

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

No. 77 January 2000

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HAPPY NEW YEAR & MILLENNIUM

MILLENNIUM CROSS – despite high winds and intermittent rain the placing of the Millennium cross on the bell tower to St Anthony's went ahead as planned on the 17th of December. There were about 25 villagers present

together with the vicar, Gill Calver and also a cameraman from Meridian Television. Cal Scopes who had made the cross and has donated it as a gift from himself and Helen, hauled it to the top of the scaffolding around the bell tower assisted by David Scopes and Chris Powell. It was then carried up the ladder to the top of the belfry and to a great cheer, secured in place. Helen Scopes had brought a few bottles of bubbly along and the assembled crowd toasted the cross. For posterity I took a video of the proceeding which will be put in the archives for future generations to view. Cal is to be congratulated on the superb job he made of making the cross and also, despite the elements, erecting it on the day that he said he would. Credit must also go to Sue Lees who originally thought of the idea and designed the cross. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE has been sold to a businessman who lives in the local area. Colin Griggs, the present owner, put the garden centre up for sale because he wants to spend more time with his wife Daphne who is still suffering poor health. This was precipitated by the terrible accident which Colin suffered a couple of years ago when his car was hit from behind whilst waiting to turn right into the Garden Centre and was pushed into an oncoming vehicle. He will be staying on in a consultative capacity and hopes that villagers will continue to support him in the future as they have done in the past. The new owner intends to revamp and expand the business. (editor)

MILLENNIUM WINE AND WISDOM – it is pleasing to report that all the tables for the wine and wisdom have been booked. In last month's article, I was in the middle of setting the questions and forgot to give the answer as to when the quiz was. It will be held in the village hall on the 22nd of January at 7.30pm. There will be two bottles of wine on each table, so if this is not enough it would be wise to bring some more refreshment. (editor)

TEA TOWEL MYSTERY – tea towels have been disappearing from the village hall and there are only a few left. It is possible that someone has taken them home to wash or somebody else is stocking up on Christmas presents. If there is anybody who knows of the whereabouts of the missing tea towels would they please contact the Parish Clerk on 822661 as soon as possible or otherwise magic them back to where they belong. (editor)

THE CAROL MORNING in the village hall on the 11th of December was a great success with coffee and biscuits being served throughout the morning. There were various stalls and raffles, all of which were well attended. Helen Scopes braved the appalling weather and in between showers gave the children donkey rides. The bazaar resulted in a profit of £250, which will be given to Cancer Research. We would like to give our thanks to all those who helped. (Betty Neely)

GORDON PRESTON – many thanks to all for your many kind thoughts and prayers, for the beautiful floral tributes to Gordon and for your generous gifts to Demelza Children's Hospice. (Betty Preston and family)

BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL – our house collection this year was £173.75 and the church collection was £135, which is sixty pounds up on last years. Many thanks. (Betty Preston)

CHILDREN AND TREES – further to the article in last month's Newsletter, only one person has come forward to say that they would like to sponsor a tree, which subject to Parish Council approval will be planted somewhere in the parish. The idea was that the tree would be bought in a child's name such that they could see it grow in their lifetime. Rosemary Crothall, who lives at South Alkham, has said that she would like to sponsor two trees for her four grand children. If you would like to do the same please give the Parish Clerk, Sue Lees, a ring on 822661. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY TREE SURGERY

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SNAPSHOT OF LIFE – A consortium of Kent based interests, Shepherd Neame, Invicta Radio, The Kent Messenger Group and Kent County Council have come together to attempt to record for posterity what life is like across the county at the turn of the Millennium. The week that has been chosen for the record to be made is the 17th to 24th of April 2000. This is because there are a number of things happening during the week with Easter Day, St. George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday on the 23rd and the 21st is Good Friday as well as the Queen's birthday. It is being co-ordinated by Databox 2000 and the organiser has written to Parish Clerks and correspondents for the local newspapers asking for their

help and that's how Sue Lees and myself have got involved. Three suggested topics are: 'A day in the life of....' – a detailed diary of one day in the week recorded by someone in age groups 0-10, 11-20, ..., 91-100 and a 100+: A photographic snapshot including a written documentary: A community plan showing local amenities. The other topics are facts about the population, prices, buses, income, expenditure, local characters, activities, a copy of the Newsletter (fame at last), religion and schools. David Earlam, the organiser, is coming to see Sue and I in the New Year and then we will be able to get things started. Meanwhile, if there are any boys and girls or people from the other age groups who would like to take part in writing a detailed diary for a day in the week, please give Sue or I a ring, or if you prefer send a letter. (editor)

GARDEN TALK – Our last meeting was at Will and Kathleen's home and we enjoyed their hospitality and discussing the topic of pruning introduced by Richard as well as covering many other subjects in our informal and informative chat. Thank you Will, Kathleen and Richard. Our next meeting will be on Friday the 7th of January, 7.30 pm at Chalkdown Cottage, Slip Lane. Will members bring one question for discussion and Devina will be introducing the main topic.

(Susannah Tapsell)

ROAD NAMEPLATES – as promised Dover District Council has erected street nameplates for Chalksole Green Lane. At the last parish council meeting a letter was read out, which said there was a proliferation of road signs in rural areas, which tended to give an urban feel. Discussion then went on to the matter of street nameplates and whether any others were required. The contradiction with the letter was noted but the overall opinion of the council was that there were no other roads that desperately needed naming. If however you feel that some more are needed please phone the Parish Clerk, Susan Lees on 822661. Every day I walk the dog up Slip Lane and have been asked a couple of times where Chalksole Farm or other properties up the top were. It would be quite helpful to have a street nameplate by Malmaims Manor but I think there is a difference of opinion as to what the road is called. Is it White Hill, an extension of Warren Lane or some other name? (editor)

THE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE in aid of the Village Hall and the Fete was drawn in the village hall on the 17th of December when appropriately Mrs Daniels won a bottle of Jack Daniels. The prize winners in order were: £100 – Mark Loveday 592: Hamper – Yeomans 3732: Bar meal at the Marquis Mrs Gisby 2513: Port Roy Adams 736: Mugs Luckhurst 3068: Camera John Huggins 1547: Whisky Bobbins 1397: Wine Arters c/o Glebelands 3627: Watch Bill Cape 1391: Aromatherapy Kathleen Goldfinch 290: Tequila B J Cork 3498: Candlestick Mrs G Brown 1523: Stolen Mrs D Hogg 3282: Crackers M G McClarence 94: Umbrella Dave Tapsell 670: Meat voucher Jo c/o Betty Neely 111: Bucks Fizz Irene Barnard 922: Soap (in hall) 2561: Jordan's hamper Dick Harman 3701: Cafetiere J Hancock 1117: Wine Irene Barnard 926: Jack Daniels Mrs Daniels Capel Farm: Cafetiere Tammy 370. (editor)

MILLENNIUM NOTES – The 'AD' year numbering system was devised in AD531 by a Scythian named Dionysius Exiguus, or "Dennis the Short", who worked for Pope St John I. However, Dennis made two mistakes. The first was that he miscalculated the date of Christ's birth, so that, for example, it appeared to follow the death of Herod the Great, which is clearly impossible. As Professor Bowersock, of Princeton, says, "Hark the herald angels roar, Christ was born in BC four". The second mistake was that the number zero (to be invented in India in the 12th century AD) was unknown at the time and so Dennis went straight from IBC to AD1. This fact alone has caused much of the subsequent dispute over the start and end dates of decades, centuries and millennia. On December 26th 1799, the *Times* loftily declared that "the present century will not terminate till January 1, 1801.... We shall not pursue this question further". However, a century later, in 1899, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany defiantly maintained that "The twentieth century will begin on January 1, 1900 - not 1901." More recently we have public statements from the Royal Greenwich Observatory that "It is clear that the start of the new millenium will be 1 January 2001" and, from the US National Institute of Standards and Technology, that "The third millennium will begin on January 1, 2001". So why will we all be obstinately celebrating the new millennium on 1st January 2000? I suppose it's all to do with natural feelings of impatience with the past and enthusiasm to get on with the future. In any case, as the Domaine Carneros champagne cellars in Napa County, California, said, "We'll get two shots, in 2000 and 2001". (Steve Osborn)

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W.I. NEWS – The December the 14th meeting got underway with a big, big welcome to Kathleen our new Pressie, in a very chilly village hall. Half the heaters were on strike and only a few brave ladies removed their outer garments. We then had a back to front, upside down meeting. Mrs Wright (not me) wanted to go first with her demonstration of festive decorations, or more to the point she gave us some quite interesting and colourful ideas, but before you start poking the wires round the fir cones, put any newly collected ones in a sealed plastic bag in a warm place. Come the morning you will be quite surprised at what has crawled out of them. I saw that tip on 2 in their festive hints

programme. Our Christmas dinner at the Marquis was an excellent do going by the constant chatter and laughter. We all had a thoroughly good evening. Our thanks to the new owners and staff for making it such a pleasant evening. Next meeting, January 11th. No speaker, so a discussion on the merits of the W.I. I haven't got next year's programme, so in the dark about competitions and hostesses. Wishing everyone a Happy Millennium 2000. (Tricia Wright)

COUNTRY NOTES - One day in October we sat in the shelter on the sea-front, eating sandwiches, admiring the castle and the church on the White Cliffs, and watching the ferries come and go. "Is that a pigeon or a gull?" asked someone. It was a cormorant, motionless, on a red marker buoy; and then we saw two more, equally static and impressive, on the next two buoys along. Later, a friend reported seeing a cormorant on the island in Kearsney Abbey lake, snoozing and preening itself from time to time. Surprisingly, cormorants are voracious eaters of freshwater fish, consuming 19 different types and up to half the fish in reservoirs and lakes. The following week we walked with friends along the White Cliffs from St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe to Kingsdown and back. It was a fine blustery day and the house-martins had started to congregate in readiness for their migration. There were finches and bramblings, and a solitary skylark, unlike Dylan Thomas's "springful of larks in a rolling cloud" in his *Poem in October*. However, there was certainly "the sun of October summery on the hill's shoulder" and the bushes were brimming with blackberries rather than Thomas's "whistling blackbirds". Soon we found scabious, harebells, toadflax and rosehips. And then we saw the cormorants again, nonchalantly flapping their way back to Dover. We took lunch at the Zetland Arms in Kingsdown, eating crab sandwiches at an outdoor table, with a thunderstorm moving in fast over the cliffs. Suddenly, we noticed a weasel, straining its neck and hopping across the shingle between the cars. Heaven knows what they find to eat on such a stony beach. We trudged back to the Dover Patrol Memorial, and a long haul it was, in the teeth of a south-westerly gale, spasmodic rain and the ever-threatening thunder. (Steve Osborn)

WEIGHT CLASSES - If there are any ladies in the parish who are interested in attending weight loss classes would they please contact Tricia Wright on 827053. The classes are for villagers only and the venue chosen will be dependent upon the number of ladies interested in attending.

ALKHAM YOUTH CLUB Since the start in September there remains a strong turnout for the fortnightly Youth Club meetings. Leader Sue Garlinge has enlisted another professional helper - Marie Jones who has some good ideas on fund raising. Some of the equipment has been upgraded and one-on-one indoor football is proving to be even more violent than indoor hockey but is enjoyed by all. Salt dough modelling has also been a great success and will be repeated. The girls have demonstrated a couple of dance routines and discussion has started on the possibility of a Youth Club Show next year. The club meeting on Monday 6th December was held at Folkestone Sports Centre where a group of about twenty had a two-hour dry slope skiing lesson. All the leaders declined to participate for very good reasons and it was certainly not that we might show ourselves up! In the New Year we have arranged: A quiz evening, A St Valentines Disco, a trip to Planet Laser, Egg decorating and a nature trail as well as the usual table tennis, pool, hockey and football. On behalf of Sue and her leaders and the village youngsters may I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. (Dennis Barnard)

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S – *understandably, because of the hectic Christmas period, Gill has not had sufficient time to write her monthly column.*

CAROL SERVICE – a joint benefice service was held in St. Anthony's on the 19th of December with the church festively decorated for the occasion. There was a large Christmas tree by the pulpit and lighted candles were placed around the walls and columns complementing the beautiful brass candelabra hanging from the ceiling. The service was preceded by 10 minutes of change ringing on the bells, which had been practised on Thursday nights over the past year and then there was straight ring round before the choir entered the packed church. The service was of nine lessons and carols with all the old favourites being sung. The service finished with the choir walking to the church door and singing some more carols, which were then roundly applauded by the congregation. Gill Calver invited everyone to the village hall for refreshments afterwards to continue the festive spirit generated by the carol service. (editor)

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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)

Monday	3	Youth club in VH at 7.00 pm
Friday	7	Garden Talk, Chalkdown Cottage 7.30
Saturday	8	Bingo at 7.30 pm in village hall – ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Monday	10	Parish Council meeting in VH 7.30 pm
Tuesday	11	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	15	SE Kent astronomical society in VH
Monday	17	Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in village hall – phone David Tapsell on 822282
Saturday	22	Millennium Wine & Wisdom – page 1
Monday	24	Village Hall Committee meeting in the village hall at 8.00 pm
Saturday	29	Beekeepers in village hall at 2.00 pm
Monday	31	Youth club in VH at 7.00 pm

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn 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

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
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
January 9 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
January 16 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
January 23 rd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist (Week of prayer for Christian Unity) at Capel 10.00 am *		
January 30 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist (HOMELESSNESS SUNDAY) at Alkham 10.00 am *		

* **Special speakers have been invited to these two services.**

Please note that all our Millennium 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)**

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P.	0171 219
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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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held on the 10th of April. The Parish Council is undecided whether to have a speaker. If you have an opinion on this would you please phone the Parish Clerk on 822661. (editor)

TREE PLANTING – there will be a work party meeting on the Meadow on Saturday the 26th of February at 10.00 am to plant the trees purchased by the parish and other donors. Workers/volunteers should bring tools to help clear the ground and to plant the trees on the edge of the dyke and around the football field on the meadow. Please let Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082 know if you are coming – all helpers whatever age, skill or ability will be welcome. (Paul Tapsell)

MILLENNIUM VILLAGE SIGN – the planning application for the sign has been made by the Parish Council and it is pleasing to report that the cost of the application has now dropped to £25. Tricia Wright thanked the Parish Council chairman, George Tyler for all his help and also Paul Tapsell for drafting the constitution for the Millennium Committee.

RECYCLING BINS – a cheque for £360 was received by the Parish Council from DDC for the last three months of waste that was collected from the recycling bins at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre. The money is to be spent on the youth of the village and £100 was donated to the youth club, which is going from strength to strength but is currently without funds. The remaining £260 has been set aside for necessary repairs to the swings and steps to the slide. (editor)

BOLLARDS – there appeared to be some confusion by DDC as to which end of the grassed area opposite the Marquis of Granby the half height bollards were required. In the event they were put at the wrong end and the Parish Council has asked if DDC would complete the infill. At present they do not have the finances but they will bear the application in mind for the next financial year. (editor)

CHALKSOLE GREEN LANE – because the fire brigade had a problem in finding Chalksole Green Lane when there was a car fire, DDC was asked to erect street nameplates at either end, which they did. It is therefore rather perverse that an Austin Metro was driven in to the street nameplate at the western end and set on fire with the result that the sign was destroyed. History doesn't relate as to whether the fire brigade found the car fire. (editor)

GARDEN REFUSE – the Church Warden has asked me to include an item on the dumping of garden waste by persons unknown on the refuse pile in the church yard. Would whomsoever is doing it please stop as the church has to dispose of garden waste in the same manner as everybody else, in this case carried out by volunteers. (editor)

CHRISTMAS REFUSE COLLECTION – at the Parish Council meeting it was generally thought that there was a lack of information from DDC as to when the rubbish was going to be collected over the Christmas period and therefore the PC are going to write a strong letter to them. I too found it frustrating as the December edition of the Newsletter gave details about when rubbish was to be collected but despite this there were sacks out all over Alkham. (editor)

JUMBLE SALE arranged by the Millennium Committee will be held on the 5th of February in Biggin Hall, Dover from 11 am to 12.30 pm, profits going to the Millennium fund. Helpers please plus jumble and raffle prizes. (Tricia Wright)

BETTY NEELY would like to thank everybody who visited her, sent cards and good wishes whilst she was in hospital over the Christmas period after a fall. (editor – sorry I forgot to send you a card Betty)

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS – for those people, who read the Dover Express and wondered why Alkham was not in the Village News, somehow we managed to migrate to Folkestone and we appeared in the Herald. (editor)

HOUSE WANTED - Mel and Nikki Anthony who live at No 2 Old School Cottages love living in Alkham Parish but want a larger home. They are looking for 2 or 3 reception rooms and at least 3 or 4 bedrooms and ample parking. Is anyone planning to sell in the near future? If so, perhaps you would let them know. And if you want to buy something smaller in Alkham, you might like to consider a property exchange (with appropriate cash balance of course). Mel and Nikki's character cottage has 2 reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs cloakroom, 2 good-size bedrooms, bathroom, garage & 2 parking spaces. You can contact them on 01279 814129.

Gary Docherty Hougham Heating & Plumbing

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Wheel Chair Access

write to Tony Blair to say how a 40 mph speed limit on C class roads and below would affect our village. They also suggested that similar comments should be made for a 20 mph speed limit through the village. I have done as they have asked and replied that the choice of the Alkham Valley Road over the A20 as a means of accessing the M20 was marginal and a 40 mph speed limit on the Valley Road and 20 mph through the village could persuade drivers to use the A20. I have included this so that if there are people of a different opinion they can write and tell Mr Blair. CPRE have obviously written to a lot of people in the hope that the number of letters received by Tony Blair will convince John Prescott to do something about speeds on minor roads. Will they read them? (editor)

PLANNING APPLICATIONS – Brindene, which is the bungalow next to the Marquis of Granby, had submitted a planning application to put garages in the bank of their front garden. The application was to be applauded because of the problem of car parking at the bungalow. When the bungalows fronting the Alkham Valley Road were constructed life was completely different with much fewer cars going through the village. Now of course there is in excess of 5500 vehicles per day and two cars per household is common. The Parish Council was fully in support of the application but Dover District Council refused the application because they said it would detract from the visual quality of the village; the design and appearance would be an alien feature and it would not be in sympathy with the adjacent conservation area. It is clear that the planners did not have a site meeting but judged it purely on the plans submitted and therefore it would appear that their judgement was very short sighted. The Parish Council is to write to DDC expressing this view. At the time of the local elections the Conservatives said that if they were re-elected they would press for the chairman of the Parish Council to be allowed to make representations at the planning meeting to give the local view. If George Tyler had been allowed to be present when the decision was made he could have enlightened the committee about the local problems. I understand that a resolution is to be made on this subject but it looks as though it may be voted out when it comes to committee because of opposition by the other parties. If you have an opinion on this, perhaps the best idea is to write to the leaders of the other parties expressing your view. The planning application to convert an old garage/out building at Malmains Farm was refused. (editor)

GRASS CUTTING – there was a lengthy debate at the Parish Council meeting about the cutting of the grass to the village green and the football pitch. There were a number of quotes but in the end the council decided to accept the quote from English Landscapes of £11.55 a cut carried out 26 times a year. It was accepted that the quote was unrealistic as it must be impossible to cut such a large area for such a small amount but whilst the land was leased it was the best option. Paul Tapsell and Stephen Comfort will monitor the cuts to make sure they are carried out properly. If the village green and football pitch came into ownership of the parish then the method of grass cutting would be reviewed. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY Christmas walk – and weren't we lucky with the weather! Ever since the commencement of the AVS in 1997 there has been a Christmas walk always well supported and this year was no exception. With Paul Tapsell, our chairman as leader, we tramped happily through the mud. There was no rain – a real bonus – finishing up as always at the Marquis of Granby feeling tired and thirsty. Some for beer and some for lemonade. A most enjoyable couple of hours and thank you Paul. (Pam Sayers)

COUNTRY NOTES – The past two days have shown how the weather can change from one extreme to the other. Yesterday, despite the sunshine, we wrapped ourselves up and made Isabel wear a hat (something she dislikes with passion). Avoiding the thick mud was impossible so boots were a must. Within minutes it was obvious that we were over dressed. Off came the gloves, the scarves, jackets were unzipped and Isabel's hat was thrown away with glee. In the field skylarks swooped in a cloudless sky singing for all they were worth. With the sun on our backs it was easy to imagine it was a lovely spring morning. Mind you, here at Chalkdown there is the first stirrings of life in the garden. Snowdrop, daffodil, hyacinth and bluebell bulbs have all pushed their way through the soil. The Viburnum Tinus displays its pretty white flowers and the honeysuckle, Lonicera Fragrantissima scents the air with sweet perfume. However, today is a total contrast. The frost is so thick and white, that at first sight, it gives the impression of a light snowfall. The sky is heavy and tinged with a sulphurous yellow hue. It is strangely quiet no bird song today. The pond is inky black, no movement beneath its marbled surface. The air is sharp and uncomfortable. Jackets, scarves, hats and gloves are a necessity today, so Isabel and I are sensibly ensconced in front of the fire, getting to grips with 'Ring a ring of roses'. (Devina Bartlett)

TRAFFIC – the Parish Council has written to DDC about traffic calming in Alkham and to date has got no reply. Barry Sheppard, who lives at Ellinge also wrote to KCC about traffic calming and got quite an amazing reply in that they completely ignored the substance of his letter. He also wrote to another person and the reply also avoided the question asked. It seems as though nobody is willing to listen although CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England) are having a go. A traffic count on the Alkham Valley Road was carried out in November 1998 by the Mr and Mrs Holliman who live at Hopton Manor and this was passed on to the CPRE by myself. In January this year the CPRE wrote to me and asked that I

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MILLENNIUM UPDATE - A reader enquires after the different number of n's in 'millenary' and 'millennial'. It's a fine point. The word 'millenary' comes from the Latin *mille* and *narius*, meaning 'of a thousand', whereas 'millennial' derives from *mille* and *annus*, and means 'of a thousand years'. Hence the additional n. Three weeks into AD2000, and already years beginning with 19 seem as ancient as those beginning with 18 or less. The weather, too, changed as the millennium rolled over. After the "warmest year since records began" we now discover what Christina Rossetti had in mind when she wrote "In the bleak mid-winter". We thought that we saw a sparrow-hawk in the top of our neighbour's fir tree, and were surprised at the nonchalance of the sparrows on the lower

branches. Binoculars revealed it to be a woodpigeon, puffed to twice its normal size as insulation against the cold. Battles fought out on Rossetti's "Earth...hard as iron" acquire a fresh urgency. On a frozen mass of leaves in our pond, a crow ambushed a frog and tried to penetrate its tough and slippery skin. We opened a window to gain a better view, startling the crow into releasing the frog, which made off, apparently unharmed, into a pile of flints. Sounds seem to be amplified during these cold dark nights. As another great Victorian, James Thomson, in "The Seasons (Winter)", has it, "Loud rings the frozen earth, and hard reflects a double noise", and goes on to mention sounds of the village dog, the heifer and a distant waterfall. Around here, in addition to traditional caterwauling, the nights have been disturbed by the sounds of foxes, both in upsetting refuse bins and in emitting their strange yelping shrieks. Perhaps they're aggrieved because, with the turn of the New Year, and the success of our millenary, or even millennial, resolutions, the refuse bonanza is at an end. (Steve Osborn)

W.I. NEWS - Our first meeting of the year got underway with at least ten members not able to join us, for one reason or another, either smitten by the flu bug or worse. Betty, our secretary was in hospital with a broken left hip and shoulder; she doesn't believe in doing things by 'arves' but thank goodness mends quickly and is now at home recovering from the ordeal. We had a very lively discussion, at times quite heated on the merits or the for and against of remaining in the WI. We'd decided against paying full subs, with an explanatory letter strongly worded being sent to the Federation; also write to the other W.I.'s in the group for their opinions on the issue. Next meeting, 8th of February. Speaker Mr Fred Scales, hearing dogs for deaf people. Competition, 6 fairy cakes, 2 snowdrops. Hostesses V Kingston, L Lambourne, T Wright. New members always welcome (Tricia Wright)

GET IT OFF CLUB 2000 got off to a good start on Wednesday the 12th with eight members. We had apologies from another four who were unable join us, the flu bug having got there first. Basic rules were agreed and over coffee we weighed in followed with helpful tips and a general discussion. Anyone who would like to join us, we meet at 10 am in the car park before going into the village hall each Wednesday for approximately one hour, apart from the third Wednesday in the month when it will only be 10 - 10.30 am to enable us to join the walkers. Contact Tricia on 827053. (Tricia Wright) (this is a slimming club ed.)

NEW YEAR - the New Year in Alkham was greeted with fireworks and the ringing of the church bells. At mid-day on the first of January church bells rang out all over England to welcome the Millennium and St. Anthony's was part of this. During the past year bell ringing was carried out on most Thursday nights when change ringing was practised and all this hard work came to fruition on New Years Day. In parochial terms the ringing was superb with Richard Tapsell leading, David Tapsell on two, Paul Tapsell on three and Ken Hammond on four. It was almost flawless and they finished off with a straight ring round. After the service another four gave a ring round and these were David Tapsell, Sue Lees, Stephen Comfort and me. Not quite the standard of the first lot but we didn't do too badly. A day to remember. (editor)

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S Life seems to be a little calmer now, after all the celebrating we did in December and January. It was good to see so many at our Christmas and Millennium services and especially good that those congregations contributed £147.80 towards flood relief work by Christian Aid in Venezuela. February sees us back to our normal schedule of Sunday services. On February the 20th, we shall have a special preacher. Mrs KATE McNEICE, a lay reader from Folkestone who is also a schoolteacher. This day is 'Education Sunday' in our calendar so come and hear Kate's Christian perspective on educational issues. Also you might like to join other members of the benefice for a special candle-lit service in St Mary's church (in the field outside Capel) to celebrate the ancient feast of 'Candlemas', which makes Jesus's presentation in the temple by Mary and Joseph. The service will be at 7 pm on Wednesday the 2nd of February. Come wrapped up and warm, if you decide to join us.

INFORMATION WANTED Does Alkham still want any mid-week services? Since leaving Dover College I've put on an 11.00 am communion service each Thursday morning but on a couple of occasions no one has turned up. It seems I may have got it wrong in thinking that Alkham would like such a service. It was agreed that we'd try the service plan for 6 months and review it. Capel have morning prayer at 8.30 am (Monday to Friday) and communion at 9.15 am on Thursday. Hougham have a 5.30 pm evening prayer on Wednesdays. What would you like? Let me know. I'm here to serve. (Gill Calver)

A PRAYER FOR CANDLEMAS

Almighty Father,
whose son Jesus Christ was presented in the Temple and acclaimed the glory of Israel,
and the light of the nations.

Grant that in him we may be presented to you
and in the world may reflect his glory
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH from 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	'Get it off club' 10.00 am in the village hall. (weight loss for Alkham ladies)
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	5	Jumble sale – see page 3
Saturday	5	Bingo at 7.30 pm in village hall – ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Tuesday	8	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Monday	14	Youth club in VH at 7.00 pm
Thursday	17	D & D canine society in V H at 7.30 pm
Saturday	19	SE Kent astronomical society in VH
Monday	21	Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in village hall – phone David Tapsell on 822282
Saturday	26	Beekeepers in village hall at 2.00 pm
Monday	28	Youth club in VH at 7.00 pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
February 6 th	Evensong 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
February 13 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
February 20 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
February 27 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist At Capel 10.00 am		

PANTOMIME – The St. Radigunds Players are putting on another pantomime at the Capel village hall on Friday and Saturday, March the 17th and 18th at 7.30 pm. The panto is Dick Whittington and if it's anything like last years, it will be excellent. Tickets are £3 for adults and £2 for children, primary school age. For tickets please ring Cherry on 01303 251105.

MILLENNIUM WINE AND WISDOM seemed to go quite well but as I'm writing this, set and asked the questions it is difficult to be objective. A lot of people thought the questions were quite hard. By the card system it was possible to

score 550 points and the winners, Temple Ewell Post Office scored 453, the Smiths in Slip Lane 425, Mike Chalkley and co 421 and Roy Adams 412. The Smiths answer as to what 'polyandrous' meant was anatomically correct but was not the answer on the sheet which was many husbands (they got the many bit right). It was great to see George Tyler taking part and entering into the spirit of things, especially when he collected a cabbage, in lieu of the wooden spoon and then gave a short speech. More next

month as to the amount raised. Thanks should go to the Millennium Committee for all their hard work and especially to Sue Lees and Tricia Wright who did such a marvellous job scoring. (editor)

ST ANTHONY'S– David and Richard Tapsell have installed some paving slabs as a path to the new water butt by the side of entrance porch to the church. Thanks go to them for all their efforts and also for the really professional job, which they carried out. (editor)

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn 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

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.freemove.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.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. 79 March 2000

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A FREE PARTY for everyone in Alkham parish - There is going to be a grand millennium party and dance for all of you on Saturday 27th May at the barn on the former Hogbrook Farm land. There will be entertainment and refreshments for everyone from 4 o'clock in the afternoon through to midnight (according to time - teas, pig roasts, disco and live band). Whatever your age there will be something for you so please do come along with your friends and relatives and make it an occasion to remember. More details will appear in the April newsletter. HOWEVER, we do need to begin to know how many people think they will be able to join in. We do realise that you might not be able to say exactly how many people will be able to

attend right at this moment, but please do tell us if you are interested. Fill in the enclosed slip and return it to either Devina Bartlett at Chalkdown, Chalky Hill: Susan Lees at Forstall Cottage (next to Marquis): Betty Neely at Mt Ararat Farm: Helen Scopes at The Willows, Slip Lane or Tricia Wright at 13 Glebelands. (Susan Lees)

BOGUS CALLERS - do please take care that the meter reader is who he claims to be. If you are unsure, explain that you are going to check, close the door and ring the firm. If it is a genuine reader he will wait. There are also rogue door to door salesmen selling security systems, do take care, do not let these salesmen across your door step. If you want advice on such callers ring Steve Grayland on 01303 289196 or Ian Foster 01304 218151. (Neighbourhood Watch)

QUIZ EVENING - Doreen Lott is organising a quiz evening in the village hall in aid of the millennium funds. It will take place on Saturday the 8th of April at 8.00 pm and is £4.00 per person with tables of eight. Wine is provided and a food platter will be put on the table in the interval. If you would like to book a table please ring Doreen on 824876. (editor)

MARQUIS OF GRANBY your local village pub. Wednesday night is Jazz Night at the Marquis. Terry and Karen would like to thank you all for the warm welcome you have given us both since we took over the Marquis from Val back in November 1999. Your custom as village locals is very much appreciated by Karen and all the staff. Thank you.

A MOTHERS AND TODDLERS group has being organised by Paula Nuttall, who recently moved to the village. It is called 'Les Enfants' and is running well. It is on Monday mornings in the village hall between 10 am and 12 am. and costs £1 per session. Any toys will be gratefully received. For further details please ring Paula on 01304 824458. (editor)

BINGO - the Parents and Friends Association at Capel School are organising a bingo night at Capel School on Friday the 24th of March at 7.30 pm. Everybody is welcome to come along and refreshments will be available.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - in last month's Newsletter I typed that the society had been formed in 1997. It was of course set up in 1977 mainly as a result of the indiscriminate tree felling by the local farmer, Hughie Bachelor. (editor)

A JUMBLE SALE on behalf of the millennium fund will be held in the village hall on Saturday the 4th of March. Jumble at 10.00 please with the sale starting at 11.00 am. Also get ready for a big Boot Fair in August in aid of various funds.

SOS CHURCH CLEANER up in smoke!!! Are you thinking of buying a new electric cleaner or have you a spare one? We would be so grateful if you would donate it to the church. (Betty Preston)

LYNN our church nightingale is compiling puzzles and craft work for the use of children during the services. She needs to buy clipboards so if you can give a donation there is a box inside the church. (Betty Preston)

DICK WHITTINGTON is being performed at Capel village hall on Saturday the 18th of March at 7.30 pm. Entry for adults is £3.00 and children £2.50 and tickets can be obtained from Cherry on 01303 251105.

FETE MEETING - There will be a fete meeting on Wednesday the 15th of March at 8pm in the village hall. If you would like to help either on a stall, putting up tents, directing traffic, providing refreshments etc, please come along or give me a call on 01303 892082. (Paul Tapsell)

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help clear scrub and plant the millennium trees. As there was limited response to the February date, it is proposed that the work will be carried out on Saturday the 18th of March. If you can help, especially the parents of the children who have pledged trees, will you please as a matter of priority either phone Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082 or Sue Lees on 822661 to confirm you will be available.

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Friday the 3rd of March at 7.30 pm. Devina will be introducing a topic and we will be sharing plans and problems in our gardens over a glass of wine. (Susannah Tapsell)

CALLING ALL GARDENERS – Please could you pot on a few extra plants so that maybe when the time comes you could spare some for the plant stall at the summer fete. (Susannah Tapsell)

ALKHAM – Susan Lee's talk with photographs about Alkham at the W.I. was very good. It showed an Alkham greatly different from today. I was expecting to see a village full of the bucolic charm of yesteryear as often portrayed in a television series. The most striking feature was the lack of trees, perhaps because land was needed for the cultivation of vegetables or the trees had been chopped down to make the many items made of wood. The village also looked a bit scruffy and as it was a working village this is not surprising. All in all, apart from the traffic, Alkham looks a better place now than it did then. (editor)

LORRIES – DDC have published a draft Dover District Transport Strategy. Under the heading of lorries they say there are a number of areas where lorries are perceived to be 'rat running', where high standard alternatives exist, albeit of greater length. A survey has been carried out on the road through Eythorne and Shepherdswell, which is a rat run from the A2 towards Sandwich bypassing the new A256. 150 lorries a day use this route of which only a small number is local traffic. If there is further development at Tilmanstone that generates lorry movements then the developer will be expected to contribute towards traffic management measures in Shepherdswell and Eythorne. The Alkham Valley Road is not mentioned but an equal amount of traffic must be rat running from the longer A20 route. I have written to DDC to find out if they are doing anything with regard to Alkham. They also say in their document that they intend to do a junction improvement on the Alkham Road at Kearsney. It seems likely that this is for pedestrian/cyclist safety but I have asked if they could let us have more details. (editor)

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR – this replaces the 'Best Kept Village' and is a competition to encourage residents to work together to enhance the quality of life of people who live and work in rural communities. There are five categories and villagers can enter in any or all of the five categories. Anybody in the village can enter and the first round of the competition is judged in each section by easy to fill in forms. The five categories are: Environment: Business: Young People: Older People: Community Life. As an example in the young people's category the form asks about facilities and services, the support for these and who makes the decisions, are facilities available elsewhere if not in the village and what events young people have held in the last year. It could be fun entering, so whether you are young or older and want to take part please contact Susan Lees, the Parish Clerk on 822661 for more details. The overall winner of the 1999 competition was Chartham. Aldington won the environment section, Minster the business, Shepherdswell the young people, Staplehurst the elderly, Eynsford the community life and Graveney the small village award. (editor)

THE MILLENNIUM wine and wisdom held on the 22nd of January made a profit of £343.30.

THE JUMBLE SALE at the Biggin Hall in aid of the millennium fund, on the 5th of February raised £112.

COUNTRY NOTES – One of spring's best kept secret is the inside of a snowdrop flower. Thick clumps of snow-white bells hang above silver grey leaves, very pretty against the glossy green ivy. But turn over the flower and inside is a hidden treasure. A buttercup yellow stamen and pale green stripes and dots. Their proper name of Galanthus comes from the Greek gala (milk) and anthos (a flower). There is also a sweet scented variety 'Sam Arnott' but beware, it is considered extremely unlucky to bring a single bloom into the house! A good excuse to fill a vase. Also worth noting, when lifting and dividing clumps of snowdrops, it is important to reassure them that it is for their own good, or they will refuse to grow on the following year. March is the time for one of my very favourite flowers, the daffodil. Along with the leek, it is the national flower of Wales. It is traditionally worn on St. David's day. According to legend, whosoever finds the first bloom of the season will be blessed with more gold than silver. The daffodil is actually a trumpet narcissus and when used as a cut flower should not be mixed with other plants as its juice is poisonous. Bluebells also make an appearance towards the end of the month. Associated with Hyacinthus and Apollo. A tincture made from its bulbs was said to stop a boy's voice from breaking and was commonly used by choirboys. However, the bulbs are in fact poisonous when fresh, so I don't fancy it much myself. They exude a sticky liquid which was used as a starch by the Elizabethans for their ruffs. (Devina Bartlett)

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – take care about requests to deliver and collect envelopes for charities. Check with the local organisation before accepting the task. Somebody, not in Alkham, was asked by telephone to collect for Riding for the Disabled and when checked out it was confirmed that they do not use the envelope scheme.

GARDEN TALK – Unfortunately our last meeting had to be cancelled because most of us were suffering from the flu! Now, hopefully we are all recovered and looking forward to a busy time in the garden. So if you are interested in 'Garden Talk' do come and join us at our first meeting of this year. It will be held at Chalkdown Cottage, Slip Lane on

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Wheel Chair Access

Before the Newsletter started, there used to be a parish magazine published by the church for Alkham, Capel-le-ferne and Hougham. In the January 1977 edition a poem was printed which an anonymous person had sent in. Twenty-three years later with the author's permission, the poem has been passed to me and I'm pleased to be allowed to say that Vic Prescott previously of South Alkham Farm (where the Garden Centre is) and now living in South Alkham wrote it.

LIFE GOES ON

A bridle hangs upon the wall,
A saddle lies close by,
The rider stood and gazed a-while,
Then gave a saddened sigh.

The stable empty Dobbin gone,
To pastures green above,
No other horse could take his place,
The horse she really loved,

She bowed her head with stricken grief,
A tear rolled down her cheek,
A country lass had lost her friend,
The future looked so bleak.

The emptiness the loneliness,
No words could ever tell,
The chain of friendship broke for good,
True horseman know too well.

She thought of days not long ago,
The cups, the rosettes too,
He'd won them all, he never failed,
A winner through and through.

The years rolled by and life goes on,
Across the great divide,
Cool water's flow, rich pastures grow,
Blue skies with him abide.

Vic Prescott

In 1977 things were pretty much the same as they are now except that the magazine was prepared on a typewriter and the articles appear to be a bit more direct in their observations. Two things which have changed is the price of oil and that there is no longer a Sunday school in the village hall at 11.00 am.
(editor)

BOOK-ENDS - Last Friday I lunched with two friends, ex-colleagues who had retired at the same time as myself. Conversation turned to the silverfish; not the swimmer, but the house-bug that thrives on paper. Its Latin name, *Lepisma saccharina*, derives from the fact that it feeds on starch in, for example, old wallpaper and bookbindings. It is distinct from the booklouse and the bookworm but just as damaging to books. Richard Jefferies, in Chapter Five of *Wild Life in a Southern County* (1879) referred to "...some tall volume which he bent over with such delight, heedless of dust and silver-fish and the gathered odour of years...". I first discovered silverfish as a small child in my grandmother's parlour. The creatures were attracted there by

her collection of books on Kent and Kentish themes, and so was I. In a world largely dominated by bombing, shelling and doodlebugging, it was reassuring to be able to retreat to this haven, populated by stories and pictures of characters no worse than those in Charles Dickens, Russell Thorndyke and, above all, the Reverend Richard Harris Barham. Barham was born in Canterbury in 1788 and inherited the Manor of Tappington at the age of six. After becoming a minor canon at St Paul's and Vicar of Warehorne and Snargate, he achieved national fame with the publication in 1840 of his *Ingoldsby Legends*. This is a collection of quaint stories, often in verse, and rich in nineteenth century slang, centred on Tappington Hall at Denton, but extending to the whole of East Kent and beyond. For example, *The Smuggler's Leap* is set in a chalk pit at Acol, close to what is now the end of the runway at Manston Airport and visible until recently. My grandmother never seriously doubted Barham's view that "the World is divided into five parts, namely Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Romney Marsh". **(Steve Osborn)**

W.I. NEWS - Our February meeting was one of my most favourite kind. As our intended speaker, Mr Fred Scales could not make it as he had to go elsewhere wearing a different hat but I understand he will try to slot us in somewhere in his busy schedule, later in the year. So once again our irreplaceable Susan Lees brought along her collection of photographs of times long past of Alkham and some of the village residents. The landscape has changed quite dramatically, the fields of course mostly still remain, apart from Newlyns, but the woods and trees are diminished. Thank you Susan, a lovely humorous and most enjoyable evening. Saturday 4th of March there is a jumble sale in the village hall, proceeds in aid of the village party 27th May. Next meeting 14th of March: Mrs Cane, line dancing instruction or maybe Fred Scales. Competition: W.I. limerick, spray of blossom. Hostesses Doreen Lott, Ester and Betty Preston. Any ladies who would like to join or visit are always most welcome (we talk a lot to each other). **(Tricia Wright)**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - Will members and friends please note that a coach trip has been arranged for Saturday the 2nd of September. Full details will be sent out to members in the near future as soon as the itinerary is arranged, so please do make an early note as it is hoped to welcome a good crowd aboard. **(Pamela Sayers)**

PIMLICO WAY - if you get a chance do go up to Pimlico Way and have a look at the hedge laying which John Garlinge, assisted by Larry Lambourne have started. It's quite impressive and greatly to their credit.
(editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY TREE SURGERY

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS OF BRITAIN'S TREES

01304 824853 or 07973 501390

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



WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH from 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	'Get it off club' 10.00 am in the village hall. (weight loss for Alkham ladies)
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)

Friday	3	Garden Talk Chalkdown Cottage 7.30pm
Saturday	4	Jumble sale - see page 1
Saturday	4	Bingo at 7.30 pm in village hall - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Monday	6	Parish Council meeting in VH 7.30pm
Saturday	11	SE Kent astronomical society in VH
Monday	13	Youth club in VH at 7.00 pm
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Monday	20	Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in village hall - phone David Tapsell on 822282
Thursday	23	D & D canine society in V H at 7.30 pm
Saturday	25	Beekeepers in village hall at 2.00 pm
Monday	27	Youth club in VH at 7.00 pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
March 5 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
March 8 th ASH WEDNESDAY		Sung Eucharist 7.30 pm	
March 12 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
March 19 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
March 26 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist At Hougham 10.00 am		

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S

We shall mark our preparation for the season of Lent, this month, by a Benefice Pancake Party to be held in Capel church hall. Please buy your tickets in advance, at £2.50 per head from Barbara Clay (tel: 01303 250354). Then pop into St Radigund's hall between 6.30 pm. and 8.30pm on the evening of Tuesday 7th March for a pancake or two, a cup of coffee or tea, and a convivial chat. All St Radigund's pantomime performers welcome on their way to rehearsal in the church! Then on Ash Wednesday (March 8th) we

mark the start of Lent with a service at 7.30pm in St. Radigund's, which will include the use of ashes, as is traditional at this time. And don't forget that throughout Lent, there is an 11 am said communion service every Thursday morning at St Anthony's...a time for quiet, prayer, and personal reflection. If you'd like an opportunity to think through how the Christian Faith is lived out by Christian people in their place of work, then come and join our 5 week lent course. It is open to all and you can come to just one

evening, several, or the lot. There will be time for listening first and then discussion after a cuppa. Each evening will be led by someone who works in the field, which we are studying. We shall meet at 7.30pm on Mondays in St. Radigund's church. The topics and speakers are as follows: March 13th, Faith and the Property Market; Mr John Crowley: March 20th, Faith and Science; Dr Michael Bradshaw: March 27th, Faith and Immigration; Mr Ken Pilgrim: April 3rd Faith and the Army; W.O.I Nigel Collins: April 10th, Faith and Education; Mr David Brewster. Do hope we'll see you at one of these events. (Gill Calver)

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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
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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

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.freeseerve.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.freeseerve.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. 80 April 2000

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Wheel Chair Access

is for those who would enjoy a quiet chat with friends and neighbours; this time has also been set aside for parents with toddlers. There will be a pig roast in the evening, but it would be appreciated if other foods could be contributed and placed on the main table to make an American type supper. As it is impossible to cater for everyone's tastes in drinks we would ask you to provide your own drinks. (Susan Lees)

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE with its impressive thatched barn on the Alkham Road near South Alkham has been purchased by White Horse Gardens Ltd. The Group Managing Director Matthew Parrett says they have been in businesses in Kent for over 150 years and sees the purchase of the Garden Centre as a strategic acquisition for the Group. They have already put plans in action to develop the site to allow it to become one of the best Garden Centres in East Kent. It is clear to them that the site is both a garden centre and a village shop for the locals and they are keen to see both valuable services continue as well as looking at other ways that they can best serve the area. To this end they are pleased to announce the opening of the new fully equipped village shop offering everything from newspapers, fresh fruit and veg, confectionery and fully stocked shelves of all the day to day groceries villagers may require. For more information please phone Steve Greener on 01635 527800.

STREET LIGHTING – if residents of Ewell Minnis would like more street lighting would they please contact the Parish Council by phoning the clerk on 822661. As the old lighting is to be replaced in Alkham the authority asked if more lighting should be installed on the Alkham Valley Road by the village green. The adjacent residents were not in favour and the general opinion was that nobody wanted any more lighting. The Parish Council has responded in this vein. (editor)

LES ENFANTS – The mother and toddler group is now up and running and is proving popular. We have 13 children in all from 6 months to 2 plus. Don't sit at home alone, come and have a chat over a cup of coffee. We meet every Monday 10-12 in the village hall. More details ring Devina on 827548. Also, does anyone have any unwanted toys, especially small trikes or doll's prams? Anything gratefully received.

WATCH OUT – Ann Hibbert who lives at 5 Glebelands rang me to say that thieves have tried to steal her horse box from outside their house. It happened on the 10th of March at about 9.00 pm when a couple of youths tried to take the wheel clamp off the horse box. They were spotted by the next door neighbour and the youths sped off in a car driving straight at the neighbour. The police were called and they are investigating the matter. (editor)

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING is on the 10th April at 7.30 pm in the village hall. This is an opportunity for all members of the parish to express their views to the parish council. There will be a speaker from KCC who will give a short talk about footpaths and bridle-ways. Please come along and support the parish.

CHURCH JUMBLE SALE in the village hall on Saturday 8th of April. Jumble 10 am, doors open 11 am.

MILLENNIUM COFFEE MORNING

at the Willows, home of Calvert and Helen Scopes, Saturday the 15th of April 10.30 am to noon. Everybody welcome.

LITTER – at the Parish Council meeting the subject of litter around the village was brought up. It was generally thought that there was a lot of litter in the village mainly around the roads, footpaths and particularly the play areas on the village green. It is not clear who the culprits are but it was thought that it would be a good idea to put an item in the Newsletter. (editor)

CHURCH CLEANING will be on Thursday the 30th of March at 9.30am - helpers please NOTE this is an earlier time than usual. (Betty Neely)

BBC2 – If you receive the Newsletter in time you might like to watch 'Langley Country' on BBC2 on Monday the 27th of March at 1.40 pm, as Sladden Farm's Dexter cattle should make an appearance. Di Smith says that Polly is the star but all the show herd Dexters performed well at one point taking the furry wind guard of the microphone and playfully romping around the field. (editor)

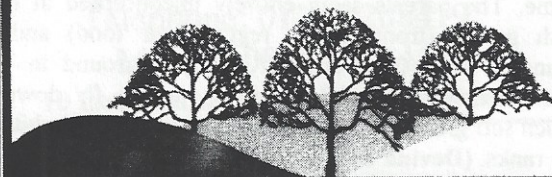
VILLAGE PARTY which is to be held on the 27th May - thank you for sending in your slips from last month's Newsletter. There has been a good response so we can look forward to a great day. We would still like to hear from other people who would like to attend. The afternoon tea

ALKHAM VALLEY TREE SURGERY

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Tel. 01304 852960

OFF ROAD DRIVING – this mainly takes place on and across Pimlico Way at South Alkham and is a nuisance for local residents whilst spoiling one of the prettiest parts of Alkham. At the Parish Council meeting a delegate's report was given which detailed the legal implications of off roading. All off road vehicles using a bi-way must have an MOT, insurance and road tax, so it is possible that vehicles arriving on trailers do not have all the legal requirements. It is also illegal for off roaders to traverse the bi-way, which means that the vehicles should not cross Pimlico Way. If as a result of off road activities mud is taken onto the road then this is the responsibility of the landowner. Enforcing these requirements is a matter for the police

but shortage of manpower and money probably means that they would not attend. If however you do object to people off roading and they are breaking the law, then contact the police on the number given on the back page of this Newsletter. (editor)

MOBILE PHONES – At the Parish Council meeting it was said that Orange are going to apply to erect a mast for their mobile phone network. There was general concern about the health implications of having a mast but as one councillor pointed out there had been similar concerns regarding power lines and these had proved groundless. He went on to say that a lot of people wanted to use mobile phones and they obviously wouldn't work without the masts. If the mast was away from housing it was thought that there would be little objection and the Parish Council will discuss the matter when the application has been submitted. It seemed likely that the preferred location for a mast would be at the top of the valley off Hogbrook Lane. (editor)

PARISH COUNCIL – the Government's intention is to abolish Parish Councils and set up Neighbourhood Forums, which is a meeting that any member of the parish can attend probably chaired by someone from the local authority, in this case DDC. It was suggested that the Government should be lobbied to make them reverse this decision. At the moment the proposal takes the form of a consultation document which is being sent back to Jack Straw by the 7th of April. In some areas it is impossible to get people to stand as parish councillors and this would seem to indicate a general apathy for local affairs which probably would not be corrected by a Neighbourhood Forum. Alkham Parish Council performs very effectively and therefore in our case it would be a great pity if it were abolished. (editor)

ELLINGE – at the top of Slip Lane there is a road leading off to the right which goes round the back of Swingfield. This road is in an appalling condition but the highway authority say that only total reconstruction would solve the problem and they do not have sufficient funds to do this. The Parish Council is writing to DDC to request a site meeting. (editor)

AMSTRAD 9512 - Does anyone still have a working Amstrad 9512 lying around? If you do I really would appreciate a loan, as I need to download several disks. It must take a 3" disk not the later 3½" disk – Susan Lees 822661.

TREE PLANTING - Many thanks to those of you who turned out on the 18th of March to help with the planting of the trees on the meadow. I hope you agree that the effort was worthwhile and also that when you read this the trees, stakes, etc are still in position. We planted 31 examples of Maple, Whitebeam, Hornbeam, Ash, Beech, Cherry and Chestnut. Any sponsorship money not yet paid should go to Sue Lees immediately. A big thank you to those people who donated money towards the cost of the communal trees, sponsored individual trees and/or helped with planting (especially if you did all three!). Also thanks to Colin Griggs for donating the stakes and ties. Please keep a watchful eye on our trees, they will need looking after for a while to ensure that future generations can enjoy them. (Paul Tapsell)

SONGS OF PRAISE – if you get the Newsletter in time, the Lent Songs of Praise on Sunday the 26th of April was recorded last year in Canterbury Cathedral the day before the Christmas edition. The eponymous Oz is in the choir singing bass and he is also in the choir singing Carmina Burana at the Duke of York's School, Dover on the same Sunday at 7.30 pm and tickets cost £4 with concessions. Please ring Steve on 822631 for more details. (editor)

COUNTRY NOTES – Spring is a busy time for the many birds. Here at Chalkdown there is a frenzy of activity. Our tame doves are already raising young and there is much courtship taking place amongst the younger generation. The males spend most of the time strutting around, puffing out their chests in a ridiculous manner. There is much prinking and preening and the occasional bout of aggression if a fellow mate dares to come too close. Feathers are ruffled and angry squawking is followed by rigorous bobbing of heads and turning round and round in circles. Meanwhile the females remain aloof and full of disdain as is only right and proper. Mind you when the right male catches their eye, they go all coy. Fluffing of feathers and bobbing up and down is followed by short flights, here and there with the male following on! Eventually she finds a spot she likes and allows him to join her. The nest is a very sorry affair and amounts to a pile of twigs. No soft lining or moss and sheep hair pinched from a fence, or in our case loft insulation, stolen with glee by any passing starling. Just a pile of prickly twigs. The young grow quickly, which is not surprising really. Eventually they appear at the entrance to what has become a very dirty home. The parents seem entirely unconcerned at their young with grubby fronts (from regurgitated food) and clip clop sounding feet (from days of lounging around in droppings). Then one day the chick is big enough to fly down for food. Much self grooming follows and another snowy white bird joins the ranks. (Devina Bartlett)

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OZ on EASTER DAY - This year's Easter Day is almost as late as it can possibly be, which is useful for singers preparing for their seasonal millennium productions as it gives up to four extra weeks of rehearsals in the run-up to Easter compared with other years. It's not quite true, as commonly stated, that "Easter Day is the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs after the vernal equinox". This is because the Church's "ecclesiastical moons" are not the same as the real moon periods; additionally the vernal equinox is fixed, for convenience, at March 21st, not by the actual position of the sun. However, it's a handy rule-of-thumb that illustrates how the date of Easter Day can vary by up to a lunar month, between March 23rd and April 25th.

Occasionally, Easter Day falls on March 24th, so that Palm Sunday falls on St Patrick's Day. This last happened in 1940, and some people celebrated by wearing both the shamrock and the palm. The next really late Easter Day will be on 24th April 2011. When Easter is as late as this, it seems strange to see everything blooming so early in Lent. On the one hand, when starting the annual abstinence from cheddar cheese, I'm reminded irresistibly of the opening lines of Robert Browning's *Easter-Day*, where he cries, "How very hard it is to be a Christian!" On the other hand we see all around us that A E Housman's "Loveliest of trees, the cherry now / Is hung with bloom along the bough, / And stands about the woodland ride / Wearing white for Eastertide." There's a lot more Lent to come before April 23rd, when, as Browning has it in his closing lines, "... Easter-Day breaks! But Christ rises!" (Steve Osborn)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will celebrate the millennium on Saturday 15th April 2000 at 7.30pm in Dover Town Hall with a performance of Verdi's thrillingly operatic setting of the Requiem. The hundred-strong chorus and the Connaught Orchestra, led by George Simpson, will as usual be conducted by the Society's Musical Director, Michael Foad. It promises to be a marvellously exciting musical evening! Tickets, price £8 (Students £4), are likely to sell out, so get yours in good time from Dover Town Hall, The Music Box in Maison Dieu Road, or members of Dover Choral Society. For further information ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

W.I NEWS - We had an extremely lively meeting in March, Helen in the chair, Kathleen as stand in secretary and Cherry as stand in treasurer. Sparks flying business part regarding a certain letter. It is absolutely appalling the manner in which some members from other W.I.'s in our group reacted to the letter asking for their views on the year after year increase in subs for the National Federation. Enough of that, onto a much happier pastime. No speaker again so we had a few games of bingo. Kathleen was the caller, a first for her and a very good job she made of it! Then Cherry had a general knowledge quiz for us; the wine flowed, the crisps and peanuts were munched as we gave all our brain's a shuffle. It was good fun and a really nice change from the more usual format. Next meeting 11th April, Belly Dance workshop. Competitions, W.I. limerick, spray of blossom. Hostesses B Palmer, D Polden, D Bartlett. 15th April, Coffee morning at the Willows 10.30 to 12 plus big Easter egg raffle run by Doreen and Rosemary in aid of millennium party. 25th April, Group meeting Temple Ewell. Yellow theme for bring and buy. (Tricia Wright)

DOG FOULING - I have been asked to point out that the bridle-path leading off the end of Short Lane in the Dover direction is subject to the same dog fouling laws as the other paths and roads within Alkham. Would any owner whose dog fouls on this access leading to the fields please clear up the mess as apart from anything else, children play in this area. (editor)

ST. ANTHONY'S - News from St. Anthony's and the church services are on the back page but space did not permit the inclusion of some relevant notes: **During Holy Week** we shall be meeting at 7.30 pm on the following evenings, for an hour's reflection. **MONDAY - HOUGHAM** - Mrs Jo Robertson leads a meditation. **TUESDAY - ALKHAM** - Mr Frank Conley gives a Holy Week organ recital. **WEDNESDAY - CAPEL** - Miss Lyn Chapman invites you to a Passover meal. (Gill Calver)

CHRISTMAS REFUSE COLLECTION - Alkham was not the only parish to complain about the lack of information given by the local authority with regard to the collection of household waste over the Christmas period. The point has been noted by DDC and they will take the comments into account next year. They do point out that where the collections were displayed in the local press there was still a proliferation of rubbish being left out even though it was advertised that there would be no collection. (editor)

HORSES - a resident phoned to say that the field where they keep their horses is adjacent to a bridle-way and unknown persons have been harming their horses. As I understand it a stick or similar has been poked through the fence causing injury to the horses. He asked if anybody else in the parish had been suffering the same problem. If you have will you please give me a ring on 824969 and I will pass the information on. (editor)

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Monday	3	Youth club in VH at 7.00 pm
Saturday	8	Jumble sale – see page 1
Saturday	8	Wine and Wisdom in VH at 8.00pm
Monday	10	Annual Parish Meeting – see page 1
Tuesday	11	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Wednesday	12	Church AGM 7.30 in VH - all welcome
Monday	17	Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in VH
Thursday	20	D & D canine society in V H at 7.30 pm
Saturday	22	SE Astronomical Society in VH
Wednesday	26	Village Hall AGM in VH at 8 pm
Saturday	29	Beekeepers in village hall at 2.00 pm

Pilgrim, our ordinand, speak on 'Faith and Immigration'. Ken is at the cutting edge of this issue, as an immigration officer in Dover and it is an area we all need to consider, so do come to listen and share our perspectives. On April the 10th, our last meeting is to be led by a local headmaster, Mr David Brewster on 'Faith and Education'. Our traditional Mother's Day service, followed by tea in the village hall, takes place at 3 pm on April the 2nd. This year we shall take the opportunity for an hour's reflection each day

CHURCH SERVICES

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April 2 nd	Mother's Day Service 3.00 pm	Mother's Day Service 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
April 9 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
April 16 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
April 20 th Mundy Thursday	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist At Capel 7.30 pm		
April 21 st Good Friday	Joint Benefice – Last Hour on the Cross At Capel 2 - 3 pm		
April 23 rd Easter Day	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am	Sung Eucharist 8.00 am
April 30 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist At Alkham 10.00 am		

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

– It's been good to have a group from Alkham joining in our Monday night Lent course on the theme 'Faith and life'. If you've missed out so far, then how about joining us on Monday the 3rd of April at 7.30 pm in St Radigund's church, Albany Road, Capel to hear Mr Ken

in the week before Easter (known as Holy Week). Few of us can make time for a residential retreat but there is the opportunity here for people of all tastes to reflect for a short time. We are very fortunate to have such an able organist in Mr Frank Conley and he will be playing for us for an hour (with some vocal accompaniment) on Tuesday the 18th of April at 7.30 pm in St Anthony's. We do hope to see you and don't forget our Easter Day celebration is at 9.30 am this year. A Very Happy Easter to you all from Gill and all at St Anthony's. (Gill Calver)

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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

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

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

No. 81 May 2000

Free – non profit
Independent

FREDERIC HALL Solicitors

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

ASYLUM SEEKERS – John Garlinge who lives in Newlyn Meadow phoned me with the following story. On the 19th of April when returning from his dog walk with Sadie, he turned round to see where she was and saw an E registration Vauxhall Cavalier stop at the village phone box.. Two swarthy looking males jumped out of the back of the car, which then did a quick U-turn in the entrance to Newlyn Meadow before speeding off towards Folkestone. The men then went in the phone box and rang the police who duly arrived and took them off to claim asylum. The police said there had been a similar occurrence at Round Hill at the end of the valley where twelve people had been dropped off. (editor)

A JUMPING SHOW is going to be held at Greenhill Farm, Meggett Lane on Sunday 7th of May. The jumping will be on sand and grass and the first class starts at 9.00 am. For further information and schedules please phone 01303 892056.

MILLENNIUM PHOTOGRAPHS are available now at a cost of £6 each. Thanks to an extremely generous gesture from Adrian at 'Seymour Harrison' in Folkestone who only charged us £4 instead of the £5.20 originally quoted, each photo bought will contribute £2 to the village hall fund. Our sincere thanks go to him and also to Joseph O'Brien for the excellent photography. Please contact Stephen Comfort on 822619 to collect at weekends only please.

FOR SALE – Larry Lambourne has a green coloured Renault 5 Campus 5 door saloon for sale at £1000. It is G registered, has done 73700 miles and comes with road tax, MOT and service record. If you are interested please phone 822365.

FORD – two ex Harvey Grammar School boys are included in the 18 people selected from hundreds to be sponsored by Ford for Mechanical Engineering courses. Nineteen year old Max Sheppard from Ellinge, who you may have seen driving around in a green three wheeler, is going to Southampton University to take a masters degree and Dominic Fountain who lives in Alkham is going to University College London. Although they went to school together they did not realise they had both applied for sponsorship until they met at Dagenham. They are both to be congratulated on their achievement. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY – a coach trip to the Millennium Dome has been arranged for members and their friends on Saturday the 2nd of September 2000 and we will hopefully leave the Dome at about 6.30 pm for the return journey back to Alkham. The cost per person will be adults £23, Senior Citizens, children and students £19 and payment will, I am afraid, have to be made in full by the 31st of July. Food is not included. Members will receive details personally but please put this date in your diaries if you are interested. We look forward to having a full coach load and a jolly trip. (Pamela Sayers)

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14 - 20 May – there will be a door to door collection throughout the Parish during that week, and the 10 mile sponsored walk from Dover and back, via Alkham on Saturday afternoon the 13th of May. If you would like to take part in the walk, either for the whole 10 miles, or maybe only 5 miles leaving it at Alkham, then do please obtain a sponsor form from Susan Lees.

VLLAGE PARTY - everything is on-line for the party on Saturday 27th May. There has been a marvellous response so it really should be a great and memorable day. The first part of the celebrations will be from 4pm onwards, when those people who do not wish to take part in the more lively and noisy evening revelries are welcome to come along and have a cup of tea and chat with friends. At the same time there will be a toddler's party to which all parents and toddlers are welcome and Mr Chuckles the children's entertainer will begin his show at 4.30 pm for approximately an hour. There will be a disco until 7.30pm but this should be well away from the "chatting" area; older children and young teenagers may enjoy the disco. Music in the evening will be performed by Ian Shorecross' group. There will be a free pig roast, but we ask you to bring along your own drinks, and contributions of food may be placed on the communal table. If possible bring your patio chairs. However, before it takes place we need some help to clear the barn of the odd bits of junk, dirt and cobwebs! This is where we call on men and lads, and lassies if willing, to come along to the barn (nr. Hogbrook Farm) and lend a helping hand, 6.30pm Monday 15th May. Then on the following Monday 22nd May 6.30pm helpers will be welcome to come along and decorate the barn. (Susan Lees)

A WI JUMBLE SALE will be held on Saturday 6th May in the village hall. Helpers and jumble received from 10 am with doors open to sell at 11 pm. (Susan Lees)

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shows that reducing the limit to 20 mph, only slowed vehicles by about 1 mph. However, in self-enforcing 20 mph zones (i.e. traffic calming) experience shows that accidents are reduced by about 60%. The review recommends that local authorities use powers to create these zones, where appropriate. Fewer drivers exceed the speed limit on rural roads but local authorities will be encouraged to take action to slow vehicles where speed related problems exist. This includes making new local speed limits. The review confirms the success of speed cameras and with the police getting some of the money generated by fines they will be able to fund further cameras. If you would like to read more or get further information please give me a ring. (editor)

LORRIES - DDC have replied to the letter sent in February, to confirm that a proposed junction improvement on the Alkham Valley Road at Kearsney is to cater for pedestrians and cyclists. They also confirm that the highway authority are very concerned about the problems being caused by HGV's using unsuitable routes and have allocated funds to treat the worst affected areas. The Alkham Road is one that they are going to look at in the near future. At the Annual Parish meeting the Parish Clerk said that she had received a letter from DDC on this matter and it will be debated at the next Parish Council meeting. (editor)

FOOTPATHS - the guest speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting was Andrew Hutchinson who is a team leader in the footpath section of KCC. An item of interest in his talk was the Parish Path Partnership or more easily referred to as P3. If the parish was to join the scheme it may be possible to get 100% grants to carry out some project relating to footpaths. This could for instance be the replacement of a stile with a kissing gate or local walks cards. The average cost of such projects is about £200 and if the work was done voluntarily, worthwhile projects could be achieved. A couple of politicians in the audience gave him a rough ride over this but irrespective of any outcome it does seem a good idea. I have spoken to someone else in the village who also agrees with me, so if there any other like minded people, please give me a ring. (editor)

GARDEN TALK - our last meeting was held at Chalkdown Cottage. Devina gave us some very interesting information on growing lilies, which we discussed, among many other things, over our usual wine and nibbles. Thank you John and Devina for your hospitality. Ian and Lucy have kindly offered to have the next meeting at the Vicarage on Friday 5th May at 7.30 pm. NB not at Bramhall as planned. Colin Griggs will be giving us a talk on a subject of his choice. All welcome. (Susannah Tapsell)

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING on the 10th of April was attended by eighteen people. The Chairman gave his report in which he said that with the Reverend Gill Calver's support there is a good chance that we will be able to purchase Vicarage Meadow from the Church Commissioners. He thanked everyone in the parish for all their time and generosity in raising money for the various appeals which included the village hall, millennium trees and celebrations. He also considered that the planning officers of DDC lived on another planet with regard to decisions made in the last year. Reports were given by Councillor Fred Scales, Peter Mercer for the village hall, Paul Tapsell for the Alkham Valley Society, Betty Neely for the Millennium Committee, Denis Barnard for the cricket club and Colin Griggs for Capel School. (editor)

EASTER EGG RAFFLE raised over £140 and the prize winners in order are: Lucy Matcham, Debbie Stace, Marquis pub, Mary at Malmaison x2, Lucy Matcham, Bev Allen, B Jeapes, T Wright, K Mears, S Milroy, N Melville, Ferndale, 2 Church Cottages, D Graham, W Pepper, B Wall, N Melville, Fountain, B Allen, T Wright, D Fagg, Lucy at Vicarage, Betty Neely, Tom plus Sylvia at Glebelands, 15 and 18 Newlyn Meadow, Gussy, P Comfort, C Goldfinch.

COUNTRY NOTES - Grandma Meadows. My gran was a lovely lady with all the qualities expected from one in her position. Kind, patient, generous and very jolly. Deaf from the age of 18, her hearing aid tucked inside her blouse pocket with a wire that led up to the hearing piece in her ear. When granddad was having a bit of a nag, she would discreetly turn down the sound and just nod in all the right places. She raised her brood of children on Yorkshire puddings with gravy and egg and chips cooked in lard. Her general cooking was dreadful, she could burn water. In fact several kettles met this fate as she couldn't hear them boiling. Eventually granddad bought her an automatic one. If it came in a packet or a tin, then it was on the menu. A regular breakfast for myself and my two brothers was corn flakes and pink blancmange. Such decadence and we loved her for her funny ways. She was highly superstitious and never turned away from a gypsy out selling pegs and bunches of 'lucky heather'. Broken mirrors, dropped gloves, new shoes on the table and spilt salt all spelt disaster of one kind or another. Saturday afternoons were devoted to the football pools. Different number combinations were jotted down in a book. Special formulas were devised and numbers seen in dreams or in the flames of the fire were all recorded and used. Needless to say, she never became a millionaire....to be continued. (Devina Bartlett)

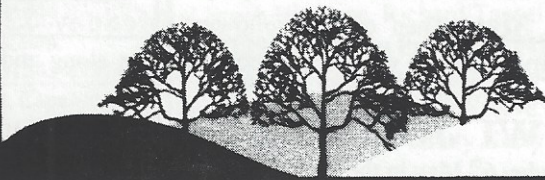
TRAFFIC SPEEDS - in the February edition of the Newsletter I said that as requested by the CPRE, I had written to Tony Blair saying how a 40 mph limit on country roads and 20 mph speed limits in urban areas would beneficially affect Alkham. The DETR have replied to this letter and included the main findings of the Department's report. In précis they say that excessive and inappropriate speeds are a major contributory factor in accidents. The goal is to ensure that vehicle speeds are appropriate for all roads achieved through measures covering engineering, enforcement and education. The review confirmed that in urban areas, lowering the speed limit is not an effective way of reducing vehicle speeds as evidence

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September 1785 he added, "...now they devour the plums as they fall." One of my friends comments that his aged labrador regularly eats gooseberries and pears from the branches. Jak was first described by the rescue centre as a "border collie" but his homing certificate reads "collie cross". James Reid, who organised the early sheepdog trials, asserted that the term "border collie" was unknown before the first war, coming into use when Northumbrian breeders and trainers produced a dog unique for its intense concentration based on "eye power". Reid continued "Dogs of this kind ...at trials...invariably swept the boards, and were called "border collies" because of the area from which they came." As for the remainder of Jak's parentage, he has "back like a beam, side like a bream", both "properties of a good Greyhound" as described in the mediaeval *Boke of St Albans*. Perhaps this is why friends sometimes refer to "the lurcher" and conclude their discussions with the ominous "Good luck!" (Steve Osborn)

W.I. NEWS – what a cracking meeting we had in April. Mrs Hilary Kenyon-Vaughan came and gave us quite an interesting talk on the origins of belly dancing, then on went the music and up we got, well some of us and we shimmied and waggled. Some of the less secured parts flipped and flopped. Oh what fun!! The less brave ones who had remained seated laughed so much that tears streamed down, make-up ruined but what the heck, it was great fun. Hilary can come back again as soon as she likes. Next meeting 9th of May, Brian Wimssett will be showing two 10 minute black and white films, one from the 1930's and the other made for the Women's Land Army circa 1939. Competitions: wild flower arrangement – longest stick of rhubarb. Hostesses Helen, Jean, Doreen. New members are always welcome, come and try us out, we are not stuffy at all. 10th May visit to Aylesford Priory, leave at 12.30 should be home about 5pm. 27th May village party 1600 hrs. – 2300 hrs. Have fun. (Tricia Wright)

MILLENNIUM FUND RAISING - our coffee morning and Easter egg raffle at the Willows raised the fantastic sum of £244.75. Our thanks to Rosemary and Doreen Lott for the super job of selling raffle tickets and also for organising the Quiz Night on the 8th of April which made a profit of over £240. Thanks also to Helen and Cal Scopes for opening their home to us and to all of you who supported us and gave so generously, we couldn't have done it without you. (Tricia Wright)

PARISH COUNCILS – last month I reported, as said at the parish council meeting, that the government intended to abolish parish councils. At bell ringing practice Paul Tapsell passed me a copy of a letter he had received from Gwyn Prosser. The letter effectively said that the abolition of parish councils was something being spread about by the Conservative Party and that the Labour Government had no intention of doing so. They recognise the importance of Parish Councils and proposals in the White Paper to be published in July will actually empower Parish Councils further. (editor)

ALKHAM YOUTH CLUB is still meeting fortnightly, except when the village hall has been previously booked, with a regular turnout of about 25 to 30 youngsters. In January our Quiz team (Janine Martin, Matthew and Tom Elliott, Emily DeGrussa and Sam Marlow) won the Capel Youth Club Quiz Evening. The Dry slope skiing booked for April has had to be cancelled but we are still hoping for a good response to the Planet Laser trip (date to be announced). Holly DeGrussa has written a playlet, which Marie Jones is helping to produce so watch this space for future productions. As the evenings become lighter we should soon be able to have some activities on the green including cricket and rounders. My final point is a plea to parents concerning the behaviour of some of the members. It is accepted that energetic kids playing together for a couple of hours will sometimes go a bit to far in terms of discipline. This is understood by the Youth Club Leaders and in general not a problem, however there are one or two who go beyond this and this will not be accepted. The culprits know who they are, please do not let them spoil it for the rest. (Dennis Barnard)

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - Well as spring turns to summer and the weather decides to get colder and gloomier than January and February, must mean that only one thing is upon us. The fine English Tradition of ball on willow is set to return to the Village Green near you as Alkham Cricket Club moves into the 21st Century. After the high and lows of last season, the squad has started as it means to go on with a Curry night in Canterbury with eighteen of us enjoying a very pleasant evening. But as all good (?) sides we party hard and we play hard as for the last five Sunday Mornings the team under the fellowship of new skipper Ian Calloway has been practising in the nets at Canterbury. A good turnout of at least ten cricketers has been attempting to tune up their techniques before the start of the season

ahead. The season starts on the 30th April against River Woodpeckers at River Rec. before we return to the Meadow for Home games against Courtstairs (7th May), Old Hartsdonians (21st May) and the return against Woodpeckers on the 28th. Support in any of these matches would be gratefully appreciated. On a differing note we have a few remaining copies of the review of last season. If you want a jovial view of last seasons efforts, please come down and see either Ian or Matt who for a princely sum of £5 will be more than happy to hand over the review of the last Alkham Cricket season of the 20th Century. (Matthew Gerrard)

OZ on LIFE WITH JAK - "He'll change your life", friends say, on hearing that we've adopted a seven-month old rescue collie. We were prepared for displays of mischief and energy; what surprised was Jak's capacity to eat. In three weeks he's eaten dog food, cat food, cat litter, wood, coal, a bumble-bee, a banana, numerous fallen Bramley and Discovery apples, and other items best left unreported. Friends augment their advice with "It's normal puppy behaviour." In an attempt to understand the appetite for fruit, I turned again to Gilbert White. In his diary of 25th August 1784 he reported "My great apricot tree appeared to have been robbed by a dog that stood on his hind legs", and "I have known a dog eat the gooseberries as they hung on the trees". On 1st

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH from 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	'Get it off club' 10.00 am in the village hall. (weight loss for Alkham ladies)
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)

Friday	5	Garden Talk at the Vicarage 7.30 pm
Saturday	6	Bingo at 7.30 pm in village hall - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Saturday	6	W.I. jumble sale - see page 1
Sunday	7	Cricket v Courtstairs VG 2.30 pm
Monday	8	Parish Council AGM 7.30 pm in VH
Monday	8	Mother and toddlers in VH at 10.00 am
Tuesday	9	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Monday	15	Cage bird society at 7.30 pm in VH
Monday	15	Mother and toddlers in VH at 10.00 am
Tuesday	16	Rotary Club wine and wisdom
Thursday	18	D & D canine society in VH at 7.30 pm
Sunday	21	Cricket v Old Hartstonians VG 2.30 pm
Saturday	27	Millennium Party see page 1
Monday	22	Youth Club in village hall 7.00 pm
Sunday	28	Cricket v Old Woodpeckers VG 2.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
May 7 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
May 14 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
May 21 st	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
May 28 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist at Capel 10.00 am		

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S - last month was a busy month for us in church, as we marked Holy Week and celebrated Easter together. It was a time when many of us feel we recharge our own batteries, taking in nourishment if you like. This month we are spurred to look outwards to the needs of others throughout the world. Christian Aid Week is from the 14th to the 20th of May and we shall have a house to house collection in the village. It is an opportunity to give to those pushed right to the edge of our society - in Mozambique or Madagascar, still trying to rebuild their lives after the floods, or Ethiopia where famine once again threatens to overtake the population. Please give generously and watch out for Ken Hammond (or others?) who might be donning their walking boots. (Gill Calver)

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn 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
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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

DATABOX 2000 a snapshot of village life in the week 17th to 24th of April 2000 is going well. We have persuaded 10 people to write a diary for one day in that week for the 10-year age groups between 0 and 100. A community plan has been prepared together with key facts, the economy, clubs and activities, religion, local publications, 36 black and white photos and interviews with local characters. The whole will be archived for future generations. (Susan Lees and Brian Wimsett)

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 and work number 01795532547
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 And Trevor Bamfield 202334
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 822295 and Betty Preston 822421)
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Alkham CT15 7DE Tel. 824969

No. 82 June 2000

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A CHARITY CRICKET MATCH in aid of the Kent Air Ambulance Service is being held on the village green on Sunday the 25th of June at 2.00 pm between the Marquis of Granby and Alkham Cricket Club. There will be lots of things going on such as a barbecue, kids treasure hunt, King Neptune from Neptune Radio at 3 pm and live music in the evening. There is also a grand raffle with some fantastic prizes. Beer and lager is £1.50 a pint with 50p going to Kent Air Ambulance. If you would like to sponsor the event by giving a penny a run or would like to take part, go to the Marquis or phone them on 822945. (editor)

MILLENNIUM TREES – it is very pleasing to report that the trees planted on the village green are thriving. A

suggestion has been made that a small numbered brass plate should be attached to each tree and a list put up in the village hall recording the person who sponsored the tree. Seems like a good idea and the parish council are looking into the matter. (editor)

BOLLARDS the Parish Council is to ask DDC to complete the infill of half height bollards on the verge opposite the Marquis of Granby to deter parking and also for aesthetic reasons. (editor)

SPEEDING – from the 22nd to 30th of June the police are going to target Alkham with laser speed guns. The operation is called Victory 2000 and those caught exceeding the speed limit by a certain amount will be invited to go on a road safety awareness course or be booked. On the 5th of May a resolute policeman booked just about everybody exceeding the speed limit through the village. As the DETR suggest a self-enforcing limit by traffic management would appear to be the answer.

PLAY EQUIPMENT – a quote of £178 has been received for installing steps up the bank to the slide and climbing frame on the village green. The parish council felt that this was a very reasonable cost but for accounting purposes two further quotes will be obtained with the work being carried out shortly afterwards. (editor)

STREET LIGHTING at EWELL MINNIS – one resident thought that further street lighting at Ewell Minnis was a good idea but three others didn't and therefore the parish council voted not to pursue the matter. (editor)

MILLENNIUM PARTY – on the 15th of May 12 people turned up to clean the barn on Hogbrook Lane for the forthcoming party. Without exception everybody got stuck in and swept the barn and the car park wearing protective masks and they are all to be congratulated on a splendid piece of work. The barn was also decorated on the 22nd. (editor)

A COFFEE MORNING is being held at Finsa on Slip Lane, which is the home of Barbara and Bob Palmer on the 10th of June at 10.30am onwards. It is in aid of the cricket club and youth club and everybody is welcome.

A COFFEE MORNING is also being held at the home of Rosemary and John Crothall, Brook House, Megget Lane, South Alkham on Saturday the 17th of June 10.30 to 12 in aid of their grandson's playgroup.

RECYCLING BINS – I have been asked to put a reminder in the Newsletter that there are recycling bins for just about everything at The Alkham Valley Garden Centre. (editor)

BOOT FAIR – on the 6th of August there will be a boot fair in the field just to the west of the village. The idea is that it should be for the benefit of the village and therefore any village organisation who would like to boost their funds should attend a meeting in the village hall on the 15th of June at 8.00 pm. It is also essential that there are enough helpers on the day so please give me a ring on 822661 if you can assist. (Susan Lees)

KASH or Kent Action to Save Heat are looking for volunteers to be Community Advisors who will tell others about the benefits of insulating their property with discounted insulation measures. A Community Advisor would be given full training and also have their house fully insulated for £50. If you would like more information or an application form to volunteer, please phone Susan Lees, the Parish Clerk on 822661. (editor)

dover care and repair is a project which helps elderly and disabled home owners to have repairs, renovations and adaptations done to their houses to enable them to stay in their homes. They will visit your home and assess the works needed, discuss payment and arrange for grants or loans to meet the cost, arrange specifications, organise reputable builders, supervise the works and give continued advice and support. They can also provide this support for cases where the client funds the works. For more information contact them at Cleary House, 1 Maison Dieu Road, Dover, CT16 1RW or phone 211551. (editor)

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opposite is true among the English middle classes, who love the idea of a "country place" and village life. What life? In the 1930's it was at least notionally centred on pub, shop, post office, church, cricket club, village bobby and farming. Much of that has either disappeared or is waning fast. My only farming neighbour decamped to truly rural Shropshire four years ago. Agriculture is peripheral to Alkham, whose inhabitants are overwhelmingly retired or working in nearby towns, e. g. the farmer's splendid timbered farmhouse now belongs to a lawyer who works in Dover and her physiotherapist husband who works in Deal. We shop like townies in supermarkets. We drive everywhere -- unlike Londoners, ironically, where a third of households do not own cars, largely because there is no space to park them or drive them. At my dentist's in central London, parking on a meter costs £1 for 30 minutes. You have to get around the city on the cattle-truck tube or on the traffic snarled buses. So, yes, I am happy to be able to park my car in Alkham, and to look out on to the green hills grazed by sheep and horses. And on the positive side, communal life thrives at a certain level. The parish council is active in local affairs. There is a just-still-functioning Alkham Valley Society for environmental matters. Church and pub are fairly diminuendo, however. The village hall has events for young people, a weekly painting class, and village cricket survives in summer, albeit with outsiders in the team. The Women's Institute flourishes and my impression is that such village life as survives is due to the ladies, who are much better at networking than men. This is England, so the class system survives with an "executive" estate on one side of the village and a council estate on the other. A retired road engineer runs a monthly village news sheet for which he deserves a gold star. Without it I wouldn't know what was going on, since it is an illusion to think that village people are "much friendlier" than townies always dropping into each others houses for a cup of tea and a chat. It is raining again this morning. It seems to have been raining for ever and the meteorologists are saying that this will be the rainiest April since 1818. So I am glad to be in London for a couple of days. I need a dose of city life.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT – a letter had been received from the Kent County Council asking for suggestions with regard to decreasing the volume of HGV's using the Alkham Valley Road. This appears to be good news. A sub-committee has been set up within the parish council comprising Neil Burrows, Colin Griggs, Paul Tapsell and Rosemary Crothall to look at possible solutions. (editor)

FOOTPATHS – the intention is to set up the Parish Path Partnership. Particular projects may be the replacing of a couple of stiles with kissing gates. However, Ray Ashman of Fryers Ferne Farm wrote to me to suggest light heartedly that we put life belts at the dip on the bridleway to the west of his house. It floods to some depth but as he suggests perhaps a lorry load of earth could solve the problem. (editor)

GARDEN TALK – We held our May meeting at the Vicarage, when our hosts were Lucy and Ian; thank you both. We strolled round the garden and enjoyed the planting and the views. Inside, we discussed dahlia propagation and our swop table plants over wine and nibbles. Our next meeting will be at the Hermitage on Thursday the 1st of June at 7.30 pm. If you enjoy garden talk and looking around gardens for ideas, then do come and join us. (Susannah Tapsell 822295)

LOCALS – it's always nice to print something about people in Alkham. Further to the Ford article last month, Domini Fountain's grandmother phoned me to say that he is also currently in the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain. I also understand that Matthew Hulyer who lives in Church Cottages is an England schoolboy's long jumper.

ELLINGE LANE – at the top of Slip Lane now has a very deep accumulation of stones and debris, which has been washed down in the heavy rainstorms. The road underneath is in a very poor state but because finances do not allow DDC intend to clear the road and pour a mix of suitable material with the arisings to form a passable route. (editor)

COUNTRY NOTES – **Grandma Meadows.** Holidays spent at Grans was sheer joy. Our parents stayed elsewhere, so we could come and go as we pleased. We would drive down from Hampshire in dad's Morris Minor, green with a walnut dashboard and trims I remember. As we entered the county of Kent, we joked that we could smell gran's yorkshires already. I generally shared a room with her, whilst my brothers had the box room. She had several blankets edged with silk strip and we always had to argue about who got which colour, my favourite was the red one. She had a tapestry above her bed with an oriental princess astride a man's horse, with all his warriors following on behind. Many's the different tale she would tell about it. In the height of the summer, we were allowed to sleep in the garden. Granddad had a sort of polythene greenhouse. We would carry out the camp beds, blankets and pillows and gran would make us a midnight feast of jam sandwiches, custard creams and a handful of sweets. We were never afraid, as we would be nowadays. Laying there we could see the stars twinkling in the black sky and hear the last bird song of the night and the first of the morning. Blue skies signalled another lovely day, the smell of bacon wafted from the scullery and a day out at the beach was on the cards ... to be continued. (Devina Bartlett)

A DAY IN THE LIFE of Peter Chambers as recorded for Databox 2000 (printed with permission).

I am driving to London today to see my dentist. Looking forward to my city visit? Yes and no. On the motorways from East Kent I can get there in under two hours, better timing than from any other direction towards the capital. We have a house in London because my wife still works there during the week, coming to Alkham most weekends. London is where I spent most of my working life. Now I am mostly in the country, with a cottage and a garden to look after. Yet I am still a displaced townie, like so many other inhabitants of this once agricultural village. All over the world the population drift is out of the country and into towns. But the

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to observe, and the ability to record, what went on in the countryside. One of my favourite such vicars is the Reverend Francis Kilvert, who was born in Wiltshire in 1840, educated at Oxford, and who started his *Diary* in 1870 while serving as curate at Clyro in Radnorshire. His descriptive powers were formidable; on June 1st 1872 he referred to the bog bean as "one of the loveliest flowers that grows, the exquisite fret and filigree work of the white lace blossom surrounded by the cluster of bright pink buds." Kilvert was a genuine innocent, but very much a man of the world that he described so accurately. On 16th March 1870 he reported that "I ate so much hare that I could hardly walk and saw stars." I'm always reminded of Kilvert when our collie, Jak, finally settles down on the landing after another day's scavenging. He seems for all the world to be reviewing the day, with that look on his face that concludes "...and I have done those things that I ought not to have done." (Steve Osborn)

W.I. REPORT – resolutions made last month, not the liveliest of meetings. 1) Proposed post office closures, a consequence of pensions being paid directly into bank accounts as from 2003. The Postmistress from St Margarets very kindly came and chatted about the goings on in theirs. How very much more it was than just paying pensions and selling stamps. We were given lots of statistics but at the same time she did not know whether we in Alkham had a post office. 2) Stroke awareness – some more government help; apparently we in South East Kent have three counsellors, being very fortunate as there other areas with none. 3) Demelza House – government support needed, not to just depend on the voluntary organisations. We were unanimous in the supporting these resolutions. Fortunately Brian (Wimsett) lifted our hearts with two excellent films from the 1930's. Farming in the Weald, reminding most of us how farming in days long ago was done. The Women's Land Army film, showed how in complete contrast, their uniform clean to perfection, even atop the haystack, to the working men and women clothes in the previous film. Thank you Brian, a most enjoyable light interlude prior to the much needed refreshments. Our outing to Aylesford Priory was pleasant and made a nice change. I enjoyed the wildlife almost as much as those beautiful chapels. They have centuries old feel about them but they were restored less than 50 years ago. Next meeting 13th of June 7.30 pm. Speaker, Mrs J Bryant, growing and using herbs. Competitions, first rose of summer, 4 herb scones. Hostesses, S Tapsell, B Trundell, P Sayers. 31st May 7pm programme planning meeting at Doreen W's. 5th June, Top Team Quiz at Whitfield. (Tricia Wright)

PARISH COUNCILS -in last months Newsletter I quoted from a letter written by Gwyn Prosser who said that rumours regarding the abolition of parish councils was something being spread about by the Conservative Party. At the last parish council meeting a report given by the KAPC delegates and expanded on by the council chairman, pointed to the fact that the boundaries Commission will be reviewing a number of District councils in England. The lady representing the commission said that Dover district 56 councillors would have to be whittled down. A DDC proposal is to cut the current 56 down to 45 reducing the number of Wards and combine many parishes together i.e. Alkham, Capel, Hougham with River. Under this system it would appear that there would be an in-built majority for one political party. However the Commission gave assurances that they will investigate these claims. The chairman felt that if we had the new system thrust upon us the next step would be for smaller parishes to be combined such as Hougham with Alkham. The deadline for making representation is the 1st of August but it is inevitable that something will happen although it looks at present that Alkham Parish Council will survive. (editor and George Tyler)

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - Well it seems that the only winner in the first few weeks of the season has been the weather as only one match has been completed. A moral victory rather than an actual one was achieved by the team against Courtstairs. As the excellent team spirit saw the side snatch a draw from the jaws of defeat. My participation was unsurprisingly not missed after an accident within a Squash Court (the less said about that the better) as the team started brightly with the Criminal Justice pair of Nick Price and Neil Moors combining to get a wicket in the first over of the season. Further inroads were made by the inimitable Mark Culley but the visitors fought back along with the sunshine to record a total of 197. The total seemed to beyond Alky as three of our top four batsman failed to get bat on ball and scuttled back to the pavilion before any of us could blink. However my esteemed predecessor for this column Dennis Barnard hit the first Alkham fifty of the new century and a rearguard effort from Paul Hatton and Moors saw the team through to a creditable draw. The local derby against River Woodpeckers is the next game on the 28th May and the team also hope to travel for their first away game in over a year when we visit Betteshanger. With a keen, mean squad of 14 who all want to taste the scrumptious teas we are famous for, the future seems bright as we strive for that first victory since 1998. Finally a note for your diary is the 25th June when a Charity game in aid of the Air Ambulance is being organised against the Marquis where a fun day for all the family is being organised. (Matthew Gerrard)

OZ on KILVERT - A friend asked recently "Why are you always writing about vicars?" There's some truth in the accusation, and part of the reason lies in my lifelong enthusiasms for music, literature and the countryside, roughly in that order. The link between music and the church is ancient and continuing; *Punch* magazine, reviewing the newly emerging popular music in the summer of 1957, commented "harmonies from the Ancient and Modern hymn-book, words based loosely on the English language." The three-way symbiosis between the worlds of clergy, books and nature is not so apparent. Broadly, until the spread of universal education that accompanied the Industrial Revolution, it was only the clergy that had the leisure

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

MONDAY	Mother & Toddler 10 to 12 VH
TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	'Get it off club' 10.00 am in the village hall. (weight loss for Alkham ladies)
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Thursday	1	Garden Talk at the Hermitage 7.30pm
Tuesday	6	PCC in the vicarage at Capel 7.30 pm
Wednesday	7	Fete committee meeting 8pm in village hall
Thursday	8	D & D canine society VH 7.30pm
Saturday	10	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Saturday	10	Coffee morning - see page 1
Monday	12	Youth Club in village hall 7pm
Tuesday	13	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	15	Millennium meeting 8pm in the village hall - see page 1
Saturday	17	Coffee morning - see page 1
Sunday	18	Cricket v Burmarsh village green 2.30 pm
Monday	19	Cage bird society 7.30 pm VH
Sunday	25	Charity Cricket Match Alkham v Marquis - see page one

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
June 1 st	Ascension Day - Joint Benefice at Capel 7.30 pm		
June 4 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
June 11 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
Note also	Pentecost Celebration at Dover Castle 2.30-4.30pm (see below)		
June 18 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	No service	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
Note also	Deanery Evensong Canterbury Cathedral 6.30 pm		
June 25 th	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist at Hougham 10.00 am		

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S - This month is an opportunity to join together with other churches in the Dover area for two important celebrations. Firstly, how about joining in the open-air worship at the Dover Castle at Pentecost (June 11th). Even Radio Kent are coming and you can bring your sandwiches (and chairs) from 1 pm for a picnic. Then on June 18th there is our annual opportunity to join with all other Dover churches in Canterbury Cathedral for our deanery evensong. Do join us then for the 6.30 pm service if you can. **(Gill Calver)**

DOVER CASTLE - there is a Pentecost Celebration and Worship at Dover Castle on Sunday the 11th of June from 2.30 pm to 4.30pm. The Snowdon Colliery Welfare Band, the Apostolic Church Music Group and the Methodist Amateur Dramatic Group will be there. The Bishop of Dover will be present and part of the open-air worship will be broadcast by Radio Kent. Bring your own sandwiches (and chairs) from 1 pm onwards. Admission is by ticket, which is free and obtainable from your local church. Any enquiries phone 823085, 830226 or 212470.

SONGS OF PRAISE - the BBC is preparing a special day of television broadcasts on Sunday 4 June, featuring live coverage of the 60th anniversary of the evacuations from Dunkirk. This will include a special *Songs of Praise*, to be recorded in Dunkirk, featuring singers from churches in the Dover and Dunkirk areas. **(Steve Osborn)**

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freereserve.co.uk
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freereserve.co.uk
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Police - Community Support 218151 Report crime taking place 01303 850055
	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Betty Preston 822421
	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow	824201
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road	826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton	824991
CAT and DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis	822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis	828007 & 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham	01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmaims Farm	Alkham	202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham	827644
FREE RANGE MEAT and eggs	Sladden farm butchery, home-made sausages, no antibiotics	Alkham Valley Road	825188
FISH & CHIPS Fridays 7 - 7.30	Derek and Anne on village green - pre order before 4.30 pm		826463 or 04683 16610 after 4.30
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre farm shop/tea rooms, open daily	South Alkham	01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton	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	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, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue,	01303 253212

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

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PETER CHAMBERS - in last month's Newsletter I printed Peter's diary for Databox 2000 which was supposed to be for archivists, but because it was so well written I asked Peter if I could print it and he agreed. There has been a lot of comment about his diary (4 in this edition) and I take responsibility for any offence, which it may have caused. Peter's a good bloke who unintentionally stirred up a lively debate. (editor)

A DOSE of village life works wonders

I think that without exception every one of the four hundred people who attended the village party on the 27th of May had a wonderful evening. Once again we were reminded that the spirit of village life is indeed alive and kicking. The whole event was a roaring success. The

evening was preceded by afternoon tea and a children's party, highlighted by a very enthusiastic clown and a disco. The barn was completely full in the evening. The music of Ian Shorecross catered for all ages and tastes and the floor was never empty. I didn't think there were so many snappy little movers in the village! Generosity abounded when it came to the food, there was plenty for all. I'm sure everybody would agree that the hog roast, very kindly donated by Cal and Helen Scopes, was 'the icing on the cake'. Thank you both. Finally thanks must go to the ladies of Millennium Committee who gave of their time so generously to set up the event. If it was not for them and many unnamed others in this beautiful village, Alkham would end up like some impersonal city suburb and I for one need 'a dose of city life' like a hole in the head. (Stephen Comfort)

ALKHAM VILLAGE FETE this year will take place on the Vicarage Meadow at 2 pm on Saturday the 8th July 2000. 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. We also need more helpers to take the tents down afterwards **please, please, please** stay to help even if it's just for half an hour. In addition to our celebrity opener (!!!) we should have a fire engine in attendance (siren and all), as well as our regular attractions (band, dancing, tug of war, children's races, etc) If any children want to bring their bikes we will try to have a slow bicycle race. All of the traditional favourite stalls will also 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); 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, please do take part. None of the competitions are meant to be too competitive and the more entries there are the more fun it is for everyone and the better the displays are for our visitors. Children's Art competition - The theme is (with thanks to Peter Chambers for the inspiration) "Life in Alkham", with two age ranges "under 7" and "8 to 12" and entries can be paintings, drawings, or models (£5 prize). (Shirley Tapsell 822638). Cookery Competition - Categories are: For the Children - a novelty biscuit: and for everyone (adults and children welcome) (a) A fancy bread (use your imagination!) (b) Meringue (c) Victoria Sponge, (d) Two Scones, (e) Home made Jam, (f) Home made wine and (g) Home made Meur (Shirley Tapsell 822638). The Produce show is open to everyone (the more entries the better) - it's all very friendly so don't be put off if your name isn't Titchmarsh or Dimmock. 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 (flora), (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!). Alternatively please ensure all unsold raffle tickets are returned to Dot Polden or myself by Wednesday July 5th. (Paul Tapsell)

BRIC A BRAC is wanted by Dennis and Irene Barnard for their stall at the village fete. If you have any items, which you would like to donate, whether big or small, please take them along to Halton Court at the bottom of Slip Lane or alternatively phone them on 824845 and they will collect.

FOR SALE at £10 a child's slide suitable for children aged 3 to 6. Please phone Vanessa Hyland on 822527.

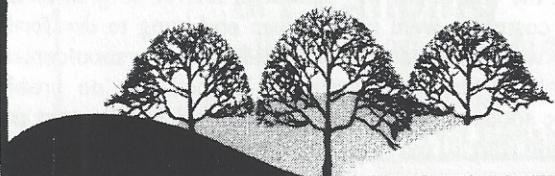
Ian and Lucy McKenzie at the Old Vicarage in Alkham are looking for someone to help with the care of their two children aged 7 and 11 years during the summer holidays, for 2 to 3 days a week. If you are interested please call us on 01304 822172.

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ANOTHER diary for Databox 2000 was written on Sunday 23rd of April by Luke Hyland aged 6, who lives at Little Garth. It is reprinted verbatim with his mother's permission.

When Matthew and I got up we had Easter egg's from Mummy and daddy. My other brother, Christopher was staying with Sam our cousin in Folkestone. I was excited because we were going to meet all our family at parsonage Farm for an Easter egg hunt. I found four egg's and I chased a chicken into the field. I sore lots of lambs, pig's, chicken's, horses, and cows. Bertie my baby cousin found his egg's in the barn. Hannah stood on one of my egg's but some one gave me another egg so I was happy. We had a drink of Tango and nanny grandad mam and dad, and auntie and uncle had

a cup of tea. Then it started to rain and we all went to nanny's to dinner.

Village life? Yes, certainly the 1930's in and around Alkham were different to today. The Post Office and village shop have disappeared, and also the village school, to which the children who lived on the hills around Alkham had to walk to in all weathers, receiving a couple of sharp taps from the ruler or cane if they were five minutes late. Many stories were told by the local characters who were at the receiving end and who were alive to tell the tale when we moved into the village in 1963. The pub and church however, are gradually becoming places once more where the locals meet. I'm sure Mr. Chambers has had a pint, or whatever, in the local Marquis of Granby and has attended St. Anthony's since our excellent vicar Mrs. Gill Calver was ordained, but how often is this? As to the farming community, there is certainly not as much farming in the valley as there used to be, but Sladden Farm is thriving well with its prize herd of bullocks, cows and pigs, as are the farms situated either side of the valley on top of the surrounding hills with their dairy cows and sheep; although farming, as most people will agree, has had, and is still having, a raw deal in both the British and world markets. Alkham has a busy local equestrian centre, so there are of course fields with the horses grazing in them, and, in my opinion, they attractively enhance the scene rather than otherwise. As to the occupants of Hogbrook Farm, the lady of the house was born, christened, confirmed and married in the local church, and both her children were also baptised at St. Anthony's. Her husband, born a countryman not a townie, although he has worked in London, is on the Parish Council and very interested in local affairs. He has also joined the local bell ringers. Although not farmers, they keep chickens, ducks, geese, two pigs and a goat, and, in fact, many of their feathered friends have been hatched out in incubators by themselves with a great deal of trouble and success. As to the Alkham Valley Society, I would suggest it was fairly active until about five years ago. It then went through an exceptionally quiet period. Today, it is not as active as it used to be, partly, and fortunately, because there does not seem to be the controversial planning issues which there have been in the past, but these may well arise in the future. It is pleasing to note the remarks about the W.I., as a great deal of time and trouble is taken by many local ladies to ensure it runs smoothly and successfully, and I'm sure the whole village must be in agreement about our local Newsletter, produced well on time every month. We all very much appreciate you Brian. Townies more friendly than village folk? Never in my experience. In Alkham there is always someone to have a chat to and someone to help you if troubles or difficulties arise. It has often taken me well over half an hour to walk 100 yds to the village post box: I love it, and long may all those who enjoy it continue to do so. (Pamela Sayers)

GARDENTALK - We spent a delightful evening at The Hermitage for our June gathering, wandering round the garden, learning about the different plants, sharing ideas and admiring the lovely setting. Devina told us about the folklore of many different plants and also some anti-pests ideas and we enjoyed our wine, nibbles and natter and sharing our swap table plants. Thank you, Derek, Marion and Devina. Our next meeting will be at Box Tree Cottage, Slip Lane on Monday July 3rd at 7.30pm.

FOR THE plant stall at the Fete on July 8th, please may I request as many plants as possible. You could bring them to the stall on the day or if you would prefer me to collect in the week before, then do call me on 822295. (Susannah Tapsell)

COUNTRY NOTES - a day at the seaside with Gran was such fun. Once we got up it was all hands on deck. Flip flops, goggles, buckets and spades all had to be packed. Lunch boxes were filled with assorted sandwiches. Shiphams fish paste and jam were the favourites, though not in the same sandwich you understand! Apples, crisps and Ritz crackers were bagged up next and bottles of orange and lemon squash completed the picnic. Her nylon shopping bag was then stuffed with sunglasses, hats, sun lotion, comics, swimming trunks and stripey towels. Meanwhile granddad found deck chairs, windbreaks and lilos. All this was crammed into the back of his Reliant Robin, along with us three children. He would toot his horn impatiently as gran would check that the oven was switched off, the windows were closed and the immersion heater was on for all the baths later that evening. When she got in the car it lurched alarmingly as she was a big lady. I always secretly afraid that we would tip up in the drive! The day was always so exciting, the sky so blue and the sea warm. But that was probably seen through child's eyes. The ice creams kept coming, the beach combing bag gradually filled up with shells, pebbles, coloured glass, worn smooth like gemstones and much prized by us all. Once home they would be stuck onto bottles and jars with a glue paste that she made up with flour and water. Grandma would eventually remove her stockings, hitch up her dress and paddle at the water's edge. Dire warnings were issued to anyone who might dare splash her. Lunch was consumed as were copious amounts of squash. At the end of the day granddad arrived to pick us up. Once home wet costumes were rinsed clean and hung to dry for the next day. Baths were had and cream rubbed onto sore shoulders. By then we were all so tired that getting us to bed was no problem and anyway the sooner you went to sleep the quicker the next day came and we could start all over again. (Devina Bartlett)

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A BOOT FAIR is to be held in John Ullmann's field just to the west of the village on the 6th of August. All proceeds are for the benefit of the village. Prices: pre booked, £6 for cars, £9 vans: on the day, cars £8, vans £12: trailers £2 extra. Strictly no caterers. To book please ring 827053 or 827548.

STRAWBERRY TEAS - You should have had a slip with this Newsletter telling you about strawberry teas and Open Garden at George Tyler's house, Hillview on Short Lane, 2nd of July from 2.30 onwards in aid of village hall funds. (editor)

CONGRATUALTIONS to Isobel Ducatel from

Ewell Minnis who married Peter Casey at St Anthony's church on the 17th of June.

WEDDING THANKS - We have been made to feel very welcome in Alkham and were so pleased to have been married in such a beautiful church as St Anthony's. We would like to thank those of you who made the day such a special one. It was a perfect day and everything went so well. Special thanks to Revd Gill Calver, Betty Neely, St Anthony's bell ringers, Susan Lees, Rosemary Polden, Ken Hammond, Parish Council, Diane and John Crockford, Pauline and Terry. (Chris and Lynn Powell)

DATABOX 2000 was delivered to Dover Library on the 2nd of June. The cardboard box contained 11 diary records of all age groups plus Gill Calver's: a plan of Alkham: 36 black and white photographs: key facts such as population: economics including house prices: pub prices: till receipts from the Garden Centre: local characters: details of the village hall and all the groups which use it: cricket club information: church details: a copy of the April Alkham Monthly Newsletter and Sue Lee's Pictorial Study of Alkham Parish. All the information will be available for archivists in the future. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - There are just a few seats left on the coach trip to The Dome on the 2nd September. Such a controversial subject. However, you'll be interested to know we have one couple travelling up for a second look around. It would be lovely to have the coach completely full, so if anyone is interested in the village, please give me a 'phone call. We will be leaving the village at 8.30 a.m., and hopefully departing from the Dome at about 6.30 p.m. The cost per person will be Adults £23., Senior Citizens, Students and Children £19. (Entry to the Dome for under fives is free, but there will, I am afraid be a charge for a seat on the coach, if one is taken). Food is not included. Payment will, I am afraid, need to be made by the 15th July and includes entry to the Dome and your seat on the coach. (Pamela Sayers 822397)

CAMTAD is a charity working alongside Health and Social Services aiming to help those with hearing impairment. They have volunteers trained to help by carrying out maintenance and minor repairs to NHS hearing aids, supplying batteries, offering advice, home visits to housebound and running clinics. The clinics are at the Riverside Centre, Maison Dieu Gardens, Dover on Wednesday 10 to 12 and at the United Reform Church, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone first Wednesday in the month from 1.30 to 3.00 pm. For further details please write c/o Audiology Department, Victoria Hospital, Deal CT14 9UA or phone 01304 360246.

W.I. NEWS - a very small turnout for our walk in May. only four of us but we enjoyed ourselves up in the woods above Kearsney Abbey. Then down to the Dublin Man of War pub, where they serve cooked food at lunchtime between 1.00 and 2.30 pm only as it was a weekday. Cherry and Helen had gone to Riverdale residential home to give Dot Westlake a treat by joining us for lunch. But horror of horrors, when we informed Dot of the cooking arrangements, no roast dinner, she was most upset. We managed to appease her with prawn cocktail for starters then roast chicken and chips, followed by ice cream. To round off her outing, a trip to the Co-op; she loved it. We then returned her to the home, a very happy and full to the brim lady. Mrs Bryant came to our meeting in June to talk about the various uses of herbs. Her opening remarks were 'she considered us a very garden conscious group' as she last came in June 1990 to talk about herbs, so make note programme planners for 2010. That aside it was a very interesting talk, how herbs have many uses, used in olden days and mentioned in the bible. They were used for pickling and preserves to hide the smell from food no longer fresh, giving us an idea of how curries were created. Thank goodness for today's Health reforms. Next meeting July 11th 7.30 pm: 'Do you remember when?', Angela Edwards and Doris Rowland. Competition coat hanger, curliest cucumber. Hostesses T Wright, P Yeomans, D Bartlett. 2nd July strawberry tea at Hillview 2.30pm, 8th July fete day, 13th July outing to Leeds Castle leave car park 10 am return 5.30 pm. (Tricia Wright)

OZ on ASPENS AND RAMSONS - Out and about with friends, exercising our dogs, we came across a handsome tree that we didn't immediately recognize, and that seemed to dance and shimmer in the breeze. The tree book told me that it was an aspen, with its "greenish grey bark, in older trees fissured and blackish at the lower part of the trunk." What clinched it was the leaf, "very light and silky", with its "long and flattened stalk." It's this aerodynamical combination that causes the shimmering effect and gives the tree its other name of Trembling Poplar (*populus tremula*). The trembling of aspen leaves has, for centuries, been a popular simile for shaking. Geoffrey Chaucer, in *Troilus and Criseyde* (c.1385) wrote "Right as an aspes lefe she 'gan to shake", and Mistress Quickly, in Shakespeare's *Henry IV Part 2*, declares "How I shake...in very truth do I, an twere an aspen leaf." Near the end of our next dog-walk, coming out of the dark edge of Sladden Wood into the sunlight, we found a late scattering of ramsons, or wild garlic. "Ramsons" is one of those irritating plural nouns, like "trousers", that is almost impossible to singularize or pluralize. It comes from the Old English *hrmsa*, giving rise to the dialect singular "rams." The plant is also called Bear's Garlic (*Allium ursinum*) and Devil's Posy. The roots, leaves and flowers are packed with pungent chemicals, which repel other plants and attract ants that spread the seeds. Now here's a strange thing; unlike "aspen", the word "ramsons" seems, save a handful of medical references, almost entirely unrepresented in literature. I'd be interested to hear of any literary references readers may know. As for the singular, I'm more than happy with the dictionary's suggestion of 'ramson'. (Steve Osborn)

Gary Docherty

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

MONDAY	Mother & Toddler 10 to 12 VH
TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	'Get it off club' 10.00 am in the village hall. (weight loss for Alkham ladies)
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Sunday	2	Cricket v Westbourne VG 2.30
Sunday	2	Strawberry Tea and Open Garden at Hillview 2.30 pm
Monday	3	Garden Talk at Box Tree Cottage 7.30pm
Saturday	8	Village Fete - see page 1
Saturday	8	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Sunday	9	Cricket v Coldred VG 2.30
Monday	10	Parish Council meeting VH 7.30
Tuesday	11	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Sunday	16	Cricket v Bossingham VG 2.30
Tuesday	18	Millennium Committee 7.30 VH
Thursday	20	D & D canine society VH 7.30pm
Saturday	22	SE astronomical society VH
Sunday	23	Cricket v G Brown Invitation XI on village green at 2.30 pm
Monday	24	Village Hall Committee meeting in village hall at 8 pm
Saturday	29	Coffee morning - see opposite

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
July 2 nd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
July 9 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
July 16 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
July 23 rd	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist at Alkham 10.00 am		
July 30 th	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist at St Mary's Capel 10.00 am		

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S - first of all, may I extend a special invitation to Peter Chambers to visit St Anthony's any Sunday morning (services detailed on notices in church porch). We'd just like to show ourselves as quite 'alive and kicking'. I can think of a lot of ways of describing our congregation (most of which are printable) but his description of us being 'fairly diminuendo' as printed in last moth's Newsletter really doesn't seem to fit. Comments please!! And secondly anyone interested in the future of St Anthony's (which I suggest may be in crescendo!) do join us for our special service at 11 o'clock on Sunday the 16th of July. If you're a regular church attender then you'll receive a personal invitation but if you are interested in what we are up to, do come, because Mr David Noakes from Canterbury Diocesan Office will be coming to speak on the topic known in our church as T.R.I.O. (The Responsibility Is Ours)

STOP PRESS St Mary's old church is opening at 10 am on July 30th for a special service. Come and hear The Revd Alan Dodds preach. He is the principal of the Ordained Local Ministry Scheme with which our ordinand, Ken, is training. (Gill Calver)

A COFFEE MORNING will be held by Betty Neely at Mount Ararat on 29th of July at 10.30 am in aid of the church and village hall

THE COFFEE MORNING at Barbara and Bob Palmer's house on the 10th of June was a great success and raised £100 for the Cricket Club and £60 for the Youth Club. Many thanks to all who contributed.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Police - Community Support 218151 Report crime taking place 01303 850055
	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Betty Preston 822421
	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn Meadow Alkham Valley Road	824201 826375
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Swanbourne, Wolverton	824991
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Ewell Minnis	822902
CAT and DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis	828007 & 0589 310479
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	South Alkham	01303 252764
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	Alkham	202004 or 822888
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham	827644
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Alkham Valley Road	825188
FREE RANGE MEAT and eggs	Sladden farm butchery, home-made sausages, no antibiotics	South Alkham	01303 893351
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre farm shop/tea rooms, open daily	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton	822420
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Megget Lane, South Alkham	01303 892056
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Fernfield Lane, Hawkinge	01303 893011
METALWORK	Cook Fabrications Hawkinge Welding and other metal work	London rd, Temple Ewell	827100
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	Everden, Alkham	01303 893743
PSYCHOTHERAPY	Jacqueline Bentley BA Hons C.Q.S.W advanced trainee therapist	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne	01303 251353
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	53 Bradstone Avenue,	01303 253212
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone		

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

No. 84 August 2000

Free – non profit
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ALKHAM FETE 8th JULY 2000

Well, what can I say? Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to this year's Fete, it was a very successful day from the points of view of both fun and funds, even if the weather wasn't the most promising: Still we stayed dry (unlike everywhere else around) so someone "up there" was looking after us. I'm only sorry Peter C wasn't able to be there to see Alkham in all its full, vigorous and vibrant glory. I can't mention everyone by name but can I thank all the stallholders, refreshment providers, the organisers and judges of and participants in the various entertainments and attractions, races and competitions, the raffle prize donors, the car park wardens,

the tent erectors, the fetchers and carriers and the Committee especially the Treasurer and Secretary; a sterling effort all round. May I just say that it was very nice to have a larger team of clear-uppers to help with taking the tents down and tidying the meadow afterwards; it's true that many hands make light work and I hope all who stayed on realise just how much the "old regulars" appreciated their assistance – it can be quite fun can't it? A special mention must go to Bill Pepper who, at his age, really should know better. The figures then: We took about £3,300 on the day, which should leave us with about £2,400 after expenses. There will be a Fete Committee Meeting on August at 8 p.m. to discuss this Year's Fete and to determine the amount to be distributed to the Church and Village Hall, all committee members should attend if possible. There will be an AGM in November to start the planning for next year's Fete, please come if you have any suggestions or would like to take part – the more the merrier. Once again, thank you all for all your help and support. (Paul Tapsell)

Thanks should also go to Paul without whom and his committee we would not have an annual fete. (editor)

THE OPEN GARDEN and strawberry tea held at the home of George and Pam Tyler was a great success raising £200 for the Village Hall funds. The gardens looked absolutely fabulous from the topiary to the herbaceous borders and the swimming pool was also in great demand. The weather was on its best behaviour despite the forecast culminating in a great afternoon, thanks to George and Pam and their band of helpers.

THE MARQUIS of Granby and the Alkham Cricket Club charity cricket match in aid of the Kent Air Ambulance raised a magnificent £1235. We would like to thank everyone who gave their time and donations of money towards the splendid total. Well done Alkham. (Terry and Karen)

GREENHILL FARM Annual Horse Show is on the 28th of August. There will be classes for all. Please phone 01303 892056 for further details. Meggett Lane, South Alkham. (Neil Burrows)

BE EXTRA VIGILANT – do not encourage persons offering to prune trees or tarmac drives. If any such person approaches you telephone the police on 01304 218151. Also watch for people 'watching' other people's property. Horses and stables are particularly vulnerable. If you have any suspicions, take details of vehicles and phone the police. (Susan Lees)

BOOT FAIR – you've probably seen the sign for the Boot Fair, which is to be held in John Ullmann's field just to the west of the village on the 6th of August. Please do come along and support as all profits go to the village. Tables are still available from £6 pre-booked. Please phone 827053 or 827548 for more details.

RECYCLING BINS – over the last 6 months £450 has been earned from the recycling bins at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre. This money is to be spent on facilities for the youth of the village.

SLIDE STEPS – quotations have been received for installing steps up the bank on the village green to get from the bottom of the children's slide back to the top. A tender of £178 was accepted by the Parish Council who are first going to check to see whether a hand rail should also be installed. (editor)

PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH in the village hall on the 19th of August in aid of village hall funds. It is from 12.00 pm onwards and costs £3 including a glass of wine or soft drink. There will be a 'bring and buy' and a raffle.

WOLVERTON HILL – there was considerable discussion at the Parish Council meeting about the problems of driving up Wolverton Hill. Written and verbal accounts were given regarding reduced widths and lack of passing places. The Parish Council will visit the site and report their findings at the next Council meeting. (editor)

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TRAFFIC – a sub-committee of the Parish Council has looked at measures to reduce the number of lorries using the Alkham Valley Road. Various options were considered but at the Parish Council meeting on the 10th of July a proposal to introduce width restrictions at either end of the village was considered the best solution. The road would be narrowed to a centrally placed single lane width just wide enough to allow a lorry to pass through. This could be achieved by having timber posts at the prescribed width, which would be removable such that a combine harvester etc could pass through. The kerbing could also be splayed or reduced height to assist in the latter. The locations suggested for the road narrowing are roughly

where the existing 30 mph signs are. However the width restrictions would have to be within the 30 mph limits and therefore the limit would have to be extended about 70 metres at both ends such that there was the necessary stopping sight distance. It was accepted that the proposal put forward might have to be revised following a site survey to check that there is the required visibility. When traffic calming measures were investigated by KCC in 1995 the width restrictions were rejected because of moving the 30 mph limit but I understand they are willing to consider the matter again. Evidently money is available for measures to deter lorries from using unsuitable routes but not for traffic calming. The Parish Council is also asking the highway authority to introduce a 50 mph limit over the whole length of the Alkham Valley Road. (editor)

GARDEN TALK – A lovely July evening was spent wandering around the beautiful garden of Box Tree Cottage delighting not only in the maturity of the garden but also in the architecture of the house. We then enjoyed our drinks and nibbles whilst broadening our minds over a quiz prepared by Devina. Thank you Devina and thank you, Maurice and Pam for your hospitality. Our next meeting will be at Chalkdown Cottage on Thursday the 3rd of August at 7.30 pm when Marion will be introducing the topic. (Susannah Tapsell)

PLANT STALL – may we thank the very many people who spent time preparing plants and bringing them to us for our stall at the fete. Thank you very much indeed. (Susannah and Joan)

HOW GREEN IS OUR VALLEY? - KCC has at last started its facility for recycling garden waste at the refuse disposal centre at Whitfield. The green skip has been there for some months while the council and its contractors negotiated terms. However, things finally got under way on 1st July, to cheers from some and groans from others. The hostility comes from the council's requirement that people should undertake some rudimentary separation of materials, i.e. not put garden waste in with general waste or *vice versa*. The idea is that the green materials are taken away, processed and then sold as mulch. For details, 'phone the KCC Recycling Helpline on 01622 - 605977. (Steve Osborn)

THE HEDGELAYING at Pimlico Way has now finished for the season and nature allowed to continue in its own way. The length of hedge laid, albeit not very far at present, has sprouted leaves just as vigorously as the unladen remainder and is looking good. I would like to express my thanks to all those involved. To Kevin and Vena Elks for allowing us to coppice their woodland for the stakes and binders, and to Larry Lambourne, Derek Banks-Nash and Bill Rolfe for wielding the axes. Not forgetting my mate Grant for the transport, even if he did get his Landrover Discovery stuck in the mud! The ancient art of hedgelaying as we know it has existed since the Enclosure Acts of the 1700's. Wire being unknown and post and rail hard to make, thorny bushes were planted in rows. These hedges needed maintaining and so the method used by nomads thousands of years ago, to stop their cattle and goats from wandering, was adopted. All hedges have the main growth at the top with just the stems at the base and this allowed the smaller animals to push through. Laying the stems diagonally brings the thick thorny upper growth down to block those gaps. It also creates a thicker, safer natural refuge for wild life and a nesting area for the birds. Basically the stem is cut almost through at an angle and about 3 inches above the ground. This makes it possible to bend the stem without breaking it (well most times) and it will continue to live. This is then staked at approx. 18 inch intervals and those stakes are then bound together to make a very solid and firm hedge. The existing stems continue to flourish and new shoots grow up from the base making an almost impenetrable barrier. Laying will recommence again at the end of October and we would very much welcome offers of help from those interested. Also I would like to hear from any amongst you who would be able to put me in touch with anyone willing and able to allow us to coppice for stakes and binders in their woodland. (John Garlinge - 824201)

COUNTRY NOTES – We had a sad incident at the weekend involving a young fox cub. Jake and Hamish were the first to bring it to our notice. They had the little thing cornered behind the gazebo. Eventually it made its escape behind the shed and we thought no more of it. Unfortunately, next day the dogs found it again and we then realised it was seriously injured. The poor thing was dragging its back legs behind it and was obviously in pain. John had no problem catching it with a blanket and we made it comfortable in the shed whilst I called the RSPCA. Unfortunately he believed it had a broken pelvis and advised us that the kindest thing would be to put it to sleep. He proceeded to load a pistol and shot it there and then. Some may think I am a sentimental old fool, but it was a real shock. I'm not ignorant about the damage that they do and I know there are people who have had horrid experiences with foxes in chicken coops etc. They would probably say that the only good fox is a dead one. But for us, it was such a young thing and very frightened and I for one am very sorry it had such a sad short life. (Devina Bartlett)

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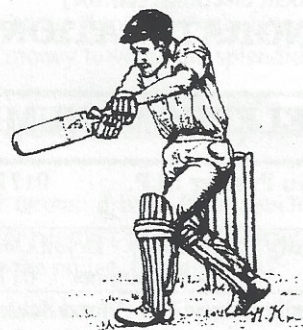
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Rule Britannia, for the Proms concert celebrating the 100th anniversary of Trafalgar in 1905. Elgar's *Land of Hope and Glory* was sung to end the first night in 1914, and was triumphantly repeated on the last night in 1918. Early in the next war, in 1941, the Queen's Hall was gutted in an air-raid, and the Proms moved to the Royal Albert Hall where they have since remained. Each Proms season has several themes, and one of this year's, marking two millennia since Christ's birth, is man's relationship with God. Hence there is much choral music, from psalm settings, through Handel's *Messiah*, to Schmidt's *Book with Seven Seals*. I'll know when the season changes again, from summer to autumn, when committee agendas fall through the letterbox, and the Last Night of the Proms is over. As Barrie Hall says, "Sunday morning after the Last Night feels strange and hollow, like the sad ending of a lovely long holiday" and he looks forward to the next season "when like summer's flowers the glorious Proms will once more burst into bloom, all over again." (Steve Osborn)

W.I. NEWS - I missed the prelims to our July meeting due to the mini-monsters and their delaying tactics - not pleasant. Our two guest speakers, Angela Edwards and Doris Rowland were very good with their 'Do you remember when' act. Out of the old type suitcases came numerous articles from days long gone. A beautiful crocheted bedspread, which one of their grandmothers had made, but most of all I liked the china potty-goes-under - it had an eye painted inside and turn it over there was written underneath 'look after me and keep me clean and I won't tell what I have seen'. We had a very humorous evening. Two days later a number of us went to Leeds Castle, this was before the sun found England again, so we had our umbrellas, sensible shoes, jackets, raincoats etc. well prepared for whatever the weather threw at us. It threw plenty on the way there, absolutely torrential but not a drop once we had arrived. We had a wonderful day, so much to see. I recall saying 'five hours here' but it wasn't long enough really, apart from feet and legs feeling the strain. After a good rest another couple of hours would have been fine. I understand it was Barbara P who put forward the suggestion to go there. A great day's outing, thank you Cherry for arranging and Barbara for suggesting. August 1st picnic in the park at Godington Park, Ashford. August 4th Treasure Hunt at Tilmanstone. August 6th Boot Fair in the village, well posted. Next meeting August 8th Member's night, no speaker. Competitions, postcard size watercolour, 6 runner beans. Hostesses I Bowshell, Pat Yeomans, G Drewitt. (Tricia Wright)

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - Two years is a long time to try and force a victory but as the saying goes when one comes along another is soon to follow and that is the case as two victories have occurred in the last month. Even the cricket club came into fierce criticism from a quarter recently but this was seen by the team as an edgy single through the slips and the response was an almighty blow over midwicket for six to show that we are not ready to fade away just yet. The teams overall performance so far this season has been fantastic with the team spirit being at its best for a number of years. The first victory was achieved against the Marquis in the Charity Game which was played in front of a large crowd (makes a change from the one man and his runaway dog) with both sides compiling large scores. Excellent knocks by the evergreen trio of Dennis Barnard, Ian Calloway and Mark Johnson and even runs by Paul Tapsell saw Alkham tally 213 and the pub reply of 184 was just short, but the real winner was the Kent Air Ambulance with a total of £1300 raised for this worthwhile cause. We soon came back to earth with a bump after a trouncing by Westbourne. They knocked up a fine 181 despite excellent bowling by Neil Moors and Mark Culley and some amazing catches from Rob Warr and Paul Tapsell. Their bowling had us in knots and we soon crashed to 71 all out but we were not downhearted as we felt we were turning that corner. This was seen by an amazing victory against Bossingham in which we destroyed our friends from Canterbury by seven wickets. Neil Moors whose new profession of fighting crime allows him to play



every week has become the star of the side, his nagging medium pacers have picked up 17 wickets in the games he has played this season culminating in 7-40 against Bossingham which is the best performance by an Alky bowler for many a year. This and the fielding which was nothing short of sensational saw us chase just 67 which was overhauled easily with Ian Calloway playing a Captain's knock to steer us home. Games against ex Alky stalwart George Brown XI on the 23rd July and away matches against Tilmanstone (6th August) and Westbourne (13th August) see the team look for that third win of an already fine season. We may get knocked down but now we have the spirit to get up again and fight back. (Matthew Gerrard)

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

	Mother & Toddler 10 to 12 VH
MONDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm
TUESDAY	ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	'Get it off club' 10.00 am in the village hall. (weight loss for Alkham ladies)
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Thursday	3	Garden Talk at Chalkdown Cottage 7.30pm
Saturday	5	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Sunday	6	Boot Fair - see page 1
Tuesday	8	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	17	D & D canine society VH 7.30pm
Saturday	19	Ploughman's Lunch in village hall - see page 1
Monday	21	Cage Bird Society 7.30 pm in village hall
Sunday	27	Cricket v Harrington Hackers on village green at 2.30 pm
Monday	28	Horse Show Greenhill Farm - see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
August 6 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
August 13 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
August 20 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
August 27 th	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist at Alkham 10.00 am		

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S - After our Trio service in July many of you will be receiving the 'Pass it on Packs' to help you review your giving to our church, in the privacy of your own homes. Please pass those packs on within 48 hours, as requested. We hope they'll all be back to Marion Banks-Nash, our treasurer, well in time for our Thanksgiving service on Sunday the 20th of August. We invited the 54 people we registered as regular attenders, to come to the launch of the T.R.I.O. campaign. Should we, by any chance, have missed anyone, please phone me (01303 244119) and we'll send you an envelope to explain what is going on. Our present income is £93 per week. In order to keep solvent St. Anthony's needs £208 per week. The appeal challenges each of us to budget a regular amount through banker's order or envelope scheme, because the cost of running our village's church are the same whether we are there or not. We have lost our school and our post office. **We do not, surely wish to lose our church.** And on a more relaxed note, how about joining this year's Benefice Walk on September the 3rd. We shall start at Capel after the 9.30 am morning service (join us before or after) and, stopping for a picnic at Hougham, we'll arrive at Alkham for evensong at about 5 pm. **ALL WELCOME.** (Gill Calver)

BOUNDARY CHANGES - following a heated meeting with DDC it appears as though the proposal to include River in the same ward as Alkham will be adopted. This would mean that there would be 2 District Councillors instead of 4 covering a much larger area. The parishes of Alkham and River would remain unaffected and it is likely that the proposals will be implemented at the next local elections. (editor)

CONGRATULATIONS to Esther and Charlie Preston who have just celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Betty Preston 822421
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Police - Community Support 218151 Report crime taking place 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyns Meadow 824201
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT and DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
FREE RANGE MEAT and eggs	Sladden farm butchery, home-made sausages, no antibiotics	Alkham Valley Road 825188
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre farm shop/tea rooms, open daily	South Alkham 01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 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 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, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

No. 85 September 2000

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High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover CT15 6AT
Tel. 01304 852960

THE BOOT FAIR held on the 6th of August, was a great success for the parish. This was the final fund raising activity to cover the cost of the Millennium projects with the target being achieved. The total raised from traders, visitors and refreshments came to £900 with a profit of about £800. A big thank you must go to John Ullmann who provided the field free of charge. He also arranged for the grass to be cut, litter bins to be placed, had two of his men available on the day plus a standby tractor and then cleaned up afterwards. A very generous gesture. There are too many people to be named individually such as those who helped on the gate and marshalled traffic. However Helen and Cal Scopes should be mentioned for the £200 profit they made on the hot dog stall and George Tyler plus the millennium committee for arranging it all.

KATHLEEN GOLDFINCH would like to thank all relatives and friends for the numerous cards and beautiful flowers sent during her recent illness. Thank you everyone. Also I would like to thank Doug, Susan and Helen for taking me to Canterbury for my treatment. It is greatly appreciated.

THE HARVEST SUPPER will be held in the village hall on Monday the 2nd of October at 7.00 for 7.30 pm with tickets costing £4.00. Please ring Betty Neely on 822688 for more information, or to reserve your tickets. The church is going to be decorated in the afternoon of Saturday the 30th of September from 2.00 pm onwards, so if you would like to donate some gifts for display please bring them along.

THE VILLAGE SIGN which was commissioned by the Millennium Committee will have been erected on the village green near the rocking horse on August the 25th. The sign is carved from oak and shows the village name surmounted by a badger. The official unveiling ceremony will take place before the Parish Council meeting on the 4th of September at 7.00 pm and everybody is welcome to attend. (editor)

THE MILLENNIUM PHOTOGRAPHS that were taken on the village green last September by Joseph O'Brien have now been collected from Stephen Comfort who organised the event. Forty-five photos were ordered at a cost of £6 each with £2 going to the village hall fund, making a grand total of £90. Many thanks to Stephen and Joseph.

THE PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH, which was held on The 19th of August in the village hall, made a profit of over £150 for the hall improvement funds. The function was well attended but we the committee feel it would have been nice to have seen a few more people, especially some of the newcomers. As seen in coming events our next function is a Quiz Night, so book your tables soon or you may be disappointed (see below). The Committee would like to thank everyone who support and help us in our fund raising events.

A QUIZ NIGHT in aid of the Village Hall Improvement Fund will be held in the village hall on Saturday the 30th of September starting at 7.45 pm. The tables are for 8 people and food will be provided but you should bring your own drinks. The cost is £3 per head and to book a table please ring Doreen Lott, Rosemary Polden or Doreen Polden on 824876.

ALKHAM FETE – at the Fete Committee Meeting on the 22nd of August it was agreed that of the money raised at the fete, £1300 should be given to the Village Hall and £1300 to the Church. In addition £25 was given to the Cricket Club, Dover Transport Museum, Capel School and Snowdon Colliery Band. Paul Tapsell would again like to thank those who supported and attended the fete. Our thanks should also go to Paul and his committee for doing such a great job. (editor)

DOG MINDER WANTED for two dogs. If you are interested then please write to me at The Old Post Office, Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE or give me a ring on 824969 and I will pass the details on. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY coach trip to the Dome on Saturday the 2nd of September. There are two seats left on the coach. If anyone wishes to take advantage and not have any transport problems (which we sincerely hope there won't be), please contact me as soon as possible. The cost per person is Adults £23, Senior Citizens, Students and Children £19. Entry to the Dome for under fives is free, but there will be charge for a seat on the coach. Will members and their friends who have booked, please note that the coach will be leaving Alkham at 8.30 a.m. sharp and departing from the Dome at about 6.30 p.m. It will be necessary to make your own arrangements for food, but it is understood there are many places to eat there, serving a good variety of food. I look forward to seeing you all, and don't forget to wear your comfy shoes. (Pamela Sayers, Secretary, 822397)

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latter are just a digest of the requirements and as can be seen there is quite a lot involved. Mick Wingfield, who lives in Newlyn Meadow, is willing to help but obviously more people would be required. If you have an interest in footpaths and would like to be involved, please give me a ring on 01304 824969. (editor)

DATABOX 2000 – at a reception at Leeds Castle a certificate was handed over, which acknowledged the thanks of the sponsors to The People of Alkham for their contribution to the project which recorded events in the County of Kent during the spring of year 2000 AD. The certificate will be displayed in the village hall and thanks go to all the diary writers and other people and organisations who contributed to our Databox. (editor)

GARDENING CLUB – thank you Devina and John for a very pleasant evening spent viewing the garden. Devina set us a quiz testing our knowledge on flower names. The next meeting will be on Friday September the 8th at 7.30 pm at Brook House, Meggett Lane when John will talk about garden machinery. (Rosemary Crothall)

BOOKS - I do not know how many you gave, but I will say thank to you for them, and thank you too Brian for storing them in the Old Shop this year - so much easier than having to crawl around in the attic. The roof space at Forstal Cottage is neither as big or as level as it appears! You may be interested to learn that a record £245 was made on books at the Fete, and a further £25 was taken at the Boot Fair and £30 from additional sales in the Village Hall. There are still many readable books remaining if you would like to browse and make a donation, feel free. (Susan Lees)

KID'S DRAMA CLUB - Professional Actress and Dancer, Katy Allen (BA), trained at Rose Bruford School of Speech and Drama has recently moved to the area from London to get away from the "smoke" and bring up her daughter in the clean air of Alkham. Katy has taught drama and dance in schools, youth clubs and for professional and amateur theatre companies in London for the last four years and will be starting a new Drama Club in Dover at the Kings Hall, London Road, for children from 7-10 yrs (11.30 -1.00) and 11-15 yrs (1.30 -3.00) on Saturdays; starting 16th of September. At a later stage she will introduce classes for older teenagers and adults, if the demand warrants them. " I believe that dance and drama enable people to explore themselves and the world around them and through this a deeper understanding of their own individual potential is realised. I advocate these means as a way of finding free creative expression within a disciplined structured framework; this belief dictates the content of my classes. I feel strongly that these means enable children to develop confidence in themselves and in a group environment better than any academic subject; with the Arts so neglected in the National curriculum, these attributes might, if not for extra-curricula activities, be lost, that is way I started teaching: to bring the Arts to the community". If you wish to enquire further, or to book a place for your child, please contact Katy on 01304 823 602.

COUNTRY NOTES – as I write this article, the storm is approaching. It's hardly discernible to start with. Jake and Hamish give the first clue. Normally snoring their heads off on one of their beds, they now begin to pace up and down, distinctly uncomfortable. A strange hush has descended like everything is holding its breath in expectation. No birdsong, no bees. The air feels humid and close. On the horizon, the storm clouds gather. Huge, grey and angry looking, they all seem to rush together and hang menacingly low, almost touchable. The hills in the distance disappear, a solid curtain of rain is on its way. A fresh breeze goes before it. The trees sway in protest at what is to come. Thunder rumbles ominously, followed by flashes of lightning seconds later. The air smells almost metallic and the first few heavy raindrops thud on the conservatory roof. Fields and buildings are no longer visible as the rain closes in. The thunder is right overhead, deafeningly loud, the clouds now almost black. The kitchen light flickers, Jake and Hamish hide in the bathroom and suddenly the rain arrives. The noise is all consuming, crashing down on the roof. The drainpipes gushing over unable to contain the flow of water. Windows are closed hastily as the rain is blown in. It gets heavier and noisier by the minute. Outside the plants are battered. The lilies beaten down some snapped from their stems. Petals are torn from the roses and a scotch thistle topples over, the now waterlogged soil unable to support it. And suddenly it is all over, the rain thins to a trickle, the thunder rumbles away in the distance in a matter of minutes, the damage has been done, it is over before its begun. (Devina Bartlett)

PARISH PATH PARTNERSHIP

(P3) – following the talk at the Annual Parish meeting, I sent off for details about the P3. The requirements were more onerous than I thought, with the parish input being roughly as follows: a) provide details of the maintenance requirements of the path network based on a condition survey prior to application (for Alkham this goes from Hawkinge to Temple Ewell): b) compile an agreed programme of work: c) arrange for works to be carried out: d) complete an annual report: e) provide details regarding finger posts, bridges, vegetation clearance and surface problems: f) details of alleged obstruction: g) carry out regular inspections. The

latter are just a digest of the requirements and as can be seen there is quite a lot involved. Mick Wingfield, who lives in Newlyn Meadow, is willing to help but obviously more people would be required. If you have an interest in footpaths and would like to be involved, please give me a ring on 01304 824969. (editor)

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Roman scholar, Pliny the Elder, said, "Dogs are the only creatures that know their master, and also realise the sudden arrival of a stranger." More recently, the Rev Hugh Young has recorded James Gardner as saying the simple, but haunting, "When my dog wakes from a dream I know from his look that I have been present in his dream." Scientists are reluctant to concede that animals have any kind of intelligence beyond reflexes or any emotional life at all. The reason seems to be a fear of being accused of 'anthropomorphism', the ascription of human characteristics to animals, regarded as a scientific heresy. The counter-view put by some biologists and philosophers is well expressed by George Schaller's comment that "...a dog-owner can tell you more about animal awareness than some laboratory behaviourists." In the last five months, we've witnessed in Jak all the signs of fear, joy, anger, affection, deceit, trust, remorse, disdain and awe. It's a surprisingly long list to be displayed by a creature without emotions. (Steve Osborn)

W.I. REPORT - We had a very jolly happy members' night in August. Quite a few visitors came to join us, which was very nice. I hope they all enjoyed themselves. Devina had compiled an extremely difficult quiz for those amongst us who didn't know the answers. One very clever group of four managed 25 correct answers out of 26, needless to say it wasn't my table. We then had another puzzler called 'know your sweets'. An example, 'bubbly infants', which of course are jelly babies. Out of 15 questions we, my table, managed three correct. Rather obviously I am not putting myself forward in the Top Team Quiz. Thank you Devina for all your efforts in making the evening such a success. Just four of us joined the W.I. masses for the 'Picnic in the Park' venue, Cherry, Doreen W, Helen and myself. We travelled in style in Cal's beautiful cream Discovery, Helen having sweet-talked, cajoled him, into allowing us the use of. Helen also provided all the food, which was plenty. Smoked salmon, pate, veg dips, cheese, home made quiche, sausage and onion pie, salad, home made bread, trifle, cheese assortment with crackers, grapes and fruitcake. After tiptoeing through the cow pats to find our spot we unloaded the above plus table and chairs. Out came the white lace table cloths, vase for the roses, then the bottle of wine. We filled our glasses and then proceeded to drink and eat the entire afternoon away. It was wonderful. Thank you Helen for your superb cooking and all your good deeds. It is a day long to be remembered. Next meeting, September the 12th, speaker Louise Oliver 'Bats in Kent'. Competitions, home made frame with photo, 6 plums. Hostesses, S Garlinge, V Kingston, M Knowles. September the 14th Agricultural Museum, Brook plus a meal afterwards, leave 5.30 pm approx. September the 20th Group Meeting at Whitfield Village Hall 7.00 pm. (Tricia Wright)

A NEW YEAR'S EVE disco and party will be held unsurprisingly on the 31st of December 2000 between 8.00 pm and midnight. The cost is £5 a head and food will be provided but bring your own drinks. Please book your tickets as early as possible but at least by the 1st of December by ringing 824876.

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - Alkham's month began with the visit of George Browns XI and in an entertaining game it ended with Robin Culley (playing for George) having to survive the last over from his son Mark (aka "The Ox") to save the game. Despite the many attempts from the field to offer 'The Ox' free pints for life, he just could not remove Robin and the match ended in a draw. The match created an historic event with the first Six Alky batsman getting into double figures, an event that in living memory has not been achieved before and is highly unlikely to be seen again. Ian Calloway stole the show with a fine 46, while it was also nice to see Paul Simpson end his barren spell by scoring a run after a deluge of ducks. With the summer holidays underway the main stays of the side have been enjoying their spell in the sun which has led to new players being brought in under the stewardship of Vice-Captain Matt Gerrard and all have done marvellously. In the last three games, 2 draws and a defeat have occurred but the spirit of the side has once again been superb. Paul Tapsell carried on his fine form this summer by saving the game against Tilmanstone with a dogged knock in a match, which saw an Alky best knock of 49 from Gerrard. Defeat against our bogey side Westbourne (the only side to beat us this season) after Gerry Aldridge ran out of partners was disappointing but the match was remembered for the seven wicket haul by 'The Ox'. To say he was happy was an understatement!! The rain halted the match at Hawkinge when we were on top and we were convinced that victory was to be ours. Tapsell once again stole the show with his best score for a while in a excellent last wicket partnership with John Gerrard (in his first game for forty years!!!), while 'The Ox' took three more wickets to leave him on 30 wickets for the season and a good bet for the bowling prize. We reach the last month of the season with games against the Hackers, Coldred and New Romney and support in any of these games would be appreciated as we strive for our third victory of the season. (Matthew Gerrard)

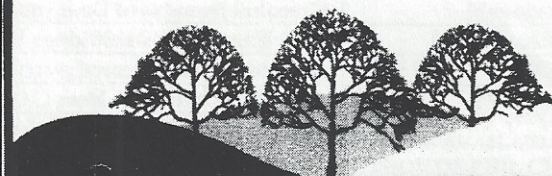
OZ on DOG DAYS - On the 22nd of August our border collie, Jak, is one year old, exactly five months of which have been spent with us. It's been a hectic but rewarding time, and our lives have changed, as friends predicted. The relentless exercising has caused me to lose about twice as much weight and girth as Jak has gained, and the pains in my feet have disappeared. Walking a dog is a more effective, and certainly quicker, social lubricant than alcohol. We've established a network of new friends, both human and canine, between here and Bushey Ruff, including an informal 'collie club' that meets in the evenings in Kearsney Abbey. I spend a lot of time nowadays trying to read Jak's mind. The great

ALKHAM VALLEY TREE SURGERY

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

	Mother & Toddler 10 to 12 VH
MONDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm
TUESDAY	ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	'Get it off club' 10.30 am in the village hall. (weight loss for Alkham ladies)
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	2	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Sunday	3	Cricket v Hythe on village green at 2.30 pm
Monday	4	Parish Council meeting in VH at 7.30 pm all welcome
Friday	8	Garden Talk at Brook House, Meggett Lane 7.30 pm
Saturday	9	SEK astronomical society in VH
Tuesday	12	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Sunday	17	Cricket v New Romney on village green at 2.30 pm
Monday	18	Cage bird society 7.30 pm VH
Thursday	21	D & D canine society VH 7.30pm
Saturday	30	Quiz night - see page 1
Monday	2	Harvest Supper - see page 1
October		
Saturday	7	Jumble Sale in village hall at 11.00 am
October		

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
September 3rd Parish Walk Day	Evensong 5 pm approx.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	No service
September 10 th	Sung Eucharist 6.30 pm	Worshipping together 9.30 am	Sung Eucharist Harvest Festival 11.00 am
September 17 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
September 24th	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist at Capel 10.00 am		

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S

How about joining us for the Benefice Walk on September the 3rd? We start at St Radigunds. There is a service at 9.30 am, a light breakfast and then we set off along the cliffs. We stop for picnic lunch (please provide your own) at Hougham and continue during the afternoon to Alkham. We hope a cup of tea will be available in the church before joining other parishioners for evening prayers at about 5 pm. You are welcome to come for just part of the day, that it is easier. September the 9th and 10th sees our quilting weekend at Hougham. Do come for a browse or lunch or tea sometime that weekend. You might even win a beautiful hand-made quilt if you join in the raffle. The festival is open between 10am and 5pm on both days. The congregation of St Lawrence will be celebrating their Harvest Festival at 11 am on the Sunday. Finally don't forget to support the Friends of Kent Churches who have been so generous to St Anthony's and hold their annual sponsored bike ride on September the 9th. Ken Hammond is our village organiser. Do contact him if you could man the church for an hour to welcome visitors or if you'd like to walk or ride on the day. Be warned, he will probably ask you to sponsor him too! (Gill Calver)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Police - Community Support 218151 Report crime taking place 01303 850055
	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Betty Preston 822421
	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

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ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham	01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmaims Farm	Alkham	202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham	827644
FREE RANGE MEAT and eggs	Sladden farm butchery, home-made sausages, no antibiotics	Alkham Valley Road	825188
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre farm shop/tea rooms, open daily	South Alkham	01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton	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	Femfield Lane, Hawkinge	01303 893011
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell	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, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue,	01303 253212

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Alkham CT15 7DE Tel. 824969

No. 86 October 2000

Free – non profit
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ALKHAM CHILDREN – at the parish council meeting David Beaney assisted by Joel Degussa gave an impressive speech in which he asked if the council would consider installing a half pipe on the village green for children to use for roller skating and skateboarding. George Tyler, the council chairman said that if they could work out the cost the parish council would give it their consideration. (editor)

HOGBROOK BARN – at the parish council meeting the planning application to replace the barn on Hogbrook Lane (just up from the village hall) with houses was discussed. An artist's impression showed a development of three detached houses with the one adjacent to the lane having dormer windows in the roof and a brick and flint finish. The parish council had numerous objections one of which was that this house was too dominant. Also the site of the barn is currently outside the village boundary although an inspector who has been looking into this matter has recommended that some of the area should be included. He has not recommended that lands at the bottom of Short Lane or west of the village should be included. The council objects to the change of boundary. There is a large beech tree on the opposite side of Hogbrook Lane and this appears to have been overlooked with regard to the house with dormer windows. They also thought that flint should be incorporated in the other units and unit 2 appeared to be very close to the bund adjacent to Hogbrook Farm on which trees have been planted. The planning application was unanimously rejected. (editor)

OVER 60 – I am very pleased to report that Doreen Lott, Doreen and Rosemary Polden are willing to have another go at arranging a dinner for the over 60's after Christmas. It was accepted that there are people in Alkham who are over 60 and are relatively well off and not in need of a subsidised meal. In the past however it has been a very jolly occasion and thoroughly enjoyed by a special age group. Final details are being worked out and there will be more in next month's edition of the Newsletter. If you have any ideas or opinions please give the three ladies a ring on 824876. (editor)

JACK BUGDEN whose family ran the Marquis of Granby up until recently died in Plymouth on the 25th of August after a short illness. The funeral service was in the west country but a memorial service was held at St Anthony's on the 13th of September. Jack was a popular figure in the Marquis of Granby as was his wife Dolly who died in September 1998. Food was provided in the village hall after the service and many thanks must go to Sue Lees, Tricia Wright, Olive Harvey (in her wheelchair), Beattie Jeapes, Grace Stacey, Lou Matcham, Greta Cook, Betty Neely and Christine Tapsell who selflessly prepared 110 sandwiches, cooked chicken legs, sausages and sausage rolls plus other items of refreshment. (editor)

CONGRATULATIONS to Neil and Sharon Tyler on the birth of Amber Courtney who weighed in at 7 ½ lbs. on the 5th of September. Congratulations also to the grandparents George and Pam Tyler and Doug and Dolly Bartlett.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY – will members please note the Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday the 31st of October at 7.30 pm in the village hall. It is hoped to see a good crowd and all will be welcome. (Pamela Sayers)

A JUMBLE SALE in aid of the village hall will be held on the 7th October in the village hall starting at 11.00 am.

THE MILLENNIUM SIGN – aren't you proud of it? Well you should be because you have helped one way or another raising this unique marker to our village and parish. Why a badger? We already have a beautifully carved sign depicting the church but a long term symbol was needed. Gordon Preston was very much in our minds when we considered the alternatives and we were all aware of his love for the countryside, especially badgers, so what more fitting. It is great. There is always a story behind a story and surely there is one here. Once the carver, Georgia Wright was chosen and things set in motion she decided to have a millennium baby and he has been very much involved all the way through. Doug Taylor was to dig the hole for the sign only to discover a gas main so another hole was dug. On the day of installation Georgia had her fellow helpers and all went well until it was found the concrete had been sent to Ulcombe rather than Alkham. Georgia then found out how well the village pulls together. Stacey Beaney, Mark Culley, David Beaney, Joel Degussa, Dwayne Beaney and Cal Scopes set to. Peter Wright went to get cement, Don Taylor ballast and Cal Scopes the cement mixer. By 8 pm all was in place and beer and pizzas were ordered from the pub and quickly downed. At times it was a miracle accidents didn't occur with drivers and passengers peering to view the spectacle. So whatever you think and we know there are less kindly critics out there, we think it will be a lasting symbol to celebrate the millennium. The badger is even climbing towards the church, which proudly displays its Millennium Cross. (Devina Bartlett, Susan Lees, Betty Neely, Helen Scopes, Tricia Wright)

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EXPERIENCED GARDENER required for 1 or 2 days a week. Please phone 826551 for more details.

LORRIES – Dover District Council has responded to the parish council letter regarding measures to reduce the number of lorries going through Alkham. Unfortunately they seem to have completely forgotten that they asked parish councils to put forward proposals and they say that they are working with KCC who have already highlighted the problems we are experiencing. If you agree with the measures, which were proposed by the parish council, it would be worth writing to DDC. These measures were described in last month's Newsletter and if you would like a further copy please give me a ring. (editor)

THE DOME – is it worth visiting? The unanimous opinion of the Alkham Valley Society who visited on the 2nd of September would seem to be a definite 'yes'. It is probably worth going just to see the spectacular show in the Central Arena, with acrobats appearing from the roof and below ground to stirring music. The queue to the Body Zone was more interesting than the zone itself, which most people said was very disappointing. The Learning Zone led into a cinema, which showed a film culminating in the screen rising through which you walked to a magical twinkling of lights, trees and mirrors. Marks and Spencer sponsored the Self Portrait Zone, which on first appearance looked as dull as their last autumn's collection. There was no queue but it turned out to be thought provoking and interesting. One where you had large household objects was worth missing and the Mind Zone should have been bigger. Living Island was odd, Home Planet was good, Play looked fun and Work was boring. If there had been more general public input into the zone designs it may have been much better. Forty-two people went on the bus from Alkham and Pamela Sayers did a terrific job organising the whole event. Another success. (editor)

NEWSLETTER – another financial year began in September. Last year with the adverts and donations it made a small loss but because I occasionally put items in the Village News of the Dover Express and Mercury (does anyone read these?) it came out with a small profit. There are two new adverts, one by Di Smith at Sladden Farm for 'The Little Black Cow' mobile catering service and the other for a window cleaner, which is under 'services' on the back page. I am very grateful to all the people who advertise (sponsor) and give donations to the Newsletter. (editor)

A NEW YEAR'S EVE disco and party is being held on the 31st of December 2000. It will be like an American Supper and cost £5 a head and you should bring your own food and drink. Please book your tickets by ringing 824876.

GARDEN TALK – we are sorry we had to cancel the last meeting at such short notice, but we will have the next meeting at John and Rosemary's home, Brook House, Meggett Lane on Wednesday the 4th of October at 7.30 pm when John will talk about farm machinery. You are most welcome to come and join us even if you can only manage the occasional meeting. (Susannah Tapsell 822295)

BOLLARDS – it must be a couple of issues since I last mentioned the perennial bollards. DDC had forgotten that the parish agreed to pay 50% of the cost but they are happy to pay the full amount. The half height infill bollards opposite the Marquis, which have yet to be installed, will be charged at 50% or £105 per bollard. The Parish Council agreed to pay this and so the bollard story should come to an end. (editor)

LITTER BINS – thanks must go to Cal Scopes for making and installing the two new litter bins one by the bus stop and the other by the village hall. A great piece of work. (editor)

BT VOICES FOR HOSPICES 2000 - A choir of over 100 local singers, with soloists and symphony orchestra, conducted by Alistair Auld, will perform Haydn's 'Creation' at 7.30 pm on Saturday 14th October 2000, in Nye Hall, Duke of York's School, Dover. This is part of BT's world-wide fundraising day in support of the Hospice Movement and of the third Pilgrims Hospice being built at Willesborough. Tickets, price £5, are available in advance from the Hospice Shop, 75 London Road, Dover, or on the door. For further information ring Andrew Nunn on 01304 213468 or Michael Foad on 01303 242694. If you would like to sing in the performance, ring as soon as possible. (Steve Osborn)

COUNTRY NOTES – There is something so satisfying about growing your own crops. I am not particularly keen on the heavy digging or the weeding, I must confess. For me, the pleasure is in the harvesting and the eventual eating. A thick stew prepared from plump juicy vegetables, pulled from brown crumbly soil, has no comparison. Picking plump raspberries early in the morning takes some beating. The grass so thick with glistening dew, the sun warm on my back and a cheeky robin for company, hopping along the fence in anticipation of anything I might drop. This second year crop has been small, making it all the more desirable. A drop of cream is all it takes to complement their fruitiness. The sweetness of the home-grown tomato is unsurpassed. The tangy fragrance of the plant itself and the ruby red of the fruit is an irresistible combination. So although your carrots may be a bit knobbly and your cucumbers curly, everything about your own fruit and vegetables including taste and vibrant colour and often overlooked, their lovely aromas, make them far superior to their shop bought counterparts. (Devina Bartlett)

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magnificent fallacy: "Swallows certainly sleep all winter. A number of them conglobulate together, by flying round and round, and then all in a heap throw themselves under water and lie in the bed of the river." Hugh Trevor Roper defends Johnson, declaring that "this was merely the received opinion of the time", and inviting comparison with this theory about barnacle geese: "All writers until the eighteenth century solemnly maintained that these grew on trees, attached by their beaks, from which, at a certain stage of maturity, they dropped off like ripe plums. If they dropped off on dry land, they perished; but, if in water, they swam away and became the birds we know." I'm very aware of knowing nothing of the type of trout in the Abbey, of the tens of thousands of tiny fish fry in Russell Gardens, or of the bats that wheel around in the dusk in Bushey Ruff. Fortunately, there is access to centuries of accumulated wisdom stored in public libraries and the Internet, otherwise I might have to invent tales as fantastic as those of the swallows and barnacle geese. (Steve Osborn)

W.I. NEWS – not a lot this month apart from the very interesting slide show given to us by Miss Louise Oliver on 'bats in Kent'. They are so tiny, at least the tame one that Louise had brought to show us. Tiny little toes, all five of them about 1/16 of an inch and their thumb on the elbow joint appeared even smaller. A lovely little thing and a fascinating subject. Next meeting October 10th, speaker Sue Morris – volunteering in the NHS. Competition, millennium capsule, 4 cooking apples. October 7th Jumble Sale in aid of village hall funds. October 25th, half yearly council meeting at Margate, contact Kathleen or Betty N anyone wishing to attend. Nominations at October meeting please for next committee. Christmas shopping November 16th, anyone wishing to go please let Cherry know which destination; choice of either Maidstone or Bluewater. (Tricia Wright)

THE ONGOING LIFE OF ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH depends entirely upon the people of Alkham. During the summer, we had a visitor from our Diocesan House in Canterbury and 53 of our regular attenders, together with anyone else interested, were invited to hear him speak. He came to explain the weekly financial needs of our church and explain the TRIO idea. That is 'The Responsibility Is Ours'. Churches up and down the country must find ways of meeting their individual weekly costs, if they are to survive, and to do that they need a regular weekly commitment from their members. As was explained in the talk and in the follow up letters to those invited; St Anthony's average weekly costs are £208. Before the Trio campaign, we were receiving £93 each week. (some put directly in the collection plate and some received by standing order). We are grateful for all the hard work done by our treasurer, Marion Banks-Nash, in collecting all the confidential replies returned after TRIO, collating them and assessing what tax refunds we will get from those prepared to fill in a form which enables us to reclaim tax paid on your gifts. We now have 19 people in the village who have committed themselves to give a regular weekly amount. (previously only 8). The total now promised each week (including tax refunds) is £129 (Gill Calver)

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO THE HOLY LAND? Early plans are afoot for a 9 day benefice holiday in March 2002 to the Holy Land. It is a long way off but we need to book it in our diaries and start saving now! We will be going with a company called Christian Tours (UK) who make us our own tailor-made holiday. They are specialist pilgrim tour company and our organiser is an old friend of mine. At present it looks as if half board 9 days including flights, airport taxes, 4 star hotel accommodation, coaches and tour guides would be around £900 (if our party was 15 or so). The price would go down to about £850 if our numbers went up to 30. If you are vaguely interested please sign on the lists at the back of our churches or phone Gill on 01303 244119. An interest expressed now is not a commitment. (Gill Calver) (*I have the itinerary if you wish to see it – editor*)

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - Is there anyone interested in Alkham or the surrounding area in meeting people and helping many of them with problems which they are unable to cope with themselves, or to overcome "red tape" or similar difficulties caused by the authorities or firms with which they are dealing. The CAB urgently needs volunteers to give advice. It is indeed a worthwhile and absorbing job, and one which makes you forget any problems you may have of your own. (Is it possible some of you don't have any)! You need to be between 18 and 60 years of age and able to devote a minimum of six hours per week. You may be worried about your memory? Please don't. The filing system is 'superb and information kept right up to date. If there is anyone who can possibly help in this voluntary work, or who wishes to know more about it, then please do contact me. I shall be only too pleased to have a chat or put you in touch with the Bureau. (Pamela Sayers - (01304) 822397)

THE CHURCH CYCLE RIDE was held on the 9th of September raising money for the Friends of Kent Churches. Two people who live in Slip Lane raised substantial amounts and they are Billy Hollis who visited 70 churches and Ken Hammond who visited 77 churches. An amazing achievement and congratulations go to them both. I understand that to do this the cycle ride covered about 60 miles. (editor)

OZ on FALLACIES - All summer we've been looking out for the trout that lurk in the shallows below the Kearsney Abbey waterfall. There's usually one large specimen, sometimes with one or two smaller relatives, facing upstream to catch food rolling down the river-bed. One evening, we saw a man and child illegally and ineffectually trying to catch the large trout. "A fool at one end of the line and a worm at the other", I muttered as we hurried on. Later I discovered that the attribution to Samuel Johnson of this famous definition is a fallacy. Attempts to link it to Swift, Hazlitt and Archdeacon Paley have been equally unsuccessful. Johnson believed the following

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Tuesday	10	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Monday	16	Cage bird society 7.30 pm VH
Thursday	19	D & D canine society VH 7.30pm
Saturday	28	Beekeepers Honey Show in VH 7.00 am to 5.00 pm
Tuesday	31	Alkham Valley Society AGM in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday November	4	W.I. jumble sale in village hall at 11.00 am

MAST - if you look up Hogbrook Lane the new orange phone mast is now clearly visible above the fir trees as one must assume is the signal.

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
October 1 st	Sung Eucharist Harvest Festival 11.00 am	Sung Eucharist Harvest Festival 9.30 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
October 8 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
October 15 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
October 22 nd	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
October 29 th	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
	Deanery Ecumenical Service at River 6.30 pm		

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S October is the month in which we will be holding our Harvest Festival. The service of thanksgiving is on Sunday October the 1st at 11.00am. On the evening of Monday October 2nd, we shall have our usual harvest supper and auction in the village hall. On Sunday October 29th our organist and choir will be leading us in a service of praise through the psalms, the ancient hymn book of the Jews which has become much less used in our churches in recent years. There is renewed interest in using some of these beautiful poems and we shall share in this experience on the fifth Sunday of this month. This joint benefice service will be at 10.00am at St Radigund's. And finally don't forget two important dates for your diary; November 5th when we mark All Soul's tide by remembering all our loved ones who have died, particularly those during the last year. The special service with candle lighting is at 11.00am at St. Anthony's. November 12th Remembrance Day 10.00am at St. Anthony's with wreath laying and act of remembrance at the memorial in the churchyard. **(Gill Calver)**

A WINDOW CLEANER has joined the Local Business and services below and the Alkham Valley Tree Surgeons also now appear.

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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, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212
WINDOW CLEANING	Turtle Window Cleaning: Houses, shops & businesses welcome	Dover 206986 or 07971 011736

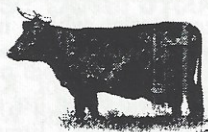
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EWELL MINNIS – a special meeting was called by the Parish Council to discuss Upper West Hill Farm at Ewell Minnis. High Quality Lifestyle Ltd are proposing to convert the farm to a registered residential home for people suffering from learning disabilities (Downs syndrome, autism etc). George Tyler chaired the meeting and explained that despite suggestions the parish council had been very active in looking into the matter and he had delayed calling the meeting until everybody could be under one roof. About 90 people were present. To their credit, Tim Flisher, Development control officer from DDC was there but KCC did not send a representative. Mr Emberson, Managing Director of HQL Ltd said that he was reconsidering his proposal but said that this had nothing to do with the recent misrepresentation and victimisation. He stated categorically that there would be no

paedophiles, arsonists or rapists at the home or people with mental health problems. A young man who currently lives in a terraced house in Dover and is causing a nuisance by stamping on connecting floorboards to next door needs to be moved and if he were at West Hill Farm the nuisance problem would cease. He accepted that the man sometimes lashed out but said that it was totally untrue that his staff was not trained. Mr Flisher from DDC then explained that the use of the farm comes under the category User Class C3. This is a unit of accommodation where up to 6 people can live together as a household similar to a family and that planning permission was not required and therefore DDC's hands were tied by the law. He said it was like the change of use of a shop, say from newsagent to clothes shop where planning permission was not required. The farm consists of a house, two single storey buildings which were holiday lets and an annexe and the whole in planning terms is a single dwelling. The annexe although used improperly in the past is because of time now immune to planning requirements. Mr Emberson then asked the audience why feelings were running so high. A number of people spoke and the main concerns were safety of local children, increased traffic volumes and the public footpath which passes through the property. The care will be on a one to one basis and if staff change every eight hours this would result in at least thirty extra traffic movements a day not counting deliveries and other visitors. Access in bad winter weather is also almost impossible and there are a number of children who have to walk up Wolverton Hill. There was concern as to what would happen if a resident got out and approached children. It was accepted by all that it would have been better to have involved the local community before the property was purchased. Mr Emberson said that he would be happy for a group of local residents to tour his other facilities one of which is at the bottom of Wolverton Hill. He had no knowledge of a young man who had allegedly run around in the garden there with no clothes on. He also said that he would not wish to set up a residential home in an area where there was hostility from the local community and he was therefore going to discuss it with his management committee and come to a decision. (editor)

HOGBROOK BARN – The planning application for three houses on the site of the barn on Hogbrook Lane has been rejected by Dover District Council on the grounds that the application falls outside the revised village envelope. Dover District Council are keen to retain the ambience of Hogbrook Farm which is a listed building and the current application has houses adjacent to the farm. For this reason the revised village boundary follows the line of the barn and does not include the adjacent yard which fronts Hogbrook Farm. It would appear that DDC would probably have no objection to the development of the land on which the barn stands but this would mean one or two houses and not three as proposed by the developer. The yard part which falls outside the village envelope might be approved as garden to a revised application. (editor)

A JUMBLE SALE will be held in the village hall on Saturday 4th of November at 11.00 am in aid of the W.I.

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR is going to be held in the village hall on Saturday the 22nd of November between 10.30 and midday with profits going to the church funds.

POPPY DAY Saturday the 11th of November – Our door to door collectors will be around from the 28th of October. Our takings were up last year from previous years so please do support us again. (Betty Preston)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY Annual General Meeting on Tuesday the 31st of October is our twenty-third Annual General Meeting. We seem to have been going for a long time, so do lets have a good crowd at the Village Hall this year. It starts at 7.30 p.m., and after the meeting Mr. Jason Ball from the White Cliffs Countryside Project will be giving a talk on the Coalfield Parishes Countryside Project, which, when one visualises the slag heaps and the eyesore they were, sounds interesting and challenging. Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to seeing members especially. Coffee and biscuits will be served. (Pamela Sayers)

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CLEAN UP FOR CHRISTMAS

Come and join a working party: the churchyard needs to be tidied up for the winter and we will be there between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm on Saturday the 11th of November and will be most grateful for your help. Come armed with tools and refreshments. (Richard Tapsell)

WHITE CLIFFS Countryside

Project produce various leaflets. There is the Guided Walks Autumn/Winter leaflet which includes a historical walk around Samphire Hoe to discover how 185 barrels of gunpowder changed the shape of Kent on the 5th of

November Walk. The other leaflets are the Coalfield Parishes Countryside Activities Calendar and Wildlife Conservation Events. If you would like to know more please contact me or Susan Lees the Parish Clerk. (editor)

GARDEN TALK – We had a delightful evening at Brook House; John gave a most interesting talk about his collection of old garden machines and we enjoyed our Garden Talk over more than a few glasses of wine. Thank you John and Rosemary. We will be sharing more merry garden chatter at our December meeting to be held at The Vicarage on December the 6th at 7.30 pm. (Susannah Tapsell 822295)

HEDGE LAYING - the hedge laying at Pimlico way will start again this month and continue, at intervals, through the winter months until next March. The first "laying day" will be Saturday the 21st of October (a date, which will no doubt have passed by the time you receive the newsletter.) and the next will be on Saturday the 18th of November. Further days after that have yet to be decided. If you are interested in assisting in this voluntary project, and also learning this ancient art. please contact me on telephone number 01304 824201. (John Garlinge)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present a programme of music, ranging across five centuries, at 7.30 pm on 25th November 2000 in Dover Town Hall. For our Autumn concert we are presenting a programme of music ranging across five centuries. The first half of the concert is a performance of Part 1 of Haydn's "The Creation". Beginning with 'The Representation of Chaos', Haydn's music takes us, with wonderful pictorial description, through to God's creation of the Sun and Moon, ending with what is probably Haydn's most famous chorus, 'The Heavens are telling the glory of God'. The second half opens with two pieces composed for St. Mark's, Venice. Giovanni Gabrieli's famous "Sonata pian' e forte" for brass octet, and Claudio Monteverdi's setting of Psalm 112 "Beatus Vir" (Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord). We then move forward into the 19th century with Gabriel Fauré's lovely setting of the "Cantique de Jean Racine", and end our concert with music written in 1974, John Rutter's lively setting of the "Gloria", the choir being accompanied by trumpets, trombones, tuba, organ, timpani and percussion: quite a sound, I promise! Dover is blessed with many fine singers and for this concert we are using all 'our very own' soloists: Elizabeth Weaver, Jean Pearson, June Woodland, Peter Booth and Philip Spendley, and the choir is accompanied as usual by the Connaught Orchestra led by George Simpson. Tickets £8 (Children £4) are available from Dover Town Hall, The Music Box in Maison Dieu Road, and from members of Dover Choral Society; also - if there are any left - at the door on the night, Do come along and listen to what promises to be a most exciting concert. For further information - ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Michael Foad & Steve Osborn)

RECYCLING – If you don't like sanctimony then skip this bit. A couple of months ago I put a plastic bin outside the back door and threw empty dog food tins, cans and bottles in it which I then emptied in the recycling bins at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre, together with newspapers. I'm absolutely amazed and somewhat chastened at the dramatic drop in household waste such that waste is seldom put out for collection. If you haven't tried it, I'd recommend it as it does bring home to you the amount of recyclable rubbish which had been dumped in a landfill site. (editor)

COUNTRY NOTES – October comes to an end with Halloween, "Night of the Dead", for Christians it is the eve of the "feast of all saints", for the Celts it is the last day of their year and for anyone still a child at heart it is the day the Fairy Court rides out at midnight! And so into November. The Garden Oracle of 1896 quoted, "The fogs and excess of atmospheric humidity render this the most cheerless month of the year". The 1st is All Saints Day, when Christians should pray for the saints in paradise. The second is All Souls Day when we do likewise for the souls in purgatory. The 5th sees us celebrating bonfire night. In ancient times the lighting of fires at this time of year marked the beginning of the winter solstice. The Druids also included human sacrifices in their ceremonies thus ensuring the return of the sun and the fertility of the soil. And so to the present day. I defy anyone to light a bonfire after the recent rains and yet yesterday was so beautiful and warm. Here at Chalkdown, Isabel and I picked up all the windfall apples ready for pies and crumbles. We planted wallflowers, or rather I did; she came behind and pulled them up again (having shown her how to do the weeding the little darling thought she was helping me!!). We emptied pots and replanted with daffodils, tulips, primroses and pansies. Now they must sit through the winter frosts and wait patiently for the first flush of spring warmth. The hopefully we will enjoy the golden yellows and bright bluebells once more. Looking out of the window today, it all seems an awfully long time away. (Devina Bartlett)

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OZ on DIARIES - One of the unexpected pleasures of keeping a daily journal is to look back and see how the style and contents change over the years; not so much in the details, that may simply reflect passing fluctuations in busyness, but in the larger picture that represents the ebb and flow of one's enthusiasms and preoccupations. My diary started as a record of events surrounding our newly-created garden pond, together with wider wildlife observations. Thus the first entry, on Saturday 21st May 1983, devoted a page to details of the completion of the pond, followed by: "The cob was killed whilst sleeping on the slipway just above the bridge, by a fox, in broad daylight. The pen has now abandoned the

nest and is moping on the millpond." Throughout the nineties, the diary recorded an increasing emphasis on the minutiae of family life as children left home and we became more involved in caring for aged parents. I fretted over the humdrum nature of some of the entries, until I discovered *The Diary of a Country Parson* by the Rev James Woodforde. Begun in 1759 as an expense account ('For some soap pd 0.0.1'), it expanded over the next 44 years into several million words depicting his life in minute detail. *The Diary* is almost impossible to quote from, as its charm lies in the relentless build-up of narrative in Woodforde's uniquely homely voice. As Virginia Woolf wrote, "His diary is the only mystery about him." It is generally agreed that diaries are written for posterity, and Pliny the Elder advised "Not a day without a line." So what might future readers make of my line for Sunday 13th February 1994? It reads "Took newspapers and cans to tip. V. cold today." (Steve Osborn)

W.I. REPORT - Last month I forgot to mention that our trip to the Agricultural Museum at Brook followed by a supper in the Honest Miller fell by the wayside due to the petrol fiasco, but hopefully it will be rearranged next springish. Our October meeting saw Sue Morris chat about volunteers in the NHS. I had not realised just how much present and past governments depended on the voluntary sector in the NHS. It is an absolute disgrace how millions and millions of pounds can be found to fund you name it good and bad in-house and overseas causes, but the health and well being of our nation would fall apart without the volunteers. Thank you Mrs Sue Morris for such an eye opening talk on our health service. Next meeting 14th of November, which is our Annual General Meeting. Competitions, Christmas card, harvest vegetable basket. Hostesses, D Lott, B Preston, E Preston. November the 4th, jumble sale in aid of the W.I., doors open 11.00 am. November the 16th, shopping trip to Bluewater, details at the 14th meeting. November the 25th, Christmas bazaar goods and helpers please. (Tricia Wright)

HARVEST SUPPER - We would like to thank everyone who contributed or helped in any way to make our Harvest Supper such a great success. Susan and I were so pleased to know that our fellow villagers had so much enjoyed the supper. We made a profit of £263.03 which will be shared equally between the African Hospital in Zambia and The Air Ambulance Service. (Betty Neely & Susan Lees)

HARVEST FESTIVAL service at St Anthony's on Sunday the 1st of October: I would like to thank Patsy Sayers for making our church look so beautiful on that special day, with gifts of local produce. I might add that Patsy did it all single handed. Once again Patsy it is wonderful to have people like you in our lovely village. Thanks must also go to Betty Neely for her lovely flower arrangements. (Ken Hammond)

HOW TO GIVE A CAT A PILL - 1. Pick cat up and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth - allow cat to close mouth and swallow. 2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process. 3. Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away. 4. Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten. 5. Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden. 6. Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously. 7. Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines and vases from hearth and set to one side for gluing later. 8. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw. 9. Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take taste away. Apply elastoplast to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap. 10. Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Place cat in cupboard and close door on to neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band. 11. Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Throw T-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom. 12. Ring fire service to retrieve cat from tree across the road. Apologise to neighbour who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap. 13. Tie cat's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table. Find heavy-duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of fillet steak. Hold head vertically and pour 2 pints of water down throat to wash pill down. 14. Get spouse to drive you to Accident and Emergency, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call at furniture shop on way home to order new table. 15. Arrange for RSPCA to collect cat and ring local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	'Get it off club' 10.30 am in the village hall. (weight loss for Alkham ladies)
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	4	W.I. jumble sale see page 1
Saturday	4	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Monday	6	Parish Council meeting in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	11	SEK astronomical society in village hall
Monday	13	Youth club in village hall 7 pm
Tuesday	14	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	16	D & D canine society village hall 7.30pm
Monday	20	Cage bird society in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	25	Church bazaar see page 1
Saturday	25	Beekeepers in village hall from 2.00 to 5.00 pm
Monday	27	Village Hall Committee meeting in village hall 8.00 pm
Tuesday	28	Youth club in village hall 7 pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
November 5 th All Souls Tide	Worshipping together 11 am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
November 12 th	Remembrance Service 10 am	Remembrance Service 10 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
November 19 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
November 26 th	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist St Anthony's 10.00 am		

November the 5th - At these services, you are invited to commemorate all those who have died and who have been influential in your lives.

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S - Once again our villagers come together on Remembrance Sunday (November the 12th) to remember those who died in the wars of the last century and there will be an act of remembrance with wreath laying at the end of the service. Also on the first Sunday of the month we shall remember those of our loved ones who have died, by our special service 'All Souls Tide' service involving candle lighting. The names of all those who have died in our benefice are to be read out and those who have lost family members or friends in the last year are especially invited to join us at this service. Hoping to see you at these services. (Gill Calver)

VILLAGE HALL - the committee has given approval to replace the windows in the village hall with double glazed Upvc units. The work, costing £1500 will be carried out by Winstanley and should start shortly. It was hoped to reclaim VAT on this work but village halls are not exempt unless it is a listed property or the works to be carried out would constitute a self contained unit. (Secretary)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Betty Preston 822421
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Police - Community Support 218151 Report crime taking place 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance & removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malma's Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 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 827100
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, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212
WINDOW CLEANING	Turtle Window Cleaning: Houses, shops & businesses welcome	Dover 206986 or 07971 011736

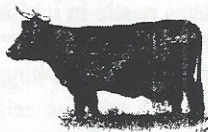
ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

No. 88 December 2000

Free – non profit
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VILLAGE GREEN – as you probably know the village green is sometimes referred to as Vicarage Meadow. The reason for this is that the green is owned by the church and for the past forty years the Parish Council has been trying to purchase it. The negotiations were supposed to be confidential but because the matter was discussed in an open session by other parties and then picked up by the local newspapers, the matter became public. George Tyler therefore announced at the Parish Council meeting that they had held talks with the church's property agents and a price agreed, for which funds are available. These funds have been held by the parish for some years for this purpose. George thanked all members of the Parish Council and Susan Lees for their efforts and in particular our vicar, Gill Calver. (editor)

THE SLIDE – DDC have confirmed that if steps are built up the bank to the slide on the village green that there should be a hand rail. A revised quote is being sought but it does make some of us in the mature years of our lives wonder how we ever survived childhood in the 1950's. (editor)

HALF PIPE – the Parish Council were asked to consider installing a half pipe somewhere on the green for children to roller skate and skate board. It has been estimated that the cost would be about £15000 and therefore it will not be pursued. The council is to write to the two boys.

VANDALISM – there has been a lot of mindless vandalism in the village recently carried out by just a few individuals. The bottom part of the doors to the cricket pavilion were kicked in and the inside vandalised. The adjacent cover to the electricity box was also smashed. A barrister said at the parish council meeting that if there was any repetition of these acts of vandalism on the cricket hut, he would not hesitate to call the police and act as a witness should it go to court. In addition someone sprayed white graffiti on the paving to the front of the village hall, the green shed to Martinvale and the side wall of the Old Post Office. The individual responsible was of the opinion that it would come off but it clearly hasn't. On Halloween there was some 'trick and treating' going on, which when carried out as intended is acceptable. It can however degenerate into intimidation and that night an egg was thrown at the door of a house in Newlyn Meadow. Vandalism like this is unpleasant for individuals and the community as whole and those doing it should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves. (editor)

UPPER WEST HILL FARM – in last month's Newsletter it was reported that High Quality Lifestyle Ltd intended to convert the farm at Ewell Minnis into a residential home for people suffering from learning disabilities. Following the public meeting to discuss the matter, Jamie Emberson the Managing Director of HQL has confirmed that because of local concerns he does not intend to go ahead with the proposal and will sell the property. He also said that he would welcome a visit of three representatives from Ewell Minnis to one of his homes to see how they are run. What was agreed by all parties was the excellent way in which George Tyler chaired what could have been a difficult meeting. (editor)

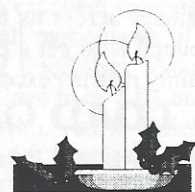
WINE AND WISDOM – the annual wine and wisdom is here again. Last year some people thought the questions were hard so this year I will make them a bit easier. There will be wine and crisps etc. on each table and food will be served in the interval. It will be on the 27th of January at 7.30 pm in the village hall and there will be 10 tables of eight people, the cost being £4.50 per head, with profits going to Demelza House. We hope the people who regularly have a table will re-book, so please contact either me or Sue Lees to confirm. If anyone else would like a table please give us a ring. (editor)

Merry Christmas

CAROLS with coffee and mince pies will be sung by the Alkham W.I. in the village hall on the 9th of December. Helen Scopes is bringing her donkey Oliver again with its beautifully decorated trap. So do please come along and join us and bring the little ones and not so little ones, to have rides. Oliver loves mint flavoured Polos. (Tricia Wright)

NAILBOURNE RUNS – this year's flooding must be a record with the dyke in full spate and the green turned into a lake. More worrying is that it appears as though the water is still rising and getting close to flooding some properties adjacent to the dyke. It is not far off the damp course to the village hall and some downstairs toilets have stopped working. The dogs and sightseers love it however, although the child seen swimming on Sunday looked unwise. (editor)

FETE AGM will be held on Tuesday the 5th of December at 8.00 pm in the village hall. Everybody is welcome so please do come along and help with this very worthwhile village activity.



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COLD SPOTS – In October, the Daily Telegraph on its Saturday property page printed an article about Dover under the 'Coldspot' banner. They weren't very upbeat about it and then went on to write about us. 'Even in such villages as St. Margarets Bay, once favoured by such luminaries as Noel Coward and Ian Fleming, and along coast the towards Deal and Kingsdown, prices are truly affordable. There is the Alkham Valley, a deep fold just inland from the line of huge cliffs, where a village pub offers arguably the best fish and chips in England and where cottages nestle in idyllic surroundings more usually seen on chocolate boxes. But they are still all tarred to some extent with Dover's brush'. Looking up 'idyllic' in the

dictionary it says 'scene of happy innocence or rustic simplicity'. Yep, that's us. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - There will be our usual Christmas walk on Wednesday the 27th of December, meeting in the village hall car park at 10.30 am. Everybody is welcome – members, their friends and anyone else who would like some healthy exercise, and that, of course, includes our faithful friends whose tails commence wagging at the mere mention of the word 'walk'. Paul Tapsell, our chairman, will be leading us and we should finish at the Marquis of Granby between 10 noon and 12.30 pm. A very happy Christmas to you all. (Pamela Sayers)

THE DYKE which as I type this is in full flow through the village, was discussed at the Parish Council meeting. There is some concern that it is not being properly maintained and the Highways Agency was therefore consulted. They said that the responsibility was riparian (an owner of land bordering a river) and local authority. The Garden Centre is to improve drainage across its land, DDC will look at the pipe on Neil Burrows land and also past Bramhall to the village. The Parish Council is to get a price for someone to look at the section across the green. Eastwards from there, through the village, it is mainly riparian except for the pipe under Short Lane. (editor)

A LOAD OF RUBBISH - I was amused last month by the coincidence between the editor's article on 'Recycling' and the last line of my article on 'Diaries', indicating that I have a lead of at least six years over him in the sanctimony stakes. At the KCC Whitfield site, one can also separately recycle cardboard, corks, metal, hardcore, engine-oil, books, spectacles and fabrics, in addition to the garden waste facility that started this summer (see the August Newsletter). At home we have a small wormery that composts kitchen waste, and fat goes out for the birds, so that our dustbin now contains just plastic and ashes. As a further refinement, one can recycle at the Camden Crescent car park, where Christian Aid receives a donation twice a year from DDC. (Steve Osborn)

GARDEN TALK – The next meeting of GARDEN TALK will be held at the Old Vicarage on Wednesday the 6th of December at 7.30 pm when we will be celebrating for Christmas, so please bring a bottle and some nibbles along. (Susannah Tapsell 822295)

GARAGE – the appeal against the rejection of the planning application for another garage at Brindene, adjacent to the Marquis of Granby, was turned down. The Parish Council thought that this decision was silly as it may have resolved the problem of vehicles parking on the road and footpath. (editor)

POPPY COLLECTOR - would anybody be willing to take over the job of collecting money for Poppy Day around the village? Please give Betty Preston a ring on 822421 if you would like to continue this worthwhile task. (editor)

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY – there are still a few tickets left for the disco and party on Sunday the 31st of December. There is an American Supper so bring your own food and drink. The cost is £5 per head and if you want a ticket please ring 824876.

Frozen ice and falling snow
icicles and cold winds blow.
Delicate snowflakes, skies of grey,
sledges and snowballs, children at play.
Frost bitten fingers, shiny red nose,
wind chapped lips and frozen toes.
Wellington boots, mittens and strings,
four calling birds, five gold rings.
The tree in its glory, an angel on top,
the smell of the pine, needles that drop.
Mum and dad whispering, loft out of bounds,
the rustle of paper will presents be found?
Pocket money saved, bath salts, hankies
socks for dad, chocolates for aunty.

The nativity, tea towels and wings,
away in a manger, tiny voices sing.
Church at midnight, candles bright,
and choirboys sing silent night.
Listening for Santa's sledge on the roof,
straining to hear the reindeer hooves.
Church bells ring it's Christmas morn,
presents all opened, paper torn.
Turkey, sprouts and Xmas pud,
chocolates, sherry and all things good.
Cherished memories, love, good cheer,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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OZ on THE WEST WIND - This last year of the second millennium will be remembered for the rain as much as anything; as Shakespeare said, in *Twelfth Night*, "For the rain it raineth every day." Rain and floods have always been associated with apocalyptic events, from Noah's flood, recorded in Genesis, to today's warnings of global warming. In November 1894, long before the rise of the motor car, widespread flooding in southern England contributed to the growing *fin de siècle* mood. The other association of rain has been with the west wind, dinned into generations of schoolchildren by their teachers' mnemonic "warm, wet, westerly winds." This alliteration of the letter W has been a boon to poets over the centuries, from the anonymous "Western wind, when wilt thou blow", written in the 16th

century, to Charles Kingsley's "The western wind was wild and dank with foam", from *The Sands of Dee*. The connection between the warm, wet westerlies and the Gulf Stream suggests the answer to the apparent contradiction between the ideas of global warming and another Ice Age. It seems that, if global warming melts the northern ice-cap, the release of fresh water into the North Sea will halt the Gulf Stream in its tracks, leading to another Ice Age, at least over Northern Europe. It's a sobering thought as we approach the *fin* of yet another *siècle*. Perhaps we should look forward just another four months, with John Masefield's lines from *The West Wind*: "It's a warm wind, the west wind, full of bird's cries; / I never hear the west wind but tears are in my eyes, / For it comes from the west lands, the old brown hills, / And April's in the west wind, and daffodils." (Steve Osborn)

W.I. REPORT - As the November meeting was our annual one, it was a no speaker do, just lots of chat. These are my favourite ones - and of course vote in next year's committee. Very little change to the present, Kathleen remains President, we lost Susannah Tapsell and gained Doreen Lott. So welcome to Doreen as it's her first time. I wish her lots of enjoyment and fun, as one of the front-line decision makers. Farewell to Susannah and thank you for last year's contribution. We had an excellent response to the jumble sale on the 4th, £9 on the door, that means 45 paying visitors, which was excellent. I trust all participants of the Bluewater trip had a good day. With my impending move, I didn't accompany them. Next meeting 12th of December, Maureen Cridle to entertain us with 'whose been living in my house'. Competitions, brown painted hen's egg (I would love to be a fly on the wall during this), and a pot plant. Hostesses, Barbara P, Rosemary P and one other but I don't know who. Raffle Helen S. December the 14th, Christmas dinner in Bluebirds, Dover, a coach from the usual place at 7 pm. It will return for home run, an excellent idea - no parking problems. Wishing everyone a great Christmas and a very Happy New Year. (Tricia Wright)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will lead the singing in 'Come Carolling', the Christians Together in Dover carol concert, at Dover Town Hall on Monday 11th December. They are also singing carols outside St Mary's Church in Dover, between 12 and 1 pm on Saturday 16th December, as part of a charity sing-in organised by Dover District Council. (Steve Osborn)

HARDWOOD - I have about 18 cubic foot of seasoned hardwood which I would like to sell as one lot. The majority is in board and comprises oak, ash, yew (sic), plane, elm, mahogany plus others at £10 per cubic foot as measured. (editor 824969)

WINDFALL FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - In 1995, when I was chief co-ordinator for our Neighbourhood watch scheme, I opened an account with the Bradford and Bingley Building Society, in which to deposit the profit we made on the wine and wisdom evening held in January of that year. Although I subsequently handed over the account to Mike Chalkley, when he replaced me, I am still listed on the B & B books as the first named account holder and, as such have been allocated 250 shares when it converts on December the 4th. At the moment it is difficult to say how much these shares will be worth but a figure of around £700 has been quoted. It is my intention to sell the shares and to pass the proceeds on to the Parish Council for the councillors to decide how best to use this modest but welcome windfall for the benefit of the village. (Bob Palmer)

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S Thanks to prompt action by our wardens and insurers, the damage done to the roof in the storms has now been rectified and we are all ready to mark Advent and celebrate Christmas in style! We look forward to seeing many of you at our traditional 9 lessons and carols service on December 17th at 6.30pm. Over the years our village has found this a good time to join together to sing familiar hymns and focus their thoughts on the Christmas story. It's a real community venture. We are fortunate now, in having a good choir singing at this service, built up from each of the three villages in our benefice. You are, as usual, invited to join us for seasonal refreshments in the village hall after this service. So many people who live in towns can only look at their Christmas card and chocolate box pictures of beautifully decorated old village churches but we in *Alkham* have the real thing. It is a wonderful setting for worship at this time of the year and a great deal of effort goes into its preparation. (thank you everybody involved from all of us who benefit). No doubt many of our youngsters will be bringing parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, as well as friends and neighbours to build and bless our crib on Christmas eve at 6.00 pm. in that informal service. Please note that this year we have a slightly later Christmas day service. It is at 11.00 am which might be more convenient for some of you. You'll surely have got the Turkey in the oven by then and the roast potatoes can wait till you get home! Finally, some of you may have heard the appeal launched by the Emmaus movement this year. They are encouraging us to celebrate the end of this Millennium year by spending 5-10 per cent less on our gifts and festivities, giving the money saved to help the homeless, the deprived or members of the third world. What a difference that could make to those people who might find this season almost unbearable. I'm sure you all have your favourite charities but, if you would like to feel you were giving to those here in Dover, with great needs, have a word with Brian, our editor, who can give you information about practical or financial support of the local soup kitchen. A very Happy Christmas to all of you. (Gill Calver)



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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	'Get it off club' 10.30 am in the village hall. (weight loss for Alkham ladies)
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	2	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Tuesday	5	Fete AGM see page 1
Wednesday	6	Garden Talk see page 2
Saturday	9	W.I. carols and coffee - see page 1
Monday	11	Youth club Christmas party in the village hall 7 pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Sunday	17	Refreshments after carol service - see page 3
Monday	18	Cage bird society in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	21	D & D canine society - village hall 7.30pm
Sunday	31	New Year's Eve party in village hall - see page 2

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
December 3 rd	Evensong 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am
December 10 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
December 17 th	Traditional carol service 6.30 pm	Traditional carol service 10.00 am	No service
December 24 th	Blessing of the Crib 6.00 pm	Family Christmas service 11.00 am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
Christmas Eve	Midnight Eucharist at St Radigunds - Capel 11.30 pm		
December 25 th	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am	See above	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
December 31 st	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist St Radigunds - Capel 10.00 am		

Alkham Valley Society AGM was well attended with Paul Tapsell, Pamela Sayers and John Garlinge re-elected to the posts of chairman, secretary and treasurer respectively. Pamela Sayers was quite rightly thanked for all the effort she put in to arranging the trip to the Dome. John Garlinge was thanked for the hedge laying which he is carrying out on Pimlico Way, the hedge having been planted by the society in the late 1980's. John said Larry Lambourne, Derek Banks-Nash and Bill Rolfe were also involved. An excellent talk was given by Jason Ball of the White Cliffs Countryside project. His enthusiasm was shown by the way he referred to his project as 'my area', and through slides took us through what he was doing with voluntary help to revive some coal mining areas of Kent. Spinney Wood at Aylesham was one particular project, which is to the east of the A2 junction at Barham. (editor)

ACHING JOINTS - if you suffer from aching joints, there is a product on the market which could help. It is called 'Joint Aid' and further details are available from Debbie Holliman who can be contacted on 01303 892481. Equine America products are also available.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Betty Preston 822421
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Police - Community Support 218151 Report crime taking place 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyns Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance & removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmaims Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveryes	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 827100
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, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212
WINDOW CLEANING	Turtle Window Cleaning: Houses, shops & businesses welcome	Dover 206986 or 07971 011736