

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Free-non profit

No. 65 January 1999

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

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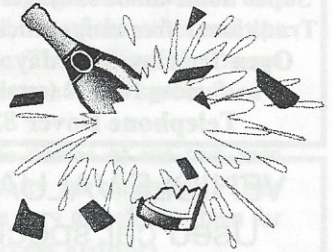


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NEW YEARS PARTY

- if you are wondering how to celebrate New Years eve, then why not go to the village hall? Children will be welcome, including those who are still in the pram. All you have to do is bring along some food, which will be placed on a communal table for all to share and drinks for personal consumption. Music will be provided and the likely maximum charge is £2 for adults and a £1 for children. Anybody in the village is welcome to come but the numbers are limited to a maximum of 100 people. The party starts at 8.00 pm on New Years eve and this great idea was put together by Debbie, who lives in Short Lane. If you would like to go, please give Debbie a ring on 827530, as soon as possible. (editor)



WHY NOT FINISH 1998 WITH A WALK?

The Alkham Valley Society hold their annual walk on Sunday, December the 27th and as the January edition goes out before Christmas, you should have time to read this. The walk starts at 10.30 am from the village hall car park and via a circuitous route ends up at the Marquis of Granby, about 12.30 pm. It's a fairly leisurely walk and you don't have to have a dog, so why not come along? (editor)

CAROL SINGING

- rather than go from door to door, as in previous years, the W.I. opened up the village hall on December the 12th for Christmas Carols, accompanied by various stalls, refreshments and a raffle. The

ubiquitous donkey, Oliver was there, giving rides to children in a trap with Emma, grand daughter of Helen Scopes, driving and guided by Father Christmas, who bore a family resemblance. You may have seen Oliver featured in the Dover Express, when he was star of the show in Dover. More than 200 children from Dover and Deal assembled in the Market Square to sing carols and Oliver walked with the illuminated procession of the primary school girls and boys to the steps of the White Cliffs Experience. In the village hall, tea and a mince pie were served for 50p and items were available for purchase on the jam, card and handicraft stalls. Members of the W.I. stood at the door of the hall and sang carols to the village whilst visitors joined in. A very successful alternative to previous years and in total £160 was raised for cancer research. (editor)

QUIZ NIGHT - on March the 20th Mike Stevens of Thanet Local Radio, is organising a quiz night in aid of the Village Hall and the Millennium Fund. Tables will be for up to 8 people and the cost of entry will be £2.50 per person, which includes jacket potatoes and filling. Please ring Doreen Lott on 824876 to reserve your table, or for more information. (Doreen Lott)

and on the 13th of February, the Whitfield Wanderers Football team are holding a Quiz Night in the village hall. There are still some tables available, for teams of 6, so if you would like to take part, please ring Jeanette Cowan on 820459.

RURAL BUS SERVICE - KCC looked at the various rural routes in Kent, with regard to providing additional bus service subsidies. The cost per passenger of providing the buses was determined and on this basis the extra services are to be implemented. In Alkham, the cost per passenger is above the economical level. However, if other rural areas, for which the new services is provided, do not get enough passengers, then KCC will look at the situation again, with the possibility of extra buses for Alkham. (editor)

LOST CAT - does anybody know the origins or owner of a large ginger tabby cat, with one of its eyes damaged, which has established itself in the garden of North Hill House? We are now feeding it and leaving a shed open and it is outside the back door first thing, waiting for breakfast. We can't let it into the house because of our own seven cats, so we would be very happy to restore it to its rightful owner. If you know anything about it, please give us a ring on 824480. (Joseph and Rosemary O'Brien)

This cat is not the one that was extensively displayed on posters around Alkham and district. (editor)



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COUNTRYSIDE NEWS is published by the White Cliffs Countryside Project, which was set up in 1989 to help care for the special coast and countryside around Folkestone and Dover. In the Countryside News there is a list of the volunteer's programme. On the 10th and 20th of January there is a scrub bash at Waterworks Bank, on the Alkham Valley Road, near Lower Standen. Any volunteers should meet at Hockley Sole (off the Lower Standen cross-roads) at 10.45 am. At Lydden, there is an attractive woodland site, owned by FDWS where a new woodland wildlife management scheme is to be implemented. Volunteers should meet at Lyoak Wood at 10.30 am, or phone 241806 for further details, closer to the time. If you want to join the WCCP then telephone 241806 and they will give you the details. (editor)

THE JIGSAW PROJECT was set up by the KCC for residents who lived in Areas of Outstanding Beauty (AONB), to express their feelings about the parish and to portray the issues that affect their lives, the landscape and the countryside around them. The results of this will be put in management plans and submitted to the Countryside Commission. The Jigsaw Project has been published and although Alkham did a return, for some reason we do not feature. The Parish Council is writing to find out why. The main issues highlighted by the parishes which are featured, were in order: traffic volume and speed: road impact: development pressures: maintenance of identity: conservation: provision of shop etc.: local needs: public transport: rural

policing: building conversion: development: quarrying/landfill: intensive farming: loss of traditional landscapes: maintenance/provision of village hall/school/library: road maintenance: impact of masts: improved priority for walkers/horses/cyclists: increased horsey culture. I would imagine an Alkham return would be similar, except for the priority that policing got and perhaps the last wouldn't have featured. What is clear, is that modern life has intruded on the rural landscape with its dependence on the motor car and bigger everything, such as schools and supermarkets. As I have space this month, has anyone else noticed that the supermarkets 'Low Price Guaranteed' and 'Low Price' are anything but. For instance, both Sainsbury's and Tesco's had (have) Stella Artois at £4.95 with the above labels on and just about every other non major retailer has it cheaper, in one instance by a margin of nearly £1.40. With selective shopping it is possible to buy cheaper locally and this would obviously help the rural communities. Perhaps a day will come when we also have selective electronic road pricing, such that it becomes uneconomical to rat run through Alkham and life may then go back to something like it was. (editor)

THE FIRST WORLD Dexter Congress was held a in August, at Cirencester. Di Smith, from Sladden Farm was there and exhibited the Congress Champion Cow, namely and in her words, 'Our beautiful, kind and gentle, Jenny who is now 11 years old'. There was some discussion as to whether Dexters were cute, commercial or a conservation tool. Di demonstrated that they were commercial and as some of her cows graze above the White Cliffs in Dover, they are also conservationists; it was also decided that they are cute. Another of Di's Dexters, Pollydoodle, recently won a cup as Dexter Cattle Society Champion Cow, bred by the owner, so Di has the two top home-bred Dexters in the United Kingdom. Well done Di. (editor)

COUNTRY NOTES - earlier on today I could be forgiven for thinking it was a summer's day. The sky was blue, the birds were singing and I had to open a window to let out a buzzing wasp. The washing was blowing in the gentle breeze and a small amount of watering was needed in the garden room, which is full of flowering geraniums and orchids. Now, later on in the afternoon the game is up. The trees are empty of leaves and thick mud from the recent rain clogs up the lanes around us. The sun is lower in the sky and it is only 2.00 pm. In the gardens the birds scurry back and forth in search of food and the corn I put out disappears in minutes. The barometer shows the temperature outside dropping slowly as the sun vanishes behind the trees. Cold and frost is forecast for the coming weekend. Wellies and woollies are a must now and Hamish and Jake are reluctant to venture outside. Only the prospect of a rabbit to chase, makes it worth their while. Indoors is much nicer now. Harsh lights give way to soft Christmas ones on the tree and lamps light up the window sills. The fire gives off a warm glow and the smell of wood smoke fills the air, when topping it up with fresh logs. The clock ticks gently on the mantle piece and a stew bubbles gently in the oven. Time to draw the curtains and lay the table for tea. (Devina Bartlett)



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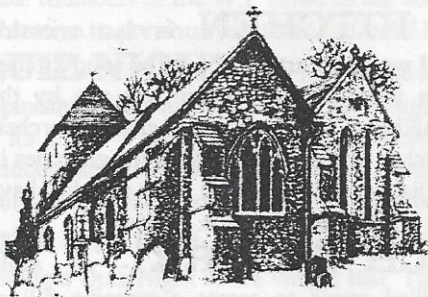
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W.I. members, I walked into the village hall, some ten minutes before the speaker had finished his talk and proceeded to set up my video camera. Although I tried to appear inconspicuous, I understand I was not. At just past 9 o'clock, almost on cue, a voice from behind the stage curtains shouted 'O Yea' and announced a festive end to the evening. King Tom, looking remarkably similar to Sue Lees with a moustache, appeared through the curtains, this being the signal for Mary and Joseph to enter the hall with Helen's, sorry Joseph's, donkey. There were many ooh's and aah's whilst the trio walked up to the stage. Mary, appropriately Devina, sat on the stage, whilst the three wise men (Tom, Dick and Harry) and Joseph, tried off stage, to get Oliver the donkey, back into the trailer. This took much longer than expected and it was at this point that the theme of the play lost direction. King Dick was supposed to make a joke about Pfizers but this was lost somewhere in the frantic ad-libbing in an attempt to get the show back on course. It was however, great fun and credit must go to Sue Lees (King Tom), Sue Garlinge (King Dick), Tricia Wright (King Harry), Helen Scopes (Joseph) and Devina Bartlett (Mary) plus Oliver the donkey for putting on the play. For those members of the W.I. who were somewhat mystified by the play, the theme was that rather than a baby boy being born in the stable, a baby donkey was. This was the finale to the play, when what looked like a blue and white Bugs Bunny was carried on to the stage. If anyone would like a copy of the ten minute video, give me a video tape and I will transfer the original to it. (editor)



of Herbert de Averanches, a monk of St. Radigunds Abbey and (we think) the first vicar of St. Anthony's. You can see it in the west end of the North Chapel at present but when our renovations are finished we hope to display it in a more prominent position. A recent visit to the church by the Monument Consultant to Canterbury Diocesan Advisory Committee, has resulted in his making further investigations on our behalf, including the best way to clean it before we reposition it..... and whilst on the subject of our church's history, does anyone know who St. Anthony of Parmiers was? Several of us have been exploring our encyclopaedias and dictionaries of saints, not to mention the Internet but all to no avail. We can find lots of other St. Anthony's but not this one. Do let me know if you have any relevant information. (Gill Calver)

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W.I. NEWS - didn't we do well for our party meeting on the 8th of December. Two trestle tables groaning under the excellent variety and amount of the scrumptious plates of food we all brought. It was also nice to see non member friends, who had joined us for the evening. I do hope you all enjoyed yourselves and could understand the farce (see below), we the 'game for anything' five performed, or tried to. Mr. Chambers gave a most interesting talk on unexplained ghosts and bumps in the night, which he kindly condensed to make time for the 'five shalarikins'. Our 12th of January meeting is to be held in the Marquis of Granby, when Val will demonstrate some of her excellent cooking skills, so meet at the usual time in the restaurant area please. A very special thanks to Cal, for leaving his nice warm house, trudging through the pelting rain and who knows what, to help Helen coax Oliver to leave his warm, dry stables and go into the box. This was just to walk in one door of the village hall and out of the other and not one polo mint in sight - to entertain us in our farce. Thank you Cal, you are very special and we hug you. Competition for next month is 4 sprouts and 4 rum truffles. (Tricia Wright)

CORRECTION - in last month's Newsletter the names of the two men who provided the music at the W.I. 70th birthday party were incorrect. Their names are actually Peter and Paul and the W.I. are very grateful to them for coming along and help make the evening such a success. (editor)

CHRISTMAS PLAY - much to the surprise of most of the

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S by the time you read this, a great deal will have happened at St. Anthony's over the Christmas period. As I write it during the middle of December, I'm delighted to be able to give news that our under-pew heating should be in for the celebrations. Also we have had that wonderfully successful Christmas bazaar which raised a record breaking total of £416.67p Well done to all those who made that such a success. As I write, the work on our south aisle roof is just being completed and our architect is getting tenders for the rest of the renovations. Finally, did you know that Alkham church has in it a coffin lid with one of the oldest inscriptions in Kent, on it? It is a twelfth century marble slab from the coffin of Herbert de Averanches, a monk of St. Radigunds Abbey and (we think) the first vicar of St. Anthony's. You can see it in the west end of the North Chapel at present but when our renovations are finished we hope to display it in a more prominent position. A recent visit to the church by the Monument Consultant to Canterbury Diocesan Advisory Committee, has resulted in his making further investigations on our behalf, including the best way to clean it before we reposition it..... and whilst on the subject of our church's history, does anyone know who St. Anthony of Parmiers was? Several of us have been exploring our encyclopaedias and dictionaries of saints, not to mention the Internet but all to no avail. We can find lots of other St. Anthony's but not this one. Do let me know if you have any relevant information. (Gill Calver)

CALLING ALL KNITTERS

Someone left a beautiful brown and cream half-knitted sweater in our church after the Open Garden's Weekend where it was on display. Its obviously involved a lot of work and is getting very damp in the church, although we do move it around and air it. Please contact one of your wardens, or me if you know who it belongs to.

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WHAT'S ON (in VH = village hall)

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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 9 Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
MONDAY 11 Parish Council meeting at 7.30 in VH - all welcome
TUESDAY 13 W.I. meeting at 7.30 pm in village hall.
SATURDAY 16 Millennium wine and wisdom at 7.30 in village hall.
SATURDAY 23 SEKAS in village hall in the evening
MONDAY 25 Village Hall committee meeting 7.30 in village hall
SATURDAY 30 Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon

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
January 3	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11a.m.
January 10	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.*	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 4.00 p.m.
January 17	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
January 24	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist 10.00 am at Capel		
January 31	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.		
JOINT BENEFICE SONGS OF PRAISE AT HOUGHAM 4.00 PM			

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was to be a record breaking year with the church benefiting by nearly £420 - thank you for your support. (Susan Lees)

THE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DRAW

took place in the village hall on Friday the 18th of December, during the interval in the whist drive. This was preceded in the kitchen, by the feverish folding of tickets sold to place in the barrel, plus

the counting of the money, which on the third recount came to £438.80. Paul Tapsell then drew the tickets out of the barrel, with Peter Mercer's arriving first to take the £50 prize. Peter again figured when the 9th ticket was drawn. Other winners in the village were Rosemary Crothall, Jim in Glebelands, Dot Hammond, Irene Barnard and one of the Knowles family. Thanks go to the people who donated prizes. (editor)

SOUP KITCHEN in last month's Newsletter, I wrote an article about the soup kitchen in Dover, in which I said that it was run by the combined Alkham, Capel and Hougham churches. The soup kitchen is actually run by all the churches in Dover and District and the above three parishes have combined to provide their service. (editor)

CHURCH BAZARR - yet again everyone rallied round to create a morning full of Christmas cheer. There are so many talented people in the village, the stalls groaned with goodies to eat, goods to give and baubles to hang on the tree. This

Diana Smith [Authorised Independent
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WHITE CLIFFS EXPERIENCE - Dover District

Council recognises that they need to start looking at the future use of the building occupied by the White Cliffs Experience. This will be a long term process in which they want wide discussion, especially with local communities. The first stage is to broadly identify the possible options and therefore DDC have arranged a meeting in West Hougham Village Hall on Thursday the 25th of February at 7.00 pm, for local residents to attend. Any ideas? (editor)

SPEED RESTRICTIONS at South Alkham and Wolverton

have been raised many times. KCC has sent some background information regarding the criteria behind speed restrictions (obtainable from Sue Lees (SPC). In precis - Not many people would disagree with the statement that speeds should be reduced. If it was simply a matter of imposing local speed limits which drivers observed, then there would be little doubt that we would have local speed limits on most of our roads. Something more than the fear of prosecution is required for speed limits to work and on their own they cannot be expected to reduce vehicle speeds, if they are set substantially below the speed at which people choose to drive. Drivers react to built up areas with 30 mph limits and suburban areas with a 40 mph limit. Another criteria is called the 85 percentile speed, that is the speed which 85% of the vehicles are going. Experience shows that the 85% will influence the other 15% and this makes the speed limit largely self enforcing. Inappropriate speed limits are ineffective and a burden to the police trying to enforce the unenforceable. Perhaps more importantly, an unrealistic speed limit can lead to an increase in speed

differences between vehicles, leading to more overtaking manoeuvres which in turn lead to more accidents. (editor)

GARDEN TALK - The first meeting of the year will be on Thursday, February the 11th at Bramhall. Derek and Marion are arranging something for our interest and there will be the usual 'swop table' and discussion of gardening problems and tips. You will be very welcome to come and join us in our informal GARDEN TALK. (Susannah Tapsell - 822295)

CARDS FOR THE CHURCH FABRIC FUND raised £75 during 1998, not quite the target of £100 reached in some previous years but Gill will agree it all helps. I'm hoping that the recent view from the village green will be more popular. Once again, many thanks for the support of the buyers and sellers, especially to Colin at the Farm Shop and Craft Shop, who sell this year's and back numbers all the year round. (Margaret Knowles)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS WALK - The Christmas pudding was well and truly walked off (or should I say, wallowed off) as we followed Paul Tapsell around the hills above Alkham, from one side to the other. Considering the weather, the Walk was well supported, although a few opted out just halfway as they crossed the Alkham Valley road and realised the Marquis of Granby was only five hundred yards away around the bend. The Walk has become a popular Christmas tradition and a big thank you to Paul for organising it once again. (Pamela Sayers)

ROCKING HORSE is still a subject of some debate. Because the Parish Council did not put safety matting around the horse, Dover District Council is not going to give the grant, as promised. It was explained that ROSPA had said that safety matting was not required and this had been accepted by the insurance company. Colin Griggs also said, that over the life span of the previous horse there had been no reported injuries. The problem has been further exacerbated by a new EEC directive which puts the horse slightly on the wrong side of the height requirement. The matter is being pursued. (editor)

BOLLARDS opposite the Marquis are still being debated. It was noted at the Parish Council meeting that the 4x4 was now driving behind the bollards and swift action was required. As reported in last month's Newsletter, trees will not be permitted and KCC will not advise on shrub type. Half height bollards between the existing may also be another solution. The Parish Council is going to decide shortly. (editor)

A WELCOME to Chris Powell and Lynn who have moved into the village, to live in the bungalow almost next door to the Marquis of Granby. Sad to say, that while they were moving in, someone put a score mark down the side of both their cars, which were temporarily parked outside. I have explained that vandalism isn't a major problem in the village and I hope they won't judge the village over the mindless act which took place. (editor)

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CHALKSOLE GREEN FARMHOUSE - Dover

District Council Planning Committee approved the plans submitted for the construction of a replacement house and garage at Chalksole Green Farm. The farm house and barn have now been demolished. I wrote something about this in the December edition of the Newsletter and as a result I got an E mail from Anthony Helstrip. He bought the farm at auction and then sold the farm house with outline planning permission for a new house, including the demolition of the existing house. In precis, he says the blame lies with the Parish Council because of the way that they dealt with the situation. Mr. Helstrip had hoped to get the Parish Council on 'his side', with the thought of having the property listed. The total lack of interest shown by the Parish Council therefore gave him little option but to pursue the easy and more economic alternative, by way of constructing a replacement dwelling. He also said that the letters of support received far outweighed those of the objectors. I replied to the E mail and said whatever the rights and wrongs of the situation, I thought just about any property could be saved but the result was that the farm house was going to be demolished and I didn't think it deserved that fate. Mr. Helstrip replied, that had the Parish Council listened, the property would probably not have been demolished. He went on to say how he had selected the final purchaser. He also said that he had no doubt whatsoever, that they would be judged as the villains of the piece, property speculators or whatever, but the simple fact was that their move to Chalksole Green Farm was the first for 30 years and (so they thought) would be their last. He didn't say why he had sold the house. A copy of the faxes had also been passed to the Parish Council and at the meeting on the 11th of January the Council dismissed both faxes as

absolute rubbish, adding that it was known that the house could not be listed, because of the replacement windows. There was no discussion on the matter and the Council passed onto other business. (editor)

OFF ROAD DRIVING was mentioned at the Parish Council meeting, during Delegates Reports. On Sunday the 10th of January, off road vehicles drove up Pimlico Way and then across and around the farm land at the top. Because of the probability of mud being taken onto the road, the police were phoned and asked if they could send a man out to monitor the situation. It was explained that the drivers had been spoken to but had been abusive. Evidently one of the policemen spoken to was called Mosely and he was unhelpful and rude. Until a problem developed, they refused to come to the site. Last year, I included an item on the off road drivers and as a result received a telephone call from them. I said that if they would like to write to me, I would be happy to print their letter. They did not write but did say that the ground recovers from the tyre tracks up the banks and across fields. In the main it does, but it must be like a boxer who suffers short term injury, only to sustain long term damage at a later date. The Parish Council agreed that they should write to Dover District Council regarding the damage to the landscape because of off road driving. (editor)

MILLENNIUM WINE AND WISDOM seemed to be enjoyed by those present. It was a first time for all the people who organised it and some good experience was gained. Sue Lees did a magnificent job as scorer and was ably assisted by Tricia Wright, who was roped in when it became apparent that we would never keep up. Betty Neely was on the raffle and Ken Hammond ran the bar with his usual good humour. I asked the questions, speaking louder and louder as the evening wore on. There was considerable cheating on the question of who was on the back of the ten pound note, with wallets and purses being hurriedly pulled out. At the interval, a ploughman's lunch was served and again thanks must go to Helen Scopes, Betty Neely, Dot Hammond, Tricia Wright and Sue Lees for preparing the food. The quiz was once again won by a team from Newlyn's Meadow A total of £356.56 was raised for the Millennium celebrations. (editor)

COUNTRY NOTES - I awoke this morning to an unnatural quiet. Though early, the bedroom was bathed in that certain light that can only mean one thing; Snow! Leaping out of bed, or rather rolling out, as only a woman in my condition can, I opened my curtains to reveal a crisp white landscape under a leaden sky. Large powdery flakes were still falling onto the good inch or so, that had already settled. I opened the window to listen. Falling snow has a definite sound, a bit like a gentle hiss, very difficult to define really. The air is cold and fresh, the kind that makes your nose itch when you go outside from a lovely warm house. Our doves, along with the wild birds, hop around almost in disbelief. Each one is twice its usual size, feathers puffed out in an effort to warm up. The usual measure of breakfast corn vanishes in seconds, so I put out more along with some bread later on in the morning. Children's laughter drifts across the lane. No doubt they are snow balling, or just running all over, for the sheer delight of it. Jake is very excited; he can't decide which way to go first. Hamish is less enthusiastic when a large clump of snow from the tree under which he is standing, falls on him. He shakes himself in disgust and runs back indoors. By this afternoon, I expect it will all have started to melt. The sun is bound to come out, sheds and fences will steam in the heat and blankets of snow will slither off roofs and catch the unwary. However, for now, I'm as excited as Jake at this magical scene. It can snow all week as far as I am concerned. (Devina Bartlett) *Since writing this and after the snow had disappeared, Devina unfortunately slipped on her path and badly broke her ankle. She has just returned home from a stay in William Harvey Hospital, still heavily pregnant.*



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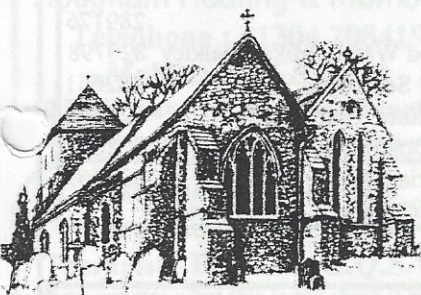
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NEWS FROM ST.

ANTHONY'S - Don't forget that our evensong services are at 4.00 pm this month. In March our Alkham evensong, on Sunday the 14th, will be at 6.30 pm again, as we once again have the Dover College Choir coming to sing for us. Do put that date in your diary and invite anyone who enjoys good choral singing. It's well worth coming to. And don't forget, our under-pew heating is now in. Come and try it out some time.

SOS if anyone knows who left the beautiful, half finished brown and cream sweater in our church; its been there since our 'Open Gardens' weekend and is getting very damp. Please come and rescue it when you can. (Gill Calver)

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W.I. NEWS - Fortunately the weather was kind enough to have a near full attendance at the January meeting, because this was an event and experience not to be missed. Val Bugden, with the cheerful help of her father Jack, excelled herself with an exotic eastern cookery demonstration, at the Marquis of Granby. No expense had been spared, and Val's time spent preparing the ingredients in advance was well appreciated. Val dedicated the evening in memory of her mother Dolly, for several years a member of Alkham WI. The six dishes, from as many countries, were sampled and quickly demolished by the appreciative audience. Rosemary Crothall, is encouraging members to join in a walk each month. The first, held at Samphire Hoe, on a wild and windy morning, should have been a dry one because the rain clouds held back for once. However, encouraged by Susan Lees, they decided to walk along the "prom" when King Neptune, one could almost hear his mighty chuckle, decided to show what he was made of, and deposited the contents of one enormous wave on the seven walkers. It was a rather bedraggled, but exhilarated group who met up with a non walking members for refreshments at The Lighthouse, Capel. Next meeting February the 9th, when the speaker will be a lady from the local charity for the homeless, St. Martin's Emmaus at Archcliffe Fort. The competition, themed photo (a fine fellow) and a bowl of bulbs. (Susan Lees)

UPTON FARM - as I understand it, the intention was to convert the barn at Upton Farm to residential accommodation. However, a new directive has come from central government that barns and the like should be retained as commercial premises. There was some dismay within the Parish Council, as they have been trying for years to curb some illegal activities which allegedly have been carried out there. If the site is developed commercially, as would seem likely, the general feeling was that there would be a lot of accidents because of the access being adjacent to the bends at South Alkham. Perversely, if this did happen, a speed limit may have to be enforced, which is what local residents are calling for. (editor)

PARISH COUNCILLORS - in May there will be local elections, which will include the election of Parish Councillors. Although it is not necessary to show an interest at this stage, perhaps you would like to give some thought to being one. It is a worthwhile job and in local confines, quite important, as many decisions are made on behalf of the parish. If you do, you have to be aware of the Representation of the People Act, should you wish to prepare a flyer to put through letter boxes. A successful first time candidate in Somerset, ended up in the High Court in London because he did not state his full address, or that he was publisher and printer on the flyer. He was found guilty but not fined. He did however have to pay legal costs, which amounted to several thousand pounds, so obviously, ignorance of the law is no defence (perhaps Mr. Bumble was right). Guidance notes will be issued shortly, which will be made available. (editor)

A DOG MINDER is required by Jacqueline Bentley, for her Bichon Frise (small dog with white curly hair), a couple of days a week. If you would like more details, please phone Jacqueline, who lives in the western part of the parish, on 01303 893743. (editor)

ELSIE HILLS - The close of 1998 sadly saw the passing of Elsie Hills, ne. Gill, in her 96th year. Due to ill health, her last 8 years were spent at Bushey Ruff Nursing Home. Born at Kearsney, she was to marry Charlie Hills, of Wolverton Farm. They first set up home at Ewell Minnis and later at Church Cottages, where they lived for over sixty years. Elsie was an expert needlewoman, cook and keen gardener. She helped with Alkham School activities, was scorer for Alkham Cricket Club, helped run social events, was treasurer of Alkham WI, served on the Village Hall committee, judged the cookery competitions at the Fete, and no doubt assisted in many other village activities. Sympathy goes to Kathleen Goldfinch, her only surviving daughter, and family. (Susan Lees)

THE STREET NAME plates have been erected at Ewell Minnis. I understand they were defaced but the situation has been rectified. (editor)

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WHAT'S ON (in VH = village hall)**Regular events**

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 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 committee meeting in VH at 8.00 pm
 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.
 THURSDAY 11 Garden Talk 7.30 pm at Bramhall - phone 822295
 SATURDAY 13 Whitfield football quiz at 7.30 in village hall.
 MONDAY 15 Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in VH. David Tapsell 822282
 THURSDAY 18 Dover & Deal canine society in VH 7.30 pm
 THURSDAY 25 White Cliffs debate at West Hougham 7.00 pm - see page 1
 SATURDAY 20 SEKAS in village hall in the evening
 SATURDAY 27 Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon

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.freereserve.co.uk

CHURCH SERVICES

DAY	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
February 7	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.
February 14	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 4.00 p.m.
February 17 Ash Wednesday	Joint Eucharist at Capel to mark the beginning of Lent at 7.30 pm		
February 21	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
February 28	JOINT BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST AT HOUGHAM 10.00 am		

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ALKHAM NAILBOURNE has risen.

John Crothall says that there is 57 foot of water in his well, with only another 13 foot to the top. A month ago it was 25 foot from the top. If the level of the water in the well rises by another 6 foot then the Nailbourne will run. Evidently the bourne at Barham is running, which generally means that ours is not far behind it. (Susan Lees)

VILLAGE HALL planning permission has been granted for the single storey extension.

TRAFFIC SPEEDS further to the article on page 1, Alan Ross, the current Highway Manager would expect that the 85 percentile speed through South Alkham and Wolverton to be between 48 and 55 mph. As said before the 85 percentile is the speed which 85% of the drivers are going. The other 15% are obviously in excess of this figure and therefore are probably breaking the speed limit. (editor)

KENT VILLAGE OF THE YEAR - this used to be 'the best

kept village' but as with all things, time moves on. Now you have to show that you are doing something for the community, like looking after the young or old, or some other worthwhile

activity. There is a seminar at Detling in February but it was decided that the parish would think ahead for next year, leaving it to the new elected Parish Council, which will be formed in May. Seems like a good idea to widen the scope for the best village. (editor)

Diana Smith [Authorised Independent
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ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



No. 67 March 1999

Free-non profit

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BOLLARDS

- members of the Parish Council and KCC held a site meeting, to discuss what should be done about stopping vehicles driving on the verge opposite the Marquis of Granby. It was agreed that the best solution was to put half height bollards between the existing wooden bollards. KCC has since confirmed that the additional bollards up to Newlyns Meadow should be installed by the end of February and that the half height bollards are on order and will probably be installed some time in March. Some money is being held by the Parish Council as a result of donations for the original tree planting scheme. I understand that this matter will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting with the possibility of planting trees in the grassed area behind the bollards, away from the underground services. The agreement of the people who donated the money would be obtained before the matter was taken further. (editor)

FISH & CHIP VAN

- I have been asked by a parishioner to include an item about the fish and chip van. Evidently, in the first week in February, only one person bought fish and chips and in the second week, nobody came, with the result that he is seriously considering not coming to Alkham. I am told that the fish and chips are very good, so if you want to retain this good old custom in the village, his van is in the car park on Vicarage Meadow, opposite the village hall, every Friday evening between 7.00 and 7.30 pm. (editor)

WANTED

- Sylvia Beacham, who lives in Newlyns Meadow, urgently wants someone to do some housework and cleaning for her, for three hours a week. If you are interested please phone her on 823202. (editor)

GARDEN TALK

- We spent a very enjoyable evening discussing a variety of gardening topics. Marion led a discussion about hanging baskets and container plants and Derek shared his secrets about successful bean growing. Thank you both very much. We helped each other with useful tips about rose growing, clematis and hyacinths, among other subjects. The plant that Christine brought for the 'swop table', promoted much talk about its identity and was happily divided amongst us. We all agreed to grow on some plants for the garden stall at the summer fete and if anyone, who is unable to come to GARDEN TALK but would be happy to provide some, could let me know, I will collect them much nearer the time. Thank you all for bringing wine; we are very well supplied for our next meeting on April the 22nd. (Susannah Tapsell - 822295)

ANY QUESTIONS

- if you receive the Newsletter before the end of February, perhaps you would like to listen to 'Any Questions' on Radio 4, on Saturday the 27th at 1.15 pm. It is being recorded on Friday the 26th of February at Sandwich and four Parish Councillors from Alkham are attending. 'Any Answers' follows the news after 'Any Questions'. (Susan Lees)

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

- the publication of notice of election for Parish Councillors is on Friday the 26th of March, with delivery of nomination papers not later than noon on Thursday the 8th of April. Polling day is on Thursday the 6th of May. If you are interested in having a say in the running of the Parish, the necessary forms can be obtained later this month, from Susan Lees, the Secretary to the Parish Council (822661). Candidates need two sponsors to sign the papers and if more than seven nominations are received, an election will take place. (editor)

STOMBERS FARM

- a planning meeting was held specifically to discuss the reinstatement of the farmhouse which fell into disuse and disrepair in the 1980's. The Council admitted that it would not normally look on such applications favourably. However, an assurance has been given that this would be required solely as an agricultural dwelling. The Council agreed, that providing the farming unit is shown to be a viable one and the house is granted with an agriculture only use clause, then there would be no objection to its reinstatement. (Susan Lees)

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- two baby girls were born hours apart on Monday 8th February. The first, Isabel Mary, daughter to John and Devina Bartlett and grand daughter to Lionel and Pat Bartlett. We look forward to seeing the happy parents wheeling their baby around the village. This of course can not take place until Devina's ankle recovers from its bad break. Hurry up and get well Devina. The second baby, Ellen Jane, born in the afternoon to Simon and Bridget, a grand daughter for John and Rosemary Crothall, and great grand daughter for Bill Pepper. Congratulations to you all. (Susan Lees)

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THE GRANARY and old cow shed at Malmains farm is in the process of being converted to residential accommodation. The building is on the left hand side of Slip Lane, roughly opposite the old chapel, now called Holly House. Up to 1986, Malmains Farm was a working farm run by Courtney Hogben, with hay on the top meadow near Pimlico Way and in the latter years, potatoes by the field next to the Alkham Valley Road and sheep on the remainder. In the late 1970's and early 80's there were strawberry beds adjacent to the house. Once there were cows grazing and the churns of milk were left in the opening on the side of the milking shed, to be collected from Slip Lane, originally by horse and cart but later by lorry. Gordon Preston would certainly remember it as a farm with ducks walking down Slip Lane. Another lady who lives nearby, remembers being told off as a girl for playing in the granary, which she now admits, could be a dangerous place. It looked almost ready for use again, after John Ullmann had finished clearing the area behind the building. The workmen have now made a site access, where the final entrance will be and are installing the underground works. When all the building works are complete, the old farm building will have been converted into a four bedroom house at the far end with a three bedroom house adjacent to it. It's nice to see the works underway, such that a fine building will be kept for future generations to admire. (editor & Susan Lees)

NEWSLETTER - I am very grateful to Roy Adams, who is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and lives in School Cottages, for once again vetting the accounts of the Newsletter, free of charge. The end of the financial year is August, as September 1993 is when Tony Ingall won a computer from a national newspaper, with his idea of publishing a Newsletter for the Parish, free of charge. As a matter of interest, the cost of photostating for the year was £501, postage and stationary £16 and delivery costs £32, with the balance being in the Newsletter Building Society Account. As I have managed to reduce the cost of photostating, a profit was made last year. Some of this profit went in sponsoring the raffle prizes and winner's prizes at the Millennium wine and wisdom, which I hope the sponsors would think is a worthwhile cause. If you fancy writing something to go in the Newsletter, I would be more than pleased to print it. Alternatively if you prefer not to write something but would be willing to provide the details, I could put the words round it. (editor)

COUNTRY NOTES is not included this month as Devina is still recovering from her broken ankle and the birth of her daughter. Devina would like to thank all those people who sent her cards and good wishes and hopes to show off Isabel Mary soon. Instead of Country Notes, I have included the poem below which was given to me by Sue Lees. It first appeared in the Ponteland Parish Magazine and permission to reproduce has been granted. (editor)

The Gardener's Hymn

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.
But what we never mention, though gardener's know it's true,
Is when He made the goodies, He made the baddies too.

All things spray and squatable, disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.
The greenfly on the roses, the maggots in the peas,
Manure that fill our noses, He also gave us these.

The fungus on the goose-gogs, the club root on the greens,
The slugs which eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines.
The drought that kills the fuschias, the frost that nips the buds,
The rain that drowns the seedlings, the blight that kills the spuds.

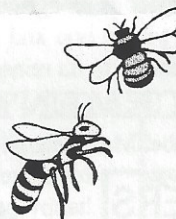
The midgies and mosquitoes, the nettles and the weeds,
The pigeons in the green stuff, the sparrows on the seeds.
The fly that gets the carrots, the wasp that eats the plums,
How black the gardener's outlook, though green may be his thumbs.

But still we gardener's labour, midst vegetables and flowers,
And pray what hits our neighbour, will somehow bypass ours.
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Jacqueline Bentley
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ABANDONED VEHICLES

There was a Vauxhall Nova languishing in Slip Lane, which had obviously been abandoned. I know that people living nearby contacted the authorities shortly after it had been left. It did however stay there for some time and surprisingly, was broken into. Larry Lambourne phoned DDC, who they said they had no knowledge of an abandoned vehicle in Slip Lane. The vehicle was removed next day. The DDC priority number to ring is therefore 872408. (editor)



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W.I. NEWS - what a delightful change miss Sammy Wall from St. Martin's Emmaus at Archcliffe Fort was, who gave us a most informative talk on how the charity for the homeless started. It all began in France in 1952, by what now seems to be the old familiar story. A lonely, desolate man, called George, just released from prison, standing on a bridge contemplating the icy waters, reflecting on his miserable life, when he gets into a conversation with another would be jumper, a fellow male loser. It was from those humble beginnings that today's, very successful, St Martin's Emmaus homes for the homeless, gave hope to hundreds of the world's unfortunate people; not just a roof over their heads and food in their stomachs, but showed them how to regain their self confidence, take pride in what they do and made them self proficient. Not only have they made Archcliffe Fort habitable, they renovate and repair furniture, toys and bicycles which have been donated, plus many other things such as items of clothing etc., which they then sell to the public. This then enables them to carry on their good works. Thank you Sammy, you were like a breath of fresh air. The next meeting is on the 9th of March when the speaker will be Mrs. J Kent, 'another helping of rabbit stew'. Competition: embroidered pin cushion and three different daffodils. Hostesses Mmes. D Bartlett, R Crothall, G Drewitt. (Tricia Wright)

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

Firstly I'm sorry you were given a wrong date in last month's newsletter. Our normal evensong service is always on the first Sunday of the month and that will be the case this March, as usual. This means that Dover College Choir will be singing "Evensong" for us on SUNDAY MARCH 7th AT 6.30pm and not on SUNDAY MARCH 14th. Of course there is another very important event on March 14th when it is Mothering Sunday and we have our usual Sunday afternoon service at 3.00 pm at St. Anthony's followed by tea in the village hall. All children.....from young to middle aged, are welcome join us (with their mothers) when we all have a chance to express our gratitude in a tangible way. Some of you know that I have been trying to find out something about our saint, St Antoninus of Pamiers. Thank you Sue Lees for information gleaned. Here is a precis of some of what Sue found out. Antoninus was the son of a French nobleman, living in France in the 5th century. He converted to Catholicism from Arianism, the religion of his people, the Visigoths. Arianism is an aberration of the Christian faith which refuses to recognise Jesus's divinity as well as his manhood. Antoninus went to evangelise Northern Spain after his conversion and on returning to Pamiers was decapitated on September 2nd in 506, because of his Catholic faith. The Visigoth kings, by denying Jesus's divinity, had made him a sort of superman, which they believed put him somewhere *between* God and man. They also believed they were in his image and thus set apart from mere ordinary men. So Antoninus challenged not only the state religion by his conversion to Catholicism, but also the power and authority of the Kings over the church. Perhaps his example can still challenge us twentieth century mortals as to who has ultimate authority in our lives! And finally if you would like to see St. Radigund's Players perform Aladdin on Friday March 12th or Saturday March 14th, do contact Colin Blake on 01303 241399. This is a joint venture by Capel church and village, including both Head Teacher and Vicar, both appearing in unlikely guise and it will be staged at the primary school. Tickets cost £3 per head and £2 for children of primary school age. (Gill Calver)

TARMAC

- As the tarmacers are around, I write to you as one who has had the bitter experience of the "instant tarmacers". About 8 years ago there was a knock on the door by one of their members, offering to lay a drive. I negotiated a price and being busy at work, I left them to lay it. I returned home late to find that they were just packing up their tools, leaving the man I had negotiated the price with, to collect the money; that is when my nightmare started. I had noticed that there were no barrels of TAR on the lorry and that there was no spillage of liquid tar where the drive met the road. What little knowledge I have on laying a tarmac drive, is that one does need a layer of TAR to bond the old surface to the new ! I pointed out that this was missing . He replied, " quite right sir, that's why the price is up by £150 for the emulsifier we had added when the mix was made, on your behalf, as you were out. Due to the corners and extras which I forgot to quote, we have had to have an extra load which is £250 as well, making your new total not £750 but £1,150 plus VAT". I refused to pay the NEW figure; he then turned quite nasty and threatened that if I did not pay he would rip the whole drive up . I said 'sobeit, but I am only prepared to pay you your initial quoted price'. He left, saying he would have a word with the BOSS. The following morning he returned with two other chaps still wanting £1,150 less the VAT, for cash. I restated that I would pay the initial quote of £750 and no more. I was then threatened again that they would rip the whole drive up. I said - 'you have the choice - either rip the drive up and you get paid nothing, or you settle for £750 originally quoted'. I said that if they persisted to threaten me I would call the Police. After a very unpleasant few minutes they settled for £750, which I paid them in cash. Since my bitter experience with these persons, I have found information out about certain needs for Tarmac to be effective and lasting, none of which were done: 1. weeds - the drive needs to be properly treated with an effective weed killer. 2. minor repairs - all minor repairs to the drive have to be attended to, to make the drive even. 3. tar - a base coating of "liquid tar" has to be laid in order for the tarmac to adhere. 4. thickness - a layer of 30mm of tarmac should be laid in order to make it durable to drive and walk on etc.; only 10mm was laid in our case. 5. after a period the whole area has to be heavy duty machine rolled to press it all down tight. 6. weather conditions - too hot will melt it and too cold will crack it. 7. price - the agreed quoted price should be adhered to ! Do not be pulled into more additions as the workmen go along ! After a week my drive started " bubbling up" and then got worse and fell to pieces. The untreated weeds beneath the layer of tarmac started to re-grow with a vengeance and pushed the surface up ! Every time someone walked on the tarmac and entered the house, the carpets would be covered in tiny particles of tarmac. I would just like to say to anybody considering these "persons" that just tap on the door and say we have some tarmac left, would you like your drive done - don't entertain the idea, because if you are tempted by what you feel is a jolly good offer (as I did) you will pay dearly in the long run. So please think twice ! Get in a good local firm, fix the price in writing and get a guarantee. (R D Ashman MBE, EsqStJ.)



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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH from 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
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 1	Parish Council meeting at 7.30 pm in Village Hall - all welcome
SATURDAY 6	Bingo at 7.30 pm in Village Hall - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
SATURDAY 6	Millennium jumble sale 11.00 am in VH
TUESDAY 9	W.I. meeting at 7.30 pm in village hall.
MONDAY 15	Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in the village hall - phone David Tapsell on 822282
THURSDAY 18	D & D Canine Society in VH 7.30 pm
SATURDAY 20	Millennium & VH Quiz in VH at 7.30 pm
SATURDAY 27	Beekeepers in village hall at 2.30 pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
March 7 th	Evensong *** 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am
March 14 th	Mothering Sunday 3.00 pm	Worshipping together 11 am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
March 21 st	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
March 28 th	JOINT BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST AT ALKHAM 10.00 am		

*** Dover College Choir sing Evensong
DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY are presenting
 Mendelssohn's Elijah on Saturday the 27th of March in Dover Town
 Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets cost £6 for adults and £3 for children and
 are available from Dover Town Hall, The Music Box in Maison
 Dieu Road or if any are left, on the door on the night. Further
 information from Janice and Michael Foad on 01303 242694.
 (editor)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P.	0171 2193704	Police - Community Support Team	218151
County Councillor, Bryan Cope	207976	Neighbourhood Watch, Mike Chalkley	820798
and work number	01795532547	Women's Institute, Betty Neely	822688
District Councillor, Fred Scales	201382	Parish Council Secretary, Sue Lees (SPC)	822661
and Trevor Bamfield	202334	Village Hall booking, Sue Lees	822661
Vicar, Gill Calver	01303 244119	Email susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	
Church Warden, Richard Tapsell	822295	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett	824969
Church Warden, Betty Preston	822421	E mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk	

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FLAIR cane and pine furniture, 36 Guildhall St. Folkestone, 01303 258744
GREENHILL LIVERY YARD, Meggett Lane, South Alkham, DIY & 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, phone 826375
E R WOODRUFF, building maintenance, carpentry, decorating, Swanbourne, Wolverton, 824991


A SONNET FOR SPRING

The snow clad land has changed its pallid hue,
 And gaunt black trees have mellowed, hazed in green,
 Veiled dormant roots vibrate with life anew,
 And gradual growth covers the wintry scene,
 Until at length the sun's more powerful rays
 Accelerate the surge of vernal birth.
 The croak of frogs is heard in lengthening days
 And flowers like jewels bedeck the sombre earth.
 Ethereal blossoms 'neath an azure sky
 Create for us a magic fairy bower.
 Wren, blackbird, robin, songthrush in full cry
 Provide sweet music both in sun and shower.
 The whole wide world and every living thing
 With one accord proclaim, 'Thank God it's Spring'.
 (Olive Harvey)
 I'm not sure of the year but Olive won the sonnet
 contest for the regional W.I. with this and I'm very
 grateful to her for letting me re-print it here. I'm also
 pleased to report that steady progress is being made
 with regard to walking and that she is a bit of a
 Damon Hill with her electric chair. (editor)

A JUMBLE SALE

in aid of the Millennium Fund is being held in the village hall on Saturday the 6th of March. If anyone would like to help or has jumble for collection, please phone Sue Lees on 822661. For anyone bringing jumble on the day, the doors open at 10.00 am with the sale starting at 11.00 am.

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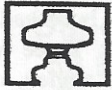
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ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office, Slip Lane
Alkham CT15 7DE Tel 824969

No. 68 April 1999

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - do you think that the environment of the village has deteriorated in recent years? If you do, would you be prepared to pay a larger precept? The precept is the amount that the Parish Council obtains through the rates and currently Alkham has one of the lowest. If you have an opinion on this or on any other matter regarding the parish, then the Annual Parish meeting is the time to have your say. Reports are also given at the meeting by the Parish Council and other organisations in the village. It is on the 12th of April at 7.30 pm in the village hall, so please come along and support the parish and also express your views. (editor/Susan Lees)

TRAFFIC CALMING - there were no funds available to carry out stage 2 of the traffic calming in this financial year but the present Parish Council intends to press for it in this year's budget. Anything that can be done to dissuade lorries from using the Alkham Valley Road would be welcome. (editor)

WHITE CLIFFS EXPERIENCE - as reported, there was a meeting at Hougham on the 25th February to discuss possible options for the White Cliffs Experience. Everyone was invited but George Tyler said that of the 17 people, who attended, 14 were officers of the District Council, which indicates a certain amount of public apathy towards the project. One person was in favour of pulling it down, two wanted a theme park and the rest thought it should continue as it was but be a bit more multi-active. The project is subsidised at present but evidently not as much as 'Tides' at Deal or Dover Museum. The aim will be to reduce the debt and Consultants will be called in to advise on the best way forward. (editor)

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - nomination papers must be delivered to Dover District Council by noon on Thursday the 8th of April. These papers can be obtained from DDC by ringing 872353, or Susan Lees, Clerk to the Parish Council, may have some left. Two of the present Parish Council are not standing again. Bob Palmer has been a stalwart of the village as a Parish Councillor, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and Tree Warden, plus many other jobs. You could be sure that if Bob were asked to do a job, it would be done and done well. Many thanks to Bob for all his work. The other person retiring is Gordon Preston who has entered his 80th year, having lived in the village for most of his life. I first met him when he used to do a double act with Wally Sharp, both of them being great characters. I survived a boozy evening with them when Jo was in Halton Court. The Parish Council will miss his local knowledge and also his colourful personality. It is hoped that there will be two or more new people standing for election. Voting takes place on Thursday the 6th of May. (editor)

HOORAY! At last the Radio One Roadshow has finally made it to Alkham! On March the 14th at the Mothering Sunday service, a radio one disc jockey, looking remarkably like Gill Carver, conjured up audience participation seldom seen outside the walls of Old Trafford. There were hoots and roars and various other exclamations from the pews that united the whole congregation, this sunny afternoon. Children of all ages presented spring flowers to their proud mums and youngsters played contentedly in the aisles - one even proclaimed to the whole church that she had solved her potty training problems, outside on the grass! The "bell ringing" caused my hens to go off lay, but the service was joyous, uplifting and completely unique. Tea in the village hall followed, with a wide variety of goodies on offer, provided of course by the mums (!) and the children displayed their usual ability to queue in an orderly fashion! What will Gill conjure up for us next year? Some more magic we hope. Our thanks go to Gill and the flower gatherers. (Stephen Comfort) - my thanks to Steve, who lives at Hogbrook Farm, for this splendid contribution to the Newsletter (editor).

GARDEN TALK - the next meeting will be held at Bramhall on the 22nd of April at 7.30 pm. We hope the weather will be suitable to wander round the garden before discussing topics raised by Will, Kath and Joan, enjoying our 'swop' table and sharing gardening problems and tips. (Susannah Tapsell)

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with a couple of two bedroom houses attached (not as reported last month). According to John, the latest plans show that none of the existing building is going to be demolished, although earlier plans may. Part of the flint wall will be removed for the access visibility. (editor - details from John Ullmann) Since writing the above John phoned to say that some thieves stole one of the new manhole cover and frame, leaving an open drop. It's now covered over and the site is fenced in.

Meanwhile, the old Chalksole Green farmhouse was reduced to a sorry heap of rubble. I understand that the Wood family, the owners before the farm went to auction, were very upset at the fate of their old home and each took away a brick as a memento. The builders are now on site and a modern house will spring from the ashes at a very desirable location. (editor)

BOLLARDS - The matter of tree planting behind the bollards opposite the Marquis of Granby will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting on April the 12th, to which everybody is invited. In the interval at the Parish Council meeting on the 1st of March, a question was raised from the floor as to whether the installation of the bollards had been a success. The complaint was that because of the bollards, cars were now parking on the footpath and also obstructing visibility for pedestrian, especially those with prams, such that an accident was a real possibility. The Forstal was also crowded with cars. The Chairman said that the bollards had been put there because of the numerous complaints from people in the village. The grassed area had effectively become an over flow car park for the Marquis of Granby and adjacent residents and the area had become unsightly because of vehicles driving on the verge. With regard to vehicles parking on the footpath, this was a matter for the police to deal with as they were breaking the law. The general consensus was that the car park on Vicarage Meadow should be used both for general parking and also people attending church. (editor)

DEVINA has all her time taken up with her baby at the moment - this is something she gave me last year.

WOMEN IN GARDENING Women have played a part in gardening throughout the centuries. However, in earlier times, the type of work depended very much on your station in life. For "Gentlewomen", it was a place to stroll, pick flowers and sit in rose covered arbours. In ancient Greece and Rome, ladies of high birth planned all the details, and their maids tended the flowers and fruit trees. It was considered unlucky for women to grow crops. For the ordinary peasant wife, it was a very different matter. Gardening was a way

of raising food and herbs to supplement their diets. Stately homes employed them as weeder women, and paid them the princely sum of threepence for a day's work. Nuns were skilled in the art of growing herbs for medicines and taught people on their uses and cultivation. In the 19th century it was considered necessary for young ladies to be well versed in botany, but it was not a suitable occupation as it was "unfitting for their delicately formed hands and feet". That was until 1895 when Kew Gardens employed women for the first time. Dressed in trousers, they caused a sensation and were eventually required to hide them under long coats. As time passed, great women such as Gertrude Jekyll and Vita Sackville-West made it much more acceptable. Today, gardening is as much a woman's domain as a man's (hopefully). Both parties dividing the work between them, though I still prefer a man to do the hard digging! (Devina Bartlett)



ATOMIC POWER - the people who walk their dogs through the Rectory and Malmains Farm will most probably have seen an old bus by the granary with 'APC' on it, the latter standing for the 'Atomic Power Consortium'. The bus started its life in 1960 with the Leeds and Lancashire Bus Company, having been made by the Regal Coach Company with an AEC Mercury engine on an AEC chassis. To the younger generation, AEC will mean nothing, but upto the 1970's it was the bee's knees of lorry production. In 1968 the L & L Bus Company replaced some of its vehicles and five of them were sold to the 'Atomic Power Consortium' which was to construct the power stations at Dungeness. The bus, which ended up in Alkham, collected workers from Charing, Ashford and Woodchurch area and still has the 'no spitting' sign attached to the bulkhead. In 1985, APC put the buses up for sale and John Ullmann bought four. Three were sold on but the best one was retained. In March of this year, Alan Langley, who has been with John for 37 years, checked the oil level and diesel, connected a new battery and on the third turn started the engine for the first time in 14 years. He and Pat Sewell had been instrumental in getting the project off the ground. The bus had been offered to the Dover Transport Museum but they did not reply. The Memory Bus Company of Dorking however, was keen to take on the project, with John Ullmann retaining a third interest. A low loader came to collect the bus but was unable to get up Slip Lane, so the bus was driven down Slip Lane and along the Alkham Valley Road to the low loader, which was parked by Valley Cottages.

Meanwhile, restoration continues to the old granary, with the underground works complete. John tells me that the conversion will be a four-bedroom house

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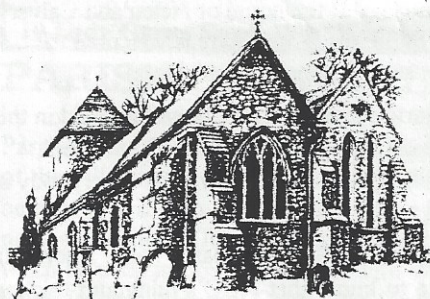
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QUACKERS – they must be. It has been reported to the Newsletter that two male ducks have an early morning roost on top of Peter Chamber's house, Martinvale. How they get air born is not known but it is thought that my might be sliding down the roof and taking of across the back garden. More information please.

MILLENNIUM jumble sale that was held in the village hall on the 6th of March made a profit of £114. John Barnes, the previous owner of Hogbrook Farm, has been approached about using the retained farm building by Hogbrook for the Millennium mid-summer celebrations and I understand the committee is hopeful that permission will be given. (editor)

RECYCLING – a 16-ton lorry has tested the access at Alkham Valley Farm Shop to see if it can pick up recycling bins. The good news is that it can; the bad news is that there currently isn't any money to buy the bins but it is hoped that in the next financial year funds will be forthcoming. There is still £231.39 in hand from the paper recycling, which will be spent on the younger members of the parish. Thanks should go to Colin Griggs for all his efforts both for the paper recycling and the future provision of bins. We also wish him well with his new extension. (editor)

SYMPATHY is given to John Roberts and family from all his friends and acquaintances in Alkham on the sudden and sad death of his wife Mary.

W.I. NEWS – We had a back to front meeting in March; by that I mean Mrs. Kent, our speaker – for the evening gave us her talk first, followed by refreshments, then the boring stuff. "Another helping of rabbit stew" was a brief extract from Mrs J Kent's life. An extremely humorous, jolly and happy at times childhood on a busy farm surrounded by five brothers and sisters. Her mother was 48 when Mrs Kent arrived, who grew into a most attractive and upright lady, which makes today's 'too old at mid thirties to become a mum' sound a bit daft. What has to be will be and no matter what our learned peers say, nature knows best. Devina joined us, thanks to Helen. It was great to see her again, her first social outing since the fall. Welcome back to the fold, Devina and welcome to Val - sorry didn't ask your surname – maybe by now a grandmum (sic). Forthcoming events: Saturday the 3rd of April, coffee morning at the Willows. Saturday the 10th of April, jumble sale in the village hall, helpers 10 am, open 11 am proceeds to W.I. funds. Tuesday the 13th of April, next meeting speaking about 'Pots and Pitchers'. Competitions, a recycled item and a bunch of wild flowers. Tuesday the 20th of April, group meeting at Hawkinge. (Tricia Wright)

ANY QUESTIONS – Betty Neely, Neil Burrows, Susan Lees and myself went to Sandwich on the 26th of February to be part of the audience for 'Any Questions'. Allowing for all contingencies, we somehow arrived an hour and a half early, which meant we got a good seat. In the 1960's the male members of the team would have been wearing suits and in the 50's, probably dinner jackets. Frederick Forsyth walked in looking as though he'd just finished earthing up his

potatoes, whilst Gerald Kaufman was as elegant as ever and Valerie Evans would probably have fitted any of the decades. Mark Steel completed the quartet dressed as comedians do. The latter generally do the warm up; we got the slightly dishevelled editor of the 'Today' programme. At 2 minutes past eight, when the news had finished, Jonathon Dimpleby with practised air, introduced the live show. The questions had been selected from those submitted by the audience, the lucky (or unlucky) winners being asked to sit at the front to put their question. These too, could have been from any of the past decades, covering such topics as racial discrimination, the pound, religion and a message in a bottle. There was the expected disagreement between the young comic and crusty writer, sensible murmurings from Gerald and Valerie and appreciative clapping from the audience.

A good evening, although there were no local questions. (editor)

NEWS FROM St. ANTHONY'S – our village and church members have given generously towards our renovation project, which is now underway. Wouldn't it be good this Easter to see our church used by all the village to celebrate the new life offered to each of us, as well as our buildings? Our village's celebration is at 6.30 pm on April the 4th when we mark Jesus Christ's resurrection.

The church's AGM is at 7.30 pm on Tuesday the 20th of April. Please join us to share in the future life of St. Anthony's, as well as review the past. (Gill Calver)

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Other events

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SATURDAY 17	SEKAS in village hall
MONDAY 19	Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in the village hall - phone David Tapsell on 822282
TUESDAY 20	Alkham Parochial Church Council AGM 7.30 pm in VH - everyone welcome.
THURSDAY 22	Garden Talk at Bramhall 7.30 pm
MONDAY 26	Village Hall AGM all welcome 8.00 pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
April 1 st Maundy Thursday		Sung Eucharist 7.30 pm	
April 2 nd Good Friday		2pm to 3pm "Last hour on the cross" ***	
April 4 th EASTER DAY	Sung Eucharist 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am
April 11 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
April 18 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
April 25 th	JOINT BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST at CAPEL 10.00 am		

*** Led by Rupert Bristow. Diocesan Director of Education
MILLENNIUM COFFEE MORNING
 will be held on Easter Saturday at the home of Helen and Calvert
 Scopes, "The Willows", Slip Lane. Everybody is welcome to
 attend between 10.30 am and 12 noon. (Susan Lees)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P.	0171 2193704
County Councillor, Bryan Cope and work number	207976 01795532547
District Councillor, Fred Scales and Trevor Bamfield	201382 202334
Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers	822397
Neighbourhood Watch, Mike Chalkley	820798
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett	824969
E mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk	
Parish Council Secretary, Sue Lees	822661
Police - Community Support Team	218151
Vicar, Gill Calver	01303 244119
Church Warden, Richard Tapsell	822295
Church Warden, Betty Preston	822421
Village Hall booking, Sue Lees	822661
Email susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	
Women's Institute, Betty Neely	822688

ART CLASSES - as advertised above, Art Classes are held in the
 village hall every Tuesday from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. On the 13th of April,
 Donald Bird, artist and illustrator will be giving a demonstration. Everybody is
 welcome. (Joanne Neely)

DRIVEWAYS - following on to Ray Ashman's very informative
 article on tarmac drives, you may like to know that KCC's minimum thickness
 of tarmac for a footway and a vehicle footway crossing is 55mm and 150 mm
 respectively. The material used by the doorknockers appears to be 6mm dense
 bitumen macadam (DBM) which is used as the wearing course on a road or
 footpath. This is always laid on top of a previous laid layer of DBM. A tack
 coat is generally used when the previous layer has got dirty and has been
 cleaned off, or has been laid for a long time. Tack coat will not work on
 unbound material such as earth or stones but only on bound material such as
 DBM, HRA or sometimes, concrete. If a thin layer of 6mm DBM is laid directly
 on the ground it may look all right but the probability is that it will break up, or
 in hot weather become attached to the tyres because there is no adhesion to the
 surface below. (editor)

DONKEYS - at the first donkey show of the year, on the 21st of
 March at Eythorne, Helen Scope's donkeys won three cups. It is pleasing to

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report that Oliver, the star of the W.I.
 panto, 'rides with Father Christmas' and
 carol singing, won the best veteran
 prize. His stable mate, Polly, won the
 best mare cup and best condition and
 turn out cup. They also managed a
 second and a fourth prize. Well done to
 Helen, the village wouldn't be the same
 without the donkeys. (editor)

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

No. 69 MAY 1999

Free - non profit
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*Please see inside for details of the people who
are standing for the Parish Council election*

LOCAL ELECTIONS

- as you probably know, the local elections are on May the 6th with polling in the village hall from 8.00 am to 9.00 pm. Apart from voting for the County Councillors, there is the opportunity to vote for whom you would like to be on the Parish Council. I have to admit that before I got to know the people in the village, I used to tick the names I knew and then tick a couple of others. This month the Newsletter is including additional sheets on which the prospective candidates have expressed in their own words, details about themselves and why they are standing. As it says on the voting form you can vote for up to seven people. I think it is marvellous that there are nine people who have put themselves up for election, as in other parishes there has been no contest because of lack of interest. Five members of the existing Parish Council are standing again and they are George Tyler, Neil Burrows, Colin Griggs, Paul Tapsell and Betty Neely. The four new candidates were in the audience at the Annual Parish Meeting and they were asked to introduce themselves. They are Stephen Comfort, Rosemary Crothall, Tricia Wright and Caroline (Coco) Ward. (editor)

GREENHILL JUMPING SHOW is on the 9th of May at Greenhill Livery Stables on Megget Lane, South Alkham. It starts at 9.00 am and if you want more information please ring Wendy Burrows on 01303 892056. (editor)

OPEN GARDEN - Jan Martinez, who is a garden designer, is opening her garden at Everden Farm to visitors on May the 16th, July the 11th and October the 3rd, between 2pm and 6pm. There are cream teas and plants for sale and the cost of entrance is £1.50 for adults and 50p for children. To get to Everden Farm from Alkham you can go up Slip Lane and turn left at the top. Follow the very winding road for a mile or so and Jan is just past Great Everden Farm, on the corner. (editor)

EASTER EGG RAFFLE in aid of the Millennium Fund, the winners were, in the order drawn: 146 Tricia Wright: 324 Margaret Knowles: 54 Mrs. Mitten: 32 Val Kingston: 224 Rosemary Polden: 255 Betty Neely: 43 Barbara Palmer: 95 Mrs. Scott: 388 Joanna O'Shea: 110 Pam Tyler: 284 Kathleen Smith. If you have won and have not collected your prize, please phone Doreen Polden on 824876. (editor)

CONGRATULATIONS to Anne Tapsell for achieving the Baden Powell Trefoil, which is the highest award that can be obtained in the Guides. Anne, who is 14 and lives in Valley Cottages, is a member of the 1st River Guides who meet at the Christian Centre, which is attached to River Church. The achievement was featured in the Dover Express when the District Commissioner, Elizabeth Barber, gave the award to Anne and three others on the 30th of March. To receive the Trefoil, ability in such fields as camping, service to the community and international issues must be demonstrated and Anne was complimented for her years of dedicated work. She is now going on to become a Young Leader. Well done Anne. (editor)

CONGRATULATIONS to Robin St. J Knowles, barrister, son of Margaret and Norman Knowles who live in Slip Lane, who has been appointed by the Queen as Queen's Counsel at the unusually early age of 39. He was formally sworn in on the 13th of April by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, at a ceremony attended by his parents, in the House of Lords. Later in the day he was summoned to attend Court No. 1 in the Royal Courts of Justice where he was further sworn and welcomed by the Lord Chief Justice of England (Lord Bingham) and three other Law Lords. Earlier in the year he was appointed a part time judge of the High Court, by the Lord Chancellor. Robin was educated at Alkham Village School, Sir Roger Manwoods at Sandwich and Trinity College, University of Cambridge and it is interesting to note that the first teacher at the then Alkham School, was our own Olive Harvey of Halton Forstal.

ROCKING HORSE - the grant of £1800, which was promised by DDC for the cost of the rocking horse, has now been received by the parish. I understand that the question of whether there should be safety matting has still to be resolved. (editor)

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PEOPLE STANDING FOR ELECTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

NEIL BURROWS

My parents started farming at Greenhill Farm, South Alkham in 1965 and I have lived and worked in the Parish for over 20 years. I have served on the Parish Council for 8 years, the past 6 as your Vice-Chairman. I have also represented other organisations in the local area, having been chairman of the Swingfield and Elham branch of the N.F.U. for 2 years, President of Acryse Young Farmers Club based at Hawkinge, for four years and I am currently Chairman of Governors at Capel-le-Ferne primary, our local school, where I have been a governor for 6 years. The Parish Council has been a very successful team over the past 4 years and I ask for your support on May the 6th so that I can continue to represent the Parish.

STEPHEN COMFORT

DON'T SWITCH OFF! This is not a party political broadcast. I am a 38 year old Chartered Physiotherapist and Registered Osteopath working in private practice in Deal. I am married to Patsy Sayers, who has lived in Alkham all her life and we have lived with our two children at Hogbrook Farm for the last 5 years. I am not a "man on a mission", however, I do feel very strongly that anything of beauty that can be conserved (within financial reason) should be. I also hold the view that the opinion of a committed group of voluntary people, working for the good of the Parish should not be misinterpreted' by those in higher authority, especially when major changes to our local environment are being considered. I cannot offer the wisdom and experience of the two retiring councillors, but can offer the Parish enthusiasm, energy and commitment. Remember Tony Blair, William Hague, Paddy Ashdown and Bobby Charlton were all under 40 once! !

ROSEMARY CROTHALL

For those who don't know me, I have lived in South Alkham for the last thirty-three years. In the past, I was a member of the Parish Council for twelve years. I have also been a President of the Alkham W.I. and a school governor. My husband John and I, have two married daughters and four grandchildren. I am very interested in the maintenance and upkeep of our local area.

COLIN VINCENT GRIGGS

Although not a resident of Alkham – I currently live in Hawkinge with my wife Daphne – I spend most of my time in the parish as the owner of the Alkham Valley Garden Centre. I was elected to the Parish Council at the last election, having responsibilities for reporting on the local school at Capel and I feel that I have been able to contribute impartially and fairly to council matters over the past four years. By being the only local shopkeeper, I have developed a close relationship with the parishioners, many of who have found it convenient to discuss council matters with me any day of the week. My main concerns for the Parish are the lack of community policing, maintaining and improving the local services and traffic problems along the whole valley. I would also like to encourage the development of amenities for the younger members of the Parish.

PHILIPPA ELIZABETH NEELY (Betty)

I came with my husband to live in Alkham, 48 years ago. During these years, I have raised a family of five and also, I hope, helped with the well being of the community. I was the first Parent Governor of Capel School. For four years I was the Chairman of the Alkham Village Fete Committee and I am currently Secretary of the Alkham W.I. As a member of St Anthony's Parochial Church Council, I have been a churchwarden for 11 years and the Council's secretary for 20 years. For the last 8 years I have been privileged to be a Parish Councillor for Alkham and I hope to represent you for the next 4 years.

PAUL TAPSELL

I am 32 years old, married to Sandie with a young son (James) and have lived in the village since 1991 (although my family has been here a little longer!); I am a barrister based in Canterbury and have been a Parish Councillor since 1995. I am presently Chairman of the Valley Society, Cricket Club and Fete Committee; I also serve on the Parochial Church Council and Village Hall Committee. I think the Parish Council has two important roles to play; firstly, to protect the village environment whilst ensuring that the community and village life continue to develop and grow, and secondly, to make the District Council and other local authorities and organisations aware of the needs and wishes of the rural communities. If re-elected I would hope to continue to pass on and reflect the views and concerns of the local residents.

As required by the Representation of the Peoples Act, I have to state that details about the prospective Parish Councillors were printed and published by Brian Wimsett, The Old Post Office, Slip Lane, Alkham and the effective cost to each of the candidates was £1.62, which will be declared as electoral expenses. The cost of the extra page has been paid for by the Newsletter.

PEOPLE STANDING FOR ELECTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

GEORGE T TYLER

I am aged 51 and married with one son. I am a garage owner and a Director of a Property Company, in Folkestone. I have lived in Alkham for 20 years and my hobbies are gardening and dog showing and judging. I have been Chairman of the Parish Council since 1989 and I was also a former member of the Dover District Council for 15 years. During this time I held many positions including Leader of the Council, Chairman of Health and Housing, Chairman of Technical Services, Chairman of Policy and Resources and Vice Chairman of the Council, a member of the South East Community Health Council and Chairman of Kent Gas Council. I believe that my knowledge of Local Government and my business credibility make me an ideal candidate for the Alkham Parish Council.

CAROLINE WARD (Coco)

Dear Parishioners - I have resided in the Parish since 1972 and for the last 9 years lived in Ewell Minnis with my husband and daughter. Although I work part time for a local haulage firm, I take an active interest in village events. I regularly attend Parish Meetings and feel, should you choose to elect me that I could contribute to the needs and wishes of the local community, especially Ewell Minnis and other outlying areas of the Parish.

Therefore, may I ask for your support at the forthcoming elections and welcome any phone calls regarding any matter I may be able to assist you with. Counting on your support (Coco).

PATRICIA WRIGHT (Tricia)

I moved into Alkham in 1994 from Lea, south east London, after taking early retirement from the London Borough of Greenwich, where I worked as a finance officer. I had family connections in the village as my sister and youngest daughter with her family lived here. I very soon started to feel my way around and slowly got to know the villagers, going to the Parish Council meetings regularly, gradually gaining knowledge of the Parish. I think the W.I. came next and then I was invited to become a member of the village hall committee. I played an active roll during the last year's Open Gardens, an active dogsbody on the fete committee and a committee member of the Millennium Fund Raising. I try to take an active part in the general well being of our village and the Parish as a whole and if selected I will serve the Parish to the best of my ability.

COUNTRY NOTES – The past few days have seen some extreme weather changes. As I write this, the sun is shining in a beautiful clear sky. Jake and Hamish are basking in its warmth, their ears picking up the buzzing of the bees and their noses constantly twitching, picking up the delicious scents of hyacinth and narcissus. Yesterday was very different. By ten thirty the sky was a dirty grey that suddenly shed its load of snow. Big wet sleety flakes that quickly covered the ground, changing the muddy paths into pristine white. Indoors, lights were switched on and logs added to the fire. The thermometer registered zero and our doves sat hunched and disgruntled, shaking themselves every now and then to rid them of the nasty wet stuff. It was, however, short lived and by late afternoon they were strutting and preening themselves in the late sunshine! The red tulips have suffered and are now past their best. The hailstones and the wind beat them down the day before and the heavy overnight frost finished them off, their red heads hanging tattered and torn. The smaller varieties have fared better, jostling for position with fragrant narcissus, buttery cowslips and deep purple auriculars. Yellow leopards bane dances among the baby blue brunnera and the new young leaves of the copper hazel glow burgundy red in the sunlight. The sun has moved across the sky now and the wind is chilly, the smell of new mown grass carried along by it. Time to head indoors for a hot cup of tea.
(Devina Bartlett)

A PERSONAL THANK YOU – last month Brian wrote on behalf of John and myself, a thank you to everyone who sent cards and presents after the birth of Isabel Mary. I would just like to thank you personally now. The cards carried lovely messages and various friends knitted beautiful items of clothing and bedding. She now has enough teddies and toys to open her own shop! Motherhood and fatherhood, for that matter, is proving to be a challenge, not least of all at 2.00 am in the morning. However, I am assured that it gets better and she will be at school before we know it. Thank you all. - Devina

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THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING was reasonably well attended, with 27 people in the audience. George Tyler, the Chairman of the Parish Council, gave his report for the last year. He said that most of the complaints had been about highways with regard to their condition and the speed with which they were used. Responsibility for highways had now passed to Dover District Council and in theory things should get better. He said however, he had great reservations if DDC continue to favour other parishes such as Alvington and Aylesham over Alkham. Relationships with DDC were at an all time low, particularly with regard to planning and planning enforcement. The Chairman rounded off his speech by thanking the retiring members of the Parish Council, Bob Palmer and Gordon Preston for all the work which they had done for the Parish and said that it had been a privilege to work with them. Thanks also went to the other members of the Parish Council and of course to madam clerk, Sue Lees. (editor) Details of other reports are included throughout the Newsletter.

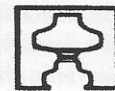
TREE PLANTING – at the Annual Parish Meeting the question was asked as to what should be done with the money which was pledged or donated for tree planting between the bollards opposite the Marquis of Granby. As you probably know, this idea was not permitted by KCC and therefore an alternative is required. There was a wide ranging discussion but the consensus was, that subject to the agreement of those donating the money, that the money should be used for planting trees in the parish. Bryan Jeapes Hall, the Tree Warden, suggested that Vicarage Meadow would be the best location. (editor)

POLICING was mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting. Councillor Trevor Bamford said that Superintendent Trevor Ayres had written to DDC and other authorities to say that the police were going to remove some management level officers and replace them with 6 policemen for the rural areas. This he said was to be applauded. He had previously stated in his address that if the Conservatives gained power in the local elections they were pledged to give another £100,000 for rural policing. It was accepted that this could be taken as electioneering but in the context it was a point worth making. (editor)

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL was mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting. Councillor Trevor Bamford said that apart from £300,000, which was allegedly wasted on abortive legal costs, £200,000 had been paid to consultants looking into the viability of the Deal Dry Centre (sports hall), which is not now going to proceed in its present form. He presumed further fees would be paid to look at the alternative. Councillor Frederick Scales said that the money for the rocking horse would be received the following day from DDC (it was) and then went on to speak about highways. DDC is now looking after the highway matters previously dealt with by KCC. This 'one stop shopping' however has its drawbacks as DDC is only permitted to carry out works, which cost less than £25,000. Above that figure it is dealt with by KCC (status quo) and therefore the stage 2 traffic calming is still in KCC's hands. (editor)

PLANNING – as mentioned above, it was felt that the Parish Council's views were overlooked in planning matters. Councillor Frederick Scales said, that in his opinion, the Parish Council's views should be paramount. He said that he would try to get the Conservative group to agree to allow the Chairman of the Parish Council to address the planning committee, when planning applications were discussed. Irrespective of whether this is considered to be electioneering, in my opinion it would be good idea. It doesn't necessarily follow that the Parish Council is always right but the council was elected to represent the parish and therefore its voice should be heard. (editor)

OTHER REPORTS at the Annual Parish Meeting included Colin Griggs talking about Capel School, of which he is a governor. He mentioned the achievements of the school over the year and said that if local people had children then Capel school was the school for Alkham and that there was a free bus. Mike Chalkley gave a brief report regarding Neighbourhood Watch. Tricia Wright gave the report for the Millennium Committee. She said there had been five fund raising events from which approximately £900 had been raised. Because of the cost, the committee had agreed not to hire a marquee for next year but hopefully use John Barne's barn. Additional funding is being sought from DDC and the Millennium Festival. The village sign depicting wild animals is still being explored and Sue Lees had come up with the brilliant idea of renewing the cross on top of the church steeple. Paul Tapsell gave the cricket club report. Of the 15 games played, 5 were won, 2 drawn and 8 lost although some had been very close. Nick Price scored 455 runs in the season and Denis Barnard and Andy Sawyer played very well. It was good that there were now a number of locals in the team but new members were always welcome. Three people shared the 'duck trophy', one of whom was the speaker. Paul also gave the report for the Alkham Valley Society and said that the society dealt with the whole of the valley and to ring him (01303 892082) regarding any problems outside Alkham. Betty Neely gave the report for the W.I. and said that apart from the meetings, each Tuesday morning, 6 people meet and do knitting and sewing for future events. She spoke of the outings and said the trip to the Goodwin Sands was the most exciting. In November they had their 70th birthday celebrations. All in all, life in the W.I. was varied and hectic and Betty said that they were always pleased to welcome new members. (editor)



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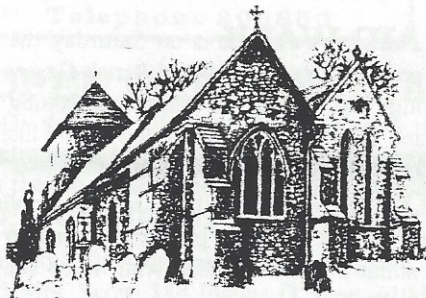
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W.I. NEWS – last month's rambler's walk plus one i.e. March, was great and thoroughly enjoyed by about seven of us. We met up at Cherry's and to the delight of our little band, a W.I. member who had left our shores to discover pastures new in her mobile caravan was there. So lots of updating and reminiscing prior to us setting off over the cliff tops. The weather was glorious and we draped ourselves over the battle of Britain statue, before quenching our thirst and hunger at the Valiant Sailor. Our monthly trek is on the Wednesday, one week after our W. I. meeting, 10.30 am in the village car park. The jumble sale on the 10th of April was a disaster regarding attendance. Betty Neely made up the takings to £100, which is donated to the Kosova Appeal. Mrs Lioucias gave us some useful tips on planting up hanging baskets; use a little water retaining crystals and half a sachet of slow release fertiliser and not to use soil based compost, which makes them too heavy. Rather liked the wicker hanging basket. A big welcome to Jenny and family, who have travelled all the way from South Africa to be with us. We hope you will come to love our village and be very happy here. Next meeting is on the 11th of May – resolutions so no speaker. Competition, baby's bonnet and three small wallflowers. 14th of May, visit to Chartham village with lunch at the church then on to the garden centre and back home about 4 pm. 18th of May, discuss next year's programme, meet at Doreen's at 7.30 pm. 21st of May, Top Team quiz at Whitfield, 7 pm. (Tricia Wright)

MILLENNIUM FUNDRAISER – Coffee morning at the Willows. On behalf of the committee our most grateful thanks to Cal and Helen for opening their home to us and also to all who came with their support and

books, bric a brac and raffle prizes. Also to Helen for all those delicious cakes she made and Barbara for her special one. Not forgetting those two unflappable sisters, Doreen and Rosemary, who after a chance remark from Susan a few days prior to Easter, incorporated a very successful Easter egg raffle into the morning. It was great to see everybody so happy and having a good old natter. A special thank you to all young mums for bringing the little ones, because it is for them that we the older ones are doing it. We raised £182 including donations. A super effort, thank you to all. (Tricia Wright)



NEWS FROM St. ANTHONY'S – Thanks to everybody who has helped with keeping the churchyard looking so good this spring and thanks to all those who kept our church clean after all the restoration work on the south aisle. Don't forget that St. Mary's will be open again on May the 30th when we meet as a joint benefice for our communion service at 10.00 am. Our youngsters from the Benefice Sunday Club will be joining us for part of the service. There are many of you who have special memories of our old church and we open it a few times each year especially for you, so do come. (Gill Calver)

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE – to the right of the

entrance to the church there is an area of grass and flowers around the memorial tablet and for those who don't know this is the Garden of Remembrance. Up until recently, this has been tended by Susan Lees but because she is involved in so many unsung jobs for the parish and there aren't enough hours in the day, Ken Hammond, has now kindly taken over the responsibility for the garden. (editor)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL – (parochial being of or relating to the parish) AGM was held on the 20th of April in the village hall, at which there were 14 people in the audience. The purpose of the meeting was to report on the previous year and also elect the lay people for duties within the church. Betty Preston and Richard Tapsell were once again elected churchwardens and Betty Neely and Raye Luckhurst continue to be secretary and treasurer. Chris Tapsell agreed to continue as the representative on the Deanery Synod, being the voice and the ears of the parish. There were two new members elected to the PCC and these were Beattie Jeapes and Ken Hammond, with the latter also becoming a Sidesperson. In any other business at the end of the meeting, the question of a new cross on the top of St. Anthony's was discussed. The idea put forward by Susan Lees and reported elsewhere in the Newsletter is that a new cross should be put on St. Anthony's to replace the damaged one. This was well received by the audience and Gill Calver confirmed that there should be no problem, as she had spoken to the church officials about the matter. It was generally thought that in the celebration of the Millennium the religious aspect was being overlooked and that a new cross and possibly a memorial plaque was an ideal way of commemorating the passing of 2000 years of Christianity. At recent church meetings it was thought that in 50 years time, because of cost, Parish Churches would no longer exist as places of worship, with services being held in a large multi-function building in towns. Gill Calver however, was confident that in 50 years time services would still be held at St. Anthony's. (editor)

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

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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 1	Bingo at 7.30 pm in village hall - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
THURSDAY 6	Local elections in village hall 8am to 9pm
MONDAY 10	Annual Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in village hall - everyone welcome
TUESDAY 11	W.I. meeting at 7.30 pm in village hall.
MONDAY 17	Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in the village hall - phone David Tapsell on 822282
THURSDAY 20	D & D canine society in VH at 7.30 pm
THURSDAY 27	Dover Men's Deanery Fellowship - phone Richard Tapsell 822295 for details

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
May 2nd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
May 9 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
May 16 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
May 23 rd	Joint Benefice sung Eucharist at Hougham 10.00 am		
May 30 th	Joint Benefice at St. Mary's (Old church in Capel) 10.00 am		

NB ASCENSION DAY EUCHARIST will be at 7.30 pm at St.
Radigunds on May the 13th.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P.	0171 2193704
County Councillor, Bryan Cope	207976
and work number	01795532547
District Councillor, Fred Scales	201382
and Trevor Bamfield	202334
Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers	822397
Neighbourhood Watch, Mike Chalkley	820798
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett	824969
E mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk	
Parish Council Secretary, Sue Lees	822661
Police - Community Support Team	218151
Vicar, Gill Calver	01303 244119
Church Warden, Richard Tapsell	822295
Church Warden, Betty Preston	822421
Village Hall booking, Sue Lees	822661
Email susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	
Women's Institute, Betty Neely	822688

DOVER CHRISTIAN AID WALK is on Saturday the 8th
of May between 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm. It starts at Buckland Parish Centre on
the London Road near Buckland Bridge and is about 10 miles long passing St.
Radigunds, across to Ewell Minnis and back to Buckland. If you would like to
take part Susan Lees, 822661, has the sponsorship forms. (editor)

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS are on the 10th of June and polling
takes place in the village hall from 7.00 am to 10.00 pm. It's getting to be
quite an important job but I must admit I haven't a clue who he or she is.
Hopefully more details next month. (editor)

FETE STALLHOLDERS should meet in the village hall on the
1st of June at 8.00 pm.

MENAGE A TROIS? - well actually no. Some reference has been
made at Parish Council meetings to the latter regarding planning permission.
It appears that the word should be 'manege' which is a riding school, whilst a
menage is probably some thing
for which you would not need
planning permission. (editor)

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FLAIR cane and pine furniture, 36 Guildhall St. Folkestone, 01303 258744
GREENHILL LIVERY YARD, Meggett Lane, South Alkham, DIY & grass liverys, 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 Oowler, phone 826375
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ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

No. 70 June 1999

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LOCAL ELECTIONS

THE NEW DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL:

LABOUR	28
CONSERVATIVES	26
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	1
INDEPENDENT	1

There is now no overall control by one party on Dover District Council. Labour lost 9 seats and the Liberal Democrats lost 2. The Conservatives gained 10 seats and an Independent candidate gained one. Frederick Scales and Trevor Bamford were re-elected for our ward.

THE NEW PARISH COUNCIL:

George Tyler	Chairman
Neil Burrows	Vice Chairman
Colin Griggs	
Betty Neely	
Paul Tapsell	
Rosemary Crothall	
Stephen Comfort	

On the 10th of May, Tricia Wright and I went to Dover Town Hall to watch the count for Parish Councillors. The ballot forms were carefully checked and only two found to be void. They were then attached to long pieces of paper and taken away to be counted. It was interesting to see the different ways of voting. Some people voted for only one person, some alphabetically and some selectively. The votes were: Burrows 166: Comfort 150: Crothall 166: Griggs 185: Neely 156: Tapsell 220: Tyler 164: Ward 97: Wright 100. All the incumbent Parish Councillors who stood were re-elected, with the two new members being Rosemary Crothall and Stephen Comfort. (editor)

GWYN PROSSER MP will be holding an advice surgery in Hougham Parish Hall, The Street, West Hougham on Saturday the 29th of May between 10.00 and 11.30am. If you have a problem that you would like Gwyn to help you with, or if you have an issue you would like to raise, please come along. Appointments are not necessary.

VILLAGE HALL fund raising for the building cost shortfall continues with a coffee morning at 10.30 am on the 5th of June at 4 Valley Cottages; the same in the village hall at 10.30 am on the 3rd of July and a sponsored swim in George and Pam Tyler's pool at Hillview, Short Lane on the 24th of July. There will also be a Quiz Night on the 18th of September.

PUBLIC MEETING - There is an amount of money that has been held for some years by the Parish Council that had been set aside to purchase Vicarage Meadow. It is almost certain that the Church Commissioners will never agree to its sale and therefore there is a distinct possibility that the money will be taken from the parish and given to some other organisation. The Chairman felt that it would be better to spend the money on the parish than lose it. At the Parish Council meeting a question was raised from the audience as to whether some of this money could be used to part fund stage 2 of the traffic calming (see page 2). The Chairman thought that this was a possibility but it would be necessary to change the mandate and this would have to be agreed by the parishioners. If you have an opinion on this, or you think that the money should be spent on something else, please write to the Clerk to the Parish Council, Susan Lees, Forstal Cottage, Alkham, Dover CT15 7DE, or phone her on 822661 and a public meeting will be arranged for a majority decision to be made. (editor)

RECYCLING - it is pleasing to report that Colin Griggs of the Alkham Valley Garden Centre has now got a range of recycling bins. There is a large bin for newspapers and separate ones for aluminium cans, cans and tins, brown bottles and jars, green bottles and jars, clear bottles and jars. The bins are currently on the entrance drive to the Garden Centre but will be moved further along when the space is cleared. (editor)

ALKHAM ART WORKSHOP - there will be a demonstration by Stephen Thompson on the use of oil and acrylics at the village hall on Tuesday the 1st of June between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm. All welcome to attend.

GARDEN TALK - at our April meeting we enjoyed a walk round the garden at 'Bramhall' commiserating with each other about the problems caused by rabbits and sharing some useful tips. Thank you, Joan, for your excellent topic of architectural plants; the swop table was laden and Richard was kept busy digging up ornamental grass to share. Please note the next meeting will be on Friday the 4th of June at 7.30 pm and not as discussed at the meeting, due to some double booking with a church event. Many apologies. Through the summer months the meetings will be held in each other's gardens, sharing ideas and problems and the meeting on the June the 4th will be held at the Willows. Rosemary will be arranging the topic and people are most welcome to come and join us in our stroll around the garden. (Susannah Tapsell 01304 822295)

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the Police they decided to act. To his great credit, Neil Burrows agreed to act as the landowner and went with a couple of policemen to ask the travellers to move on. They were informed that if they did not, a tow truck would come and remove them. At about seven o'clock the travellers formed into a line on the village green car park. A tow truck then drove down Hogbrook Lane, there were a couple of beeps of horns, the tow truck continued up the lane and the travellers left towards Dover. (editor)

THE VILLAGE HALL AGM was held on the 26th of April. David Tapsell, the Chairman, said that it had been a very satisfactory year with profits of £641. Bob Palmer, the outgoing Treasurer said that there would be little capital left after monies were spent on the village hall extension and increases in charges could not be avoided. The recommendation was that there should be a 15% increase this year and a similar increase next year. **The new hire charges are £2.50 for a table and 60p for a chair: hall hire per hour will be £3.50 for parishioners, £7.00 for non-parishioners and the cricket club, and £12.00 for businesses from the first of June.** There was some discussion about the level of insurance required for the building. It was felt that the cost should reflect re-building in brick and this will carry a premium. There were thanks to Shirley Tapsell for auditing the accounts, Olive Harvey for being the booking secretary, Chris Tapsell for the money he has raised through his whist drives and to Bob Palmer who is retiring as treasurer. David Tapsell was thanked for being Chairman and then re-elected, as was Peter Mercer as Secretary. The booking clerk is Sue Lees and the new Treasurer is Larry Lambourne. There was some discussion about the appeal, which had been sent out with the Newsletter, for donations to cover the increased cost of the village hall extension. It was felt that other avenues could have been explored before the direct approach to the parish was made. (editor)

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES – at the Parish Council meeting on the 10th of May, George Tyler was nominated as Chairman and Neil Burrows as Vice Chairman. Both were elected unopposed. The other councillors were then appointed to the various committees within the council and these are: Parish emergencies – George Tyler and Neil Burrows: Highways – Paul Tapsell: Dover Joint Transportation – Paul Tapsell: Kent Association of Parish Councils – Paul Tapsell and Stephen Comfort: Public rights of way – Colin Griggs: Environment – Stephen Comfort, Rosemary Crothall and Betty Neely: Help the Aged – Betty Neely: Tree Warden – Bryan Hall. The Chairman felt that there should be a representative at Parish Council meetings from Ewell Minnis. He therefore proposed that Coco Ward should be the committee representative for the Ministry of Defence. Part of the Parish Council meeting is the giving of delegate reports and therefore Coco can give her delegate report, which could include any other matters of concern at Ewell Minnis. (editor)

LOTTERY GRANTS – credit must go to Tricia Wright who went to the Charlton Centre in Dover to meet the people who were advising on Lottery Grants. As a result of this Tricia has got forms for the shortfall in monies needed for the Village Hall extension and the two Millennium projects. These are the replacement cross on St. Anthony's and the carved village sign. Well done Tricia. (editor)

FETE STALLHOLDER'S – would anyone who is willing or able to help with this year's fete on the 10th of July, whether running a stall, providing refreshments, cakes etc., or assisting in putting up the tents on the Saturday morning, please come to the stallholder's meeting on the 1st of June in the village hall at 8.00 pm or get in touch with me beforehand on 01303 892082 (evenings before 8.30 pm). The more helpers we have the more enjoyable it is for everyone. (Paul Tapsell)

BRICABRAC is required by Dennis and Irene Barnard for their stall at the village fete in July. If you have any items which you would like to donate, whether big or small, please phone them on 824845 and they will collect them. (editor)

COUNTRY LIFE - In the tall sycamores the rooks caw incessantly, a couple of robins fight on the patio and a starling flies from its nest in the tool shed, scaring an unwary householder. The cowslips that the old lady who used to come on the bus from Dover to pick, still lie emblazoned on the valley side as it rises to the south on Mr. Warnock's land. The cow parsley grows in the meadow and in the churchyard the ox eye daisies are beginning to sprout, soon to spread early summer delight around the gravestones. The bluebells are past their best but the red campion still flourishes together with the wood anemones and buttercups festoon the field by the Old Rectory. This is a yearly treat as nature sends up its yellow carpet. The hawthorn trees are a blaze of white with blossom which will change to the haw and confound the old saying 'many haws many snaws' as there have been many haws but few snowfalls this winter. With the old granary temporarily restored to something like its old self, you could be fooled into thinking that the bucolic calm of yesteryear had returned to Alkham, with ducks walking down Slip Lane and children playing on the Alkham Valley Road. Things have changed a bit in Alkham but nature carries on regardless.

TRAFFIC CALMING – because Alkham has a low priority due to the accident rate, stage 2 of the traffic calming will not be installed in this financial year. This will almost certainly apply to the following years. On the day after the new A20 opened, a large volume of traffic disappeared from the Alkham Valley Road onto the A20. However, the next day the traffic reverted back to the Alkham Valley when it was perceived that the route via Whitfield Hill was quicker and less tortuous. If traffic calming was to be installed such that the journey time via the Alkham Valley Road became longer then traffic might return to the A20. Stage 2 of the traffic calming is a single traffic lane with a footway by Martinvale, at the top of Hogbrook Lane, through to footway opposite the Marquis of Granby, with traffic giving way. (editor)

TRAVELLERS – there was justifiable concern in the Parish on the 4th of May, when travellers arrived in the village and set themselves up on the football pitch by the village green. If no action is taken to remove them within 24 hours, it can be expensive and difficult to move them on. Because of the large number of calls made to

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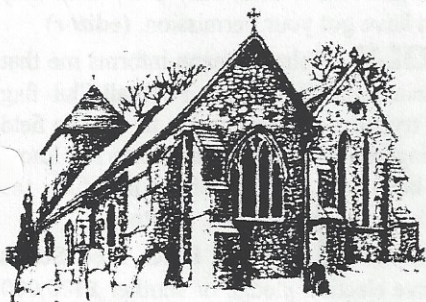
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Fernfield Lane

Hawkinge 01303 893011

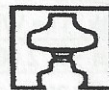
W.I. NEWS – Our ramble in April, was of 'sort the men from the boys' type. I didn't even make it across the green intact. Tasha was off loaded to Lynn, Christine's sister, at the first hurdle, the steep slope by the slide. We had dressed with heavy rain in mind, so the sun shone from a blue sky as we battled up through Sladden fields and wood, the main concern being to keep upright, as we slogged around in ankle deep plus, mud. My face was the colour of beetroot and off went my jacket for Cherry to carry, the bag stuffed with an assortment of headgear for fellow walkers, just in case it rained. Eventually we made it to the top of the Slip – magic – down hill from here. Val made us very welcome in the Marquis, where we quenched our thirst and forgot about diets with a vast selection of food. I understand that the trip to the Marlowe Theatre was a great success and everyone enjoyed the show. Thank you Cherry for arranging it all. The Group meeting at Hawkinge was a very pleasant afternoon and Alkham won the competition thanks to Joan Scott, who made the pin cushion – excellent! At our meeting, we discussed four resolutions. Mr James Hodges from the NFU, did an excellent job of explaining why the agricultural community requested our support to protect the rural infrastructure and the rural way of life, which is an invaluable part of our heritage.. He also spoke about GM foods, a difficult subject but we all, or most of us, agreed to press the government to introduce a five year control on commercial growing and import of genetically modified foods. We also discussed the manner in which women's human rights are violated and to urge world-wide governments to adhere to the commitments made in 1995. The fourth resolution we discussed was Ovarian Cancer, known as the silent killer. Sixty per cent of women are diagnosed after the disease has spread beyond the ovaries, which is horrifying. St. Bartholomew's Hospital is currently carrying out research into screening, using a blood test. Susannah Tapsell suggested that those interested in participating in the trial should send our names and addresses collectively, rather than individually, which I feel is an excellent idea. We voted for all the resolutions. 5th of June, coffee morning in the village hall in aid of village hall funds: 8th of June, next meeting – belly dancing workshop – look out chaps! Competitions – seed collage and a potted geranium. (Tricia Wright)

OUTING TO GROOMBRIDGE on the 15th of July, which leaves the village hall at 9.30 am and returns at 5.00 pm approx. All welcome, husbands friends, bring them too, it should be a happy day. (Tricia Wright)



NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S – Thank you everyone who helped in making the church and churchyard so beautiful for our daughter's wedding last month. Thank you as well to all those of you who shared in the service and in the Marquis get together afterwards. This month our services are much as usual, but do come to Canterbury Cathedral on Sunday, June the 20th at 6.30 pm if you can. That is the occasion of our annual service for all the Dover district churches of every denomination. From 4.00 pm onwards, the Archdeacon opens his gardens for those with a picnic tea. Enter through the door on the north side of the cloisters, marked 'Private' if you want to take up the invitation. (Gill Calver)

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - At the club AGM on the 16th of May, all serving officers were re-elected giving a vote of confidence to the committee. The 1998 results were: 5 Wins, 3 Draws, 8 Lost with 4 abandoned, which showed an improvement on the previous season. Club honours were as follows: The Norman Knowles Trophy for batting - Nick Price, The Robin Knowles Shield for bowling - Dennis Barnard, The Captain's Trophy - Robin Culley, The Price Trophy - jointly to Matt Gerrard and Paul Simpson. Paul Tapsell failed to win the Duck trophy outright and has had to share it with Paul Coleman and Mark Culley. So, what about this season? Not much of a start I'm afraid with two games abandoned due to weather and the opposition not able to field a team (River Woodpeckers and Dymchurch respectively). On the 2nd of May we were at home to Chilton and batting first, started well with George Brown (14) and Barry Northam (28) in a solid partnership. However the last five batsmen added precisely zero to this score and we were dismissed for 58, an easy target for Chilton who got the runs for the loss of three wickets. Old Hartsdonians at home on the 16th of May will be remembered for all the wrong reasons. They achieved a record score against us (288) with their opener brilliantly hitting 200 not out. Our 98 all out would have looked good in usual circumstances but I think we will class this as an early season warm-up. There was a good turn out at practice on Wednesday so the team spirit is still there. As always the part of the team that is always in top form again performed well, our tea ladies Barbara, Kate and Jenny – many thanks to them. On a sad note a regular supporter of the team is missing this season, George Brown's mother Sadie passed away early in the year and will be missed by us all. (Dennis Barnard)



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WHAT'S ON**Regular events**

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH from 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
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 (VH= village hall)

Tuesday	1	Fete stall holders in VH at 8.00 pm
Friday	4	Garden Talk, The Willows 7.30 pm
Saturday	5	Boot Fair in VH 2.00 to 5.00 pm
Saturday	5	Bingo at 7.30 pm in village hall - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Sunday	6	Cricket v Betteshanger 2.30 pm VG
Tuesday	8	W.I. in village hall at 7.30 pm
Thursday	10	European elections
Thursday	17	D & D canine society VH 7.30 pm
Sunday	20	Cricket v Dymchurch 2.30 pm VG

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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County Councillor, Bryan Cope	207976
and work number	01795532547
District Councillor, Fred Scales	201382
and Trevor Bamfield	202334
Alkham Valley Society secretary	
Pamela Sayers	822397
Neighbourhood Watch, Mike Chalkley	820798
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett	824969
E mail brian@bwimsett.freeserve.co.uk	
Fish & chip man 01304 826463 & 0468316610	
Parish Council Secretary, Sue Lees	822661
Police - Community Support Team	218151
Vicar, Gill Calver	01303 244119
Church Warden, Richard Tapsell	822295
Church Warden, Betty Preston	822421
Village Hall booking, Sue Lees	822661
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CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
June 6 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
June 13 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
June 20 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	DEANERY SERVICE at Canterbury	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
June 27 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

HEDGES AND NETTLES - at the Parish Council meeting, mention was made of the overhanging hedging and nettles adjacent to footpaths leading to the village green and elsewhere. It would be much appreciated if the owners of the properties adjacent to the footpaths would cut back the overhanging greenery. (editor)

GULLY EMPTYING - it was reported that contractors who are responsible for emptying gullies and the like were entering people's property without permission to carry out the work. As far as the Parish Council knew, they had no statutory right to do so and therefore they are trespassing. The Council is writing to DDC to ask what powers they think they have to do this. If you are unhappy about the contractors entering your land then the advice is to ask what their powers are. If they don't know, then deny entry until they have followed the correct procedure and have got your permission. (editor)

MILLENNIUM FLAG POLE - John Ullmann informs me that he has erected a flag pole for the Millennium and the Alkham Football Club flag will fly from it. John says that he is still trying to get permission to use the field by the Alkham Valley Road but is having problems with the planners. I know there are a lot of youngsters who are keen to start the club so hopefully the matter will be resolved swiftly. I'd certainly come and watch. (editor)

DDC - as there is no overall control by one party on DDC, Fred Scales thought it was likely that the Conservative election pledge of another £100,000 to be spent on rural policing would be agreed. It is also likely that there will be agreement to allow the chairman of the Parish Council to speak at planning meetings when applications are decided. (editor)

BOOT FAIR in the village hall on Saturday the 5th of June. Tables £5.00 contact 01304 373841

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Section A, Vegetables: Class (1) 3 potatoes (white), (2) 3 potatoes (coloured), (3) 3 carrots (with tops), (4) 3 turnips (white with tops) (5) 3 beetroots (with tops), (6) 9 pods of peas, (7) 5 pods of Broad Beans, (8) 2 lettuces (tall variety), (9) 2 lettuces (cabbage variety), (10) 3 Tomatoes, (11) 1 Cucumber, (12) 3 onions, (13) 3 shallots and (14) Any kind of vegetable not listed above. - Section B, Soft Fruit: Class (1) 12 Raspberries, (2) 12 Gooseberries, (3) 6 strigs of currants (red, black or white) and (4) 9 Strawberries. - Section C, Cut Flowers: Class (1) 1 Vase of mixed annuals, (2) 1 Vase of mixed perennials, (3) 1 Vase of decorative dahlias (3 blooms) (4) 1 Vase of mixed sweet peas, (5) 1 Vase of Roses (floribunda), (6) 1 Vase of Roses (hybrid tea) - Section D, Pot Plants: Class (1) 1 Begonia in pot, (2) 1 Fuschia in pot, (3) 1 Geranium in pot, (4) 1 Cactus in pot, (5) 1 Pot Plant (foliage), (6) 1 Pot Plant (floral), (7) 1 Planted hanging basket. (Chris Tapsell 824765). Raffle Tickets and Fete Posters/Car Stickers are still available, if you want either please call me on (01303) 892082 (not after 8.30p.m. though!) (Paul Tapsell)

CAPEL SCHOOL are holding a fete on Saturday the 3rd of July at 1.00 pm at Capel-le-Ferne school. There are all sorts of events and stalls, including pony rides for children, bouncy castle, face and hair painting, barbecue and yes, a beer tent, to name just a few. The children from the school will be performing country dancing and maypole dancing. There will be a grand draw with a first prize of £100, tickets available from the Alkham Valley Garden Centre. This is your local school, so please come and support us. All money raised goes towards providing extra equipment that the school needs. (Pat Fielding)

COFFEE MORNING in aid of the W.I. funds is being held on Saturday the 14th of August between 10.30 - 12.00 am at the home of Rosemary and John Crothall, Brook House, Megget Lane, South Alkham. Everyone welcome.

CYSTIC FIBROSIS - thank you to everyone who contributed to the cystic fibrosis door to door collection in April. The total collected was £174.89. Also thank you to all those kind people who contributed to the collection at Tesco on the 25/26th of April - almost £600 was collected. If anyone has any fund raising ideas or would like to collect door to door in any area of Dover next year, please ring 01304-827544 for further information. (Julie Saltmer)

VILLAGE HALL - up to the middle of June, 45 individuals and companies have donated a total of £2005 to cover the additional amount required for the extension. The Village Hall fund raising committee is hard at work organising other events to raise the rest of the money having already collected £157.65 from the coffee morning at the Willows and the Whisky Raffle. The winners of this and the general raffle being given on page 2. Other events, which are being organised, are:

3rd of July - ploughman's lunch with a raffle in the Village Hall from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm,

£2.50 per person and on the **24th of July** a sponsored swim at the home of Pam and George Tyler from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm. You may have received a sponsor form with this Newsletter but if you haven't and would like one, please ring 824876. (editor)

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS - of the 530 people eligible to vote in Alkham, 155 people did. This is equal to 29.25%, which is slightly above the national average. The vote was for the South East and as a result 5 Conservatives, 2 labour, 2 Liberal Democrats, 1 UK Independent and 1 Green Party MEP were elected.

ALKHAM VILLAGE FETE this year will take place on the Vicarage Meadow at 2 pm on Saturday the 10th July 1999. Anyone who would like to help either with a stall or otherwise should contact me and I can guarantee that I will be able to find you a job. As usual we will be putting the tents up from 8.30 a.m. on the Saturday and the more helpers we have the easier everything becomes! All of the traditional favourite stalls will be present but if you can help the following by donating goods/prizes, please liaise directly with the relevant smallholders: Bric-a Brac - Den & Irene Barnard (824845); Tombola and/or Raffle Prizes- The Poldens (824876); Needlework- Margaret Knowles (822220), Produce - Richard Tapsell (822295); Plants -Sue Tapsell (822295) and/or Betty Preston (822421); Books- Sue Lees (822661), Baskets and/or Hoopla prizes- Christine Tapsell (822282); Jewellery and/or Cakes - Barbara Palmer (824973). In addition we have the competitions and entries are welcomed in any (or all) of the following: Children's Art Competition - The theme is "900 years of Alkham Church", with two age ranges "under 7" and "8 to 12" and entries can be paintings, drawings, or models. (Shirley Tapsell 822638). Cookery Competition - Categories are: For the Children only - rock cakes and for everyone (adults and children welcome) (a) A fancy bread (use your imagination!) (b) Gypsy Tart or Custard Tart (c) Victoria Sponge, (d) Vegetarian Quiche, (e) Home made Jam, (f) Home made wine and (g) Home made liqueur (Shirley Tapsell (822638). Produce -

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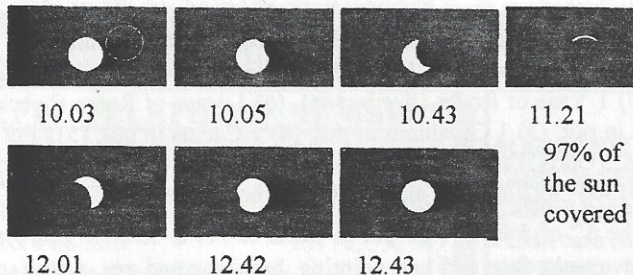
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then moved onto Alkham where he met Di and Kevin Smith from Sladden Farm. The programme was obviously recorded in the field just outside the village, because Jenny, one of Di's prize Dexters, was mooing in the background. Di said that their herd of Dexters was the smallest breed in the country and for that reason produced succulent beef. It was at about this point that Jenny pushed her in the back. Di went on to say that they had started keeping cattle as a hobby when they realised that they could not have a family. The reporter then moved onto the white cliffs where the Dexters are kept as lawnmowers. The Dexters are ideal because they are small and don't frighten the public (well most) but a lady in Capel had complained because she had found one standing on her lawn. The cows grazing on the land above the cliffs help to promote the growth of wild flowers and grasses, which in turn attract butterflies, making it a very environmentally friendly combination. It was an enjoyable half-hour and worth catching if you can. (editor)



SEKAS have kindly provided details of the eclipse on August the 11th as viewed from Kent. All times are approximate and are BST. Safe eclipse goggles (from the supplier to NASA) with an 8 page booklet of photographs, descriptions, maps, sky chart, details of how to photograph, and eclipse tours only £2 (post free) from Alan Woodgett, Windy Brae, Ewell Minnis, Dover CT15 7EA - phone 01304 822538

(South East Kent Astronomical Society)

CHALKSOLE GREEN FARMHOUSE - the replacement house and outbuildings at Chalksole Green Farm are nearly complete. The timber outbuildings look superb and the house has obviously been constructed to a high standard. At present they are constructing an adjacent aircraft hangar - perhaps every house should have one. (editor)

COUNTRY NOTES - although it started to flower in March, the dandelion still dots the meadows and byways. The dandelion got its name from the shape of the leaves that are deeply indented like the teeth of a lion and so the French named the plant 'dent de lion'. The milky juice of the dandelion has laxative properties and the young leaves can be eaten in salads. The juice of the Russian version forms industrially usable latex, which was relied upon in World War II. In the Middle Ages it was combined with burdock and fermented to make a mildly alcoholic drink and given to the peasants as safe drinking water was in short supply. Cow parsnip is also still in bloom. Otherwise known as hogweed it used to be gathered for pig fodder and although it is a bit late, the young shoots are very pleasant to eat and taste a bit like asparagus. The beaked hawkweed, which until early June had spread a straggly yellow colour over the fields, has now, developed a head of fine white hair, which has grown above the seed to help spread them in the wind. On the banks there are the appropriately named white bladder champions, which some Scots believed to be an aphrodisiac for cows. The ethereal poppies come and go adding a spot of red and the field rose and dog rose brighten up a dull hedgerow. Other wild flowers are dotted here and there such as the pretty blue speedwell, the pinkish/violet common vetch and the yellow common bird's foot trefoil. The latter is called bacon and eggs, which is not edible unlike ground elder, which can be recognised by its leaves, which are similar to the elder shrub. The leaves are very nice to eat and should be cooked as spinach and served with butter. If it doesn't turn out as expected the best solution might be to boil up some dandelion leaves. (Ben Mistiwart)



GARDEN TALK

- we spent a most enjoyable evening at the 'Willows' wandering around the garden, not only admiring and discussing various plants and shrubs but also delighting in the parade of ducklings escorting us. Rosemary and John had prepared a most interesting topic on herbs, which tested and taught us. Thank you Helen, Rosemary and John. We have been invited to Angie Snape's garden at Hockley Sole on Wednesday the 30th of June at 7.30 pm and our next meeting will be at Chalkdown Cottage on July the 7th when John and Devina will be our hosts and Lucy will be introducing the topic.

(Susannah Tapsell 01304 822295)

RAFFLE WINNERS

- Village Hall fund raising Whisky Raffle was won by Jenny, the Art Class tutor, with Tricia Wright second and Tom of Glebelands third. In the general raffle, in order, the winners were: Cath Goldfinch, Sue Lees, Susannah Tapsell, Iris Bowshell, Barbara Palmer, Doreen Lott, Tricia Wright, Rosemary Polden, Mrs D Polden, Liam Milroy, Iris Bowshell, Barbara Palmer, Betty Neely, Liam Milroy, Kirsty Tapsell, Sue Lees, Rosemary Crothall and Kirsty Tapsell.

RADIO 4 - On Sunday the 13th and Thursday the 17th of June, the programme 'Open Country' was broadcast on Radio 4. It features a roving reporter who travels around the country and in this episode he was in Kent. He called at Aylesham and

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W.I. NEWS - Our walk in May was a local one as we made our way up through the fields following the Priest's Walk, very bravely shooing the cows out of our way, as the sun shone down on us, on and up through the woods. One and a half-hours later a not so bedraggled group, leisurely descended Meggets Lane and onto the barn for refreshments. Thank you Rosemary, those monthly walks are an excellent idea. If anyone would like to join us, please do. We meet in the village car park at 10.30 am every third Wednesday in the month. You do not have to be a W.I. member, or for that matter, a female. I understand that the outing to Chartham was extremely nice; all went well, a very interesting afternoon. A mid term change in our committee, Devina stood down as she finds motherhood a little more demanding than anticipated. So we have Susan back again, which is great. It is the fete on the 10th, so please, all who can help - we need you. Also cakes, buns, sandwiches etc. for sale in the refreshment tent, books for Susan, cakes and jewellery for Barbara, nearly new and needlework for Margaret and Doreen, bric a brac for Irene and Dennis, plants and produce for Betty. I know it's the same each year, the effort is worth it seeing all those happy faces on our village

green. Please help and give all you can. Next meeting 13th of July, Paramedics in Kent: competitions potato flan and four tomatoes. Groombridge on 15th July, now leave at 10.30 am. There are still a few seats left, so come on chaps. Coffee morning 31st July at Mount Ararat in aid of church funds. (Tricia Wright)

DOT HAMMOND AND VAL BUGDEN'S Confirmation at Canterbury Cathedral on

Thursday the 17th of June. I would like to say a special thanks to our wonderful vicar Gill Calver and also to Lynn Chapman, Beattie Jeapes, Betty Preston, Betty Neely, Sue Lees and our lovely Olive Harvey. Also a very special thanks to Val for her help and support to me throughout the service and last but not least our good friend and neighbour, Brian Wimsett for all the help and support he has given to my husband Ken and myself in everything we have done since we came to this lovely old village. God bless you all. (Dorothy Hammond)

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S - congratulations to Val Bugden and Dot Hammond who were confirmed in Canterbury Cathedral on the 17th of June. It was a splendid occasion and those of us there were especially impressed by their composure, as being from a village beginning with 'A' they were the first candidates to mount the steps to the altar! Services this month are as usual. Many members of our village haven't seen our new church at Capel yet. Why not join us for a joint act of worship there on July the 25th. And finally - don't forget there is another opportunity to visit our old church of St. Mary's on the last Sunday in August which will also be the day we have our Benefice walk this year. (Gill Calver)

A CONFIRMATION PRAYER

Eternal God
you have declared in Christ
the completion of your purpose of love
May we live by faith
walk in hope
and be renewed in love
until the whole world reflects your glory
and you are all in all.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - We have had what skipper Nick Price calls 'a slow start' to the season but it has been the weather that has beaten us this month with rain causing two games to be cancelled. Heavy rain on the morning of the 6th June made the home game against Betteshanger look very doubtful but bright sun in the afternoon came to our rescue. We were put into bat and started well with Ian Callaway and Nick Price looking good, however our lower order batsman still believe they are not allowed to score runs and we were dismissed for 88. Betteshanger polished off the runs for the loss of one wicket. At home to Dymchurch on the 20th on a beautiful sunny day we put our opponents in and, although runs came quickly, our bowlers stuck to the task and got them out for 185 with Nick Price taking five wickets. Our batsman also performed well with Mark Johnson hitting a brilliant 48. Towards the end Dymchurch began to break through but we held out for a draw finishing with 128 for 9. Youngsters, Sam and Gavin played well above their years in contributing to the result. We also wish a speedy recovery to Barbara Palmer who, despite a nasty fall in her garden last week, still managed to prepare the tea. We have also attracted some young cricket enthusiasts to practice sessions on Wednesday evenings at 6.30 and there is talk of starting a junior team, any youngsters (6 to 15 yrs) interested in playing please come along, girls are welcome. (Dennis Barnard)

A POEM FOR THE FETE by Margaret Ashman

Alkham fete is coming
Like Christmas once a year,
And if you could lend a helping hand
That really would bring good cheer.

The men help out with the awnings
And heavy work that demands a beer,
Ladies help in nimble ways
Appreciated throughout the year.

So please help the fete
Make teas or buns?
Knowing what you're doing
Would really boost their funds.

To be one of 'Alkham's Little Helpers'
You don't have to run a stall,
Just help out where 'ere' you can
And a good times had by all.

Both the Parish and the Church alike
Are always short of money,
Many hands do make light work
You could even make some honey.

Then at the end of the fete
Everything all packed away,
You can rest as you sleep
Knowing you did your bit for the day.

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH from 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
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 (VH= village hall)

Saturday	3	Ploughman's Lunch in aid of village hall 11.30 am to 1.30 pm in VH
Saturday	3	Bingo at 7.30 pm in village hall - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Sunday	4	Cricket v Coldred 2.30 pm on VG
Monday	5	Parish Council meeting 7.30 pm VH
Wednesday	7	Garden Talk Chalkdown Cottage 7.30pm
Saturday	10	FETE Vicarage Meadow 2.00 pm
Tuesday	13	W.I. in Village Hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	15	D & D canine society VH 7.30 pm
Saturday	17	SEK Astronomical Society VH evening
Sunday	18	Cricket v Walmer 2.30 pm on VG
Monday	19	Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in village hall - phone David Tapsell on 822282
Saturday	24	Sponsored swim see page 1
Sunday	25	Cricket v Burmarsh 2.30 pm on VG
Monday	26	Village Hall committee 7.30 pm in VH

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
July 4 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
July 11 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
July 18 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
July 25 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist at Capel 10.00 am		

DEEPEST SYMPATHY goes to Margaret and Ray Ashman on the death of Margaret's mother, Lily Goggins.

A SOUND ARCHIVE has been made by the Imperial War Museum with Gordon Preston talking about what he did in World War II. It's very interesting and if you want to borrow it please phone Betty on 822421. (editor)

COFFEE MORNING - Betty Neely is holding a coffee morning at Mount Ararat on the 31st of July from 10.30 am in aid of the church and village hall funds. (editor)

YOUNG CRICKETERS or youngsters- see page 3.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P.	0171 2193704
County Councillor, Bryan Cope	207976
and work number	01795532547
District Councillor, Fred Scales	201382
and Trevor Bamfield	202334
Alkham Valley Society secretary	
Pamela Sayers	822397
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett	824969
E mail brian@bwimsett.freeseve.co.uk	
Fish & chip man	01304 826463 & 0468316610
Parish Council Secretary, Sue Lees	822661
Police - Community Support Team	218151
Vicar, Gill Calver	01303 244119
Church Warden, Richard Tapsell	822295
Church Warden, Betty Preston	822421
Village Hall booking, Sue Lees	822661
Email susan@susanlees.freeseve.co.uk	
Women's Institute, Betty Neely	822688

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FLAIR cane and pine furniture, 36 Guildhall St. Folkestone, 01303 258744
GREENHILL LIVERY YARD, Meggett Lane, South Alkham, DIY & grass liveries, 01303 892050
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DAY OUT WITH THE W.I.

- One Friday in May a coach load of W.I. ladies left Alkham on route for Chartham Church. Here, the ladies of the PCC gave us an excellent lunch of cold chicken and ham, salad and new potatoes, followed by apple crumble and cream. Throughout the meal the church organist played a varied selection of music. After lunch the ladies were given a guided tour round the church. After this we were off to the local garden centre for a brief visit. As a result of this, the coach's luggage space was filled with plants and so home to Alkham after a very happy day - with thanks to Cherry Leppard who made all the arrangements. (Betty Neely)



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BAD BOY MADE GOOD are Sylvie Scott's words, to describe her grandson Jamie (Baber), who used to live in Glebelands. He once worked in the Marquis of Granby as a cook and was locally known as 'hooligan'. He joined the army and up to the middle of June was serving in Macedonia but has now moved into Kosovo. Pleased to hear he has got on well. (editor)

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Produced by Brian Wimssett
The Old Post Office, Slip Lane
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No. 72 August 1999

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THE VILLAGE FETE was a great success and I would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way. Tent erectors, stallholders, car park attendants, competition organisers and judges, raffle ticket sellers and "clear up"ers to name but a few; there are too many people to thank everyone individually but you know who you are! In addition I must thank those organisations and companies from within and beyond the village who support us each year and help make the Fete special. The weather helped of course but many people commented on the wonderful atmosphere and on how much they enjoyed the traditional village fete "feel" of the event, which to my mind is one of our biggest attractions. Full accounts will be provided in due course but, in round figures we took £3,700, and our expenses amounted to £1,200 so we raised £2,500 on the day - far and away our best results so far! Finally, would all committee members note that we will be having an extraordinary general meeting at 8 pm on the 9th August in the Village Hall to discuss the proposed purchase of the tents and marquees; it is important that everyone who has a view on the subject should have their say so please make sure you come along. (Paul Tapsell)

ALKHAM YOUTH CLUB - it is my intention to start up the Youth Club again. It will be held once a month, on the fourth Monday of the month, with the first meeting in the Village Hall on the 27th of September, from 7pm to 9pm. There will be a charge of 50p to help cover the cost of the hall. The Youth Club will be for ages 10 to 16. Any older teenagers are welcome to come along as leaders. I understand that the demise of the Youth Club was the lack of leaders. If anyone is able to help, then I would be pleased to hear from him or her. (Sue Garlinge - 824201)

MILLENNIUM VILLAGE PHOTOGRAPH - on Sunday the 12th of September at mid-day it is proposed that a photograph of all the people in the village assembled on the village green will be taken. Twelve photographs will be taken and then displayed in the village hall for people to select the one they like. The cost of a photograph, measuring 10 inches by 8 inches will be £6.00 with 80p going to the Village Hall Appeal. If you would like to take part, please ring Stephen Comfort on 822619 and also let him know if you would buy a photograph. If it is raining an alternative date will be arranged.

A CHARITY BARBECUE in aid of the Masonic Trust for boys and girls, will be held at Hillview, Short Lane, on the 7th of August from 3.00 pm to 7.00 pm. The meal, which includes a real family barbecue with salad and a drink, costs £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children. There will be a plant, cake and bring and buy stalls plus golf games and many other side-shows. A special attraction will be a Scuba Diving Induction Course costing only £2.00 taking place between 3.00 and 6.00 pm. Equipment will be provided free of charge and qualified instructors and safety attendants will be present. Participants must be at least 10 years old, so don't forget to bring your swimming costume. (George Tyler)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY ANNUAL OUTING. Ahoy there: This year on Saturday, September 4th, we plan to go to The Historic Dockyard at Chatham, which has been designated as a World Heritage Naval Base. The coach will leave Alkham Village Car Park at 10 a.m., and return to Alkham about 6.30 p.m. It is hoped to welcome as many members with their friends as possible, and the cost of entry to The Dockyard including the coach is: Adults £12; Senior Citizens and Students £10.50; Children (aged 5 to 16) £9.50. This does not include the cost of food. Food is, of course, available in the fully licensed Wheelwrights Restaurant and details regarding this will be sent to members later, or you may prefer a picnic or a bar snack. Please make a note of the date. Book now if you wish. (Pamela Sayers - 822397)

A HORSE SHOW is being held at Greenhill Farm, Meggett Lane on Bank Holiday Monday, 30th of August from 9.00 am onwards. It is their annual Open Show and there will be classes for all show jumping in a sand arena plus showing, in hand and ridden classes. There will be refreshments and a cake stall. For a schedule please ring Wendy Burrows on 01303 892056

A BOOT FAIR is to be held on Sunday the 22nd of August on the land next to the village green. It is being organised by the Village Hall Fund Raising Committee to help pay for the new extension and pre paid pitches cost £5.00 or £7.00 on the day. To book please phone 01304 822451 or 824876.

APOLOGIES to the Polden and Lott families. Last month I said that the Village Hall fund raising committee had raised £157.65 from a coffee morning at the Willows. This should of course have said 4 Valley Cottages. (editor)

THE FORSTAL - because a lot of vehicles mistake the Forstal for Slip Lane, the Parish Council are going to ask DDC to erect a street name plate on the Forstal. They will also ask DDC if they would erect a sign pointing to the church.

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ALKHAM IS IN VENUS -The Strange Cargo Arts Company, which is a registered charity and consists of some 15 local artists, has been commissioned by DDC to implement the Millennium Clocks and The Carnival of the Planets for the Millennium celebrations. The Strange Cargo Arts Company get local schools, organisations or the local community to get together to make costumes or displays to celebrate an event. In this case it is the Millennium. On New Year's Eve lanterns, produced in local workshops, will be lit by the Bethlehem Peace Light and carried to the sea front at Dover where the Second Millennium Clock will be burnt. On New Year's Day the Carnival of the Planets forms up. Ten sections, each representing one of the planets of the solar system and the Sun, will combine sculptural costume, music and dance and create a vibrant procession through Dover to the seafront. Its arrival at the finale site triggers the animation of the 3rd Millennium, in a blaze of sound, movement, light and fireworks. Each section will be created with communities from towns and villages across the whole Dover District working alongside Carnival artists from Strange Cargo Arts Company. All material and artist time will be provided free to participating communities. Alkham is in Venus and more information will be given later in the Newsletter but if you would like further information you can phone 01303 244533 or they are in the shop opposite the rock shop at the top of Old Folkestone High Street. A booklet has been prepared for the Carnival of the Planets and if you would like to see it please contact Susan Lees on 822661 or me on 824969. (editor)

MILLENNIUM - Tricia Wright addressed the Parish Council on the 5th of July and mentioned the village sign. The committee had met a woodcarver, Georgia Wright, who showed them a picture of the new sign, which is to be a badger with the word 'Alkham' below. It looked very impressive and would cost about £2500 of which about £1200 is for the English Oak out of which it will be carved. The Parish Council is going to consider the request for a generous donation. (editor)

MARQUEES - The Dover Marquee Company is to stop using canvas tents and therefore they are up for sale. Paul Tapsell, on behalf of the Fete Committee, said that an offer made by them of £1500 had been accepted. This represented extremely good value as it costs about £600 to hire them each year. The method of payment has yet to be agreed. (editor)

GARDEN TALK - On June the 30th we spent a delightful evening strolling round the beautiful gardens of Hockley Sole. Thank you, Nigel and Angie for your hospitality. The following week we thoroughly enjoyed exploring John and Devina's exciting and most interesting garden. Lucy really captured our attention with details of how to set up a wormery! Thank you all. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday August the 4th at 'The Vicarage' when Ian and Lucy will be our hosts and I will be introducing the topic. Thank you to everyone who brought such wonderful and varied plants for the plant stall at the fete and if the gentleman who brought along those magnificent cacti could let me know what they are called and how to care for the one I bought, I would be most grateful. (Susannah Tapsell - 822295)

VICARAGE MEADOW - in the June edition of the Newsletter, mention was made of the money held by the Parish Council for the purchase of Vicarage Meadow. It was felt that the Church Diocese would never agree to its sale and that the money would be taken from us. The Newsletter asked that you write to the Parish Council if you thought that the money should be spent on traffic calming or something else in the village. There was a very disappointing response with only three people responding. One was for the traffic calming, one against and one thought it should be spent on something else. In the mean time the Church Diocese have once again been contacted and this time they have agreed to meet the Parish Council, probably at the beginning of August with regard to the sale of Vicarage Meadow. It was unanimously agreed that the vicar, Gill Calver, should be involved in the discussions. So it looks as though we might eventually buy the village green. (editor)

COUNTRY NOTES - The other evening, walking home in the dusk from choir practice and still humming the last few bars of music, we heard an owl hooting in the trees in Kearsney Abbey. It reminded us that, twenty years ago, the owl was a familiar sound at night, as magical and as reassuring as the sound of the waterfall across the road. Since then, the combination of the Great Hurricane and the council's safety policies have ensured that the most precarious trees have been removed, and the owls and bats that lived in them are not now around in the same number. It also reminded us of Gilbert White, author of *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*, and his preoccupation with the sound of the owl. On the 4th of December 1770 he wrote in his journal "Most owls seem to hoot exactly in B flat according to several pitch-pipes used in tuning of harpsichords, and as strictly at concert pitch." John Julius Norwich, in *Christmas Crackers* (Penguin 1980), published this quotation and added the following from Professor Howard Evans of Fort Collins, Colorado: "Even the simple wing sounds of midges and mosquitoes play a role in bringing the sexes together. In this case it is the female that attracts the male by the hum of her wings, a fact quickly apparent to singers who hit a G in the vicinity of a swarm and end up with a mouthful of male mosquitoes." Which is perhaps as good a reason as any for limiting oneself to no more than humming when walking home from choir practice. (Steve Osborn)

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W.I. NEWS - As the July meeting started 10 minutes before I arrived, please accept my apologies for anything not reported, which you learn about from some other source. Our monthly trek in June was quite exhausting. We drove to Barham village, weather perfect for walking but prior to setting off Rosemary removed her shoes and donned her wellies. So it was with some trepidation that we fell into line and followed her up Greenhill. Four and half miles later we walked back down Greenhill more than a little jaded, by eck - almost a quarter of a marathon; not bad eh! Our lunch was excellent, melting toasties, delicious, can't remember the pubs name though. What a pity. Betty Neely and Hazel were there to greet us, so lots of laughter, a very happy outing. Steve Gingham, a paramedic who lives just down the road in Temple Ewell, gave us an excellent talk on the various types of call-outs and duties of paramedics in Kent and it is most reassuring to learn that they are reassessed every year. He concluded by inviting us to visit Folkestone station for a hands on experience. Wow! What a super place Groombridge is. We had 4 ½ hours there, which flew by. There was so much to see and do. High jinks on the swings, cruise down or up the canal, those huge spider's webs and those fish. I have not seen any trout as big, not even in Tesco's or on a fishmonger's slab. It was an absolutely super day; our most grateful thanks to Cherry, our indomitable organiser - the best. There is a group meeting at River but don't know when, details given before I arrived. Temple Ewell are busy this month with a treasure hunt on August the 3rd from 10-2pm and then on August the 11th they are having a garden party, which should be fun. Next meeting: August 10th, Member's Night, so no speaker. Competition: jar of strawberry jam, bowl of soft fruits. August 14th: Coffee morning at Rosemary's. Didn't we have a super fete. I thoroughly enjoyed my new job, cajoling cash for a chance to win a large bottle of Bell's. It was

only my fifth fete but the first for me to actually walk round and look at the various stalls and activities. (Tricia Wright)

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S - Thanks to Beattie Jeapes for the beautiful votive candle stand given to our church in memory of her husband and daughter ... and thanks to Cal Scopes for so cleverly designing and making it. Do come and view it or light a candle there to mark a special prayer request or anniversary. It stands by the font in the south aisle. On the last Sunday this month we shall be following our morning service at the old St. Mary's church with our Benefice walk, this year stopping at 'the Marquis' to eat our picnic or buy a little refreshment! Thanks to Val Bugden for allowing us to do that. We shall move to The Old School at Hougham for 'tea and scones', returning to St. Mary's to pick up the cars. Join us for some, or all of the day. Four footed friends are welcome. This is an event for all of our village members to share. (Gill Calver)

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB Cricket is a game where eleven athletes engage in sporting battle with like-minded opposition, winning is not important it's the way you play the game and just taking part is all the reward players need. You've guessed it - we lost again. On 27th June away to Westbourne we fielded first but after about ten minutes the rain started and the game had to be abandoned. I felt we could have won that one! At home to Coldred the following week, we batted well and were all out for 90 with Paul Simpson and Matt Gerrard hitting 20 and 26 respectively. Early wickets put us in a commanding position but Coldred won after they put on an excellent stand for the sixth wicket which included Neil Bianchi, an Alkham resident who plays for Coldred (there should be a law against this). There was no game on 11th July so the team had a golf day and proved that we're no good at that either. At home to Walmer on the 18th July let's just say that they got a lot of runs and we didn't. Undaunted and still with an excellent team spirit the team challenged the children of the village to a tug o'war at the village fete. We came second. (Dennis Barnard)

A prayer for a journey from Columba (521-97)

Alone with none but thee, O God
I journey on my way.
What need I fear, when thou art near
O King of Night and Day?
More safe am I within thy hand
Than if a host did round me stand.

John Garlinge

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TREES - Some money was donated and pledged by parishioners to plant trees on the verge opposite the Marquis of Granby. This tree planting is not taking place because the highway authority will not permit it. There was a general consensus at the Parish Council meeting that the money should be spent on tree planting for the Millennium. Four sites were suggested and these are - 1) By Pimlico Way at the top of the rise overlooking South Alkham. 2) The bank on the field opposite Valley Cottages. 3) By the side of the football pitch on the Vicarage Meadow fronting Hillview. 4) Where the beech tree was felled by Vicarage Meadow, adjoining the Old Vicarage. You can of course suggest another site.

IF YOU HAVE AN OPINION ABOUT WHERE TO PLANT THE TREES PLEASE FILL IN THE SLIP BELOW AND RETURN IT TO SUE LEES AT FORSTALL COTTAGE, ALKHAM, DOVER CT15 7DE. FURTHER MONEY IS ALSO REQUIRED, SO IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION PLEASE SEND IT TO SUE LEES.

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH from 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
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 (VH= village hall)

Sunday	1	Cricket v Tilmanstone 2.30 pm on VG
Wednesday	4	Garden Talk The Vicarage 7.30pm
Saturday	7	Charity Barbecue at Hillview 3 to 7 pm
Saturday	7	Bingo at 7.30 pm in village hall - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Monday	9	Extraordinary meeting Village Hall committee 8pm
Tuesday	10	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Sunday	15	Cricket v Bossingham 2.30 pm on VG
Monday	16	Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in village hall - phone David Tapsell on 822282
Thursday	19	D & D canine society VH 7.30 pm
Sunday	22	Cricket v George Brown XI 2.30 pm VG
Sunday	22	Boot Fair - see page 1
Sunday	29	Cricket v Harrington Hackers 12pm VG

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
August 1 st	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
August 8 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
August 15 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
August 22 nd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist at Hougham 10.00 am		
August 29 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist at St. Mary's 10.00 am **		

** Our Parish walk day - see page 3

THANKS - I was going to list all the people who do good jobs around the village and keep it safe and tidy but there were so many that space doesn't permit. There are also other people who would have been omitted in error, so on behalf of numerous villagers, thank you to all the men and women who have given up their time to keep the village in such good order. (editor)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P.	0171 2193704
County Councillor, Bryan Cope and work number	207976 01795532547
District Councillor, Fred Scales and Trevor Bamfield	201382 202334
Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers	822397
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett	824969
E mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk	
Fish & chip man	01304 826463 & 0468316610
Parish Council Secretary, Sue Lees	822661
Police - Community Support Team	218151
Vicar, Gill Calver	01303 244119
Church Warden, Richard Tapsell	822295
Church Warden, Betty Preston	822421
Village Hall booking, Sue Lees	822661
Email susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	
Women's Institute, Betty Neely	822688

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FLAIR cane and pine furniture, 36 Guildhall St. Folkestone, 01303 258744
GREENHILL LIVERY YARD, Meggett Lane, South Alkham, DIY & grass liverys, 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 Billowler, phone 826375
E R WOODRUFF, building maintenance, carpentry, decorating, Swanbourne, Wolverton, 824969

BOLLARDS - in the new highway set-up at Dover District Council, no record could be found regarding the ordering of the half height bollards by KCC, as had been previously reported. However a site meeting was held with Mr. Blackburn from DDC and he has agreed to supply them at hopefully no cost to the Parish Council. (editor)

ADVANCE NOTICE - this year's Harvest Supper will be held in the Village Hall on Monday the 13th of September. The number of tickets is limited to 75 and the cost will be £4.00. Please contact Betty Neely on 01304 822688 to reserve a seat.

BRIGHT SPARK - Congratulations to Jonathan Price of Meggett Farm, Alkham on winning Electrical Apprentice of the Year. This was a nation-wide competition held by the Building Services sponsored by MK. Jonathan is employed by his father's company, Simon Price & Co., Electrical Contractors of Meggett Farm and is attending South Kent College.

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ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Produced by Brian Winsett
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No. 73 September 1999

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THE NEWSLETTER financial year begins again this month. As you can see the advertising display has changed with 6 larger adverts and a list of businesses and services on the back page. One reason for doing this is that I could not face another year of copying and pasting 18 small boxes each month, which sometimes got a mind of their own and disappeared into the nether parts of the computer. A number of the firms who advertise only do so to support the Newsletter and I am very grateful to them for agreeing to the new format. The revenue per month from all the adverts and listings amounts to £36 and this just covers the production cost, with the 1240 photostats costing £29.14 and ink, petrol and postage to persons outside the village

being about £6. For those people who don't know the background to the Newsletter, Tony Ingall, who lived in Woodstock, started it in September 1993 after he won a computer from a national newspaper with his suggestion of printing a newsletter. I took over in June 1997 when Tony and his wife left for the west country. The Newsletter is not a Parish Council publication but it does have its approval and support and therefore any views expressed are those of the writer credited at the end of each article. I am always grateful to receive articles for publication, which can be e mailed or put through my letterbox. (editor)

HARVEST FESTIVAL and Harvest Supper. This year the church is going to be decorated for the Harvest Festival with various produce, which will later be taken down to the village hall and auctioned at the Harvest Supper, with the money going to charity. The produce is donated, so anybody who would like give something, like a basket of fruit, a bottle of wine or anything else, please bring it to St. Anthony's church on Saturday the 11th of September after 10.00 am. At 2.00 pm volunteers are needed to decorate the church and then on the Sunday at 6.00 pm to take the produce down to the village hall. If you are able to help, please come along. The Harvest Festival service is at 9.30am on Sunday the 12th of September. (editor)

QUIZ NIGHT - the village hall fund-raising committee have arranged a quiz night on the 18th of September at 8.00 pm. The questions will be set and asked by Mike Stevens of Thanet Local Radio. There will be a platter of food on each table but you should bring your own drink. The cost is £3 per person and to book your table please ring Doreen Lott on 824876.

ALKHAM YOUTH CLUB - all is set for the first evening of our newly formed Alkham Youth Club on Monday the 27th of September at 7 pm. I shall be pleased to see as many of our local youngsters as possible and hear their views on what they want from the Youth Club. There are four leaders; myself, Mike Chalkley, Ken Hammond and Dennis Barnard, so I am hoping that we will be able to form a really successful and long lasting group. So to all you potential members, I look forward to seeing you on the 27th of September. (Sue Garlinge)

ROCKING HORSE - I hesitate to say it but it looks as though the saga of the rocking horse may be over. The safety matting, which appears as though it might have been quite at home at Becher's Brook, is now in place. The matting is about 6.5m by 4m wide and is pretty impressive. Maybe more next month about the ongoing finances. (editor)

JUMBLE SALE in aid of church funds will be held in the village hall on the 18th September, at 11 am. Jumble to be donated should be brought down after 10 am on the day.

ACCIDENT - you may have noticed that one of the wooden bollards by Newlyns Meadow is partially out of the ground. On Wednesday the 18th of August, Iris Bowshell who lives in Newlyns Meadow was indicating right and pulling over to the centre of the road to turn into Newlyns Meadow. I understand that a car came round the bend behind, swerved to the right of her and collided with the front wing before ploughing into a wooden bollard, which was uprooted. The car subsequently drove off between two other bollards with an open door colliding with one of them. The police have managed to trace the driver and are currently looking into the matter. Bert Wall, who lives opposite, thinks a good traffic-calming scheme would be to put a roundabout at Newlyns Meadow. This would certainly slow traffic down and make turning movements safer, but whether the volume of traffic would be sufficient to convince KCC to put one in is debatable. Perhaps, if the money that is held by the Parish Council for the purchase of Vicarage Meadow is not needed, it could be used to part fund such a scheme, assuming parishioners thought it a worthwhile idea? (editor)

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HGV's – Bryan Cope was at the Parish Council meeting on the 5th of July and mention was made of heavy lorries that use the Alkham Valley Road. As you may remember, one of the Conservative Council's Five-Year Goals was to reduce the number of HGV's on rural roads. Bryan Cope said that it may be possible to do something about lorries accessing the Transfer Station at Hawkinge but it would be very difficult to do anything about the other lorries. There is no doubt that tipper lorries and ready mix concrete lorries, particularly Pioneer, plus a multitude of other HGV's and medium/light commercials use the Alkham Valley Road to access the Whitfield bypass, so it looks as though their ambitious targets will not be met. (editor)

BREAKING GLASS – if you went up Slip Lane in the first week in August you may have seen a boarded up front door. It was very disappointing to find that this damage had been caused by some of the children in the village. What started out as a silly idea of knocking on people's doors and running away, degenerated into the throwing of stones with the obvious and inevitable consequence that a glass door shattered. This was a very unpleasant experience for the householders. The police were informed but I understand that the prime culprit was identified and the parents were spoken to with the result that an apology was given. (editor)

COFFEE MORNING – despite forgetting to put it in last month's Newsletter, the coffee morning in aid of W.I. funds at Brook House, raised over £100. Many thanks from the W.I. to Rosemary and John Crothall for organising it.

ALKHAM – the following was published in 'Highways & Byways in Kent' by Walter Jerrod in 1907 and was kindly sent to me by Joan Harcourt who lives in Common Hill House, Alkham.

The descent into Alkham (from Lydden) is by a beautiful, steep, partly grassy and over shaded lane, and arrival in the village reminds one of arrival in a small Swiss hamlet. Indeed, if Alkham were not so near to home it would surely attract many visitors. It is a small place, the houses scattered about the hillside in a little happy valley with lovely country meadows, woodlands and lanes on every side, with some of the cottages so perched upon the hillside that the gardens are laid out terrace wise. For those who like a quiet country village, Alkham will be found one of the most fascinating that our county, despite its richness in such, can offer; it needs no old association, no traditions, is beauty all sufficient and is such as to draw us again and again, to live in our memory as a haunt of ancient peace. *Changed times!* (Joan Harcourt)

GARDEN TALK - our August gathering was held at the Vicarage where we enjoyed wandering around the garden and our usual 'garden talk' but also many of us reminisced about fetes, garden parties, floods and confirmation lessons held there in the past. We also enjoyed a surprise item - water divining - after a five-minute lesson from Ian, to our great amazement, some of us were demonstrating the art with a clarity which defied belief. Thank you Ian and Lucy. Our next meeting is on Thursday the 2nd of September at 7.30 pm at Brook House when John and Rosemary will be our hosts. (Susannah Tapsell)

LAST MONTH'S CRICKET REPORT - to Alkham's own Ritchie Benaud (Den Bernard). I would like to thank him for recognising great talent when he sees it. The game was Coldred's first win of the season. The great sixth wicket stand, total runs needed were twenty-six of which I scored six. Your comments gave my family a good laugh. As a parent I would like to thank Den for all his hard work and help with the youth of the village-playing cricket on the green every Wednesday evening. The youth of the village benefit from Den's experience and training. This has proven dividends for Coldred as James, my son and Nick Rodgers have both taken wickets for us this season. Thanks Den, for all your efforts. My wife and I assume other parents of the village appreciate all your effort and hard work. (Neil Bianchi)

COUNTRY NOTES - Over 300 years ago the great John Milton, in Book 1 of *Paradise Lost*, wrote:

"the sun... from behind the moon
In dim eclipse disastrous twilight sheds
On half the nations, and with fear of change
Perplexes monarchs."

With all the media build-up to our own Great Eclipse on 11th August, I don't think that too many people found it 'disastrous' in the Miltonic sense of 'ill-starred' or 'ominous' and I hope that our monarch was not too perplexed. In the backyard the most impressive feature of the eclipse was the change in temperature, from 20°C to 8°C (i.e. a fall of some 22°F) in under 30 minutes.

Our neighbour was dead-heading geraniums at the time and she noticed that the ends of her fingers had turned blue, just as they do in the winter. The seagulls were fooled; every evening at dusk they come over in formation, like the Dambusters, on the way home to wherever they sleep at night; and so they did, at 10.40 am on the morning of the eclipse. When our moment of 95% eclipse finally came, it was accompanied by a fairly heavy cloud cover, and we took deliciously wicked glimpses that would almost certainly not receive governmental approval. The sun looked for all the world like a harvest moon, not so much a sun as a 'sun-burn'd sickle'. It's a timely symbol as the harvest is now well under way after this wonderful summer; as we drove along the Alkham Valley the next day we saw mile on mile of golden fields with the occasional blush of red from the poppies. As for the events of 11th August, surely the last word should be with Dennis O'Kelly, the Irish racehorse owner, speaking at Epsom on 3rd May 1769:

"Eclipse first, the rest nowhere." (Steve Osborn)

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W.I. NEWS - by tradition the W.I. committee sits back in August and lets the volunteers organise the meeting. This year the meeting proved not only to be entertaining but informative. Susannah Tapsell decided, and rightly so, to take the opportunity to enlighten members about urinary medical problems. We will certainly benefit by this knowledge. Sue Garlinge complemented the talk with two lighthearted quizzes. Thank you girls. September meeting is a talk by Liz Cork on a donkey sanctuary. Competition, peg bag and 6 runner beans. (Sue Lees)

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S

Well done everyone who supported Betty Neely and her coffee morning at the end of July. Congratulations Betty on raising £200 to be divided between village and church. We look forward to our Harvest Supper this month on September 13th. Don't forget that this event is preceded by a celebratory service in the church at 9.30 am on Sunday 12th September. I know that plans are afoot to decorate the church. Wouldn't it be good for us to congregate as a whole village (rather than just a handful of people) to give thanks for all that we have to eat and drink, compared with some of our fellow men and women elsewhere in the world. It is some of those who will benefit from our harvest supper auction and ticket proceeds. We welcomed young Isabel Bartlett into our church family at her Baptism last month and it was good to have such a full church. If anyone is interested in taking part in the Kent Churches Sponsored Bike Ride or walk (on Saturday September 11th), have a word with your wardens who hold the sponsor forms. The ride (or walk if you like) gives participants opportunity to visit as many churches as they can in the course of the day and their sponsor money (collected from friends and acquaintances) is split between their own church and the upkeep of others in the county. Alkham could certainly do with funds towards our renovations. Offers of help with manning our church on September 11th, to enable visitors to have a drink and a look round, would be most welcome. Please contact our wardens if you wouldn't mind "church sitting" for an hour. And finally some of you will know that our churches of Alkham, Capel and Hougham are starting out on a new chapter of life this month. We now have a full time parish priest as I have relinquished my Dover College responsibilities to concentrate on developments in the parishes. It does of course mean that our 3 churches will now have to raise enough funds to support the whole of my ministry. But it also means more things will go on in the parishes. We're starting a new programme of midweek services this autumn. I do hope some of you will be able to join us. If not, you might want us to remember some special need in our prayers and our Capel carpentry and woodcarving team (Colin and Vad Blake) are making us a prayer request board, to go next to the candle stand at Capel, which people already use for their own petitions as they light a candle. We do, of course, have our own similar candle stand in St. Anthony's. Here is the midweek pattern of services we're trying out

Monday to Friday	8.30 am Morning prayer St Radigund's, Capel.
Wednesday	5.30 pm Evening Prayer St Laurence's, Hougham
Thursday	9.15 am Eucharist St Radigund's, Capel
	1.00 am Eucharist St Anthony's Alkham

Hoping to see you at one of these new opportunities for a bit of peace and reflection in our far too hectic world. (Gill Calver)

SYMPATHY goes to Freddie Limmer on the sad loss of her husband Jim, who died recently. Also to their children Annabel, Amanda, Nick, Ralph and grandchildren

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - only three games to report this month due to bad weather and our opponents unable to turn out a full side. At home to Burmarsh on 25th July we batted first and took the opposition apart with fine performances from Nick Price (80), Paul Simpson (27), Mark Johnson (26), Gerry Aldridge (24), Matt Gerrard (23) and making his debut Paul Hatten (36). We declared at 223 for 6. Despite good bowling from Nick Price, Matt Gerrard and Mark Culley, Burmarsh held on well and the game was drawn. At home to Tilmanstone on 1st August we once again batted first and struggled to get 117 after a good start. The opposition started well but good bowling from the much improved Matt Gerrard gave us a half a chance of victory but some excellent batting from Tilmanstone gave them the victory by six wickets. The annual game with the George Brown XI on 22nd August saw some father versus son competition with Bill and Nick Price and Robin and Mark Culley on opposite sides. Bill Price hit a brilliant 57 for the opposition with George batting last backing him up with a fine 27 not out. Paul Simpson bowled consistently well for his six wickets and the ever dependable Sam Marlow taking his first wicket for the club. A bad start with two early wickets was turned round by Ian Callaway (28) and Dennis Barnard (65), but after their demise we struggled and were dismissed for 114. The team spirit is still high and with new players such as Mark Robson and Paul Hatten and the ever improving Matt Gerrard and Paul Simpson the future is bright. Watch this space. (Dennis Barnard)



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Wheel Chair Access

WHAT'S ON

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

Other events (VH= village hall)

Thursday	2	Garden Talk The Vicarage 7.30pm
Saturday	4	Bingo at 7.30 pm in village hall – ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Monday	6	Parish Council meeting at 7.30 pm
Saturday	11	Alkham Valley Society outing
Sunday	12	Cricket v New Romney 1.30 pm on VG
Monday	13	Harvest Supper in VH 7.15 for 7.30 pm
Tuesday	14	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	16	D & D canine society VH 7.30 pm
Saturday	18	Jumble sale in village hall - see page 1
Saturday	18	Village Hall Quiz in VH - see page 1
Monday	20	Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in village hall – phone David Tapsell on 822282
Saturday	25	SE Kent Astronomical Society in VH
Monday	27	Youth club - see page 1

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CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
September 5 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
September 12 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am**	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
September 19 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am**
September 26 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist at Alkham 10.00 am #		

** Harvest Festival

Church Army Sunday when a Church Army Captain comes to preach

COFFEE MORNING – I would like to thank all my friends in the village who helped in any way whatever to make the coffee morning at Mount Ararat such a success. The church and village hall benefited by £100 each. (Betty Neely)

CHARITY BARBECUE in aid of the Masonic Trust for boys and girls, which was held at Hillview raised £1700. My thanks to all the people in the village who helped particularly those who brought cakes and other items. (George Tyler)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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 County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
 and work number 01795532547
 District Councillor Fred Scales 201382
 and Trevor Bamfield 202334
 Alkham Valley Society secretary
 Pamela Sayers 822397
 Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
 E mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk
 Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661
 Police - Community Support 218151
 Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
 (Church Wardens, Richard Tapsell
 822295 and Betty Preston 822421)
 Village Hall booking,
 Susan Lees 822661
 Email susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk
 Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

EARTH MACHINE

composters are (were in August) being sold by DDC for £22.50. If you want further information please contact Barry Finch, Senior Contract Supervisor or Melanie Powell, Waste Resources Officer, at DDC on 872418.

APOLOGIES to those concerned for my mix up in 'What's On' regarding the Extraordinary Committee Meeting on the 9th of August. Hope it went well despite my efforts. (editor)

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

No. 74 October 1999

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LOCAL PAPERS – for Alkham to be included in the Dover Express and Dover Mercury, the Parish Council have formally asked me to write something each week for inclusion in the Village News columns. I started with the week commencing the 16th of September and found that what I submitted was heavily edited in the Express but a verbatim in the Mercury. All money (little) received will go to the Newsletter. I am putting in brief details about items in the village and then expanding on these in the Newsletter, giving personal opinions where appropriate. If you want to put something in the paper then please send it to me remembering that it has to be in about a week before publication. (editor)

TREE PLANTING – of the people who responded to the preferred location for the Millennium Tree Planting, the majority were in favour of planting around the village green. The Parish Council would now like to know what the preferred tree type is. If you have an opinion please give Susan Lees, Clerk to the Council a ring on 822661. (editor)

BURGLARY – At the Parish Council meeting, Colin Griggs who owns the Garden Centre said that he was quite amazed by the reaction of the police when he was burgled recently. Their response was very good and thorough. He went on to say that a person who has recently left the village was stopped in Devon on suspicion of drink driving and was found to have the paintings stolen from the Garden Centre Tea Rooms in the boot of his car. (editor)

RURAL BUS SERVICES - The additional rural services funded by the Government's Rural Bus Grant have been in operation for some months. The local knowledge and suggestions sent in during the last summer's consultation helped to develop the routes now on the road. We would be grateful for your feedback on the performance of the services, how they could be improved and any other constructive comments you may have. The monitoring of the services has revealed that some services are carrying more passengers than others and your thoughts on this would be appreciated. We are constantly seeking to enhance rural bus services and we would value your assistance in identifying both those services which are especially effective and provide best value for money, and those which require adjustment to best meet local needs. (Kent County Council – Ashley Heller on 01622 221048)

JENNER is to be congratulated for the excellent project management carried out on the re-building of Chalksole Green Farmhouse. The new house and out buildings have been built to a high standard and blend well into the surroundings. We wish the new owners a welcome to the village. (editor)

ALKHAM YOUTH CLUB - A reminder that the Youth Club starts on Monday 27th September at 7.00 pm in the village hall. Sue Garlinge and her helpers would like ideas for activities particularly from the members themselves. On the opening night there will be pool, table tennis, cooking, computing, music, bike maintenance and a tuck shop. Club rules will be discussed and agreed by the members and the objective is to create a friendly atmosphere where the youngsters of the village (age 10 to 16 years) can meet and have fun in a safe environment. Mixed football, cricket and rounders will be organised when the weather allows and we hope to have excursions to places of interest and ten pin bowling etc. Entrance fee is 50p and although at the start we meet monthly, it is hoped to make this fortnightly quite soon. (Dennis Barnard)

HOUSING – there were a number of people who were keen to move into the vacant house in Short Lane, which is owned by a housing trust. The Parish Council therefore asks that if any rented accommodation becomes available in the parish will you let them know. Please phone Susan Lees, Clerk to the Parish Council on 822661. (editor)

FETE TENTS have been purchased from the Dover Marquee Company, the cost being met out of this year's profit from the fete. There will be a saving of £600 to £800 a year on tent hire costs, so the money should soon be recouped.

THANKS go to Bill Pepper, Bill Rolfe and Ted Baker for their financial contribution to the Newsletter. Much appreciated.

THE JUMBLE SALE held on the 18th of September in aid of church funds raised £100. (Betty Neely)

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Tel. 01304 852960

HGV's – the Parish Council had written to KCC about traffic calming and remarked that whilst there were traffic signals for B work, the HGV's practically disappeared and the overall traffic was reduced. A reply from KCC suggested that the Alkham Valley Road only had a marginal edge over alternative routes. The letter was then passed to the Area Transport Manager in KCC and in his reply he said that on a one day count earlier this year 234 HGV's used the road and this is half the number surveyed in 1993 before the opening of the new A20 and A256. This of course is absolute rubbish. Even at the time they acknowledged that the number of vehicles varied from day to day but now they are conveniently using it as fact. Lorries don't use the valley road for its scenic

beauty but because it is 2.5 miles shorter than going via the A20. The road also goes along the valley floor rather than climbing it as the A20 does with the long descent to Dover and vice versa. KCC say a lorry ban is not feasible as if it is over a long length there would have to be exemption for access and if over short lengths, lorries would use unsuitable local roads. KCC have passed the Parish Council's letter onto DDC to see if anything can be done about signing lorries away from the valley road. A possible solution perhaps, subject to suitable visibility and local opinion is to have some road narrowing by Bushey Ruff as this would assist in the safe passage of pedestrian who use the gardens, slow the traffic down and maybe get rid of the HGV's. (editor)

ROUNDAABOUT – at the Parish Council meeting a letter was read out from Bert Wall who lives in Church Hill House. His suggestion is to put a conventional roundabout at Newlyn's Meadow. There were various discussions within the council and it was felt that with the number of accidents and near misses at other junctions the same argument could be applied there. However the Parish Council agreed that the letter should be forwarded to the Area Transportation Manager for his comments. There is no doubt that some Folkestone bound traffic accelerates after passing the bends by the village green and similarly some Dover bound traffic only slow down when they get to the bends, therefore a roundabout would slow both of them. It was said that roundabout would cause traffic queues. This is unlikely as through traffic is only slowed by cutting traffic and the volume of cutting traffic using Newlyn's Meadow is limited. Conventional roundabouts are also designed such that it is difficult to exceed 30 mph through them. However the cost of moving services and the low volume of cutting traffic would probably prohibit such a scheme being adopted. Bert also suggested moving the phone box were such a scheme to be adopted. (editor)

PARKING – *The Parish Council have asked me to include this item.* At the last Parish Council meeting mention was made about cars parking on the pavement by the Marquis of Granby. The police have said that they do not have the manpower to police the problem but they will respond to a complaint from a member of the public. The phone number of the local police is on the back page. It was accepted that some owners had responded to previous requests not to park on the pavement. (editor)

BUCKLAND HOSPITAL – when the children's ward at Buckland Hospital closed down, money was made available to help people with transport problems get to the alternative hospitals. If you want to know more about this topic then please get in touch with Buckland Hospital or DDC to find out how to get this financial help. (editor)

GARDEN TALK – I was unable to attend the September meeting held at John and Rosemary's home but I gather from Richard that a very jolly evening was had by all. Olive gave a most interesting and informative talk about taking fuschia cuttings. There was a tray of various types of apples for the group to identify and members enjoyed the garden especially the 70-foot well. Thank you John, Rosemary and Olive. As winter draws nearer we will be holding our 'Garden Talk' every other month until the spring and our next meeting will be on Tuesday November the 2nd at Will and Kath's home, 2 Fairview Cottages, Alkham Valley Road, telephone 822776 for anyone who needs directions. Richard will be introducing the topic of pruning and anyone who enjoys a glass of wine and 'Garden Talk' is most welcome to come and join us. 'Garden Talk' is now one year old and appears to be much enjoyed by the group. (Susannah Tapsell 01304 822295)

COUNTRY NOTES - It was gratifying to learn last month that Kent Wildlife Trust had succeeded in its appeal for resources to buy another area of land at Lydden Temple Ewell Down. The land is necessary in order to save several endangered species, including the wart-biter bush cricket. A reference from 1829 states that "In Sweden warts are destroyed by the *Gryllus verrucivorus* or wart-eating grasshopper." A.H. Swinton, in *Insect Variety* (1880) refers to "The Great Green Leaf-cricket, or Wart-biter." Fifty years ago the wart-biter was common on the chalk downlands of Kent. As with many other species it then went into a rapid decline under severe environmental pressures and was finally declared extinct in Kent in 1976. In 1993, 20 adult wart-biters were re-introduced onto Lydden Temple Ewell Down. Currently, the population, although still expanding, remains vulnerable, which is why the extra land is needed. Gilbert White, the author of *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*, was, when not investigating owl sounds (this column, July this year), fascinated by crickets. Writing in the late eighteenth century, he devoted three long and consecutive letters to this topic. In the second one, he refers to house crickets (*Gryllus domesticus*) as "...noisome pests... like Pharaoh's plague of frogs..." and goes on to say that they "may be destroyed, like wasps, by phials half filled with beer ...for, being always eager to drink, they will crowd in till the bottles are full." We've been destroying slugs that way for some years now, the best bait being a dark, sweet, mild beer, purchased in 2-litre brown plastic bottles from a local supermarket. It's amazingly successful, killing thousands during the season. Most people accept that it works, but occasionally I get that wary, disbelieving look that sometimes greets the news of the wart-biters. (Steve Osborn)

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village hall, arranged by the fund raising committee and Mrs. Pam Tyler. Welcome to our two new members, Barbara who lives up Slip Lane, near Helen at the Willows. Janet who lives in Norwich, that sounds daft, not the town, the bungalow. Jenny where are you? Haven't seen you for ages; please come back, we miss you. (Tricia Wright)

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S - This autumn we are starting a ten-week course on the basics of the Christian Faith, to which everyone is welcome. Many churches have recently run such courses, which are intended to give a fresh opportunity for enquirers, new Christians and those who have been on the 'Christian route' for many years. Together we shall look at various areas of our faith, using discussion, stories, the Bible and various other approaches. The course lasts 10 weeks, after the introductory evening on September 30th. All meetings will be in St. Radigund's church, Capel at 7.30pm and we start in October on every Wednesday. Phone me if you need transport or have any enquiries. We shall be celebrating St. Luke's-tide this year on October 24th at our joint benefice service at Capel. Do come if you can. As you'll probably recall St Luke was a doctor and we have a nurse from the Pilgrim's hospice coming to give the talk at that service. (Gill Calver)

THE HARVEST SUPPER was attended by the vicar, 80 villagers and friends. The supper was fish and chips and home-made apple pies, the latter being provided by several ladies in the village. After supper there was a lively auction conducted by David Tapsell. The event produced a profit of £450, which is to be shared jointly between a hospital in Zambia and the Kent Air Ambulance Service. Our thanks go to all those who made the evening such a success. (Betty Neely)

CARS - as reported in the Dover Express, a Ford Granada stolen from Hawkinge drove into a telegraph pole on White Hill and was abandoned. For those who don't know, White Hill is roughly opposite Malmaims Farm on Slip Lane and is very steep and narrow. The occupants of the car presumably then walked or ran down Slip Lane and stole a car from the village car park. It was the night of the Harvest Supper, the 13th of September and Richard Tapsell had just returned from getting the fish and chips when his car was stolen from under the street light in the car park. On the 16th of September a Ford Sierra Sapphire was set alight on Chalksole Green Lane. A local farmer heard two explosions, the latter being the petrol tank. He phoned the Fire Brigade and Police and although he saw the fire engine go up and then down Slip Lane, it did not find the fire. The police later called the appliance back to the scene. The problem for the fire crew was that Chalksole Green Lane is not signed and also hedging obscures the finger post. I understand that this will be raised at the next Parish Council meeting. (editor)

MILLENNIUM PHOTOGRAPH - although the forecast was a heat wave, the day was overcast with occasional spots of rain. Nevertheless about 80 people turned up on the village green for the photographs to be taken. The photographer was Joseph O'Brien from North Hill House and the organiser was the exuberant Stephen Comfort who moved the group around the hillside until everyone was in the picture. He managed to get everybody to smile by conventional and unconventional means and congratulations go to him for organising an event that will be seen by future generations. Two photographs are being selected and will be put on display in the notice board outside the village hall. This should happen in early October and people can order a copy for £6 of which 80p will go to the Village Hall fund. Times have certainly changed since the last millennium when people in black, wearing hats and moustaches stood with a fixed grin or scowl until the picture had finally exposed itself. There was however, probably the same unrecorded banter in the background. (editor)

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB Only two matches to report this time due to the weather and failure of our opponents to raise a team. The annual Hackers game started well for us with early wickets putting Mark Loveday's Hackers team under pressure. However some loose bowling enabled them to declare at 236 for 6 with Nick Price taking 4 for 85. Some brilliant bowling by Stan Collins, who started his run up six feet from the boundary, was too much for our batsman and we were scuttled out for 66. Mark Loveday had earlier volunteered to play for Alkham so he continues his long run of always being on the losing side. At home to New Romney on 12th September we bowled and fielded well and got them out for 136 (Neil Moors 3 for 31, Mark Culley 3 for 33 and Nick Price 2 for 38). We started our innings well but as wickets started to fall we struggled to achieve a draw ending with 93 for 7 after an excellent innings by Robin Culley, 26 not out. The game will be remembered for the catch of the season taken by Matt Gerrard and the run out of the decade by Mark Johnson from 30 metres. So we ended the season in good heart and with a strong nucleus of players for next year with an unbeatable team spirit. New players are always welcome and we also have some good village lads who will be pushing for selection next year. As always, many thanks to Barbara, Kate and Jenny for preparing the best cricket teas in the County. Players this season were: Nick Price (Captain), Ian Callaway (Vice Captain), Paul Tapsell, Gerry Aldridge, Dennis Barnard, Ed Bembridge, Brian Cornwall, Mark Culley, Robin Culley, Matt Gerrard, Paul Hatten, Mark Johnson, Sam Marlow, Neil Moors, Mark Robson, Paul Simpson. (Dennis Barnard)

W.I. NEWS - Our September meeting got off to an excellent start with Liz Cork talking about donkeys. In particular the Donkey Sanctuary's founder, Dr. Elizabeth Svendsen with all her setbacks, husband's numerous redundancies related in a light hearted manner, talking us through a wonderful video of the first sanctuary in Sidmouth, Devon; well worth a visit if in the area. The next meeting is the 12th of October, speaker Mr. Newcombe, Tales of the Borders. Competition, an apple turnover and the heaviest apple. October the 16th a jumble sale in aid of W.I. funds: October the 27th half yearly meeting at the Lees, Folkestone: October the 30th a jumble sale in Biggen Hall, Dover in aid of the

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Saturday 30	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon
Monday 1/11	Parish Council meeting in VH at 7.30 pm

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October 10 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
October 17 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
October 24 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist at Capel 10.00 am		
October 31 st	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm

** Harvest Festival

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY – A fascinating day was spent at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, by forty-one members and their friends. For several people on the outing it was

the second and even the third visit to the Dockyard. Having not been ver enamoured with the proposed destination when it was first suggested, so long as your legs were in good shape, you could not have spent a day at a more interesting venue. There was so much to see. Wooden walls, which depicted life-like scenes showing the different stages of building a boat, was I think exceptional. In fact one life size gent, sitting high on a pile of huge logs due to be sawn up for the timbers, was more than life-like with his eyes rolling. It is hoped as many members as possible will attend the AGM which will be held on the 11th of November at 7.30 pm in the village hall. Friends and anybody interested will be welcome. (Pam Sayers)

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VEHICLES	VEHICLE VALUATIONS Used car specialist	53 Bradstone Avenue, Folkestone 01303 253212

POND WARDEN – Grant Preston is now pond warden for Alkham. This includes being involved with Bushey Ruff. You can contact him on 822421.

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Report a crime taking place 01303 850055
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 (Church Wardens, Richard Tapsell 822295 and Betty Preston 822421)
Village Hall booking, Susan Lees 822661
 Email susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk
Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

No. 75 November 1999

Free – non profit
Independent

FREDERIC HALL Solicitors

York House, Folkestone 01303 851185
& Clyde House, Dover 01304 202411

house right in the centre of the village in full view of passers by in the middle of the day. **Do be warned**, make life so difficult for the burglar that he or she will give up and go away. A burglar only allows a few minutes for a break-in and entry, so put every obstacle possible in their way to deter them. We have also been warned about a spate of handbag thefts in Dover – so ladies keep a firm grip on yours. (Susan Lees)

RECYCLING BINS – there has been a problem regarding the emptying of the waste paper bins at the Alkham Valley Farm Shop. There was some frustration on the part of people who wished to leave paper but couldn't because the bins were full up. Colin Griggs, who runs the garden centre, says that this is due to a mix up between DDC and Aylesford Newsprint and hopes that the situation is now resolved. It was also pointed out at the Parish Council meeting that to retain the other recycling bins, they have to be used and if they are not they will be removed. So if you use cans and bottles and have the time then please take them down to the recycling bins. (editor)

BUS SERVICE – further to the item regarding rural bus services in last month's Newsletter, Lorraine Beany has been in contact with KCC about providing a bus at school times to Folkestone, which is about 8.15 am from Alkham and 3.45 pm from Folkestone. KCC say that if enough people want the service they would consider providing it. If you would like this service then please ring Susan Lees, Clerk to the Parish Council so a list of names can be put together. (editor)

NEW YEARS EVE – Lorraine Beany has booked the village hall on New Years Eve. There will be a disco with an American Supper and tickets will cost about £10. To reserve a place or find out more, please ring Lorraine on 822138.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dwayne and Emma Beany who live in Ewell Minnis on the birth of their son Joe, who weighed in at 2 pounds 14 ounces and is now putting on weight.

STAN COUCHMAN who lives in Slip Lane has a son who was on the Great Western train that crashed near Paddington. His son Richard, who is 51 and lives in Reading, suffered broken ribs and received burns to his hands and arms. He is still in the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and I understand there has been a 95% success rate with the skin grafts. Evidently a fireball came down the middle of the carriage and he was lucky to survive. I wrote a short extract in the village news columns of the Dover Mercury and Dover Express with the result that they phoned Stan and featured it as a front-page story. It's nice to know that they read what they print but Stan was amazed that they featured it as the lead story. (editor)

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL – please support us by buying your poppy from our house collectors in the village between the 30th of October and 13th of November. (Betty Preston)

A COFFEE MORNING will be held at the Willows, the home of Cal and Helen Scopes, on the 13th of November between 10.30 and noon in aid of prostate cancer research. Everybody welcome. (Susan Lees)

A CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be held in the village hall on the 20th of November between 10.30 and noon in aid of funds for Alkham church. Everyone welcome.

A SHOPPING TRIP to Maidstone by coach has been organised by Cherry Leppard for the 25th of November. Anyone interested in going please contact Cherry on 01303 251105.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY AGM's are, it is always said, a positive bore, so to entice members to come along to the AVS's on Tuesday the 16th of November (not the 11th), at 7.30 pm, we've managed to persuade Mr. Peter Davies, our Alkham Valley Tree Surgeon, to come along and give us a talk with slides on his favourite subject. He will be helpful, I am sure, with any problems you may have. Anyone is welcome to attend the AGM, held in the village hall, so members do come along and bring your friends. (Pamela Sayers)

GORDON PRESTON – it is sad to report that Gordon Preston died on the 21st of October, aged 81. He was one of the last of a generation of Alkham past, having moved here in 1920. Our sympathy goes to his wife Betty, children and grandchildren. A full obituary celebrating his life will be printed next month. He had promised to relate something about the naming of Newlyn's Meadow and he did this on the 15th of October. This and another story is on page 2. (editor)

CRIME is on the increase once again. Apart from the burglary at the Garden Centre tea-rooms and the car taken from the village car park, there have been burglaries or attempted burglaries at isolated houses. Recently there was a break-in at a

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Wheel Chair Access

Hawkinge Bypass and will terminate at a roundabout at the centre of the airfield. The road is only intended to be used by traffic accessing the new development but will be adopted by KCC. I understand that KCC are still keen to build the rest of Hawkinge Bypass which continues through Reinden Wood to the north side of Densole, where it rejoins the existing A260 at a new roundabout. The original design passed under Aerodrome Road (the road to the crematorium) but I now understand that the road will be raised to meet Aerodrome Road, where there will be a roundabout. (editor)

WHAT'S 900 YEARS – in last month's Newsletter I said that at the last Millennium photograph, people stood around in black, wearing hats and moustaches. I am grateful to Frank Taylor, who lives in Malabar, for pointing out that if a photograph had been taken at the last Millennium it would have been of Ethelred the Unready or perhaps King Canute. There is the possibility that they may have been in black with hats and moustaches but it's very unlikely there was a Box Brownie around. I should of course have said the last century. (editor)

The stories below were related by Gordon Preston a week before he died

IT WAS DIFFERENT THEN – you have probably seen the scaffolding around the bell tower to the church, which has been put up to re-tile the roof and also to replace the cross. This brought back some memories for Gordon Preston. When he was at the school in Alkham in the 1920's and early 30's, the school had a garden opposite Glebelands where the bungalows, which are set back from the road, now stand. It was then a requirement for the older boys to have a garden and know about growing vegetables and other produce. He remembered, aged about 12, walking back from the gardens, and by the old vicarage saw a steeplejack standing on the top of the bell tower. Evidently, local builders were too expensive, so the church managed to get a steeplejack from London to do some work on the cross, at a much lower price, by getting to the top of the bell tower by the use of ladders. (editor)

NEWLYNS MEADOW a short history -When Gordon Preston was 10 years old he went to work at the farm on Hogbrook Lane, just up from the village green. This was in 1928 and at the time Mrs. Newlyn, who always wore black, owned the farm, her husband having died some years earlier. Gordon had to milk the cows by hand, which grazed in the field where Newlyn's Meadow now stands. As he said, it was hard work until you knew how to do it. He then delivered the milk round the village by carrying two covered pails. The milk was dispensed with a measure and because there was always a bit of spillage he had, by law, to give an extra splash. As he put it, some housewives wanted a big splash. He did this before he went to school and consequently was often late arriving and got a lot of black marks in the book. When a Schools Inspector visited he was not impressed and told Gordon that if he wasn't at school and heard the bell ringing, he must drop the pails and run to school. Some time after, he was half way across what is now Vicarage Meadow and the bell rang, so he dropped both pails and ran to school. Mrs. Newlyn's son Bill was absolutely furious about this and visited the school with the result that the requirement was stopped. Gordon started work at 7am and finished at 9am, working 7 days a week for which he got paid 2 shillings and sixpence. When the field where the milk cows grazed, which was also used as the village cricket pitch, cow path and all, was sold to a developer, the Parish had to think of a name for it. Because of the colourful past, part of which is printed above, Susan Lees suggested Newlyn's Meadow, which seems totally appropriate. (editor, as told by Gordon Preston)

COUNTRY NOTES – here we are dear readers, back by popular demand. Now that Isabel has grown a little, we can be seen out and about in the lanes, weather permitting, me to keep my sanity and hopefully, her to go to sleep, something John and I are sadly lacking at the moment. Autumn has arrived. There is a roar in the trees as the wind whistles through them. Orange and red leaves rain down on us and Isabel, snug in her pram, is highly amused as she tries to catch them. They crinkle and crunch into dust when she does. Those on the ground have a life of their own it seems, twirling, whirling and somersaulting, they chase along the lane. The various Virginia Creepers are a sight to behold, magnificent in their ruby red outfits. Berries are plentiful and the birds feed greedily. The crab apple opposite the village green is laden with tiny golden fruits and pretty as a picture. The mornings are darker now and we wake to starlit skies and the flutter of blackbirds, one of the first species to greet the day. As the sun begins to creep above the horizon, pinky orange clouds chase each other across the sky. Jackdaws hang suspended in mid air above their chimney pot homes, held there by invisible air currents. In the garden a fair amount of bright colour still exists. In particular begonias, dahlias and chrysanthemums are at their best. However, there is much to do and pruning and cleaning away must begin in earnest soon, in readiness for the winter. But today we enjoy the sunshine whilst we may. Time for work another day. (Devina Bartlett)

A260 – at the Folkestone end of the Alkham Valley are carrying out earthworks to the west of White Hill, heading up towards Hawkinge. For those who don't know, this is a road being built by the company that is developing the old airfield behind Hawkinge. It is a requirement of the further business and residential development that a road be built such that all the traffic does not go up White Hill and through the new housing estate. Kent County Council designed the Hawkinge Bypass some years ago and obtained approval to the route from the Department of Transport, after a public inquiry. The road that is currently being built by the developer, is one half of the dual carriageway, which forms the first part of the

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Tel. 01304 852960

THE SUMMER AT HOME - Throughout the summer a male sparrow has been furiously attacking the study window. He was at it all day but I only noticed when doing paperwork. Derwent May, in *The Times* on 31st July, asserted that "...birds behaving like this are simply mistaking their reflection for another bird intruding into their territory. Unlike real birds, their reflection does not retreat when it is attacked, so they get into a frenzy of rage". In reply, readers reported carrion crows attacking windows, car sunroofs and television aerials and a goldcrest that moved from window to window as curtains were drawn. Crows are clever and resourceful birds, well able to survive in either town or country. Lord Tennyson, in *Locksley Hall*, referred to "The many-

winter'd crow that leads the clanging rookery home". One of our neighbours persisted in putting out whole slices of dry bread for the birds. The small birds struggled, but the crows simply dunked the bread thoroughly in the birdbath in the back garden and took it to feed their youngsters. In an effort to deter white butterflies this year, we protected the cabbages with a 6mm mesh stretched taut on 1m high canes. After a while, we were amazed and horrified to find butterflies happily fluttering beneath. Further observation revealed a butterfly to land, close its wings, and squeeze through the mesh. However, we then watched as a wasp zoomed in through the mesh, rolled a caterpillar up into a ball, and flew back out with hardly a stop, which we saw as a form of natural justice. I forgot to mention that the sparrow's attack on the windows was at its most agitated when I was struggling with my Income Tax return. Perhaps it understood something of the human condition. (Steve Osborn)

W.I. NEWS - The September rain managed to wash out the monthly trek. I am not sure what took place, if or where they went; I had to decline the offer to partake of their company as my right ankle has yet to recover from its adventure down a rabbit hole earlier in the year. The October one didn't materialise either, as due to various commitments, one could not be arranged. So, onto our meeting on the 12th, when during the boring bit, it wasn't at all boring. The Federation has increased our annual subs once again. A quite lively discussion took place as to whether we stayed with the W.I. or not. As we had about ten members absent, it was decided to fully discuss the issue at our January 2000 meeting. We must all try our best to attend, so that everyone's view is taken into account. Mr Newcombe very kindly came and told us some 'Tales of the Borders'. The jumble sale on the 16th was a bit different. The Dover Express in its infinite wisdom printed that the doors open at 2.30 pm. Fortunately a few regulars turned up at 11 am but it meant half a dozen or so, had to reopen the village hall again in anticipation of the hordes which did not arrive. November 9th, next meeting is the Annual when the committee is elected, so no speaker. Competitions: embroidered hankie and a Harvest basket. Hostess: Cherry, Devina, Rosemary. November 17th, outing to the Marlowe, 20th church bazaar in the village hall, 10.30 am, 25th Christmas shopping in Maidstone. (Tricia Wright)

FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES sponsored bike ride on Saturday the 11th of September. I would like to thank everyone in Alkham, Capel and Hougham for sponsoring me. The aim was to visit as many churches as possible in the time limit of 8 hours with the sponsorship form being signed at each church. I managed to visit 62 churches on the day with Alan, my son, riding with me for support. Several people have said well done. It is to you who sponsored me that I say well done, for donating a grand total of £220 of which half goes to our church, St Anthony's. It was I who had the privilege of seeing so many churches and I might add, some lovely old people, which made my day a day to remember. I would also like to thank our vicar, Gill Calver, for talking me in to doing this ride, although she usually talks me in to almost anything. Thank you all and God bless you. (Ken Hammond)

FETE AGM - there will be the AGM of the Fete Committee on Wednesday the 3rd of November at 8.00 pm in the village hall. There will be a discussion about the last fete and the next in the year 2000. Various other topics will be discussed, two of which is the splitting off the residual money raised at the fete after buying the tents, between the church and the village hall and where the tents will be stored. Everybody is welcome to come. (details from Paul Tapsell)

ALKHAM YOUTH CLUB About 25 of the finest examples of the village youngsters turned up for the relaunch of the Alkham Youth Club on 27th September. Our leader, Sue Garlinge, has enlisted the help of Jane Aslett who is an experienced youth advisor. The existing equipment had suffered a bit of wear and tear but we soon had two table tennis sets and two pool tables set up with an eager queue of youngsters for each. Club Secretary Mike Chalkley opened the tuck shop ably assisted by the members and helper Aimi Howman took control of subs and membership. Sue supervised the most popular activity of the evening, cook-your-own hot dogs. Jane had brought along indoor hockey equipment and although space was tight, we managed to have several exciting games. The newly built storeroom became our computer room with novices being helped by the experts. Sue took the opportunity of bringing all the group together to discuss how they would like the club to be run and to get suggestions for activities. Respect for the leaders and for each other is the overriding club rule and there was 100% vote for club nights to be immediately increased to fortnightly. Ken Hammond, fully recovered from his 62 church marathon tour, is lined up to give a hands-on demonstration of bike maintenance and safety at a future meeting. We have several ideas for club outings including bowling, go-karting and outward-bound activities and any other suggestions or offers of equipment will be gratefully received. (Dennis Barnard)

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH from 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
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 (VH= village hall)

30 Oct.	Beekeepers Honey show in VH at 2 pm
Monday 1	Parish Council Meeting 7.30 pm in VH
Tuesday 2	Garden Talk - 2 Fairview Cottages 7.30pm telephone 822776
Wednesday 3	Fete AGM in village hall at 8.00 pm
Saturday 6	Bingo at 7.30 pm in village hall - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Monday 8	Youth Club in VH at 7.00 pm
Tuesday 9	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Wednesday 10	Inner Wheel wine and wisdom
Saturday 13	Coffee morning - see page 1
Monday 15	Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in village hall - phone David Tapsell on 822282
Tuesday 16	Alkham Valley Society AGM see page 1
Thursday 18	D & D canine society in VH at 7.30 pm
Saturday 20	Christmas Bazaar see page 1
Monday 22	Youth Club in VH at 7.00 pm
Saturday 27	Dover Beekeepers Association

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
November 7th	Evensong 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
November 14 th Remembrance Day	Special Service 10.30 am	Sung Eucharist 9.00 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
November 21st	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
November 28 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist At Hougham 10.00 am		

Please note: 1. Special times for services on Remembrance Day.
2. ALL SUNDAY EVENSONGS at Alkham & Hougham at 4.00 pm
during the winter months. 3. November 7th - please see below

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

as we go to press, we mourn the death of a faithful and much loved member of our congregation and village, Gordon Preston. He will be much missed by us all and our love and prayers go out to Betty and the family. There will be an 'All Souls' service at which we remember all our departed loved ones on November the 7th at 4.00 pm. There is an opportunity for everyone who attends to light a candle during the service. And don't forget our traditional Remembrance Day tribute on November the 14th which includes a two minute silence and wreath-laying at the memorial. A prayer from Mother Theresa of Calcutta seems appropriate. (Gill Calver)

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow Alkham 01304824201
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 01304 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 01304 824991
CAT and DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed	Newcastle House, Ewell Minnis 01304 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 01304 828007 and 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price & Co electricians and computer installation	Megget Farm, South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors	Malma's Farm, Alkham 01304 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction & hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 01304 827644
FREE RANGE MEAT and eggs	Sladden farm butchery, home-made sausages, burgers no antibiotics	Alkham Valley Road 01304 825188
FISH and CHIPS Fridays 7.00 to 7.30	Derek and Anne Your local Fish and Chip Man - pre order before 4.30 pm	Village Green - 826463 or 04683 16610 after 4.30
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre farm shop/tea rooms, open every day	South Alkham 01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Road, Wolverton 01304 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
METALWORK	Cook Fabrications Hawkinge Welding and other metal work	Fernfield Lane, Hawkinge 01303 893011
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 01304 827100
PSYCHOTHERAPY	Jacqueline Bentley BA Hons C.Q.S.W advanced trainee therapist	Everden, Alkham 01303 893743
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
VEHICLES	VEHICLE VALUATIONS Used car specialist	53 Bradstone Avenue, Folkestone 01303 253212

A PRAYER

Lead us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth,
lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts,
Our world, our universe.

Amen

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
and work number 01795532547
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382
And Trevor Bamfield 202334
Alkham Valley Society secretary
Pamela Sayers 822397
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
E mail brian@bwimsett.freeserve.co.uk
Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661
Police - Community Support 218151
Report a crime taking place 01303 850055
Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
(Church Wardens, Richard Tapsell
822295 and Betty Preston 822421)
Village Hall booking, Susan Lees 822661
Email susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk
Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

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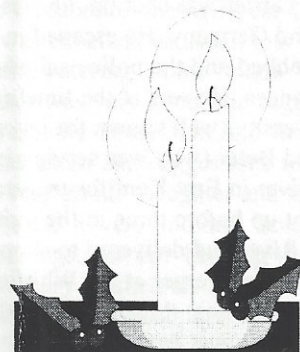


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Merry Christmas
and a
Happy Millennium

CAROL MORNING – On Saturday the 11th of December there is a carol morning in the village hall starting at 10.30 am when the W.I. and other villagers will be singing carols. Refreshments will be available and Father Christmas will be there with Oliver the donkey who will be giving carriage rides for children. (editor)

WINE AND WISDOM – the annual wine and wisdom is upon us. It is being organised by the Millennium Committee to help raise money for the village sign and other celebrations and I am going to ask the questions again. There will be two bottles of wine on each table together with a bottle of soft drink and some nuts and crisps. A ploughman's lunch will be served in the interval and there will be bottles of wine for sale (purchased in England) plus bottles of beer. There will be about ten tables of 8 and the cost is £4.50 per head. In the first place the assumption will be that the teams which took part last year would like to do so again but please phone Sue Lees as soon as possible to confirm this. If there are other people who are interested in having a table please give Sue a ring as well on 822661. (editor)

VILLAGE SIGN – as part of the Millennium celebrations a sign is to be made for the village. It will be about 4 metres high and made of English oak carved to show the Alkham name with a badger above. Planning permission is needed for the sign and if submitted by the Millennium Committee it will cost £280 but if submitted by the parish council it will cost £80. Regarding the latter, there was concern that if there was not enough money to cover the cost, the parish council could be held liable for the debt. Paul Tapsell is therefore drawing up a constitution such that the responsibility lies with the Millennium Committee. Over £1000 has been raised to date and the Committee asked the Parish Council for a donation. The Chairman of the parish council, George Tyler, gave a rousing speech and said he thought the sign would be a lasting monument to the village. The parish council voted to donate £500, which includes the cost of the planning application. (editor)

VILLAGE HALL MEETING on Monday the 29th of November at 8 pm in the village hall.

TREE PLANTING – the preferred tree types of those who responded to the article in the Newsletter, is Beech and Horse Chestnut, plus one oak tree and the favoured location is round the bottom of Vicarage Meadow. (editor)

USE IT OR LOSE IT are the words of KCC with regard to the library bus which visits the village each week. Only about half a dozen people actually use the service at present. Apart from books the bus carries videos and audio tapes, so if you want to keep the bus, do come along on Thursday mornings between 9.25 and 9.50 am to the car park on the village green.

FINGER POSTS if you know of any public footpath or bridleway finger posts that are damaged or missing, please phone the Clerk to the Parish Council, Susan Lees, on 822661.

DUSTBINS – collections are as normal up to the 24th of December. There are none in the following week but back to normal in the New Year. (Susan Lees)

THE CHRISTMAS WALK which is arranged by the Alkham Valley Society will take place on Monday the 27th of December, starting at the village green car park at 10.30 am. The walk will finish at the Marquis of Granby at about noon. All welcome including 4 legged ones.

THE COFFEE MORNING held at the Willows in aid of prostate cancer research raised £140. Many thanks to all the people who came along and gave so generously. (Helen Scopes)

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Mr. Mike Hands

GORDON PRESTON: AN OBITUARY

- No surprise that the church was packed for Gordon Preston's funeral last month. He was 81, and the best-known "character" in the village and many places around. He arrived in Alkham with his Irish father and English mother when he was four years old. Alkham was then an agricultural village with two farms up Slip Lane and another where the Newlyn's Meadow estate now stands. As a boy Gordon attended the village school, did a milk round, larked about a good bit, pedalled a bike on a baker's round from Hougham, learned to box, and worked in a brickfield at Hawkinge ("bloody hard"). Before the war Gordon joined the police force and had his number enlisted to him in the Shropshire force but then he was called up and joined the army as a regular in the Royal Artillery, seen as a good move for the eldest son in a family hard-pressed for money. It proved not such a good move in 1940 during the British retreat from France towards Dunkirk. Gordon's personnel carrier was shot up, he was wounded and taken prisoner. He spent more than four dreary years as a prisoner of war in Poland and Germany. He escaped in Poland with another POW, but was recaptured within a couple of days. Back in Britain he was de-mobbed and the police called him back to start duty, but Gordon didn't want anything to do with the forces after his POW experiences. He was at the time a Physical Training Instructor (PTI) learnt in the army. He was offered a place at Loughborough University (well known for physical education) but turned it down. Instead he chose to marry a Geordie girl he fell in love with, called Betty (who was serving in the WAF). The couple settled in South Alkham and Gordon went "on the buses". He was a bus-driver in East Kent for ten years. Then still on the road he reconnected with agricultural life in the fruit-and vegetable trade. He got up before three in the morning if he had to go to London for his supplies, but mostly he collected from a nearer wholesaler in River and delivered to shops in the Folkestone, Sandgate and Hythe area. His next career move as wildly different. He was appointed verger at the Whitfield Garrison church, a post that yielded him a small pension. It also left him spare time to do jobbing gardening. I learned a good deal about gardening from Gordon during the 25 years I knew him. We also walked a lot together. We must have walked every footpath around Alkham and some further afield. Rex, his crossbred labrador, and Becca, a swift lurcher, usually accompanied us, looking for rabbits. Gordon's wife and four children survive him. When he was captain of cricket his three sons were all in the team. They are now dispersed between Saudi Arabia, Bristol and Alkham, and his daughter lives in Cumbria. He was a PT instructor in the Army and a fit man until a year ago. He kept his boxer's biceps in trim by hefting two-gallon watering cans filled with water. A big reader, he rarely failed to turn up at the mobile library. As a parish councillor he was absolutely his own man. If the talking was too boring and went on too long, he was likely to up and leave, and call in at my house for a glass of whisky on his way home. Gordon's voice was different from the sub-London speech of most of Kent. It had a country burr, like a touch of Hampshire or further west, an accent that has died out with his generation. I always think of Gordon as the last true countryman of Alkham, and I miss him. (Peter Chambers)

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

- Derek and Marion Banks Nash, who live at The Hermitage on Slip Lane, were in the congregation at the recording of the BBC's Advent 'Songs of Praise' at Canterbury Cathedral. Evidently the service is not quite the seamless performance as seen on television. My friend and contributor to the Newsletter, Steve Osborn, is a bass with the Dover Choral Society and other local choirs. He too was there and has written the following account of what went on. (editor)

By the time the recording started, I was nearly asleep on my feet. There had been some 'note-bashing' sessions in earlier weeks, and a technical rehearsal two evenings before, where the film crew checked out lighting, sound balance and so on. On the previous evening we had recorded the Lent 2000 'Songs of Praise', and here we were, lighting our candles in preparation for the traditional carol service. Overnight the cathedral had been transformed from Lenten austerity to Advent splendour with towering sprays of seasonal foliage. The worshippers' dress had also changed, from sepulchral reserve to joyous abandon, with many bright reds and greens. The floor manager had been careful however to ensure that no one was wearing a Remembrance poppy for either service in view of the planned transmission dates. Just after 7.30 the lights dimmed, the conductor raised his hand, and the cathedral treble began to sing the first solo verse of 'Once in

Royal David's City'. The huge invited choir and congregation joined in for the third verse while the cathedral choir processed, singing, towards their place on the altar steps. As the descant spiralled away into the roof there was a stunned silence and then the telephone rang in the pulpit. The BBC's director, in the control van out in the cathedral close, was less than happy with something. And so we did it again, together with the procession, and again, until the director was content. This set the pattern for the evening; at the end of each recording there was a pause while the director replayed the tape, and then the telephone would ring in the pulpit to give the conductor, David Flood, the thumbs up or down. Of course, if the recording was particularly unsatisfactory, the telephone would ring straight away, and this became an invaluable source of humour as the evening wore on and fatigue began to set in. The other saviour of our sanity was David Flood himself, with his continuous flow of encouragement and banter. At one point he paid tribute to his musical colleague David Leeke and their mutual friend Canon Plumber (spelt 'Plomer' I suspect). Later, he explained that simply by calling out 'James!' you control the cathedral boys, since that is the name of over half of them. Eventually the final take of 'O Come All Ye Faithful' was 'in the can', as they say, and the bishop and the producer sent us on our way with prayers. The BBC's attention to detail was impressive; there were retakes of some individual lines, joins and even of a cymbal crash. The BBC crew members, from the Religious Affairs Team at Manchester, seemed to have been hand-picked for their courtesy and sincerity. The presenter, Pam Rhodes, was as happy and sensitive as she appears on television. So watch out for the transmission at tea-time on Sunday 19th December, or make sure you set the video, for an inspiring and seamless performance. And don't forget the Millennium programme in March 2000! (Steve Osborn)

FREDERIC HALL **Solicitors**

York House, Folkestone 01303 851185
& Clyde House, Dover 01304 202411

CHRISTMAS

The festive season's drawing near,
With hopeful hearts and much good cheer,
Shoppers scurry to and fro,
Only a few more days to go.

All around the falling snow,
Makes the children's faces glow,
Building snowmen on the green,
The traditional Christmas winter scene.

The cards are posted far and near,
To treasured friends and those held dear,
The many gifts are wrapped with glee,
And sit in splendour beneath the tree.

The Christmas lights, how they twinkle,
Amongst the baubles and the tinsel,
The pretty angel, fair of face,
Sits atop in pride of place.

Brandy and fruit go into a cake,
Mince pies are made, ready to bake,
Mum is sipping lots of sherry,
Her face is flushed, her eyes are merry.

It's Christmas eve, the excitement rises,
Stockings are hung in different sizes,
The largest for sister, the smallest for baby,
Will Santa fill them? Maybe just maybe.

In the church the choir is singing,
In the belfry the bells are ringing,
To welcome in this Christmas morn,
To celebrate that the Lord was born.

The presents are opened, the foods on the table,
There may be a walk later, for those who are able,
Mum puts her feet up and gran has snooze,
Whilst father and granddad sample the booze!

And so it is over again for the year,
The turkey, the pudding, the chocolate and beer,
The Queen, the pantos, but all is now quiet,
Time for some exercise and a miracle diet.

Devina Bartlett



Services are short acts of worship lasting only about 15 minutes. At Capel we shall greet dawn on the cliffs first and then return to church for a short act of worship followed by a celebratory breakfast in the hall. In Alkham our short service will be preceded by the bells being rung. At Hougham we shall light candles for the New Year before our short service. On January the 2nd we invite everyone to join us in our village parish churches to pledge ourselves afresh to God and his service for the next Millennium. Do join us if you can. This is a time for a NEW START. (Gill Calver)

W.I. NEWS – the annual meeting last month went off without a hitch, more or less. The attending VCO was more than a little surprised to learn that our committee made decisions, which as a group we fully supported them. The existing committee was re-elected with Susannah Tapsell joining them. Doreen Wilks stood down as president, a well deserved rest after three hectic years as our excellent chair lady. Kathleen Goldfinch is our new President, a very popular lady. I look forward to months ahead under her guidance. Susan Lees gave a report on the half year Council meeting at the Lees. The craft fair was excellent as usual, lots of really good things to buy, including mouth watering home made cakes and chocolates. The morning speaker was very good, she suggested a 'stretch a fiver', proceeds split between the Federation and the individual W.I.'s. Thinking caps on please, ideas and suggestions to Kathleen. The afternoon speaker was also very good. 'Laughter and teas' was his theme; a personal account was told, a very moving account interspersed with hilarious little happenings, an apt heading for his talk. December: 3rd, carols in Canterbury Cathedral, contact Betty N for details: 10th group carol service, contact Kathleen for timetable: 11th see front page: 14th next meeting, speaker is Mrs Wright on Christmas decorations – competitions, Christmas tree ornament, 6 shallots. Hostesses, Gwen, Iris, Kathleen (?), Olive.: 15th Christmas dinner – we all meet up at the Marquis for seasonal fayre. A very busy month ahead, so everyone please wrap up well, take care, keep healthy, have a wonderful Christmas and wishing everyone the happiest of New Years. Have a great year 2000. (Tricia Wright).

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S

First of all, a very Happy Christmas and New Year to you all. Both events, are of course, going to be celebrated at our benefice churches and the rotas included in this Newsletter explain all that we're doing to celebrate Jesus Christ's birth and to mark the 2000 years' anniversary of that event. As we look backwards there is much on which to build and the Christian Churches in this country are taking 'A New Start' as their theme for the millennium. We at Alkham are replacing our broken St. Anthony's cross with a beautiful new one to be positioned on the tower. We hope it will be temporarily floodlit over the New Year period to remind us of the reason for our celebration – life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Perhaps you might feel you'd like to join us at one of our many acts of worship in which we shall pledge ourselves to the 'New Start' as individuals, as a village and as members of a world-wide community. You could also join others in putting a lighted candle – a sign of hope – in your window on the evening of December the 31st. The Millennium moment has been announced as 11.55pm on New Year's Eve and many individuals all over the country – Christian believers or not – will make space for personal reflection for a few precious moments, making their own commitment to using the Millennium as a chance to start again. (Gill Calver)

These notes relate to the church services printed on the back page:

Please note that all our Millennium

THE MILLENNIUM RESOLUTION

(for use by those of all faiths and none)

Let there be
Respect for the earth.
Peace for its people.
Love in our lives
Delight in the good
Forgiveness for past wrongs
And from now on.
A new start.

FREDERIC HALL

Solicitors

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TRAFFIC SPEEDS – in the interval at the Parish Council meeting, Jim Walker who lives in 2 Wolverton Cottages spoke of an accident that occurred outside his house. Their car, which was reversing out of the drive, was written off when it was hit by another car travelling at speed along the Alkham Valley Road. He asked if it was possible to do something to restrict traffic speeds. After a brief discussion the council agreed to write to KCC to ask them to install a 50 mph speed limit between the parish boundaries. This would be from Chilton, just outside Temple Ewell, to Lower Standen, which is the crossroads where Patio Products have their business. (editor)

HGV's – there has been further correspondence from KCC with regard to the number of heavy goods lorries on the Alkham Valley Road. It would appear that they are going to rely on signing to direct HGV's onto more appropriate routes. Although it is to their credit that KCC are trying to address the problem, it is more than likely that the HGV drivers are already fully aware of these other routes and only a financial incentive would make their companies use them. David Shaw, the previous MP for the district, wrote to most of the lorry firms on Alkham's behalf in 1994 asking them to use the A20. Most firms expressed surprise that their lorries were using the valley road and would stop them forthwith. Needless to say this has not happened. Unigate Dairies were the only ones who were completely honest and said that the Alkham Valley Road was the quickest route and if there were no cost implications they would direct their lorries to use the A20. (editor)

ROAD SIGNS – two signs are on order for Chalksole Green Lane, the road that completes the triangle of Slip Lane and White Hill. As reported in the October edition of the Newsletter, the fire brigade had trouble finding the road and therefore the parish council contacted DDC. The Forstal sign is now up showing it to be a cul-de-sac, which should stop Slip Lane traffic going up it. There is not, as yet, a sign to the church. (editor)

BOLLARDS are back in the Newsletter. Whether they will run as long as the rocking horse is not known but the parish council is going to ask DDC to complete the infill of half height bollards. (editor)

COLIN – Paul Tapsell reported at the parish council meeting that the police had told him that Community Policing would be discontinued. Instead they have this acronym COLIN (standing for crime something?) which can be accessed through the Internet. The Clerk to the Council, Susan Lees, will log on and view information relating to Alkham and the surrounding area. There have been a lot of changes in the way that policing is carried out in rural areas but it was accepted that response to burglaries and other incidents has been good. (editor)

RATE CAPPING – Parish Councillor Paul Tapsell reported that DDC had told the parishes that if DDC spend 2% over the rate of inflation they will be capped. They went on to say that this also applied to parish councils. If the latter spent over the 2% then the District Council would be capped and DDC therefore asked the parishes to operate a voluntary code. Parish councils are incensed by this and Wingham through the KAPC are to lobby for parishes to be exempt. It does make you wonder whether the people who think up these laws live in the real world and know how parish councils operate. (editor)

WAR ON WASTE – KCC and the District Councils have produced a poster aimed at fly tippers, which says: **FLY-TIPPING COSTS THE EARTH – GIVE US A TIP OFF! DUMP ANYWHERE AND FACE A £20,000 FINE OR IMPRISONMENT. ILLEGAL DUMPING COSTS EVERYONE. IT'S A DANGER AND A HEALTH HAZARD. CALL FREEPHONE: 08000 288828.** One can't help thinking that the landfill tax in its present form encourages anti-social people to fly tip. Perhaps the tax should apply to large dumpers of waste and not single attributable loads. (editor)

SLIDE ACCESS – there was general consensus at the Parish Council meeting that access to the slide on Vicarage Meadow was difficult. A sub-committee has been set up to look at possible solutions and they will also address the recent problems associated with goal posts to make sure there are no deadly open hooks. (editor)

MALMAINS FARM – Opposite White Hill and by the side of the Granary conversion on Slip Lane, there is a gateway leading to an old garage like structure with a green door. John Ullmann has put in a planning application to convert this building to a detached cottage by adding to its length in the Slip Lane direction. The Parish Council met to discuss the proposal and voted unanimously to reject the application. In September DDC accepted that there was no longer any contravention of the enforcement notice at Malmaings Farm. (editor)

HEDGE LAYING – The decision made at the Alkham Valley Society AGM, is to use the ancient art of Hedge Laying to continue with the tidying and caring for Pimlico Way. I have agreed to undertake this task and would appreciate the help of others in implementing this. Firstly, I need to find suitable woodland for coppicing in order to provide the necessary stakes and binders. Secondly, I would like volunteers to help with this coppicing and thirdly, to assist in hedge laying. Does anyone own, or know of somebody who would be willing for me to coppice the stakes and binders? If you would be willing to be part of this project, training will be given. Please telephone me on 01304 824201 for more details. (John Garlinge)

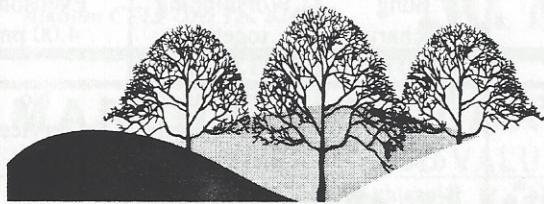
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ALKHAM VALLEY TREE SURGERY

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS OF BRITAIN'S TREES

01304 824853 or 07973 501390

Arborists are too often summoned too late – too much to do!



and encourage school children to meet the older generation. There were 101 entries and the winner in the ages 5 to 8 was Luke Hyland, aged 6 and in the ages 9 to 11, Christopher Hyland, aged 10. Luke and Christopher live at Little Garth in the centre of the village. Well done to both of you! (editor)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY are performing a concert of music by Ralph Vaughan Williams and Patrick Hadley at 7.30 pm on 27th November 1999 in Dover Town Hall. Tickets costing £7 (Students £3) are available from Dover Town Hall, The Music Box in Maison Dieu Road, and members of Dover Choral Society; and, if there are any left, at the door on the night. For further details about the concert please ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694.

MAGIC MOMENTS – because I am the local correspondent for the East Kent Mercury, Clyde Clayton has written to me. He is an experienced magic circle magician who has been entertaining professionally for 50 years, since he was a boy. He is now semi-retired and has therefore decided to change to an easier life style and correspondingly lower fees. He limits his shows to 30 minutes and charges an inclusive fee of £30. For further information phone him on 01304 374023 or write to 17 Griffin Street, Deal CT14 6LQ. (editor)

FIELD WANTED to use for exercising my horses in. Is there any local farmer/land owner who would kindly allow me to canter my horses (only 1 or 2 times a week) to get them fit for next season's eventing? It would only be used when the ground is good and mainly during the spring and summer. The field must be very large and preferably uphill (though not the side of a mountain!). We would be very discreet as I mainly ride in the morning and I am willing to pay for the ideal field. Please do not discard this as a plea to gallop mindlessly across your fields, as this is not the case. If anyone has any thoughts on this matter, please contact Debbie Holliman on 01303 892481.

MILLENNIUM PHOTOGRAPHS taken in September on the village green are now displayed on the village hall notice board. There are two to choose from at a cost of £6 and there are order forms in the village hall, or alternatively phone Stephen Comfort on 822619 to place an order.

CHILDREN and trees – a suggestion has been made that children may wish to sponsor a Millennium tree to be planted in the parish so that they can see it grow during their life time. The ultimate decision as to whether this is done lies with the parish council and the Alkham Valley Society but if, as a parent, you think this is a good idea would you please phone Susan Lees, the Parish Clerk on 822661 and let her know. A tree would probably cost about £10 and perhaps the child, plus parents, could assist in planting it. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY – It was a pleasure to see a fairly well attended A.G.M. consisting of over thirty members and friends. Hopefully this made our excellent speaker feel it was worth coming. Officers elected for the ensuing year were: Chairman, Mr Paul Tapsell: Vice-Chairman, Mr Christopher Tapsell: Treasurer, Mr John Garlinge: Secretary, Mrs Pamela Sayers: Committee members, Mr William Rolfe, Mr Peter Mercer and Mrs Marion Banks Nash. The Committee had, previous to the AGM, decided to spend a reasonable sum on the purchase of trees for planting in the valley and suggestions for their placement were requested by the Chairman. These were various and would be considered by the committee, including any other ideas which might be put forward. Mr Gordon Preston had been a staunch member of the Society since its inauguration and it was unanimously voted to donate £50 towards a seat, which was to be in his memory. A trip to the Millennium Dome was discussed and looked upon favourably by those present at the meeting and it was hoped to arrange this in the year 200. The meeting closed and Mr Peter Davies, our local tree surgeon, then gave a very interesting talk on the importance of trees in the landscape, showing in detail the different types of fungi which attacked trees in various ways, thus causing them to deteriorate and eventually die. It was indeed an informative talk. (Pamela Sayers)

CONGRATULATIONS to John and Angela Sayers on the birth of their son, Thomas who weighed in at 9lb 6 ½ ounces. He is brother to Harry and George and the 7th grandchild to Pamela and Maurice Sayers who live at Box Tree Cottage in Slip Lane.

THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY is now under new ownership with Val Bugden selling the property and moving to Cornwall. She moved into the pub 14½ years ago when times were different for country pubs, when dart teams, shove halfpenny and other traditional items were common. Inevitably there was a move towards encouraging people to come and eat and drink, rather than just to drink. The new owners Terry and Karen extend a warm welcome to all parishioners. (editor)

LOCAL ARTISTS – the Dover Mercury reports that a nursing home at River, Applecroft at Sanctuary Close, ran an art competition to help brighten up the walls of the building



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Wheel Chair Access

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH from 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
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 (VH= village hall)

November 29	Village Hall meeting in VH at 8 pm
Saturday 4	Bingo at 7.30 pm in village hall – ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Saturday 11	Carol morning – see page 1
Saturday 11	SE Kent astronomical society in VH
Tuesday 14	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Sunday 19	Carol service in St. Anthony's at 6.30 pm with wine after in the village hall
Monday 20	Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in village hall – phone David Tapsell on 822282
Friday 31	New Year's Eve party in the village hall phone Lorraine Beaney on 822138 for further details

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
December 5 th	Evensong 4.00 pm	Special Trio service 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
December 12 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
December 19 th	Joint carol service 6.30 pm	Christmas at St Radigunds 10.00 am	No service
December 24 th Christmas Eve	Blessing of the crib 6.00 pm	Midnight Eucharist 12.30 pm	No service
December 25 th Christmas Day	Sung Eucharist 9.15 am	No service	Sung Eucharist 10.45 am
December 26 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist At Capel 10.00 am		
January 1 st	Millennium Prayers Noon approx	Millennium Prayers 8 am approx.	Millennium Prayers 3 pm approx
January 2 nd	Covenant Eucharist 4.00 pm	Covenant Eucharist 9.30 am	Covenant Eucharist 11.00 am

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow Alkham 01304824201
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 01304 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 01304 824991
CAT and DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed	Newcastle House, Ewell Minnis 01304 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 01304 828007 and 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price & Co electricians and computer installation	Megget Farm, South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors	Malmains Farm, Alkham 01304 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction & hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 01304 827644
FREE RANGE MEAT and eggs	Sladden farm butchery, home-made sausages, burgers no antibiotics	Alkham Valley Road 01304 825188
FISH and CHIPS Fridays 7.00 to 7.30	Derek and Anne Your local Fish and Chip Man – pre order before 4.30 pm	Village Green – 826463 or 04683 16610 after 4.30
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre farm shop/tea rooms, open every day	South Alkham 01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Road, Wolverton 01304 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
METALWORK	Cook Fabrications Hawkinge Welding and other metal work	Fernfield Lane, Hawkinge 01303 893011
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 01304 827100
PSYCHOTHERAPY	Jacqueline Bentley BA Hons C.Q.S.W advanced trainee therapist	Everden, Alkham 01303 893743
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
VEHICLES	VEHICLE VALUATIONS Used car specialist	53 Bradstone Avenue, Folkestone 01303 253212

PLEASE SEE NOTES ON PAGE 3 WITH REGARD TO SERVICES

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
 and work number 01795532547
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382
 And Trevor Bamfield 202334
Alkham Valley Society secretary
 Pamela Sayers 822397
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
 E mail brian@bwimsett.freearserve.co.uk
Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822
Police - Community Support 218151
Report a crime taking place 01303 850055
Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
 (Church Wardens, Richard Tapsell
 822295 and Betty Preston 822421)
Village Hall booking, Susan Lees 822661
 Email susan@susanlees.freearserve.co.uk
Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

