evening was rounded off with a mouth watering array of munchies, fresh strawberries and cream, on a cold evening in April: just that extra oomph. Thank you ladies, your efforts were greatly appreciated. Next meeting 12th May, no speaker so a nice social evening instead. Competitions: hand made birthday card, 4 sticks of rhubarb. May the 30th coffee morning at Cherry's, transport arrangements on the 12th (Tricia Wright)

OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND arrangements for the Open Gardens Weekend (25-26 July) are proceeding well. At present there are to be 11 gardens on show, 2 of which will be staging 'rural' exhibitions. Art and crafts and Alkham's old photographs will be displayed in the church. Those who recall the Madrigal performers at the last Open Gardens Weekend will be pleased to know that they are making themselves available once again. It is hoped they will provide entertainment on the Sunday afternoon, firstly at Box Tree Cottage and finally and fittingly wind up the weekend by giving their last performance in the church. It has been necessary to raise money to pay for expenses prior to the weekend and a very successful and thoroughly enjoyable coffee morning raised £123. The next committee meeting will be held at Bramhall on Monday the 18th of May at 2.30 pm. Anyone who is interested in helping at the weekend please contact Susannah Tapsell (822295) or Sue Lees (822661). Helpers are needed to serve refreshments, man gardens and exhibitions and sell tickets, so please don't hesitate to come forward. (Sue Lees)

CHRISTIAN AID CHARITY WALK is through beautiful countryside. In past years the it has been completed by children as young as 5 or 6 and also senior citizens. The walk commences from Buckland at 2 pm on Saturday the 9th of May. The route is then Whinless Down, Soval Pond, Poulton Farm, Mount Ararat, Alkham Village Hall, Kearsney Abbey and then via Lewisham Road back to Buckland. If you are interested please contact me for a form (Sue Lees)

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WHAT'S ON (in village hall except where stated)

Regular events

THURSDAY Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 to 9.50am

FRIDAY Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

SATURDAY 2 Jumble Sale at 11.00 am for church funds.

SATURDAY 2 Bingo at 7.30 pm. - contact Kathleen Goldfinch 822776

SUNDAY 3 Cricket at home v Chilton at 2.00 pm **AGM at 7.00 pm**

WEDNESDAY 6 Coffee morning for Christian Aid Week.

SATURDAY 9 Christian Aid Walk halfway stop for refreshments.

MONDAY 11 Parish Council meeting at 7.30 pm.

TUESDAY 12 W.I. meeting at 7.30 pm.

SATURDAY 16 SEKAS at 7.30 pm

SUNDAY 17 Cricket at home v Old Hartstonians at 2.30 pm

MONDAY 18 Cage bird society at 7.30 pm. - ring David Tapsell 822282

THURSDAY 21 Dog Club at 7.30 pm. - Alison Wooding 01303 840535

SUNDAY 24 Cricket at home v River Woodpeckers at 2.30 pm

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704

County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
 and work number 01795532547

District Councillor, Fred Scales 201382

District Councillor, Trevor Bamfield 202334

Vicar, Gill Calver 01303 244119

Church Warden, Betty Neely 822688

Church Warden, Betty Preston 822421

Police 289176

Neighbourhood Watch, Mike Chalkley 820798

Parish Council Secretary, Sue Lees 822661

Women's Institute, Betty Neely 822688

Village Hall booking, Sue Lees 822661

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969

CHURCH SERVICES

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
May 3	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.
May 10	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
May 17	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Good Friday meditation 2-3 pm	
May 24	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
May 31	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Eucharist at St. Mary's church (edge of Capel village) 11.00 am	

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

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PETER WEST, Driver Training, 19 Newlyn Meadow, (Police Advanced Driver), 827127

E R WOODRUFF, building maintenance, carpentry, decorating, Swanbourne Cottage, Wolverton, 824991

FETE - on the 20th of June at Hillview, Short Lane, there will be games and a fete in the field, in aid of charity. The fete will start at 1.00 pm and will be opened by John Bomny with the gardens being open to view at 2.00pm. There will be a band and twirlers (George's description) and the Carnival Queen will be present. Last year £25,000 was raised for the Masonic Boys and Girls Home. Entry is £2 with children free.

TO ALL THE 50'S + 10 on behalf of all the family, I would like to say a very big thank you to you all for our lovely weather vane. It was a lovely thought; quite a surprise and much appreciated. It is very sad that we have had to give up organising the annual dinner, but we feel we have made the right decision under the circumstances. We would like to say a big thank you to all our loyal helpers, not forgetting the washers up who never let us down each year. (Rosemary Polden)

FROM OLIVE HARVEY I am overwhelmed by all the love and kindness shown to me at this time of misfortune. I thank you all again for your prayers and kind thoughts. Your Easter greetings were also appreciated.

DAY OUTING TO HEVER CASTLE will take place on Friday the 17th of July. The coach fare is £6 and the entrance fee is also £6. The coach will depart from the village at about 9.30 a.m. and will return by around 5.30 to 6.00 p.m. Anyone wishing to join the party, please contact Cherry Leppard on 01303 251105 as soon as possible.

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HAVING WALKED and enjoyed the footpaths of Alkham, I and fellow walkers are complaining about the blocking of the Firs footpath. There are huge logs in about 6 different places - is it legal? (Betty Preston)

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 58 June 1998 *Free-self financed-non profit*



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

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EWELL MINNIS - in the interval at the Parish Council meeting the problem of lack of official street names in Ewell Minnis was raised. The Chairman said that getting street name plates put up was not a problem, as funding was available. Because of the various names ascribed to the roads, it was suggested that an item was included in the newsletter, asking residents to suggest names for these roads. If you would like to suggest or confirm a name, please write to Sue Lees, Secretary to the Parish Council, Forstal Cottage, Alkham Valley Road, Alkham, CT15 7DF, or telephone her on 01304 822661. (editor)

MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE at the parish council meeting Devina Bartlett spoke regarding the millennium celebrations. Money is available in the form of a grant and ideas can be definite or proposed. These ideas should be submitted as soon as possible with each request being judged on its merits and benefit to the village as a whole. At the meeting held on the 21st of April the idea which found most favour with the committee was a commissioned village sign. It was also felt that there should be commemorative items for the children and village festivities as a whole, to

include a pig roast, fancy dress through the ages, bonfires, live music, bars etc. with a marquee on the village green. It was also decided that all parishioners should have an opportunity to have a say and therefore a box is being put in the church hallway. Ideas are especially welcome from children and any suggestions received will be published in the Newsletter. The next meeting is on the 30th of June and everybody is welcome to attend. Extra committee members also welcome. (editor-based on transcript)

FOOTBALL TEAM John Ullmann would like to start a village football team. The pitch would be on the land which he owns opposite Valley Cottages (the Folkestone side of the bungalows adjacent to the Marquis of Granby). The idea is that the team will start off with local games and then hopefully rise through the ranks to league games. If you are interested in joining the team, whether you be young or older, please give John a ring on 822888. (editor)

THE VILLAGE notice board and the bus shelter have been repaired thanks to Mr. E R Woodruff of Swanburne Cottage, Alkham, who did the work free of charge, except for materials, which cost £78. A very generous gesture brought about by mindless and ungenerous vandalism. Thanks also to Ernie Cook for re-erecting the railing on the bridge and painting the railings. The beacon on the island by Hazeldene gives enough light, so the request for extra parish lighting has been withdrawn (editor)

ROCKING HORSE seems to be falling at various fences. It managed to get over the first hurdle with its cost being £1525, but baulked when it became clear that the cost of safety matting around him would be a further £1800. The insurance company, in this litigious age, recommends that safety surfacing be installed. Colin Griggs pointed out that there had been no reported injuries over the life span of the last horse (30 years). It does seem however, that the 50% grant for the horse is subject to safety surfacing, so it was decided to set up a sub-committee of Parish Councillors to investigate the matter and find out if any alternatives exist. (editor)

TREE WARDEN Brian Jeapes Hall is now tree warden for Alkham. Thanks to Brian for agreeing to do the job and also to Bob Palmer, the retiring warden, for all his efforts over the past few years. (editor)

SUNDAY BUS SERVICE - a timetable is included with the Newsletter detailing the times of this new service. The lack of a Sunday service was mentioned at the parish council meeting, as was a late night service. The Government has created a new fund to assist public transport in rural areas. £1.29 million pounds has been allocated to Kent for this financial year and the County Council is currently considering how this money should be spent. (editor)

SOIL AND SPOIL from the new water treatment works near Hougham, adjacent to the old A20, is being temporarily stored at various locations such that it can be taken back and used as fill, to completely hide the new works. This, to some extent, explains the lorry movements along the Alkham Valley Road, up Wolverton Hill and through Ewell Minnis where the roads are disintegrating. (editor)

BOLLARD positions have been marked on the road opposite the Marquis but at the time of going to press, they have not been installed. (editor)

as suggested I am now putting 'editor' after the items I have written

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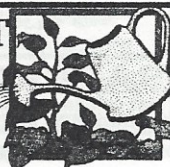
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MARQUIS OF GRANBY - on Wednesday the 17th of June, from 6.30 pm to 7.00 pm there will be a programme on Meridian television called 'Al Fresco', hosted by Matthew Kelly. The Marquis of Granby is featured for eight minutes with items about the fish display, cabinet, cooking and Val Bugden's background. The Marquis has also won the DDC 'White Cliffs Clean Food Award' for the eighth year running for exceptional standards of health and hygiene. I was misinformed with regard to bell rope anonymity. I am pleased to report that Val was one of the donors and also to report that the petition regarding the police was Val's idea. Val also volunteered to be a Special Constable but was unable to proceed with the application because of holding a 'full on' licence. (editor - based on letter)

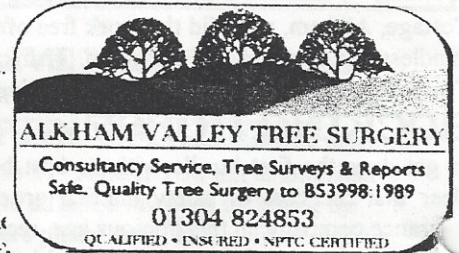
OMBUDSMAN the complaint made by the Parish Council regarding the handling of the planning application to demolish Chalksole Green Farm House by Dover District Council, has been rejected by the Ombudsman. In his opinion DDC acted correctly. He also says that the farm house was not considered listable by DDC and therefore its demolition did not contradict the Local Plan. I understand that the farm house and some land have been sold recently. (editor)

THE VILLAGE HALL AGM and general meeting held at the end of April was attended not only by the committee but one other, Betty Neely. She was later invited to join the committee and this she accepted. The year had passed well but finances were slightly down and showed a dependency on coffee mornings, jumble sales and whist drives. It was recommended and passed, that the letting fees should be raised with local lettings going from £2.95 to £3.00 per hour and others going from £5.90 to £6.00. A new rate for commercial bookings would be £10.00 per hour, the cricket club £6.00 per match and the youth club £5 per evening. Hire of tables would

be £2 each with chairs 50p each. Plans for the building extension are being drawn up by an architect for presentation to DDC for planning approval, by July this year. Election of officers remain as at present: David Tapsell, chairman: Doreen Lott, Vice Chair: Secretary, Peter Mercer: Treasurer, Bob Palmer: Booking clerk and caretaker, Sue Lees on 01304 822661. (Sue Lees)

COUNTRY NOTES the garden at night is a beautiful place to be. The air is cool after the heat of the day. It is 9.15 pm and still the birds are singing their evening lullabies. A dog barks in the distance and sheep bleat to one another. The smell of the wallflowers and lilac are overwhelming and as I sit here I can hear the sound of water splashing from the manor fountain. The sky is a soft grey blue, the trees black against it. As I watch, the stars appear one by one, as if by magic. I blink and there's another. Moths are now fluttering by, attracted to the garden light; they throw themselves against it in a frenzy. Ten minutes pass and now the birds are silent. Other sounds can be heard. A scratching in the undergrowth, soft plopping from the pond as fish and frogs feed on the night insects. The daytime call of the cuckoo is replaced with that of the owl. The sky is much darker now and I see the first bat. It is small and probably a pipistrelle. Then another, this time much larger. I would have taken it for a bird but for the silhouette of its wings against the sky and its erratic way of flying. And now the hidden moon rises above the hill, a glowing orange yellow ball seemingly trapped in a cage of sycamore branches. Later it will break free and continue its journey across the star studded sky, bathing everything in its golden light. A last sniff of the heady scent of flowers and newly cut grass and so to bed for me as well. (Devina Bartlett)

ALKHAM FETE - your help can be given in many ways. Men and lads are welcome on the Friday evening or Saturday morning to help with the bunting or putting up the tents. Ladies and girls can help run the stalls on the day (or vice versa). Everyone can find something for one of the stalls to sell e.g. Cakes for the cake stall (Barbara 824973) or the tea tent (Helen 822899): needlework, knitting or new clothes (Margaret 822220): books (Susan 822661): bric a brac (Irene 824845 - can be left behind Halton Court): jewellery (Barbara 824973): garden produce (Richard 822295): plants and flowers (Betty 822421): raffle prizes (Doreen 824876). Please call Paul Tapsell (01303 892082) if you would like to help in any way at all. (Sue Lees)



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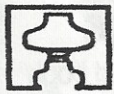
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DOG WORRYING within the last few weeks there has been a serious case of a dog worrying sheep at Ewell Minnis, resulting in the gruesome killing of several small lambs. The farmer, needless to say was very upset, particularly so because these were late lambs needing special nurturing. Dogs seen playing with flocks of sheep or herds of cattle may seem harmless enough, but it is not the case. What starts as a game ends up as serious consequences to pet or stock. Farmers are entitled to shoot dogs caught worrying stock. **Be warned**, stop unleashed dogs getting into fields with animals in. (Sue Lees)

TRAFFIC I understand a very visible speed check was carried out recently! The lining and signing seems to have had a slight calming effect for vehicles entering from the Folkestone end. However, I was overtaken at speed by a Folkestone bound Vauxhall Vectra near Valley Cottages, with the result that it had to pass the traffic island on the wrong side. I know this has happened to others and inevitably an accident will occur. Perhaps if phase 2 of the traffic calming was carried out this at least would slow vehicles down by the Marquis, where the latter tend to accelerate. (editor)

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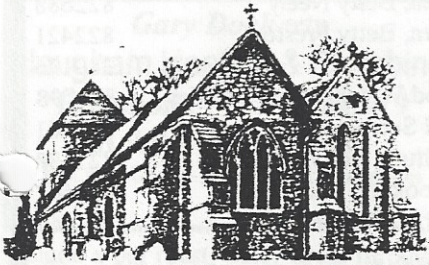
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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

We had some good news last month at St. Anthony's when we heard that the lay reader, Ken Pilgrim has been selected for training as an ordained minister. He will undertake three years training which will start in September, fitting round his secular job. When he is ordained he will become an 'ordained local minister' which means he is 'ours' - local, being our benefice in this case. He will share in all the tasks of our vicar, so look out for him in church, if you haven't already done so. Once again the Dover churches meet in Canterbury Cathedral on June the 14th in the evening, so do come along and join with the locals on that occasion if you can. There is something rather special about a summer evening service, shared with friends in that beautiful place. You are even invited to bring a picnic tea into the Archdeacon's Garden from 4 pm onwards, if you like to (entrance through door marked 'Private' on the north side of the cloisters). Bring your own fold up chair if you like! (Gill Calver)

ROAD SIDE NATURE RESERVE

The Kent Road Verge Project is a partnership between Kent Wildlife Trust, KCC Highways and the HMU, with the aim of managing road verges of a high nature conservation value. Volunteer Road Verge Wardens play a vital role. Local volunteers are Mr Harding at Kearsney Court and Ms Cutt of Folkestone. There is a RNR in our parish and it is the northern verge of the Alkham Valley Road between Drellingore and South Alkham. You may have seen the signs?

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W.I. NEWS - our meeting on the 12th of May was a very relaxed, chatty affair. The two National Resolutions up for discussion were so worthwhile, we gave them our full support without any hesitation. We then had a very pleasant evening looking at one another's family photographs, or the village scrapbooks, which are full of interesting photos and written articles of the parish. The next meeting is on the 7th of June at 7.30 pm and new members are always welcome. The speaker will be Mrs D Gilbert talking about fascinating foliage. Competitions: floral arrangement in a wine glass with small candle: 4 broad beans. On the 25th of June there is an evening's outing to the Goodwin Sands. Latest time to check in at the Western Docks is 5.30 pm with departure at 6pm. No doubt, final arrangements on the 9th. (Tricia Wright)

FELLED BEECH TREE - we are all so used to seeing the village with the magnificent beech trees around the village green, that it comes as a shock when one disappears. Unfortunately, yet another has had to be felled. The tree bordering the Old Vicarage garden developed a 15 foot split overnight. When inspected by experts, a far more serious deterioration was discovered. The whole side of the tree was in danger of crashing onto the village green, hence the haste in which it was felled. Beech trees nearing the end of their lives cannot cope with the burst of 'energy' required in the spring. Unfortunately this means that there are very few beech trees remaining, which appear to have been planted around the time Queen Victoria came to the throne. (Sue Lees)

HOUSEHOLD BULK WASTE DDC have introduced a new service for collecting free of charge bulky items, except concrete, engines, boilers, liquids, iron or steel baths or tanks, fridges, freezers or toxic materials at various locations. The nearest on the 6th of June is Northbourne Avenue, Tower Hamlets, 8.00 to 9.00 am: St. Patricks Road, Aycliffe, 9.30 to 10.30 am: Village Hall car park, Capel-le-Ferne 11.00 to 12.00 am. On the 13th of June St. Radigunds Road, Dover, 8.00 to 9.00 am and Sheridan Road, Buckland 9.30 to 10.30 am. (editor)

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB

Match reports: The game planned against the River Woodpeckers for the 26th of April was called off due to a water logged pitch. 3rd of May against Chilton (home game). A masterful performance by Barnard (45 runs including 4 sixes and 3 fours) helped Alkham reach 105 (all out). Chilton replied with only 60 all out with Price and Coleman each getting 4 wickets (Price catching two off his own bowling). 10th of May against Dymchurch (away). Strong batting from Coleman, Barnard and Cusden (40, 15 and 34 respectively) was rather let down by four ducks from Price, Callaway, Tapsell and Culley (M). Culley (R) achieved what may be a personal best of three runs (not out) to give Alkham 118. Fortunately our bowlers again came up with the goods holding Dymchurch down to 88 all out. 17th of May against Old Hartsdonians (home). Old Hartsdonians reached 138 despite Barnard and Moors taking 2 wickets for 2 runs and three wickets for 16 respectively. In a nail biting climax Alkham were pipped at the post as we only managed to reach 134 all out (Northam 26 and Callaway 21). Please do feel free to come along and support us at our home games; particularly as we seem to be enjoying a good run at the moment (famous last words), and if you'd like a game please give me a call on 01303 892082 or speak to the skipper (Nick Price) at a match. (Paul Tapsell)



my thanks to Margaret Knowles for the superb cricketer drawing (editor)

Agricultural Museum Brook

Over 1000 items connected with agriculture displayed in a 14th century barn, and an 18th century oast house, in the centre of Brook half way between Ashford and Wye. Open 2 to 5pm Wednesday and Saturday. Admission free



This site was selected because it is an excellent example of chalk grassland habitat containing a diverse range of chalk flowers and grasses. There are four different species of orchids, a gentian, kidney vetch, cowslip, carline thistle, greater knapweed and field scabious. If you'd like to know more please contact Sue Lees who has the original. Sue can also give you information on joining the Kent Wildlife Trust. (editor)

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WHAT'S ON (in VH = village hall)

Regular events

THURSDAY Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 to 9.50am
FRIDAY Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

TUESDAY 2 Fete meeting 8.00pm in VH. All stall holders should attend.
SATURDAY 6 Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
TUESDAY 9 W.I. meeting at 7.30 pm in village hall.
SATURDAY 13 SEKAS in village hall at 7.30 pm - all welcome
SUNDAY 14 Cricket at home versus the Haymakers at 2.30 pm
MONDAY 15 Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in VH. David Tapsell 822282
THURSDAY 18 Dogs Sanction Show on village green and in VH at 5 pm
SATURDAY 20 Fete, Hillview, Short Lane at 1 pm - gardens open at 2 pm
SUNDAY 21 Cricket at home versus Dymchurch at 2.30 pm
SUNDAY 28 Cricket at home versus West Chiltington at 2.30 pm
MONDAY 29 Open Gardens meeting at Bramhall 7.30 pm
TUESDAY 30 Millennium meeting in village hall at 7.30 pm

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
and work number 01795532547
District Councillor, Fred Scales 201382
District Councillor, Trevor Bamfield 202334
Vicar, Gill Calver 01303 244119
Church Warden, Betty Neely 822688
Church Warden, Betty Preston 822421
Police 289176
Neighbourhood Watch, Mike Chalkley 820798
Parish Council Secretary, Sue Lees 822661
Women's Institute, Betty Neely 822688
Village Hall booking, Sue Lees 822661
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969

CHURCH SERVICES

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
June 7	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.
June 14	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	**** see below
June 21	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
June 28	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist at Capel at 10.00 am		

**** All Dover churches join for a joint evening service in Canterbury Cathedral at 6.30 pm

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OLIVE HARVEY I'm pleased to
report, has returned home from hospital.

OPEN GARDENS meeting
on the 29th June at 7.30 pm at Bramhall -
would all those involved including the
helpers please come along. There will be
drinks and nibbles (**Susannah Tapsell**)

PLANNING at the Parish
Council meeting on the 11th of May various
planning applications were discussed. In
particular, there has been an application to
build a house at the bottom of Short Lane
between Valley Cottage and Beechwood.

There have been 18 letters in support of the
application and the parish council had no objection to the plans in principle. However,
since the proposal is outside the boundary of the village, it was felt that a precedent
would be set if the parish council gave their approval and therefore the application was
rejected. Within the next seven years there should be a review of the village boundary
by DDC and if the boundary is changed to include the area of land to which the
application applies, then the parish council would favourably consider the application.
It was suggested that there should be a public meeting at the time of the review to
determine whether parishioners were in favour of extra housing in the village (**editor**)

PARISH COUNCIL at the Parish Council meeting there was a vote to

determine who should be chairman of the council for the following year. George Tyler, who has done a very effective and
impressive job over the last few years, was once again unanimously returned as chairman. All other posts remain before. (**editor**)

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



No. 59 July 1998

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Sunday only, at 2.30 pm, the teas will be accompanied by performers of medieval music. Opposite, at the Old Rectory a game of croquet can be enjoyed, before proceeding to the west side of the village to view the garden at 1 Valley Cottages and then see the exhibition of old tools used in rural crafts at 'Countryside'. On the east side of the village at no. 1 Glebelands an exhibition showing the wildlife of the Alkham Valley can be seen in the garden there, before viewing the lovely gardens at 'Hillview', Short Lane where both lunches and teas are being served. Finally at the centre of it all is St. Anthony's church which is the main reason for this fund raising weekend. In the church can be seen fine paintings and craft work along with photos of Alkham past. (Susan Lees)

FREEBIES WANTED pies, salads, scones or whatever is required for lunches and teas for the Open Gardens weekend. Any gift welcome. Please phone Susannah Tapsell on 01304 822295.

OPEN GARDENS we are anxious to show that we are not just a sleepy little village. On the contrary, we are very active and have a wealth of hobbies, interests and talent. So to put on a splendid display of varied craft, I am appealing to you to come and display your examples for the weekend. You may have tried your hand at woodwork, painting, pottery or glass etching, or perhaps you relax with embroidery, patchwork, knitting etc. The work doesn't have to be recent, so think back. I'm sure there was a time when ...?: so don't hold back. This is not a time for modesty or reticence. 'Your village needs you'! I would be so grateful if you could see your way to bringing your items to the church on Friday the 24th of July, in the afternoon. Please label them with your name and address and any other interesting details. If you wish to sell your work then please attach a ticket with the price on it (20% commission is asked). (Margaret Knowles)

FOOTBALL you may have read in the last edition of the Newsletter that John Ullmann wanted to start a village football team. John says that he has been overwhelmed by the unbelievable response which the article got. Evidently, between 15 and 20 people responded and of these 2 or 3 were young ladies. John said that he is going to hold a meeting in the village hall in the near future to talk to the interested players and parents. There are a number of things to be sorted out before he can finally go ahead but in the meantime he is going to apply for registration with the Kent County Football Association. (editor)

THE ANNUAL VILLAGE FETE in aid of the Village Hall and Church, is on Saturday the 11th July: We hope that this year's will be as popular and well-supported as previous fetes. Anyone interested in helping put up the tents should come along to the meadow after about 8.45 am, on Saturday. Potential or budding stall holders should call me on 01303 892082 and I'm sure I will be able to find a job for you. We would be grateful for assistance with prizes for the Raffle (Doreen 824876) and with items for sale on the following stalls: cakes or jewellery (Barbara 824973), tea tent (Helen 822899), books (Sue 822661), needlework, knitting etc. (Margaret 822220), bric-a-brac (Irene 824845), garden produce (Richard 822295) and plants and flowers (Betty 822421) (All Dover numbers). As before there will be a produce competition, details from Chris (824765). There is also a Children's Painting Competition - the theme is "The World Cup" - please write your name and age on the back of your picture and get your entry to Shirley at the Village Hall by 11 am on the 11th. Mr. Andrew Leng of Stricklands Bakery will be the Cookery competition judge for this year; the classes are (a) a loaf of bread, (b) a speciality bread, (c) a lemon meringue pie, (d) a bakewell tart, (e) a fruit dessert, (f) a jar of jam, (g) a home made liquor and (h) a bottle of home made wine. We hope that individuals of all abilities will be able to find a class which suits them, and remember it's all a bit of fun. Again all entries are to be with Shirley at the Village Hall by 11 am on the 11th. (Paul Tapsell)

WANTED URGENTLY - BRIC-A-RAC - Irene and Den Barnard are organising the bric-a-brac stall for the village fete. If you have any odd items which you don't want please take them along to Halton Court, or phone them on 824845 and Irene and Den will collect. (editor)

OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND 25th and 26th of July spread the word to all your friends and relatives. Encourage them to discover the hidden delights of the village from 10.30 am to 5.00 pm, £3.00 for adults and 50p for children. There will be so much for everyone to see and do. Start at the village hall, where an exhibition about the White Cliffs Countryside is on view, then set off for the first garden at 'Martinvale', at the junction of Hogbrook Lane. Continue to the 'top' of the village and at 'The Willows' in Slip Lane, teas will also be served. Next house down at the 'Hermitage', another garden can be seen and just off Slip Lane, on White Hill, is 'Chalkdown' where a new garden on the hillside can be compared with the more established gardens at 'Finsa' and 'Box Tree Cottage'. Lunches will be served at the first and teas at the second. On the

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TRAFFIC in the last edition of the Newsletter I wrote - "a very visible speed check had been carried out lately! Inspector Fudge, of the Kent Constabulary has written to me and quite rightly corrected me on what he considers is implied criticism. Overt checks are carried out to promote public confidence and public safety. They are not just done to prosecute drivers but to educate them as well. To this end the police have hand held 30mph signs so that they can gently remind the slightly erring driver. Road checks can also be effective in checking on local criminals and disrupt their nefarious activities. When covert checks are carried out, the police would not expect the fact to be generally known and therefore the police could be criticised for inaction. Inspector Fudge also says that one of his officers, an experienced driver trained to a high standard, who uses the road daily, reports that the traffic calming measures had an immediate effect, which has been sustained. He is disappointed that I did not report this positive result. (editor)

THE DARK SIDE OF NATURE last week I deviated from my normal morning dog walk and went behind the village hall and across the green. As I stopped by the dyke, a young rook staggered from the long grass onto the cricket area. It was in a very poorly state, often falling forward onto its beak but desperate to get away from me. Just then two more rooks flew out of the trees and cawing loudly, dived around me. I assumed that perhaps they were the parents of the bedraggled young bird and so in order to reduce the stress displayed, moved away to let nature take its course. I had only gone half way across the football pitch when these two rooks, quite literally tore into the invalid bird. For a moment I was too shocked to move but as these vicious muggers

rolled the young bird onto its back and started slashing at it with their enormous beaks I decided to intervene. I sent Sadie, my border collie, and she rushed at the rolling black mass, chasing after the attackers. The young bird lay on its back in a gasping heap, badly injured and with a large slash across its head. I felt that its injuries were so bad that it had no chance of survival but as the winged black muggers were still around cawing a loud protest at being thwarted, I leant to pick it up. Somehow it staggered away and fell, once again onto its back, into the mud in the dyke. I retrieved it and placed it in the long grass to see its reaction. It tripped and staggered along the road, heading towards a large black cat sitting nearby, so I again picked the bird up. By this time life had almost ceased for this poor victim and so I laid it to rest in the deep hedging beside the village hall. In nature only the strong survive and this bird was seemingly very poorly but what a cruel dark way to end your days at the beaks of your own kind! (John Garlinge)

POWER FAILURES there are many people in the village who have suffered the inconvenience of power failure over the last few years. The Parish Council wrote to SEEBOARD asking them for an explanation and also what steps they were going to take to resolve the problem. A very informative reply was received from their Customer Relations Engineer, who looked back through their records to determine the reasons for the power failures in the last 12 months. I think it is worth printing in detail. On the 22nd of June 1997 between 13.19 hrs and 13.53 hrs the supply interruption was due to a failure of the grid supply during a lightning storm. On the 7th of October between 12.59 hrs and 18.02 hrs the failure was due to lightning damage to the high voltage supply between Ingleton Wood and Le Ferne Farm. On the 18th and 19th of December between 18.57 hrs and 11.22 hrs the supply interruption was due a pole failure at Hogbrook Farm during a gale. Most supplies had been restored by 04.57 hrs but major works were required before normal supply could be restored. At the time SEEBOARD's large generators were committed elsewhere and there was a delay while a suitable unit could be hired. The system was restored to normal by 21.00 hrs with a further short interruption while the generator was disconnected. On the 18th of May between 10.08 hrs and 13.01 hrs the failure was due to a high voltage overhead line circuit tripping during a lightning storm. On the 28th of May between 07.05 hrs and 08.04 hrs the circuit tripped again and was reclosed. A line patrol detected no permanent damage. In addition to these there may have been momentary interruptions caused by transient faults. SEEBOARD apologises for any inconvenience caused and say that they do make every effort to restore lines as quickly as possible and also carry out regular maintenance and inspections of their system. They also say that a large amount of money is being invested to improve the quality of supply for all its customers, especially those in rural areas and they are confident that this will result in an improvement in reliability. (editor - based on letter from Bruce Williamson)

COUNTRY NOTES 'If the first of July be rainy weather - twill rain, more or less, for four weeks together.' So fingers crossed for the Fete and Open Gardens. According to Lord Byron, 'The English winter - ending in July to recommence in August'. This month is the most popular for fairs and fetes, the origins of which are tied in with religious festivals and the church calendar. It can be a difficult time in the garden, the summer bedding is starting to go over and the herbaceous perennials aren't quite at their best. Here at Chalkdown everything is static; a week until the beginning of July and not a single annual is in flower. The roses appear to be the only thing doing well at the moment. In the surrounding countryside it is a different story. The churchyard is a carpet of white and yellow, as ox-eye daisy, hawkweed and buttercups jostle for position. The fields are golden too and the hedgerows are full of creamy white elder flower heads. The hawthorn blossom is over and tiny green berries are forming - later they will ripen red and hungry birds will find them irresistible. Today is cloudy and humid and the swallows fly low, skimming over the fields, whilst the skylarks circle higher and higher, singing their territorial song. Storm clouds are gathering on the horizon and a stiff breeze has suddenly sprung from nowhere. There is a distant rumble of thunder. Time to head for home! (N.B. for the lady who asked about blue tits, they fledged in 15-23 days). (Devina Bartlett)

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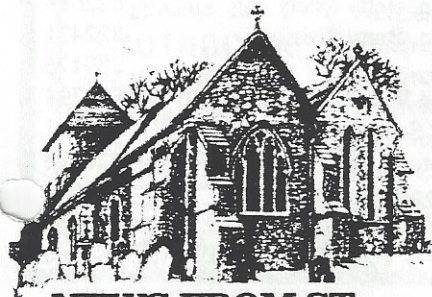
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NEWS FROM ST.

ANTHONY'S July will be a busy month for our village and our church. The Reverend Desmond Sampson will be returning to preach and celebrate the Eucharist on the morning after the fete (July the 12th). At the end of the month our church will be used for display and music during the Open Gardens weekend, which will raise money for the restoration fund. We are still awaiting news of how much of our grant will be from English Heritage and National Lottery Scheme. I was informed at the end of June that we may only have a few weeks to wait. We are extremely fortunate because, having submitted our grant application over a year ago, we are still being considered. The scheme has 750 applications awaiting decisions and we have just been told that no further applications will now be accepted. So soon, we hope to tell you some good news. (Gill Calver)

ST MARTIN'S EMMAUS is a local charity for the homeless. They have bargains at Archcliffe Fort, which is adjacent to the new A20 as you climb the hill from the Western Docks. They have tables, chairs, wardrobes, beds, desks, suites, linen, jewellery, bicycles, bric-a-brac etc. plus a delivery service. Goods are also welcome and can be collected. They are open Monday to Saturday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. Phone 01304 204550 for further information.

W.I. NEWS - at our June meeting we were welcomed by our vice president, Kathleen Goldfinch, who did an excellent job of chairing the meeting. Miss Gilbert arrived with trays and trays - quite a lot of her fascinating foliage plants, which she proceeded to demonstrate and talk about their various likes and dislikes and then continued with a most interesting and informative slide show. She has such a great sense of humour, with a most infectious chuckle; she will be sorely missed from our entertainment circuit but our loss will be Devon's gain. We wish her happiness and success in her new home. The next meeting is on the 14th of July at 7.30 pm: new members are always welcome. The speaker will be Mrs Proctor, her subject is 'what grandma didn't throw away'. Competitions are a salad for one and a specimen rose. On the 17th of July, the outing to Hever Castle, the coach leaves from the village green bus stop at 9.30 am. A few seats are still available. Return 5.30 to 6.00pm. (Tricia Wright)

DOGS Anthony Helstrip has written to warn owners of free range chickens that a small dog has been attacking chickens in the Chalksole Green area. He says that there has been a lot of problems with foxes recently and it would be a shame if a dog was inadvertently shot.

CYSTIC FIBROSIS collection carried out in Alkham and Ewell Minnis raised £152. Many thanks to everyone who contributed and to the children who helped with the delivery and collection of envelopes. £51 was collected from Temple side, Temple Ewell giving a grand total of £203.60. (Julie Saltmer) - this was E mailed to me and also included were three ideas for the millennium celebration from her daughter, Carla, aged 8. Her ideas are 1) planting a tree 2) burying a time capsule 3) an aerial photograph of Alkham. Well done Carla. (editor)

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK I would like to thank those who did the door-to-door collection (Diane Crockford, Rosemary Crothall, Devina Bartlett, Betty Neely, Betty Preston, Debbie Saunders, Christine Tapsell, Brenda Trundell and Tricia Wright), ran the refreshments for the Christian Aid Sponsored Walk (Kath Goldfinch, Ann Tapsell and Shirley Tapsell) and joined in the informal coffee morning. The total collected this year was £238, even more than last year. Well done everyone. (Sue Lees)

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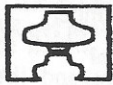
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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - we have had something of a bad patch weather-, player- and injury-wise so there are only three results to report: 24th May - River Woodpeckers (Home). Alkham batted first and reached 129 all out, Barnard and Cusden scoring 27 and 24 (not out) respectively. The Woodpeckers replied with 130 for 7 and won (despite an inspired decision to allow Johnson to bowl, whereupon he took two wickets for only four runs). 31st May - Chilton (Away). Again Alkham batted first reaching 117, (Johnson and Coleman both getting 32), however Chilton reached 118 for the loss of only 3 wickets, which was somewhat depressing. 21st June - Dymchurch (Home). Dymchurch batted first and were held down to 76 all out with Culley (R), Barnard, Coleman and both Northams (B & D) taking good catches and Price (returning to bowling after several weeks injured) and Coleman each taking three wickets for 26 and 22 respectively. Alkham, managed to beat that score with the loss of only two wickets (Price and Callaway 27 and 20 not out) respectively. On a sad note would the half-wit(s) who stole the rope from the cricket square and the tap from near the shed please return; we would rather not have to come and get them! If you live within earshot of the meadow (or indeed rather further away) you may have heard the supporters of various of our opponents recently: If you feel like taking the sun one afternoon and perhaps offering some words of encouragement to the home team please feel free. We are always on the look out for new players (especially with the school holidays and family commitments calling some of our number). Come along and introduce yourself - we don't bite. (Paul Tapsell)



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WHAT'S ON (in VH = village hall)

Regular events

THURSDAY Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 to 9.50am
FRIDAY Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

SATURDAY 4 Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
SUNDAY 5 Cricket at home versus Coldred at 2.30 pm
SATURDAY 11 FETE on Vicarage Meadow starting at 2.00 pm
SUNDAY 12 Cricket at home versus Lydden at 2.30 pm
MONDAY 13 Parish Council meeting at 7.30 pm in VH. All welcome
TUESDAY 14 W.I. meeting at 7.30 pm in village hall.
THURSDAY 16 Dog Club in VH 7.30 pm. Alison Wooding 01303 840536
SATURDAY 18 SEKAS in VH at 7.30 pm. All welcome
MONDAY 20 Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in VH. David Tapsell 822282
SATURDAY 25 Open Gardens - see the front page - from 10.30 am
SUNDAY 26 to 5.00 pm
MONDAY 30 Village Hall Committee meeting at 7.30 pm in VH

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
and work number 01795532547
District Councillor, Fred Scales 201382
District Councillor, Trevor Bamfield 202334
Vicar, Gill Calver 01303 244119
Church Warden, Betty Neely 822688
Church Warden, Betty Preston 822421
Police 289176
Neighbourhood Watch, Mike Chalkley 820798
Parish Council Secretary, Sue Lees 822661
Women's Institute, Betty Neely 822688
Village Hall booking, Sue Lees 822661
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
E mail BRIWIM@aol.com

CHURCH SERVICES

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
July 5	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.
July 12	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
July 19	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
July 26	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist at Hougham at 10.00 am		

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FLAIR cane and pine furniture, 36 Guildhall St. Folkestone, phone 01303 258744
GREENHILL LIVERY YARD, Meggett Lane, South Alkham, DIY and grass liveries, 01303 892056
MARQUIS OF GRANBY, traditional family "pub", good "grub", good "value", good "fun", 822945
OWLER LODGE, Alkham Valley Road, bed and breakfast, Pat and Bill Ower, 826375
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COUNTRY LORE an interesting recipe for cucumber sunburn lotion. Peel and dice two cucumbers, place in double boiler, cover and cook till soft. Squeeze through fine muslin, add to the juice one quarter of its volume of whisky and one third of elder flower water. Shake well and bottle. (Devina Bartlett)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to my darling mother who was
80 years young on the 26th of
June - Margaret Ashman

It's good to know that summer has come
And the cricket seasons here,
With lovely lazy summer days
It really does bring cheer.

The countryside looks lovely
The gardens all look neat,
And as you pass through Alkham
You'll see, for beauty it cannot be beat.

At the end of the day
I sip a well earned 'beer'
Count all my blessings
I'm so glad I live here Margaret Ashman

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FISH AND CHIP MAN is on the village green car park every Friday from 7.00 to 7.30 pm - 01304 826463 to 4 pm for pre-order or 0468316610 after 4.30 pm.

BOLLARDS are up on the verge opposite the Marquis of Granby but somehow I don't think this is the end of the story. (editor)

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



No. 60 August 1998

Free-non profit

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ALKHAM VILLAGE FETE - despite the pessimistic forecast, the fete escaped the worst of the weather, with intermittent rain starting around 2.30 pm and getting worse about half past four. There were however crowds of people, all of whom seemed to be enjoying themselves and this was reflected in the £2400 which was raised from the event. All the usual assortment of stalls were spread out around the edge of Vicarage Meadow, with Betty Preston running the plant stall and vowing that next year her tent would have the wind behind her. It was nice to see some new faces with Irene and Dennis Barnard from Halton Court on the bric-a-brac stall, doing brisk business. Richard Tapsell's fresh produce stall was particularly good with strawberries 40p a punnet. Gordon Cowans and Roy Adams were on the bouncy castle (well in front of it) and the Polden family sold the remainder of the raffle tickets, which raised £600. Maurice and Pam Sayers dispensed the hot dogs, Barbara Palmer the home made cakes, Christine Tapsell the lucky dip, Margaret Knowles fashion items and Sue Lees (plus mother) and Betty Neely, second hand books. Alkham Small Wonders, the miniature horses, Dinky, Blackberry, Tilly and Pearl were on display again with the attendant 'spot the pooh' competition, which was not the prize. A special thanks must go to David Beaney and Robert Allan for being so enterprising and energetic as 'goalies' in the penalty shoot out. It is great to see the youngsters entering into the spirit of the day. Other attractions were roll the ball (highest score 23, by Mrs. Carruthers), the coconut shy, darts, tombola, ice cream, teas, putting, donkey rides, SEKAS with their telescopes and an array of classic cars. Small and big steam engines puffed, John Huggin's balloon roared and the tug of war team strained. The latter, called the 'Alkham Hoola Boys' dressed in what appeared to be women's attire, won against all comers. In the village hall there was a fine array of vegetables, fruit, cakes and bread and flowers. There was a lovely display of hanging baskets for which Barbara Palmer won first prize. Sue Lees won the home made wine and Susannah Tapsell the home made liquor. Children's bread was won by Troy and Paris was highly commended. Margaret Sheppard won the overall catering cup. The 8 years and over painting competition was won by Kyle Mercer with Matthew Hyland second and Emily Degruessa third. 7 years and under was won by Luke Pearce with Luke Kyland second. I'd be pleased to hear from other winners, entrants or helpers who I haven't mentioned, to print in the next edition. Paul Tapsell would like to thank all the people who helped with the fete. (editor)

STREET NAMES EWELL MINNIS as a result of the article in last month's Newsletter, a couple of letters were received by the Parish Council. One was of the opinion that signs were not needed as the names were known to a sufficient number of people. However, the general consensus was that the names on the Ordnance Survey map should prevail and therefore the Parish Council is writing to

Dover District Council asking them to erect street name plates at Belsey Lane, Ferne Lane, Green Lane, Greenwich Lane, Newcastle Lane and Wolverton Hill. The remaining lane was either Sunnyhill or Redbarn and the residents of the lane are to be contacted to express their preference. (editor)


DOG FOULING the sub-committee of the Parish Council were of the opinion that there should not be signs dotted all over the village and that there should not be bins. They felt that a single sign by the historic village sign would be sufficient and the Parish Council agreed. Short Lane however, is the responsibility of KCC and therefore bins and signs may be possible. (editor)

FOOTBALL the Parish Council has received a letter from John Ullmann, saying that he has written to Dover District Council asking for licences to be granted, such that his field on the Folkestone side of the Marquis of Granby can be used as a village football ground. I understand that this is required because the use of the field would change from the present agricultural status. The Parish Council were in favour of the application subject to certain conditions being met. Car parking would also have to be on the same site and presumably the ground levelled a bit. (editor)

BOLLARDS - at the Parish Council meeting the Chairman said that some people were not taking any notice of the bollards and still parking between or besides them. It was decided that a site meeting should be arranged with KCC and the matter discussed. The Secretary said that a rough cost for putting chains between the bollards would be about £150. It was generally felt that the bollards were attractive and the Chairman confirmed in the interval, on a question raised by Larry Lambourne, that the land behind the bollards was still owned by KCC. (editor)

CRICKET Dennis Barnard who lives in Halton Court, has taken over from Paul Tapsell and is now writing the cricket report on page 3. It makes a good read, so even if you're not interested in cricket give it a try. The W.I.'s good as well (editor)

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TRAFFIC CALMING

was discussed at the Parish Council meeting. Colin Griggs said the speed of the traffic, as he had feared, had increased at South Alkham. Neil Burrows agreed but felt that the calming had had a deterrent effect on the village and Paul Tapsell thought that if phase 2 was installed this could induce the speeding driver element to divert to the A20. The general consensus was that a letter should be sent to KCC urging them to install phase 2 of the traffic calming. (editor)

MRS. NEVE would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Chaplin at Alkhamhurst Kennels, for cutting back the drive to assist the people at Ewell Minnis getting out of Wolverton Hill.

GEORGE TYLER would also like to thank the villagers for supporting his fete, at which £2500 was raised for charity.

ROCKING HORSE is still progressing. The sub-committee suggested that grass turfing should be put round the latter when it was erected, at a cost of about £400, compared with the £1800 if safety matting had been used. This option would be acceptable to the insurance company and the Parish Council therefore voted in favour of the proposal. (editor)

CATWALK BECKONS - you may have noticed the adjacent advert from Carol Whitehouse. Susan Lees has given me an extract from the Dover Express in which Carol's sons David and Stephen are featured in a ¼ page spread. David, who is referred to as a Brad Pitt lookalike, is already signed to a top London model agency and Stephen, 2 years younger at 17, has been short listed for the Highland Spring Face competition. The article says that they are both realistic about the future but are excited about the earning potential. (editor)

COUNTRY NOTES as I write this the Open Gardens are two days away and we have had rain every day this week so far. The majority of our bedding plants still refuse to open and there is a distinct lack of colour in general. This time last year was very different. After days of scorching sunshine, every thing was looking distinctly parched. Today started out very dark, the sky was an angry purple colour and a stiff breeze was blowing. Our regular walk was brisker than usual as rain was imminent. The grasses in the field are now waist high and the wind rushed through it, sounding like the sea on a shingle beach. Thick patches of clover are lush and green and sprinkled with rain drops. The hedge rows are draped with Old Man's Beard which is now in flower. If you catch the breeze in the right direction it gives off a delicious sweet scent. Underneath cuckoo pint, sometimes called Lords and Ladies, displays its scarlet fruits and further along the harebell is in full flower, its lilac bells nodding in the breeze. Back through the churchyard and the pine tree, just by the gate has a rich mahogany red bark, the dampness enhancing its spicy odour. The yew tree is covered in red berries and thrushes and blackbirds jostle for the juiciest fruits; there is much flapping and chirping. A soft rain has started to fall and Jake and Hamish plod along side me, heads drooping; they don't like getting wet! We shelter under the trees near the vicarage. Here it is very dark and dismal, everywhere is quiet with just the sound of dripping raindrops on the leaves. Time to make a dash for home, before it gets heavier. (Devina Bartlett)

LOCAL CHAMPIONS The Warnock family live at Capel Church Farm, Capel-le-Ferne and exhibit cows. The cows, which are heifers, can be seen grazing in the field along side the Alkham Valley Road. A team of eight of these cows are taken to shows and have won prizes. The Champion Dairy cow at any show has to win through the preliminary classes to become breed champion and then beat then champions from other breeds, such as Ayreshire and Jersey. Two cows have been particularly successful. Capel-le-Ferne Nerissa was Supreme Dairy Champion at the Surrey Show and also at South of England show. At the Kent County Show she was the Holstein Friesian Champion, whilst Capel-le-Ferne Prelude Seams was Exhibitor Breed Champion. The two then combined together and won the Champion Cattle Pair. It is very much a family affair in preparing and exhibiting for the shows with Jim Warnock and his wife Alison at the helm, ably assisted by their off springs Robert, Debbie and William. Perhaps when we drive along the Alkham Valley Road we will look at the cows in a different light. Congratulations to the Warnock family for their successes and the best of luck for the future. (editor)

IF ANYONE knows why there appears to have been an abundance of cowslips this year, I'd be pleased to report it. There also seems to be thousands of rabbits who are particularly bold, apparently sitting on their hind quarters with their paws in their ears wagging their tongues, Tom and Jerry style at my dog. Needless to say they have all completely disappeared by the time she enters her hunter/killer mode. (editor)

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ANTHONY'S by the time you read this the fete and the Open Gardens will be over and it will be time for a well deserved rest for many. Well done all you hard working organisers and participants in the two events, which not only raise money but enable so many, within the village and beyond, to enjoy themselves. July was a memorable month for St. Anthony's too, because we heard that the English Heritage and the Lottery Grant Scheme have awarded us £18,800 towards our renovations. There is a good deal of bureaucracy to get through before the work can start but we hope to get the South Aisle roof repaired before the winter weather comes. English Heritage have given us a 50% grant towards the work needed to be done, so it's great that our restoration fund continues to be well supported. Don't forget that our treasurer at Yew Tree Cottage, South Alkham is always grateful to receive donations. We are at present investigating the options for heating the church more efficiently, which is something we have to fund from our own coffers. Enjoy the rest of the summer. (Gill Calver)

W.I. NEWS

we commenced our July meeting back to front for a change. Ann Newington, from Temple Ewell W.I. read her report of the General Meeting held at Brighton on the 3rd of June, as she was the representative for the area. Mind boggling stuff. Mrs. Proctor then proceeded to give us a very lively talk on 'What Grandma Didn't Throw Away'. One of her many treasures was the toddlers clog, the leather very soft and supple, a scaled down version of an adults one. The knitting was originally done by men. It gives a completely different outlook of today's male workforce; instead of being buried behind newspapers, tapping away at their laptops, hunched over their open briefcases or reading up their conference notes, they could be sitting side by side, intent on which item of clothing they were knitting; swapping patterns, congratulating one another on finished garments. A much better life than today's road rage monsters. We then had a much needed break with refreshments and chatter, only to be called back to order with the general business. I can't make much sense of my notes, so I apologise if I have overlooked anything. August the 4th there is a treasure hunt at Whitfield (no other details). The next meeting is on the 11th of August and as there is no speaker, Devina and Sue are arranging our entertainment. Competitions: pencil drawing of an owl and one cucumber. (Tricia Wright)

WELCOME

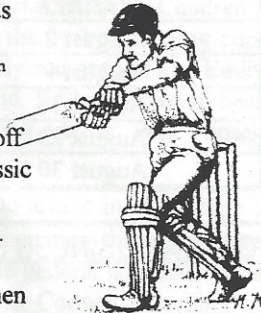
to Jackie and Tom who have just moved into 20 Glebelands and also to the new people at the Old Vicarage - wishing them every happiness in their new homes. (Tricia Wright on behalf of the village)

THANKS

go to John Ullmann from the Tapsell families and the church, for the loan of the grass cutting machine to mow St. Anthony's churchyard. I'm sure we all echo this sentiment and additionally the Tapsell's should be thanked for the work which they have done. (editor)

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB

the team has performed consistently over the past month - we lost three of the four games. I'm sure we would have won against Lydden on 12th July but the game was cancelled due to the rain. At home on 28th June against West Chilmington, Paul Coleman with his deceptive off spin took 6 for 70 restricting our opponents to 171 all out. A classic knock of 49 from skipper Nick Price gave us a good start but the familiar middle order collapse left us all out for a respectable 134. On 5th July Coldred put us in to bat on a good batting wicket. However nobody had told our team this fact and six of our batsmen returned to the pavilion with ducks. Retired captain Ian Calloway and the battling Paul Cusden were undeterred as all about them crumbled and scored 41 and 34 not out. Coldred got the runs for 6 wickets but there will be an opportunity later in the season to reverse the situation. Nick Price immediately ordered net practice every Wednesday for the rest of the season. This did make a difference because at Walmer on 19th July we faced a very unsportsmanlike battle with their first XI (we normally play their second XI). They batted first and knocked our bowlers all over the place and declared at 229 for 5 feeling that they had finished us off (Paul Cusden 4 for 44). Walmer then used childish antics to attempt to put us off but a brilliant 73 from Nick Price showed them what we are made of. Wickets began to tumble and a drubbing stared us in the face until Mark Johnson and Robin Culley stuck to their guns and survived nearly an hour of intimidating bowling and more silly behaviour from our opponents to finish with 22 and 12 not out respectively. This draw was easily our best result of the season. A good start against a Combined Services XI at Burmarsh on 26th July faded as they hit 180 for 8. On paper we had a strong batting side easily capable of matching this score but good bowling and an uneven pitch saw our lads faltering to 111 for 8 followed by a reminder from the captain about net practice next Wednesday. (Dennis Barnard)

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WHAT'S ON (in VH = village hall)

Regular events

THURSDAY Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 to 9.50am
FRIDAY Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

TUESDAY 4 Fete committee meeting 7.30 pm in VH - all welcome
SATURDAY 8 Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
TUESDAY 11 W.I. meeting at 7.30 pm in village hall.
SUNDAY 16 Cricket at home versus Great Chart 2.30 pm
MONDAY 17 Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in VH. David Tapsell 822282
SATURDAY 29 Beekeepers surgery in VH - probably am
SUNDAY 30 Cricket at home versus Harrington Hackers 12 noon

*The former Archbishop of Maidstone, the Venerable Michael Percival Smith will be preaching at the 11 o'clock service on August 16th. Do come and hear.

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and work number 01795532547
District Councillor, Fred Scales 201382
District Councillor, Trevor Bamfield 202334
Vicar, Gill Calver 01303 244119
Church Warden, Betty Neely 822688
Church Warden, Betty Preston 822421
Police 289176
Neighbourhood Watch, Mike Chalkley 820798
Parish Council Secretary, Sue Lees 822661
Women's Institute, Betty Neely 822688
Village Hall booking, Sue Lees 822661
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
E mail BRIWIM@aol.com

CHURCH SERVICES

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
August 2	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.
August 9	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
August 16	Worshipping together 11am *	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
August 23	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist at Alkham at 10.00 am		
August 30	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	B.C.P. Communion 8.00 am	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am

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GREENHILL LIVERY YARD, Meggett Lane, South Alkham, DIY and grass liveries, 01303 892056
MARQUIS OF GRANBY, traditional family "pub", good "grub", good "value", good "fun", 822945
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WEDDING - at last summer arrived

for the wedding of Dwayne Beaney and Emma Carmichael at Alkham Church on the 18th of July. Dwayne's brother Stacey, was his best man and the chief bridesmaids were Nicky, the groom's sister in law, and Linsey, the bride's sister. The younger bridesmaids and page boys were the groom's younger brother David and nieces and nephews Jodie, Lauren, Jay and Stacy. All looked glorious in a lovely shade of red softened with white in the children's dresses. Even the red carriage with a handsome pair of black horses matched. Entertainment was provided for the onlookers whilst the wedding took place, when the difficult operation of turning the carriage and horses took place at the top of the Forstal. The help of several men was enlisted and the carriage was soon set to carry the bride and groom to their reception at the Phoenix Club, the steep descent to the main road being carried out with apparent ease. (Susan Lees)

OPEN GARDENS - may I, on

behalf of the Open Gardens Committee, thank everyone who worked so hard to make the weekend such a happy and successful event. A full report from our Press Secretary will feature in next month's Newsletter (Susannah Tapsell)

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ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



No. 61 September 1998

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OPEN GARDENS

This was the third occasion an open gardens event has taken place in the village and once again the right date had been chosen. The sun actually shone on both days, a rare event in a summer which had been one of the duller on record. People arrived eagerly at 10.30am each day and those who had not allowed themselves enough time were still rushing around the village at 5.30pm reluctant to miss anything. It is estimated that approximately 200 visited on Saturday and 350 on Sunday. So many people who had not stopped in Alkham before said they were truly amazed to discover how different the village is once they stepped off the race track of the Alkham Valley Road. It really is unfortunate but space does not permit the naming of all the people who gave their time to support this event. It is so pleasing to report that it is not only the people and businesses in the parish who helped and supported the event but there were so many friends and relatives from outside the Parish, who as always gave their time so willingly. They always seem to enjoy helping Alkham. A special thanks must be given to the people who so willingly opened their gardens to the public. This involved many months of planning and hard work. The exhibitions of wild life, old farm implements and photographs of Alkham past, drew much interest and admiration. The beauty and serenity of the Church provided the perfect setting to show the skills of the artists, craft makers and floral arrangers. The perfection of the costumes and performances of the Canzona medieval musicians made it appear they had actually stepped out of times past. Many visitors remarked on the quality of the refreshments and the caterers and their helpers must be thanked. To gauge the needs for such an occasion is particularly difficult. Finally thanks should be given to parishioners for always being so willing to come forward and support their Church. The Church is

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there for all, whether you worship there or simply admire its history and architecture, it is thanks to you that the roof can now be fully repaired and heating provided. This year £3300 was raised (for the Church). In 1994 it was £2000, this was shared between the Church and the Pilgrims Hospice and in 1988, £1600 which was used for Church repairs. (Susan Lees)

GARDEN TALK will be having its first meeting on Monday the 5th of October at 7.30 pm in Bramhall. This is a new venture and anyone who is interested in gardening will be most welcome. The meeting will be extremely informal and although the format for the first one will be arranged, time will be given to discuss ideas for future meetings. Do come along and share your gardening tips and problems over a glass of wine. (Susannah Tapsell 822295)

FINANCIAL YEAR for the Newsletter starts this month. I'm pleased to say that all the advertisers, some of whom should be referred to as sponsors, have renewed their subscription and for this I am very grateful. Last year the cost of photostating the Newsletter was about £510 with other expenses around £50. For every month, except last September when a small loss was made, the Newsletter operated at a modest profit. All monies received go into the Newsletter's Building Society Account and I hope to have these accounts audited in the near future. (editor)

VILLAGE HALL The Chairman, David Tapsell, was able to report that the detailed plans for the proposed extension to the hall have been completed and presented to the District Council for approval. All quotes received to date show that the cost for these building works will be in the region of £40,000. If all goes according to plan, grants should be awarded to cover the greater part of these costs. Other matters arising - A particular thank you was recorded to Tim Castle for the levelling work carried out on the car park. Weaknesses have shown up with use of the four new trestle tables, and they have been returned for repair. The publican of The Marquis of Granby is to be asked to remove signs directing customers to use the Village Hall car park. A sign will be erected by the Village Hall car park stating that it is for the use of patrons only. A Health and Safety check is to be carried out by Dover District Council on the 6th of August. (Susan Lees) Postscript: the Marquis signs have been amended.

NOTICE BOARD at Ewell Minnis. Please will residents tell the Parish Council whether they want to retain a notice board, as it has been vandalised recently and will require replacement. (Susan Lees)

CONGRATULATIONS to Dwayne Beane and Emma Carmichael, Jason Dunning and Angela Castle, Darren Bartlett and Jocelyn King, all of whom married at St. Anthony's in July and August. (Gill Calver)

MY THANKS to the Alkham W.I. for their kind donation of a 'Dixie Automatic Canning Machine', to the Agricultural Museum at Brook. The machine was used in the last war for canning produce and is now in the Oast House at Brook, where there is a wide and varied collection of items from the past. The 14th century barn is full up with old farm equipment from the horse drawn days. Please ring me if you want to know more. (editor)

MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE meeting will be held at Chalkdown on the 14th of September at 7.30 pm. See also page 2 regarding the jumble sale. (Devina Bartlett)



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THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

was published by Kent Council detailing their aims for the next five years. One of their targets is to reduce the number of lorries on unsuitable rural and urban roads. I wrote to KCC, as I couldn't see how they were going to achieve this with present legislation. The reply, signed by Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, Leader of the Council, was quite informative. They hope to achieve the objective by various traffic calming and re-routing measures and by discussions with the Road Haulage Association. The letter has been passed to the Executive Support Officer for Strategic Planning to look into the specific item raised (i.e. the Alkham Valley Road) and she is to respond in more detail on how they propose to achieve the target. - *Since writing the above, the letter has been passed down the line for one of their officers to reply to. His reply is not as positive as the Council's and generally re-states what has been said before. He would however expect a significant increase in lorry route signing and schemes, such as area wide lorry bans but in some parts of Kent it would be more difficult to achieve.* (editor)

TV PERSONALITIES

at the beginning of August two from Alkham were on ITV's 'Brilliant Creatures'. They were Mulberry and Molly, who are cows in the Dexter herd owned by Diana and Kevin Smith, at Sladden Farm. The programme was on Children's Television and the purpose was to teach children about animals and how dung could be used in various countries. Mulberry and Molly were there to perform in 'Poo Corner', which they did magnificently, both literally and physically. The other stars of the show were foxes, a penguin and a camel. The Smith's herd of Moomin Dexters have again done well at competitions this year. Moomin Pollydoodle won the championship at the South of England Show and the Kent Show and was reserve champion at Cranley. At the end of March, Jenny Moomin was voted best Dexter in Kent, Surrey and Sussex and was champion at Cranley. Jenny was mated with a bull called 'Beatle' and the calf was born at the New Forest Show, where she was again champion. The calf has been called John Lennon and together with Jenny has been filmed for the Animal Hospital Road Show. Up and coming youngsters take part in the championships and Bryony Jackson assisted at the South of England, Kent and Cranley shows. She won a third prize in the young handler group at Cranley and William Warnock, who is also a young handler, won a second place at the Kent Show. (editor and Diana Smith)

FOOTBALL PAST

a copy of the Newsletter is sent out of the Parish to a person who was at Alkham School between 1916 and 1920 and played tennis with Olive Harvey in 1936. He has asked that I do not print his name but is quite happy for me to publish recollections of Alkham Football Club, as it was years ago. In 1919, the Club played in a meadow of Mr. Earley who owned Malmaims Farm, the field being up Slip Lane above the farmhouse. The Club later played in the meadow where John Ullmann has proposed the new team will play and also on the meadow to the west of the Rectory. All the land was owned by Malmaims Farm, so there must be football in the blood, both past and present. During the 1930's the team competed in the Dover & District League, Division II and played at Ewell Minnis in a field known as Johnson's Meadow, which was above Sladden Wood somewhere in front of Fryers Ferne Farm and the Marches. It was a long walk up Wolverton Hill as few players had transport. Buses however were more frequent then and the visiting team used to catch the bus at the bottom of the hill. Changing conditions were a bit primitive but they were happy days; the game was played for fun. Of the names mentioned in the letter the only one I



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recognise is Buddy Holmes, who used to live in the cottage by the Rectory. Other names mentioned are Charlie and Henry Hills, Bert Allen, Dick Claringbould and Bert Hinds. A convalescing officer called Vasse, also played. If there is anyone reading this, who was married at Alkham Church before August 1936 perhaps you would like to contact me and I will pass the details on. (editor)

COUNTRY NOTES

we all live such busy lives nowadays that we often fail to notice the beauty that surrounds us. If you are an early riser, take a few minutes to listen to the birds. The dawn chorus itself is lovely, so many different tunes. You may find the clackety-clack of the magpie annoying at 5 in the morning, or the repeated cooing of the collared dove monotonous but it is infinitely better than the roar of the traffic, isn't it. When you take the dog for its obligatory route march, your mind full of the days schedule ahead, slow down for a few moments and focus on your surroundings. This morning the earth smells damp in the shade. Further along Field Bindweed twines its way up the fence, its flowers white edged with delicate pink. Tiny snails balance on the long grasses and bees work their way steadily along, from flower to flower. Tiny seed heads float in the soft breeze and hover flies, their wings seemingly invisible, hang suspended in the air. They say that blue and green 'should ne'er be seen' but notice the beauty of the green leaves of a tree against the blue of a summer sky. Notice the golden corn fields, the hedge rows full of wild flowers. Have you ever seen the sun light through a dew drop, a tiny rainbow trapped inside? So next time you get the car out of the garage, or go to put the bins out, take stock. It is there for you to see, if you take the time to appreciate it. (Devina Bartlett)

PLEASE NOTE - Millennium Jumble Sale, 5th of September in village hall, in aid of the village celebration funds. Jumble and helpers 10 am, doors open at 11 am - please support us. (Devina)

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W.I. NEWS our July get together on the 11th was fun. We were called to order by Devina and Sue G., a difficult task with twenty odd ladies chattering away, trying to solve some very ingenious dingbats, only to be given the solutions at the end. We continued with a hilarious few games of Beetle Drive, followed by bingo, with cash prizes; a profitable evening for the three of us. Then Devina and Sue, dressed to kill in school uniforms gave us rendition of the pit falls of a sweet tooth during our teen years. Our thanks to them for a very happy, laughter filled evening. The next meeting is on September the 8th with Miss J Taylor speaking about East Kent's archives. Competition : jar of home made jam, four tomatoes. On September 11th we go to St. Mary's church at Chartham for cream teas. Before that we visit a garden centre but I don't know which. Coach leaves the village hall at 12 pm and returns about 5pm. (Tricia Wright)

COWSLIPS in last months Newsletter, I asked why we had had so many cowslips this year. Margaret Ashman has kindly written to me and suggested that this year the conditions have just been ideal for the cowslip, if not for us. (editor)

RETREAT Gill Calver says that the people who know her, will be surprised to hear that she has gone into a week's retreat with the Dominican Sisters at Brockenhurst. For a whole week she will not utter a word, even at the dinner table, which she says can be quite amusing. Evidently it's very relaxing. (editor)



GORDON PRESTON was 80 in August. I hope the scanned photograph to the left has photostatted well. Gordon is top right in the picture, taken when he was part of the church choir around 1930. The photo was taken in the school playground and the Old Post Office can be seen behind the wall (they are actually standing in the garages of School Cottages). With best wishes from all who know you Gordon. Happy Birthday. (editor)

NEWS FROM ST.

ANTHONY'S the month starts with what has become an annual custom for our benefice. We spend the day walking from church to church, sharing in refreshment and worship at each stopping point. ALL villagers and friends are invited to join us for some, or all of the day. Our newly formed Capel Worship Committee have planned a short act of worship for both the start (at Capel) and the conclusion (at Alkham). We shall have a simple 'House Communion' service when we stop for lunch at Hougham Old School (Wendy and Andrew Finnis's home) which they've kindly allowed us to use. We hope walkers (and dogs!) will join us for some or all of the day and worshippers (not wishing to walk) will join us at our stopping places. A light continental style breakfast will be served after the service at Capel and tea will be in Alkham village hall. Bring a picnic lunch for the Hougham stop. Those of you who enjoy the night service of Compline will be pleased to hear that we're using that as our final part of the evening prayers at St. Anthony's in a service using candles and music. Don't forget that it's Harvest Festival on September the 27th at 11.00 am followed by our Harvest Supper - an event not to be missed, on the following evening in the village hall. (Gill Calver)

THANKS to all in the village who have worked so hard and contributed so generously to the two events which have benefited our church enormously (Open Gardens and Fete). Very soon you will see scaffolding over our south aisle as builders begin the restoration work. Wheels are in motion for a more efficient heating system as well as other structural and decorative work which will be vital to the survival of St. Anthony's. One of the grant-giving bodies which helps many Kent churches is the 'Friends of Kent Churches'. They encourage bike riders to find sponsors who contribute half the proceeds to their own church and half to charity. If there is anyone who feels they could give up an hour to man the church on September the 12th, the day of the bike ride, please contact Betty Preston or Richard Tapsell, the church wardens. (Gill Calver)

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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB In the last newsletter, I reported that our intrepid team had hit a losing streak but the signs were good for an upturn in our fortunes. I was wrong. Although our batting has strengthened, our bowlers have found it difficult to find the form displayed earlier in the season. At Tilmanstone on the 2nd of August, a good start by skipper Nick Price and Dennis Barnard was followed by some strong support for Nick in his innings of 54. Our 131 for 9 looked a winning score. After 90 minutes Tilmanstone appeared beaten at 50 for 6 but then two young lads came in, we eased up, dropped catches and lost by four wickets. At Beverly on the 9th of August, a brilliant 85 by Nick Price and 23 each from Paul Cusden and Neil Moors put us in a very strong position at 183 for 6, declared. After Nick took a wicket in his first over, a win looked on the cards but strong resistance from our opponents gave them a well earned draw, with 130 for 7. At home to Great Chart on the 16th of August, we batted second to a strong side which included an ex-professional. They hit 233 for 9 and

lost three of our balls (a reward for their return by the way) and you would think that we would find a score like that quite a daunting task. You would be absolutely correct. We were dismissed for 75 with Nick Price the only decent innings of 40. On the 23rd of August at home against George Brown's XI, strong batting by Nick Price (30), Dennis Barnard (33) and Gerry Aldridge (37), gave George's team a formidable target of 152. They were equal to the task and with a century from J. Reed, they made it for the loss of 6 wickets. Our fielding has started to improve in general and more catches are being taken and Mark Johnson and Paul "I'm only here to make up the numbers" Tapsell, have been mentioned in dispatches There are two more games left this season and I believe that our Wednesday practice sessions on the green will now start to pay dividends. Watch this space. (Dennis Barnard)

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SATURDAY 5 Millennium Jumble sale in VH at 11pm
SUNDAY 6 Benefice Walk - see page 3 News from St. Anthony's
MONDAY 7 Parish Council meeting in VH at 7.30 pm - all welcome
TUESDAY 8 W.I. meeting at 7.30 pm in village hall.
MONDAY 14 Millennium Committee Meeting at Chalkdown 7.30 pm
THURSDAY 17 Dog club in VH 7.30pm. Alison Wooding 01303 840536
MONDAY 21 Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in VH. David Tapsell 822282
SATURDAY 26 Beekeepers surgery in VH at 2pm
MONDAY 28 Harvest Supper in VH at 7.30 pm - see below

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CHURCH SERVICES

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
September 6 Benefice Walk	Evening prayers 5 p.m. ~	Morning prayers 9.30 am	House Communion 12.30 pm ~
September 13	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
September 20	Worshipping together 11am	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m. *
September 27	Worshipping together 11am *	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.

~ approximate * Harvest Festival

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HALTON FORSTAL - in Anglo Saxon times Manors were estates that were given as rewards for knightly services. In our parish were the Manors of Malmains, Halton, Hopton and Wolverton. On the plot of land to the west of the lych gate were three cottages belonging to the Manor of Halton, the middle one having just two rooms, one up and one down. This plot has been known as Halton Forstal for many generations and at one time contained the village pound where stray animals were penned until claimed by their owners. In the late 1940's the three cottages were condemned and subsequently bought and demolished by the Harvey family who were builders in the village. An architect was

employed to design a house for the site. The Kent peg tiles, oak beams and some of the old bricks were salvaged and incorporated into the new building. The latter were arranged in diamond shaped panels on the exterior and the old oak beams are seen on the outside walls. The new house was given the name of Halton Forstal to perpetuate the historical name. (Olive Harvey - Halton Forstal)

APOLOGIES to all the hard working people in the tea tent, for not giving you a mention in the write up on the fete last month. You did a terrific job and raised a lot of money for the church. (editor)

FOOTBALL PRESENT (see P2) John Ullmann says the planning application is in but may take some time. (editor)

JANET BATHGATE ULLMANN

the beloved wife of John Ullmann died a year ago. On Friday the 14th of August her ashes were scattered near her favourite ancient woodland, which is on John's land to the north west of Malmains farm. Canon Peter Bower was in attendance together with family and friends on a lovely summers day. A memorial stone is to be erected near the hawthorn tree where her ashes lie.

HARVEST SUPPER will be held in the village hall on Monday the 28th of September and will cost £3.50. Please contact Betty Neely on 822688 or

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ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



No. 62 October 1998

Free-non profit

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

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OPEN GARDENS Thank you for the many contributions of craft and art work. The standard and variety was superb and made a most pleasing and satisfying display, giving rise to numerous and well earned compliments. Your village is proud of you! If there are any unclaimed items, they are safely locked in the church awaiting collection. (Margaret Knowles)

JUST a little note to thank all the folk who wrote to me for my 80th birthday. I thank god for a long life and wonderful family. (Gordon Preston)

CONGRATULATIONS, in fact double congrats to David and Michael Nicholas, from Glebelands, on gaining Merchant Navy Engineering Officer Cadetships. David, aged 19, has just finished the first year of his cadetship, sponsored by Trinity House. Michael, aged 16, worked very hard to gain GCSE's, enabling him to join his brother at South Tyneside Maritime, his three year course sponsored by a shipping company, leads to an HND in Maritime Engineering. Another of our Glebeland boys, Jamie '6ft 4in' Scott, who overcame many personal problems, including breaking his ankle, is continuing to do extremely well in the army. We, his family, are very proud of him. Whilst in this congratulatory mood, my son James, graduated in July at South Bank University, London with a B.Eng. (Hons) Civil Engineering degree. To say I am proud, is putting it mildly. (Tricia Wright)

CHURCH BELLS rang out on the 19th of September on the happy occasion of Heather Degrussa's (ne. Allerton) marriage to Ian MacKay, an NCO in the Household Cavalry, when the colourful uniforms, including that of a Chelsea Pensioner, were complemented with the bold purple of the bridesmaid's dresses. Heather's daughters, Emily and Holly were the bridesmaids and sons Joel and Tristan, page boy and usher. Congratulations to you both.

CHRISTENINGS On Sunday the 13th of September, Olivier and Rachel Van Bunnan of Cheriton, presented their baby Pierre for baptism and on the 20th, David and Christine Henderson of Holmlea, Drellingore presented their little daughter, Jessica Ellen Marion, for christening at Alkham Church. Welcome to the church, Pierre and Jessica.

STREET NAMES EWELL MINNIS Dover District Council are going to erect street name plates in Ewell Minnis. The name plates will be Belsey Lane, Ferne Lane, Green Lane, Greenwich Lane, Newcastle Lane, Wolverton Hill and Redbarn Lane. (editor)

WINTER MAINTENANCE it is good to hear that the County Members have reversed their decision of last year and have agreed that that KCC should re-fill the salt bins, rather than the Parish Council. There will, however, be no reimbursement of the money spent last year by the Parish. The Highways Department would like to remind people that the salt is there for use on public highways and dangerous sections of footway. It is not for salting private drives or accesses and it is in every ones interest that this is adhered to. (editor)

ON THE GREEN or more accurately Vicarage Meadow (the church own it), ROSPA have said that it is acceptable to have grass around the rocking horse, when it is erected, as the drop is about one metre. The Parish Council are currently awaiting quotes to erect said horse. The Parish Council also acknowledged the problem of stinging nettles adjacent to the path from Glebelands and also by the football pitch, where retrieving balls can be painful. A solution, either in the form of weed killer or regular cutting will be pursued. (editor)

DOLLY - it is sad to report that Dorothy Bugden, better known as Dolly, died on the 13th of September, after a short illness. Dolly, together with her husband Jack and daughter Val, moved to Alkham 14 years ago to run the Marquis of Granby. The funeral took place on Thursday the 17th of September at St. Anthony's church, in Alkham. The church was packed with people, in what was described in the service sheet, as a 'Celebration of a Remarkable Life'. Dolly will be sadly missed by her husband, daughter, son and grandchildren, together with all who knew her. She was loved and respected by all - a lovely lady. The collection at the church was in aid of the McMillan Fund and the Pilgrims Hospice and this together with other donations amounted to just under £500.

VILLAGE HOMES for Village People, are owned by a Rural Housing Association. The houses at the top of Short Lane are allocated to people who have a connection with the village. If anybody wishes to be considered in the future for one of these houses, should one become available, then would you please ask Susan Lees, Clerk to the Council (822661), for an application form. (editor)

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LORRIES Mr. and Mrs. Holliman who live in Hopton Manor, South Alkham, have written to the Parish Council about the number of lorries which use the Alkham Valley Road. Their traffic count was based on the guide lines set down by the CPRE, in which they suggest counting lorries in four half hour periods during the day, when lorry traffic is at its peak. The traffic was counted over a period of 5 ¼ hours on various days, with the result that 440 lorries passed their property during that period. The CPRE say that delivery lorries should not be counted but because the ones that are using the Valley Road are not actually delivering along its length, they have been. From the figures provided it would appear that in any one of the half hours counted that there are about 45 lorries. Multiplying by 32 to bring it to a daily 16 hour flow, gives 1440 ADT. From the number of axles recorded it is possible that 500 are HGV's and the other are small to medium lorries. I've sent the information to the CPRE and the Parish Council are sending the figures to Gwyn Prosser MP and our local councillors. Mr and Mrs Holliman also comment on the high vehicle speeds through South Alkham and suggest that a speed limit should be applied, before a nasty accident occurs. On the 17th of September two cars did collide, almost head on by Hopton Manor but it appeared that one of the cars had foreign number plates, so without further evidence no conclusion can be drawn with regard to this accident. The police are generally unhappy about having to enforce a speed limit on a road that is not urban or suburban because some drivers disregard the limit as the road appears to be rural. (editor)

TAIL GATING as a continuation to the above, Paul Tapsell said at the Parish Council meeting that his wife's car had been tail gated by a tipper lorry along the

Alkham Valley Road and when she stooped to turn right into her property, the lorry sat almost on her bumper, obscuring the vision to the rear. She phoned the company responsible and the Transport Manager sent a letter of apology. The Chairman of the Parish Council suggests that any parishioner who is similarly treated should write to the lorry company, or the Parish Council, such that the owners of the lorry firms are aware of the problem and perhaps, eventually they will use the A20. (editor)

SPONSOR A TREE ? a site meeting was held with KCC's Highways Department regarding the problem of a minority of drivers parking their cars between the bollards. It was suggested that a line of trees be planted just behind the bollards, such that the gaps were effectively filled. At present there are 18 bollards and two trees are required to fill the gaps, therefore about 34 trees are required. At the Parish Council meeting it was suggested that sponsors should be sought to pay for the trees and the Alkham Valley Society could plant them. The species of tree has yet to be decided but a rough cost of a reasonably established tree together with a stake, would be about £10. If anybody would like to help out and pay for a tree or trees, would they please contact Sue Lees on 822661. It was also agreed at the meeting that the bollards should be extended to Newlyns Meadow. This requires a further 7 bollards, so more trees may be required. In the interval at the Parish Council meeting, a question was raised from the audience as to what could be done to stop vehicles parking on the pavement, opposite the bollards. Evidently a lady with a pram had to go into the road to get past. The Chairman said that blocking of the footpath was a matter for the police to enforce. (editor)

TRAFFIC CALMING KCC confirmed that there was not enough funds for phase 2 of the traffic calming to be included in this year's budget. However, a bid is to be made to have it included in next year's budget but whether this bid will be successful is unclear as there are many other schemes with a higher priority. (editor)

POLICE the Parish Council regretted that PC Des Connolly, our local community police officer had not attended any of the Parish Council meetings since April. It was pointed out that at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 6th, he said that he would endeavour to attend the Parish Council meetings and that he intended to hold monthly surgeries. The Kent Police Authority News was also referred to, in which it says that patrolling is very important. (editor)

COUNTRY NOTES subtle changes these past few weeks announce the arrival of Autumn. The hedge rows though still green, display their fruits for hungry birds. Blackberries are now ripe and ready for picking, so too are the elderberries, delicious for making wine with. Some trees are showing the faintest traces of yellow/gold in amongst the greenery and underneath lay leaves brought down by the stronger than normal breeze. The garden is still quite colourful but the seed heads are now forming and goldfinches, in particular, feast on thistle heads. Bramleys and crab apples are now ready for harvesting and chinese lanterns display their bright orange cups, much sought after at the harvest auction! The sun still shines in the blue sky but it can be deceptive. There is a distinct chill in the air. The nights are drawing in and it gets dark around 8.00 pm now. Wispy smoke from village chimneys are evidence of comforting fires behind closed curtains. Stars can still be seen in the morning sky at 6.00 am. Low mists lay across the fields. Everything is covered in heavy dew and dog walking calls for Wellington boots. The birds are slower to rise now, though rooks seem to increase their activities at this time of year. Swooping and swirling they cackle to one another all day. Squirrels are also much in evidence now, feeding on cob nuts and empty shells litter the lane, crunchy underfoot. It is time to start stocking up on fuel, whilst preserves and chutneys capture the season, ready for the winter days ahead. 12 weeks till Christmas, Yippee. (Devina Bartlett)

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NEWS FROM ST.

ANTHONY'S

Our renovation appeal fund (total received) now stands at £22,889 and plans are now well underway for our new electrical under-pew heating system, which last month's P.C.C. agreed upon. We first had to gain permission from our Diocesan authorities but we hope we shall have it installed before the really cold weather arrives. We are well aware that when the work on our roof starts, there will be rather more dust and dirt around than usual. Mrs. Neely is hoping to get a rota of ladies who will give the church a quick once a week clean during this time so that our altar and pews aren't merged in dust for our weekly services. Volunteers please contact Betty! (822688). Do come to hear Barbara Way preach on our joint benefice Sunday this month. She is our Canterbury Diocese local Ministry Adviser and will be telling us a little more about our ordained Ken Pilgrim's training for the next three years. She preaches at Capel on October the 25th (Gill Calver)

PLEASE contact Betty Neely if you can help with church cleaning - ring 822688

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W.I. NEWS what a fascinating subject, 'East Kent Archives'. Janet Adamson kept us enthralled on the 7th of September, as she took us back through the years with an assortment of photographs, various albums, postcards and prints. There was an Ordnance survey map of Alkham dating back to the nineteenth century and even a school register for Alkham from 1890 ish to the 1930's. Maps and plans are available for the district from the 1890's. A visit to Folkestone library seems like a must for family tree researching and an informative guide into this area's heritage. Our outing on the 11th was great. The coach driver anxious not to be late, sped past Megget Lane, leaving an intended stranded but no problem. Cherry our indomitable organiser, off she went, speed of light almost to the rescue, then kept a wary eye on the driver until all were accounted for. We then proceeded to the unsuspecting Garden Centre, which I believe we all enjoyed thoroughly. They serve a very good coffee and danish. Then back to the coach and off we went again. This time we were expected at the beautiful old church of St. Mary's, at Chartham. There were a number of wonderful stained glass windows and for those of us brave enough, to go up the tower to the belfry. We had just about the best cream tea ever, delicious sandwiches, a lavish assortment of home made cakes and scones with lashings of strawberry jam and cream, while the tea and coffee just flowed and then home. Thank you Cherry, for a wonderful happy day. The next meeting is on Tuesday the 13th of October, visitors, new members always welcome. Competition: home grown harvest basket and lost objects in a standard matchbox: Speaker, Mrs K Baker on facial hair. (Tricia Wright)

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB It worked. The Wednesday evening practice sessions, the pep talk from skipper Nick Price and a concerted effort from all the team, enables me to report two wins from the last two matches of the season, including a brilliant nail-biting finish to the annual Hackers game. The excitement around 7 pm on 30th August was unbelievable - the match could have gone either way with the odds on Mark Loveday's, Hackers team. The day had started with our opponents batting first on dull day with rain in the air. The contents of Nick's team talk will have to remain secret but there was a new confidence in the Alkham team, which became apparent early on with some well taken catches from Neil Moor and Dennis Barnard. At lunch we were on top with the Hackers XI on 35 for 4 but Nigel Goodeve-Docker was still there and looking good, even though he had pulled a back muscle. His son Mark joined him at the crease a: 56 for 5 and the runs began to flow. Mark Loveday scored a respectable 33 when he fell to a fine catch from Barry Northam. Mark Goodeve-Docker finally went for 69, Nigel having gone for 34. When we went in to bat rain threatened but we made good start with Nick Price and Dennis Barnard looking confident. Nick was out for 13 and two quick wickets followed but runs were still easy. Our opponents began to lose confidence as yours truly finally found some form and began to spray sixes all around the ground until finally succumbing at 92, to a catch from the ever-present Mark Goodeve-Docker. The match now turned. More wickets fell with runs now coming in ones and twos and with an hour to go we needed 34, with only three wickets left. Brian Cornell was lbw for 0 and two weeks later he is still disputing the decision. Neil Moor played the innings of his life with excellent defence, picking of singles where he could. Matt Gerrard looked uncomfortable but hit four valuable singles before being bowled. This brought Paul Simpson to the crease to join Neil for the most agonising twenty minutes in the club's history. Thirteen runs to win - only one wicket left. Paul immediately hit a four and we knew there was a chance. Singles followed and near misses abounded and we edged to within two runs of the 167 we were chasing. Paul then hit a massive high drive which was going straight to a fielder; surely all was lost. But no, the ball fell slightly short and skidded past the fielder to the boundary. Victory! A great piece of club history and watched by a good crowd including Gordon Preston who had reminded us at tea that he played his first game for the club, 66 years ago. The following week at Coldred, fine bowling by Nick Price gave us a well-deserved victory after some excellent batting by Ian Calloway (50) and Barry Northam (18) gave us a total of 95. Nick took 5 for 22 and helped by Barry with 2 for 7, it was an excellent end to the season. It is good to see more locals in the team and we are already talking of early season practices for next year. If you are interested in playing let Paul Tapsell know. (Dennis Barnard)

John Garlinge

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WHAT'S ON (in VH = village hall)

Regular events

TUESDAY Art classes in VH from 10 to 1 pm - see below
THURSDAY Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 to 9.50am
FRIDAY Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

SATURDAY 3 Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
MONDAY 5 'Garden Talk' at Bramhall at 7.30 pm
TUESDAY 6 Fete AGM in village hall at 7.30 pm
TUESDAY 13 W.I. meeting at 7.30 pm in village hall.
THURSDAY 15 Dog club in VH 7.30pm. Alison Wooding 01303 840536
SATURDAY 17 Church jumble sale in village hall at 11.00 am
MONDAY 19 Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in VH. David Tapsell 822282
SATURDAY 24 American Supper in VH at 7.30 pm - see below
MONDAY 26 Millennium Committee at Susan Lees house 7.30 pm
SATURDAY 31 Beekeeper's Honey Show - all day

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
and work number 01795532547
District Councillor, Fred Scales 201382
District Councillor, Trevor Bamfield 202334
Vicar, Gill Calver 01303 244119
Church Warden, Richard Tapsell 822295
Church Warden, Betty Preston 822421
Police 289176
Neighbourhood Watch, Mike Chalkley 820798
Parish Council Secretary, Sue Lees 822661
Women's Institute, Betty Neely 822688
Village Hall booking, Sue Lees 822661
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969

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CHURCH SERVICES

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
October 4th	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.
October 11 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
October 18 th	Worshipping together 11am	Evensong 6.30 p.m. ***	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
October 25 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist (The Revd Barbara Way to preach) Capel St. Radigunds at 10.00 am		

*** Dover College Choir to sing Evensong

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AMERICAN SUPPER to be held in Alkham Village Hall, on Saturday the 24th of October at 7.30 pm. This is a fun way of raising funds for the Millennium celebrations. An American Supper means groups of 6 to 8 people share a table and pool food and drink. Each table may be decorated as simply or elaborately as people wish but candles are not permitted in the hall. The table judged to be the best decorated will be awarded a prize. Raffle donations gratefully received. Entertainment will be LIVE MUSIC provided by Doug. Please support. Tickets can be obtained by phoning 822899 or 827053.

ART CLASSES - a light hearted and very friendly gathering of artists of all abilities is held in the village hall, very Tuesday from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. Entry fee is £1.50 which includes a cup of tea and biscuits. Do come along and join in.

NOTICE BOARD at Ewell Minnis has been removed because of repeated vandalism. (editor)

THANKS to Bill Pepper for his kind financial donation to the Newsletter (editor)

FUNERAL - on the 21st of September, Alkham Church was witness to an exceptionally sad gathering, for the funeral of William Alexander Michael, 36 year old son of Michael Mulloy of West Hougham. 'Zander' left a young wife and baby daughter.

PLANNING the Parish Council supported the Village Hall Committee's extension proposal. Dover District Council refused permission for the proposed development at Valley Cottages.

WOLVERTON HILL - KCC has written to the Parish Council to say that the poor riding quality of Wolverton Hill has already been noted and some remedial works are planned. It is regretted that it is not possible to undertake any sections of full surfacing. (editor)

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HARVEST SUPPER - this year's Harvest Supper of fish and chips, home made apple pie etc., was much enjoyed by 80 villagers. After supper, David Tapsell ably conducted the auction (this was accompanied by much laughter), which together with the raffle, raised the wonderful sum of £400, this being donated equally between the Air Ambulance Service and an African Hospital in Zambia. The two Betty's would like to thank everyone who helped make the evening such a success, either by helping or giving and also by being with us on the evening. A special thanks must go to Margaret Knowles, for donating one of her paintings of Alkham Church to the auction; this raised the splendid sum of £60. Thank you Margaret. We hope to have all your company again next year. **(Betty Neely and Preston)**

and a villager's view - a happy, joyous evening, started as soon as you walked into the village hall. The friendly atmosphere literally hit you, seeing the trestle tables transformed, just begging you to sit at them, with white table cloths, gleaming glasses, full plates of biscuit and cheese. There was the hubbub of villagers greeting one another, then supper arrived, a scramble to find places, a cool drink was offered. Oh! Decisions, decisions, beer, cider or orange; then a piping hot plate with fish and chips, followed with

a pie and cream, cheese and biscuits and steaming hot cups of coffee. Delicious, by heck! - our harvest suppers take some beating. David Tapsell, our resident auctioneer did a cracking job. The stage groaned under the weight of all the produce, especially the apples; a bumper year for them. Bidders were a little slow at first but with Paul, Sandy and Richard goading us on, bids were quick and heavy, the produce dispersing the length of the hall. All in all, a wonderful, happy evening **(Tricia Wright)**

WHOOOPS - it honestly was a genuine mistake. In last month's W.I. report, I typed that the speaker for October was going to talk about facial hair. This of course should have read 'facial care'. My apologies to the W.I. **(editor)**

QUESTION - when I was typing the report on page two, regarding the reply from CPRE about lorries on the Alkham Valley Road, I wondered how many vehicles went through the village in a year. That, therefore, is the question. Have a guess and then look at the answer on the back page to see if you were right. **(editor)**

TREES in last month's Newsletter there was an article asking if anyone would like to sponsor a tree, to infill between the bollards opposite the Marquis of Granby. I'm pleased to say, that so far 10 people have come forward and offered to sponsor 18 trees. If anyone else would like to sponsor a tree, please ring Susan Lees, Secretary to the Parish Council on 822661. **(editor)**

FOOTBALL John Ullmann says, that due to a shortage of staff at the Planning Department his application to change the use of the field to a football pitch, is not progressing at the moment. Let's hope that progress is made soon, as I know there are a lot of youngsters who are keen to start playing for an Alkham football club. **(editor)**

NETTLES - thanks must go to the Parish Council, for responding so quickly to the nettle problem brought up at the last Council meeting. John Bartlett has cut down all the nettles by the football pitch and the path to Glebelands, plus some general tidying up around the green. A good bit of work. **(editor)**

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GARDEN TALK the first meeting of 'Garden Talk' was an enjoyable and sociable affair. We discussed herbaceous plants, their care and maintenance and their various flowering times, with great energy. A number of topics were suggested for future meetings and over a glass of wine, we shared gardening problems and tips. Do feel free to join us for the odd meeting here or there, or come on a regular basis. The next meeting is at 7.30 pm on Friday the 27th of November, at Bramhall. Please could you bring a plant cutting or seed for the 'swap' table. My daughter said her mind boggled when she saw Alkham Seed Bank written on the board when she visited next day. **(Susannah Tapsell - 01304 822295)**

SURPRISE - a surprise 70th birthday party for Will Goldfinch on the 10th of October in the village hall, was a resounding success. Unbeknown to Will, his wife Kathleen, managed to organise 50 to 60 of his relatives to come to this secret get together. Will says thank you to all for coming and for all the lovely cards and presents; he is still planting. Also to brother Ted's wife, Pat, for all the hard work, cooking and preparing that fantastic variety and quantity of food. So, a big thank you to everyone, on Will and Kathleen's behalf. **(Tricia Wright)**

ALKHAM VALLEY TREE SURGERY

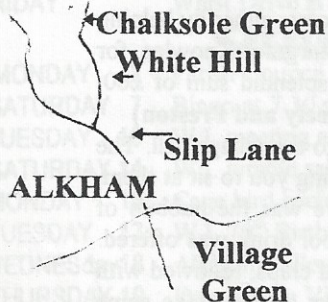
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CPRE - that is the Council for the Protection of Rural England, have replied to the letter regarding the number of lorries on the Alkham Valley Road. The letter was sent as a result of the lorry count carried out by Mr. and Mrs. Holliman, who live in Hopton Manor. The CPRE reply is fairly standard, in that they sympathise with our problem and have logged the information for future possible use. They did however enclose 'A Charter for Country Lanes' which they ask people to support. Their Charter, in precis, calls on the Government to: reduce the speed limit on rural roads to 40 mph and 20 mph in villages: introduce a new category of country lanes where walkers, cyclists and riders would have priority: different styles of traffic management: stop the spread of new developments: better public transport and a safe environment for cycling, walking and riding. If you would like to support CPRE then write to them and say that you support the 'Charter for Country Lanes'. The address is - Charter for Country Lanes, CPRE, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1P 0PP. (editor)

CHALKSOLE GREEN No doubt few people will know that Alkham Parish still has its own piece of common land, albeit a small piece about an acre in size, known as Chalksole Green. Until the seventeenth century common land belonged to the Lord of the Manor and his tenants would have been entitled to graze their geese, pigs and cattle on that land. Over the centuries customs changed and the rule of the Lord of the Manor began to diminish. Most of the Common land in this parish was along the top of the hills stretching from Swingfield Minnis across to Scotland Common, at Temple Ewell. However, much of the common land was "enclosed" by the eighteenth century. Evidence of this survives in field names using the word "Close" i.e. Peters Close at Ewell Minnis. By 1845 when Parliament authorised further Enclosures, the remaining areas of Common Land in the Parish of Alkham were Abbey Common near St. Radigunds Abbey, Wolverton Common and Ararat Common,

all on the south side of the Valley, and two areas on the north side of the valley. One a winding piece of common stretched from Greenwood to Chalksole Green and across to the hill still known as Common Hill, which overlooks the Slip. The other, a rectangular piece at Ewell Minnis, stretching from Newcastle Lane across to The Minnis by Sunnyhills Farm. Each of these Commons was divided into plots of land which were "awarded" to landowners. The more land owned, the more common land was "awarded". Chalksole Green was awarded to Alkham churchwardens and overseers of the poor, this task being eventually passed to their successors, the Parish Council. There were two ponds on Chalksole Green, and the 1846 Commissioner declared that the ponds "shall be for ever hereafter left open with free access thereto for the purpose of watering cattle of such persons as have heretofore been accustomed to use the same. And I declare that I have set out and do hereby set out allot and award unto the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the said parish of Alkham all that piece or parcel of land numbered 62 on the said map la 22p to be held by them and their successors in trust as a place of exercise and recreation for the inhabitants of the said parish and neighbourhood". 1972 unfortunately saw the dumping of "spoil", resulting from the laying of mains drainage to the village and this virtually filled one pond and created a problem when the parish council, a few years later, decided to restore the Green. In 1976 one of the celebrations for the Queens Silver Jubilee was a walk from the village which ended at the Green, where a grand bonfire was lit and refreshments dispensed to all comers. (Susan Lees)

COUNTRY NOTES Today is a day of glorious sunshine, after nearly two weeks of seemingly endless rain. I know I have mentioned the glittering dew on the grass before but this morning it was breathtaking. The whole field at the back of St. Anthony's was a solid sheet of crystal, catching and reflecting the sun's rays and throwing out rainbows of light. Gossamer threads of spider's web were stranded along the hedge row like coloured silk. A carpet of rich red and sunshine yellow leaves lay strewn between the rectory and churchyard. No longer crunchy after the rains but the damp making the colours all the more vibrant. I too, have mentioned the berries before, but the hawthorn trees this year are absolutely laden with them, whole trees burning red in amongst the greenery. I can see fat juicy apples in ripe clusters on the tree and rose hips from the climber on the wall, slowly turning orange. Wasps, warmed by the sun, feed on the fallen fruit. The sycamore is releasing a steady shower of 'helicopters', a gardeners nightmare and the ash tree is golden yellow, its bark white as snow in the sunlight. The garden is looking very bedraggled and in desperate need of an overhaul. But everything is sodden, the mud is thick and the soil claggy and unworkable. More rain is forecast so I shall stay in and read a book instead. (Devina Bartlett)

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR there will be a Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall at 10.30 am on the 5th of December, where there will be Christmas novelties and baking for sale. More details next month. (Susan Lees)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY are presenting a concert on Saturday the 28th of November, at 7.30 pm in Dover Town Hall. The concert will feature works by J S Bach, Anton Bruckner, Gerald Finzi and Andrew Carter. Tickets are £6 (£3 for school children) and are available from Dover Town Hall and The Music Box in Maison Dieu Road. For further enquiries please phone Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (editor)

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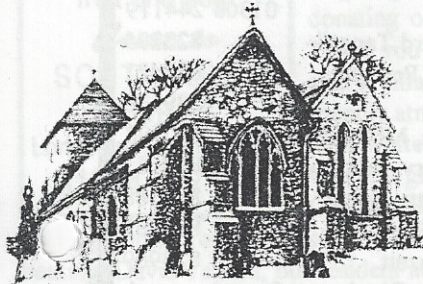
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NEWS FROM ST.

ANTHONY'S join us as usual, this month for our annual tribute to those who have died in the wars of this century. Our service in the church is at 10.30 am and we meet around the memorial for the two minutes' silence and wreath-laying afterwards. (November 8th is REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY). For those of us who like to take a special opportunity to remember our own loved ones who have died, there is the usual opportunity to light a candle and share in prayers and readings on November the 1st. And if you enjoy choral music, come along Effingham Crescent (er) into Dover College on Advent Sunday (November the 29th) and join us in the Chapel behind the walls, for a wonderful candle lit treat at 6.30pm.

(Gill Calver)

BETTY NEELY would like to hear from anyone who is willing to do some cleaning in St. Anthony's whilst the building works are going on. Please give her a ring on 822688. (editor)

time) that's OK, you will be made very welcome. There is also, of course, the actual fund raising which can be done without even smelling a horse! But - at the moment we are looking for a secretary (male or female) to look after our administration and correspondence. Do you have any free time? Would you be interested? Can you take over as our Secretary? You will have a lovely Chairman to work with! If you have only half a mind to help, why not give me a ring for a chat. (John Garlinge 824201)

W.I. NEWS

- our October meeting started off on a sad note. Doreen Wilks, our President, called for a minute's silence, in honour of Dolly Bugden, a lovely lady who passed away on the 13th of September. Our condolences to Val, Jack and family. Mrs. Kathleen Baker arrived to demonstrate the art of facial care, oblivious to the super gaffe in last month's Newsletter. I am not sure if I am the culprit, or the computer. When I mentioned it to Brian, he was the picture of innocence. Kathleen called for two models, so Devina and I put ourselves forward to be pampered. It was great fun and Devina looked very pretty. As for me - well no comment. After two layers of concealers, in an effort to hide my ruddy complexion, methinks I will continue to remain naked, apart from one layer of Nivea Cream, face wise of course. Thank you, Kathleen, a most enjoyable experience. By the look of things, we have a busy month ahead, so take a deep breath. We start with our next meeting on Tuesday the 10th of November, our AGM, when we select the committee and President, so there is no speaker. Competitions:- knitted loo roll cover and a pot plant. On Saturday the 14th of November, there is the jumble sale in aid of W.I. funds; the usual please, helpers and jumble at 10.00 am, doors open to the masses at 11.00 am. On Tuesday the 17th of November is our 70th Birthday Party, dinner in the hall provided by The River Caterers; that should be good. On Friday the 20th of November, we are off to the Marlowe Theatre, the coach leaves the village bus stop at 6.30 pm prompt. On Thursday the 26th of November, it is the Maidstone shopping trip and the coach will leave the village bus stop at 9.00 am and returns at approximately 5.00 pm. (Tricia Wright)

ALKHAM FETE AGM Chairman, Paul Tapsell, thanked the Committee for its hard work over the past year. Once again Fete day had been a success despite the heavy down pour of rain. The accounts for the year were presented by the Treasurer, John Garlinge. The annual income was £3776.69, of which £2680.49 was taken on Fete Day. The annual expenses were £3314.17, of which £2000.00 was donated to the Church and the Village Hall, and £205 donated to six organisations which gave assistance on Fete Day. The remaining £462.52 to be kept in hand for general running expenses. Richard Tapsell, as Churchwarden, thanked the committee for the donation to Alkham Church and David Tapsell, Chairman, likewise thanked the committee on behalf of Alkham Village Hall. The committee for 1999 remains as last year with Paul Tapsell, Chairman, Sandy Tapsell, Secretary and John Garlinge, Treasurer. After some persuasion, that it really doesn't matter that yet another Tapsell name appears, David Tapsell accepted the office of Vice Chairman for another year. After all what would the village do without the Tapsell family? There will be a Christmas Draw and raffle prizes will be gratefully received. The date of next year's Fete, 10th July 1999. (Susan Lees)

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

The Cornilo Group of the Riding for the Disabled is our local group and is based at Sutton Court Farm, in Sutton. We ride every Tuesday during term time and offer riding facilities to some 30 disabled persons, whose ages range from 8 to 60+ years. Some of these are children from the Aspen Unit at Whitfield Primary School, some physically disabled children from Melbourne Primary School, and children from The Harbour School. There are also mentally disabled adults from local Social Services homes. Their disabilities range through many ailments and include cerebral palsy, blindness, partial and total paralysis. We can often be found fund raising during the summer months at various functions, such as The Buckland Hospital Fete (organised by our own Ron Dryden) and The Teddy Bears Picnic, where we offer pony rides as a means to earn a crust, (or carrot). We are always desperately in need of volunteers. Knowledge of horses is not a requirement (you don't even have to like them), because whilst we do have to get them ready for the children, there are other jobs needing doing, such as getting the correct sized riding hats for the children (you don't even have to like them either) and generally looking after the riders. If you can give 2 or 3 hours of your time on Tuesday each week, (during term



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WHAT'S ON (in VH = village hall)

Regular events

TUESDAY Art classes in VH from 10 to 1 pm
THURSDAY Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 to 9.50am
FRIDAY Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

MONDAY 2 Parish Council meeting in VH at 7.30 pm - all welcome
SATURDAY 7 Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
TUESDAY 10 W.I. meeting at 7.30 pm in village hall.
SATURDAY 14 W.I. jumble sale in village hall at 11.00 am
MONDAY 16 Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in VH. David Tapsell 822282
TUESDAY 17 W.I. 70th Birthday Party
WEDNESDAY 18 Alkham Valley Society AGM at 7.30 pm in VH - see below
THURSDAY 19 Dog club in VH 7.30pm. Alison Wooding 01303 840536
SATURDAY 28 Bee keepers in Village Hall in the afternoon
MONDAY 30 Village Hall Committee meeting in Village Hall at 8.00 pm

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
and work number 01795532547
District Councillor, Fred Scales 201382
District Councillor, Trevor Bamfield 202334
Vicar, Gill Calver 01303 244119
Church Warden, Richard Tapsell 822295
Church Warden, Betty Preston 822421
Police 289176
Neighbourhood Watch, Mike Chalkley 820798
Parish Council Secretary, Sue Lees 822661
Women's Institute, Betty Neely 822688
Village Hall booking, Sue Lees 822661
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
E mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk

CHURCH SERVICES

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
November 1 All Saints Day *	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.
November 8 Remembrance Day	Special Service 10.30 am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
November 22	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist at Hougham 10.00 am		
November 29 Advent Sunday	Advent Eucharist at Capel 10am and an Advent Evening Service at Dover College Chapel 6.30 pm		

* ALL SOULS SERVICES (at which we remember all those who have died in the benefice during the last year)

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AS WELL as there appearing to be a
lot of cowslips this year, there does seem,
as Devina says, to be an abundance of
berries. With regard to the latter, an old
proverb goes 'Many haws, many snaws'.
They were obviously succinct and nasal
then. Snaws mean snow storms. Lets hope
they're not right. (editor)

WINE AND WISDOM will be held on Saturday the 16th of January next year,
which is in aid of the Millennium Fund, instead of Neighbourhood Watch. The evening
will be run by me and Devina Bartlett, with Sue Lees doing the scoring. Devina and I are
preparing questions for five rounds each, which we will ask in turn. There is room for 80
people and would those teams who took part this year and would like to take part again,
please contact me, (Brian 824969) or Devina (827548), to confirm the table. The cost is
£3.50 per head and a team is eight people. There will be wine provided (we're deciding
about food), so just bring some wisdom. More details later. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY are holding their AGM in the village hall
on the 18th of November, at 7.30 pm. There will be two guest speakers, Alan Ross from
Kent Highways and Peter Wallace from DDC Planning Department, who will answer
questions afterwards. Coffee and biscuits supplied. Do come along. (Paul Tapsell)

ALKHAM NAILBOURNE otherwise known as the drellingore. The spring
rises in a hollow south of the Alkham Valley Road, at Drellingore. Normally the water
flows underground to Bushey Ruff. However, in a particularly wet year the water flows above ground. 39.5 inches (1 metre
approx.) of rain needs to fall in a twelve month for the stream to flow and we have now reached just over 35.25 inches (89.5 cm) -
so keep a look out. (Susan Lees)

THE ANSWER to the question of how many vehicles go along the Alkham Valley Road in a year, is roughly 2 million.
On average there are 5500 vehicles per day and multiplying by 364 (it's quiet on Christmas day!) gives the above figure. (editor)

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 64 December 1998

Free-non profit

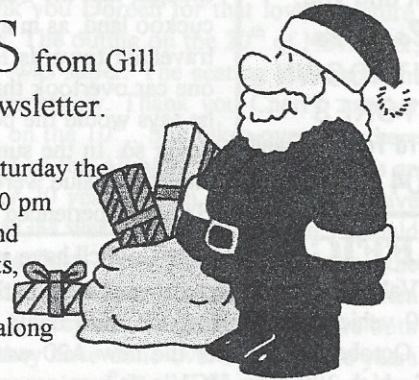
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MERRY CHRISTMAS from Gill
Calver and all the contributors to the Newsletter.

CHURCH BAZAAR Saturday the
5th of December from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm
in the village hall. Home made Xmas cakes and
puddings, jam, sweets and biscuits. Handicrafts,
stocking fillers and beautiful Xmas decorations
made by the Ladies Sewing Group. Please come along
for all your Xmas goodies. (Devina Bartlett)



A CHRISTMAS PARTY for children is being held in the village hall
on the 20th December and all children are welcome. It starts at 2.00 pm and there will
be a magician, Punch and Judy and Santa Claus. Children should bring their own

sandwiches and a parcel for Santa's sack. If you would like further information please ring Lorraine Beaney on 822138. (editor)

POLICE - yet another re-organisation has taken place. We no longer have a Community Police Officer but come under the umbrella of 'Crime Reduction Policing'. George Tyler, the Chairman of the Parish Council, raised the issue of lack of policing at a Dover District Council meeting and evidently was treated quite rudely by the platform but was applauded by the audience. The Chairman suggested at the Parish Council meeting, that we should write to Kent County Council and ask for the cost of policing to be deducted from our Council Tax. The police say that Alkham is a low crime area, with only three reportable crimes in the last period. However, the opportunity still exists for a Neighbourhood Police Officer to be appointed for Alkham, so if there is anyone under 50 who would like to do this worthwhile job, please ring Susan Lees (SPC), on 822661 for an application form. (editor)

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY - if anybody knows of any footpaths which have disappeared, or signs, stiles, kissing gates etc. which need replacing, would they please contact Susan Lees (SPC), on 822661. (editor)

TRAFFIC CALMING - at the Parish Council meeting, stage two of the traffic calming was mentioned. Both Gwyn Prosser and Bryan Cope have been pressing for its installation. Subject to revised traffic figures (see page 2), if there is any money left at the end of the financial year, it may be implemented. (editor)

RUBBISH RECYCLING - at the Parish Council Meeting it was suggested that an item was put in the Newsletter asking for a preferred site for recycling bins. However, Colin Griggs, the owner of the Alkham Valley Farm Shop, kindly offered to include an area in his new extension works. The Council expressed their gratitude and on the motion it was carried. (editor)

BORING NOISE at the Parish Council meeting reference was made to an unidentified boring noise. Several suggestions were made as to what it may be, but evidently from somewhere underground, the noise of boring has been heard in the Hougham/Alkham area. Any suggestions on a postcard to me or Susan Lees (SPC) on 822661. (editor)

CHALKSOLE GREEN FARM HOUSE and farm land was bought at auction in 1996 by a person living outside the parish. In 1997 the new owner was granted planning permission to demolish the farm house with outline planning permission for a new property on the same site. The Parish Council were appalled at the original application, as the existing farm house dates from the late 1700's and is part of the parish's heritage. Irrespective of this, Dover District Council advised the Planning Committee to approve the application, because it was in accordance with the local plan and in their opinion the farm house was in a poor state. The application was approved. The Parish Council wrote to the Ombudsman, as they considered that DDC had mishandled the application. The Ombudsman found in DDC's favour. The owner then put the farm house up for sale together with the outline planning permission, whilst retaining some of the farm land. The house was bought by a person living overseas, who has now lodged an application to build a new house, larger than the existing farm house, which is currently still standing. The Parish Council voted on the 12th of November to object to the latest application, mainly on the grounds of size and visual intrusion. If you wish to give an opinion on the planning application you should contact Dover District Council Planning Department and quote the reference DOV/98/1048. The plans are at DDC offices at Whitfield, or Susan Lees (SPC) has a copy - ring 822661 (editor)

ROCK ON - the new rocking horse has been installed by Don Taylor on Vicarage Meadow and looks very good. Well done. (editor)



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LIFE IN ALKHAM - Bert Wall, who lives in Church Hill House, has written to me to suggest that life in Alkham is not just about cowslips, berries and whist drives (*as portrayed in the Newsletter*) - there is a darker side that needs to be exposed. He agreed to the telephone box being put outside his house, but if he had known that his garden would be used for emptying ash trays and disposing of other rubbish, such as babies nappies and condoms, he would not have been so co-operative. He also remembers an article in the Newsletter in which I referred to a policeman who thought that the traffic calming had been a success. Mr. Wall suggests that the policeman lives in cloud cuckoo land, as in a 30 minute period when he was cutting the verge by the telephone kiosk, three cars travelling towards Folkestone overtook on the blind bend by Newlyn Meadow and more alarmingly, one car overtook three others between the kiosk and the Marquis of Granby. Whilst talking about cars, he says would the people who drive over the flower bed at the entrance to the church yard, please stop doing so. In the summer his house was burgled whilst he was on holiday and personal items of some monetary value were stolen. In November, a heavy sandstone sun dial was stolen from his front garden. Having experienced police 'enthusiasm' in the first instance, the second was left unreported. (editor)

TRAFFIC Kent County Council have supplied the latest traffic figures for the Alkham Valley Road. The count was taken on the 16th of September 1998 and showed that 5500 vehicles were using the road daily, of which 234 were HGV's. A count taken in October 1994, after the new A20 was opened, gave a daily traffic flow of 5000, of which 300 were HGV's. It was generally thought, that when the new A256 Whitfield Bypass was opened in 1997, that the volume of traffic on the Alkham Valley Road would drop further. This obviously hasn't happened. It is probable that the drivers from the Thanet direction, still think (or know) that the Alkham Valley is the quickest way to the M20, even allowing for the extra distance along the A2. More worrying, it would indicate a 2 1/2 % increase per annum in traffic flow. With regard to the HGV's, KCC accept that on a daily basis the number could vary; this of course would mean a rise in the daily traffic flow. If nothing is done to deter drivers from using the Valley Road, the traffic will rise in accordance with national or local forecasts, eventually getting back to the 7000 vpd that there was before the new A20 was opened. (editor)

WINE AND WISDOM we are pleased to report that all the tables for the Millennium Wine and Wisdom have been taken. There will be two bottles of wine and a bottle of soft drink on each table and in the interval there will be ploughman's supper provided free of charge. Extra drinks will be available for purchase, subject to availability. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY had their Annual General Meeting on the 18th of November. Paul Tapsell chaired the meeting and was later re-elected as Chairman. Pamela Sayers, who has done a sterling job in the past, agreed to be secretary and Peter Mercer was re-elected as vice chairman. Bill Rolfe got two rounds of applause, the second of which was impromptu, when he stepped down from the treasurer's post, which he had done with his usual efficiency for many years. John Garlinge has offered to be the new treasurer. Howard Cleaves was re-elected as a committee member and to another round of applause, Bill Rolfe was elected as the final committee member. It was agreed that £100 should be donated from funds to help pay for the shrubs between the bollards opposite the Marquis of Granby and that the hedging on Pimlico Way should be trimmed by the farmer with a flail. There were two speakers. The first was Alan Ross who is currently in charge of our road network. He explained the problems of financing and said he was not allocated enough money to do all the works which people wanted him to do. From April next year, Alkham will come under the DDC Highway Management Unit. This is a pity, as I think Alan has done a good job. Whatever you may think of the traffic calming, it was he who found the money to do it. The second speaker was Peter Wallace from DDC Planning Department who gave an interesting talk. He explained how the planning procedures were carried out. As I understood it a planning application is judged on how it conforms with the Local Plan and local views are secondary. This would explain how recent planning applications have been dealt with. A lively question time followed in which speed limits and Chalksole Green Farm House were raised. (editor)

COUNTRY NOTES - once more the festive season is soon to be upon us. Diaries are filling up fast with parties, meals and get togethers. I don't have a free weekend until the 19th of December. Kitchens everywhere are full of the glorious aromas of spices, fruit and brandy as Christmas cakes and puddings are being prepared in readiness. Writing out Christmas cards is fun, matching each one to its chosen recipient. Cuddly teddies for the children, snowy scenes featuring a church or stagecoach for elderly relatives and rude Santas for the less discerning acquaintances. It's time to go up in the loft and get the decorations down. Fairy lights need checking as they invariably don't work. Decking out the tree is my favourite job. Opening up the boxes after 12 months and finding the treasures within. Reminiscing over each item as it is unwrapped. Baubles, tinsel, red robins and a Santa, rather the worse for wear but knitted by grandmother all those years ago and much loved as a result. A crystal snowflake from an old school friend, extra carefully wrapped just in case and my favourite, a beautiful angel in red velvet, trimmed with gold. Everything is gaudy, sparkly and uncoordinated colour wise, but that's Christmas! See you all in 1999. (Devina Bartlett)



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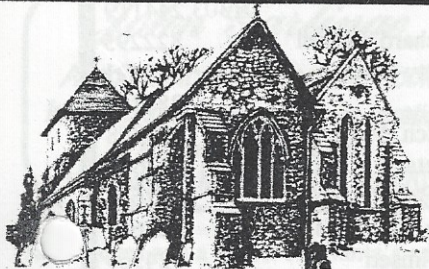
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NEWS FROM ST.

ANTHONY'S - as you will see on the back page, there is a full programme of services for our Christmas celebrations, with a lot of choice. For younger attenders we have a Family Carol service at St. Radigunds, Capel on the 20th of December, in which our Sunday club will play a major part and which will be especially suitable for children. There is also that special building and blessing of the crib service at Alkham on Christmas Eve at 6.00 o'clock a 40 minute service in which youngsters take part. It's a service of hymns and readings interspersed by children putting the animals in the crib and close in a darkened, candle lit church as we sing 'Away in a manger' in anticipation of our great family celebrations the next day. The young at heart from 0 to 90 (or above) are welcome. If you're more of a traditionalist, come to the 'Festival of 9 lessons and carols' at Alkham for the whole benefice on the 20th of December, followed by seasonal refreshments in the village hall. And finally do come and celebrate the arrival of the great day itself by joining us at 9.15 am on Christmas Day. What better way can there be to start partying? **AND DO ALL HAVE A VERY, VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS.** Gill Calver)



W.I. NEWS - our 70th birthday party on the 17th of November was a great success. Piping hot veg., delicious chicken, mouth watering pudding, coffee and biscuits: the wine had flowed and flowed throughout, even better, mine changed colour from white to red, for the sing along music, provided by Bert and Fred. The best part of the evening was no washing up to do, as everything was taken care of by the River Caterers. A most enjoyable evening, so a big thank you to last year's committee, who thought of and arranged the evening. We had an absolutely fabulous birthday cake, made and iced by Doreen Lott. It tasted as good as it looked. Thank you Doreen for that lovely gesture, we all know where to come for extra special cakes. The outing on the 20th of November, to the Marlowe Theatre to see 'Me and My Girl' was super. The seating was excellent and I'm sure that everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. Thank you Cherry, another 'well done' to your credit As I missed the AGM on the 10th. Sue takes over from here (**Tricia Wright**). This month marked the formation of the Alkham W.I. in 1928. It is an achievement to see that it is still going strong after 70 years, when so many W.I.'s have broken away and become independent clubs. The AGM was not the stuffy affair it would have been a few years ago, in fact the agenda was 'lost' from time to time during the evening. However, Doreen Wilks, the newly elected president kept smiling even when things didn't go as planned. Doreen thanked Olive Harvey and Susan Lees, who are both standing down from the committee, for the work they have done over innumerable years and welcomed Devina Bartlett, who is joining the committee. (**Susan Lees**)

Next meeting 8th of December. This is going to be partyish, so bring a plate of food please, the usual variety. The speaker will be Mr. D Chambers on Ghosts and Bumps in the night - Wow!! Competition, poem for Christmas and 6 shallots. 12th of December carol singing in the village hall and on the 14th at Capel. (**Tricia Wright**)

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY service was held in St. Anthony's church on the 8th of November. This was preceded by Richard, David and Chris Tapsell plus Ken Hammond ringing the bells to welcome the congregation. An impressive sight in itself, with looks of studied concentration. People then started to arrive, one of whom was Bill Pepper, proudly displaying his medals. On asking, he said playfully, that they were from the Boer War, but as this would make him at least 112, I think they are probably from a later conflict. There was a good turn out of some 50 people and Gill Calver read a sermon, which was both intelligent and moving. The wreath was laid at the war memorial in the graveyard by Ron Dryden, also wearing medals, who read out the names of the local people who had fallen in both conflicts, whilst the congregation stood solemnly around in the sleeting rain, commemorating their sacrifice. (**editor**)

POPPY APPEAL many thanks to all collectors and supporters for the poppy appeal. It was great to see the boxes so full - £20 up on last year. Together we collected £167.77 and the church collection was £82. So, many thanks to Rachel, Susan, Barbara, Brenda, Val, Shirley, Ann and Kirsty. So nice to

see the young ones are joining our ranks. (**Betty Preston**)

ALEC TO THE RESCUE - the popular bus driver on the Alkham route, Alec Jeffrey, was in the local paper after coming to the rescue of an injured lady. A woman had fallen off her bicycle and lay bleeding on the footpath. Passers by ignored her plight but Alec stopped the bus and administered first aid until the ambulance arrived. He was praised in the paper for his action, although the accident did highlight the problem of getting speedy treatment at William Harvey Hospital.

WELCOME to the village, Nan Lewis Hoyle, who is now staying with Moira and Les Hoyle at Holly House, in Slip Lane. We all hope that you will enjoy living in the village and wish you all the best for the future. (**editor on behalf of the villagers**)

A SOUP KITCHEN is run by the combined Alkham, Capel and Hougham churches. Every night in the car park behind MFI in Dover, a portakabin is opened and soup and sandwiches dispensed. If you would like to donate money, or anything that is nourishing, or even polystyrene cups, please contact Gill Calver or Joy Menzies on 01303 253545, or me and I will pass them on. (**editor**)

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WHAT'S ON (in VH = village hall)

Regular events

TUESDAY Art classes in VH from 10 to 1 pm - 01303 243115
THURSDAY Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 to 9.50am
FRIDAY Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

SATURDAY 5 Church Bazaar 10 am to 12.30 pm - see page 1
SATURDAY 5 Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
TUESDAY 8 W.I. meeting at 7.30 pm in village hall.
SATURDAY 12 Carol singing, Donkey rides etc. 10am to 12pm -see below
SATURDAY 12 SEKAS in village hall in the evening
FRIDAY 18 Christmas raffle draw at the bingo
SUNDAY 20 Children's Christmas Party starts 2pm in VH - see page 1
SUNDAY 20 Refreshments in VH after carol service - see below
MONDAY 21 Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in VH. David Tapsell 822282

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
and work number 01795532547
District Councillor, Fred Scales 201382
District Councillor, Trevor Bamfield 202334
Vicar, Gill Calver 01303 244119
Church Warden, Richard Tapsell 822295
Church Warden, Betty Preston 822421
Police 289176
Neighbourhood Watch, Mike Chalkley 820798
Parish Council Secretary, Sue Lees (SPC) 822661
Women's Institute, Betty Neely 822688
Village Hall booking, Sue Lees 822661
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
E mail brian@bwimsett.freeserve.co.uk

CHURCH SERVICES

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
December 6	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.
December 13	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Village Hall Carol Service 2.30	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
December 20	Benefice Carols 6.30 pm *	Family Carol Service 10.00 am	No Service
CHRISTMAS EVE	Blessing of the crib 6.00pm	Midnight Eucharist 11.30 pm	
CHRISTMAS DAY	Sung Eucharist 9.15 am		Sung Eucharist 10.45 am
December 27	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist 10.00 am at Alkham		

* join us for festive refreshments in Alkham Village Hall after the service at St. Anthony's

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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, DIY and grass liveries, 01303 892056
MARQUIS OF GRANBY, traditional family "pub", good "grub", good "value", good "fun", 822945
OWLER LODGE, Alkham Valley Road, bed and breakfast, Pat and Bill Ower, 826375
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DOG FOULING the necessary steps to make dog fouling within the 30 mph limit on roads, footways, or amenity areas an offence, have been published in the local press. When it becomes law, it appears that it will be difficult to enforce as there are only 1 1/2 dog wardens in the district. If the Parish Council want a dog warden to come out and patrol it will cost £8.90 an hour. (editor)

TREES - to date 24 people have offered to pay for 34 trees to fill the gaps between the bollards opposite the Marquis of Granby. Unfortunately, and we all do it sometime, the overhead wires were not noticed when the suggestion was made. Therefore trees are not permitted and an alternative solution is being sought, probably shrubs. (editor)

POST BUS reference was made at the Parish Council meeting to the provision of a post bus for Alkham. Money would not be forthcoming from KCC but the Parish Council agreed that the idea should be pursued. (editor)

CAROL SINGING this year the W.I. will not be going from door to door, carol singing. Instead there will be a coffee morning on Saturday the 12th of December in the village hall, from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, with carols and donkey rides for children. Santa Claus will be there and all monies raised will go to Cancer Research. (Sue Lees)

VILLAGE HALL Dover District Council planners have said the extension to the

village hall should be in corrugated iron to match the existing. This was greeted with a certain amount of derision and the Parish Council said that the application should be progressed in its present form i.e. brickwork etc. (editor)

Jacqueline Bentley
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