

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

No. 88 January 2001

Free – non profit
Independent

FREDERIC HALL

Solicitors

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& Clyde House, Dover 01304 202411

A Happy New Year

FLOODING – Susannah Tapsell has suggested that a competition be held in the New Year to find the best photograph taken of the recent flooding in the Valley. All the photographs submitted will be put on exhibition in the village hall for public viewing. Another idea is a competition for the best sad or funny story about the flooding in Alkham Parish, which could later be published in the Newsletter. There will be more details next month and time will be allowed to finish the films, develop the pictures and put pen to paper. Please do join in.

PUBLIC MEETING – because of the concerns, which have been expressed about the recent flooding along the Alkham Valley, an evening meeting is being arranged for either the first or second week in January. It will be held in the village hall and the Highways Department, The Environment Agency, Southern Water and Folkestone and District Water Company will be present, with the proceedings chaired by George Tyler, the Parish Council chairman. Further details will be placed on the notice board outside the village hall by Christmas. (Susan Lees, Parish Clerk)

ALKHAM BATHING BELLES – does water, winter and women go together? Find out at 11.00 am on Saturday the 23rd of December at Vicarage Meadow, when the bathing belles will test the water (weather permitting) with bets being taken on the day. (Susan Lees)

CHURCH BAZAAR – After a dramatic start deciding to cancel or not because of the weather, we went ahead and it was remarkably successful considering the circumstances. £150 was raised. (Susan Lees)

POLICE – although I was aware that it had happened, I didn't report in last month's Newsletter a frightening incident which took place with what was thought to be an air rifle. Mrs Norris who lives in the last bungalow on the Folkestone side of the village had her front window shattered by a pellet or similar projectile. She immediately phoned the police because she obviously thought there could be someone in the front garden who could fire further shots or break in. The police declined to act as they considered that the person responsible would not still be there. They did not however know this and Mrs Norris was understandably very upset. In the event it appears that the shot was fired from a car as a shot was also fired at a farmhouse in Stombers Lane with a similar lack of response from the police. It does make you wonder what would have to happen to get the police to come to the village. (editor)

POLICE – the Neighbourhood Watch headquarters have moved from Deal to Dover Police Station but the phone numbers remain unchanged, as printed on the back of the Newsletter.

MOBILE PHONES – the police have advised that if you own a mobile phone you should either mark it in some way or put your name and address under the battery. This is because the police have many handed into them and they are unable to identify whom they belong to, so consequently they are destroyed.

ROYAL BRITISH Legion Poppy Appeal 2000 – The house to house collection raised £176.98 and the church collection £66. Many thanks to all who contributed especially Rachel Fountain, Susan Lees, Barbara Trundell, Shirley Tapsell, Grant Preston and the Marquis of Granby who collected. Thank you for your support for this ongoing need for our soldiers and their dependants. As I am moving north in the early part of the year I do hope that someone will take on this worthwhile but not too demanding a job. (Betty Preston)

GOLF BALLS – it appears that the field adjacent to Green Lane, Ewell Minnis is being used by someone to practice their golf swing, as golf balls have been found lying in the field. Cows and other animals are kept in this field and if they swallow a golf ball it could kill them. I have therefore been asked to include this item in the hope that the person practising golf in the field will now stop. (editor)

W.I. CAROL MORNING – Again the weather was to have its effect but Oliver the donkey with the help of Helen, Heather and Santa gave rides and the coffees etc raised a princely sum of £200 for Cancer Research. (Susan Lees)

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Tel. 01304 852960

LORRIES – Mrs Holliman who lives at Hopton Manor, South Alkham is badly affected by lorries, which pass close to her property. She wrote to Sandy Bruce Lockhart, the Leader of Kent County Council to ask him about his target to reduce lorries on unsuitable roads and also to ask why the local council had apparently ignored the Parish Council's proposal for lorry calming. *This is his reply* – Many thanks for your letter dated 21 November 2000 concerning the number of lorries using Alkham Valley Road. The County Council is very concerned about the number of lorries using rural roads in Kent and is committed to finding ways of reducing them, wherever possible. I am aware that over 200 lorries per day use Alkham Valley Road and,

although this is high for a rural road, you might be interested to know that our traffic surveys show that it is only half the number using the road in 1993, before the opening of the new A20 Trunk Road. Therefore, the new A20 and the A256 Whitfield Bypass, with the associated signing changes, together with the introduction of traffic management measures in Whitfield and Alkham villages, appear to have been successful in reducing lorry traffic on Alkham Valley Road. Having said that, however, I agree with you that we still need to consider whether there are any further measures that could be introduced to discourage heavy vehicles from using this route. It would be difficult to prohibit lorries from using Alkham Valley Road, because if a long length of the road was involved, there would have to be exemptions for access, which would bring enforcement difficulties. Alternatively, if a prohibition were brought in over a short length only, drivers would be tempted to seek less suitable alternative country lanes to avoid the prohibited length. I would like to assure you that the Parish Council's ideas have not been ignored, they are being considered by the local Highway Unit, along with other possible lorry management measures in Alkham and in other parts of Dover. It is anticipated that a scheme for Alkham Valley Road will be among a number of schemes put forward for funding next financial year. I hope that I have reassured you that we are aware of the problems in Alkham and are endeavouring to find practical solutions. (editor comment The 1993 traffic count was almost certainly inflated by A20 construction traffic. The 1998 County Council's stated target was to reduce the number of lorries on unsuitable roads. The reference to the A20 is therefore irrelevant, as this was a DTP scheme started in the 1970's and constructed in the 1990's as a strategic and political route to Dover. Any effect on the Alkham Valley Road was incidental. The Whitfield bypass was also government and EEC funded on the back of the Channel Tunnel. Irrespective of this it is unlikely that the Whitfield Bypass has had a beneficial effect on Alkham as Hanson brick lorries from Tilmanstone and other tipper lorries still use the valley. We await any KCC proposals)

GARDEN TALK – Thanks to Lucy and Ian for a lovely evening on the 6th of December at the Old Vicarage. A jolly time was had by all. The next meeting is at the Willows, Slip Lane on Thursday the 8th of February at 7.30 pm. New and old members are very welcome. (Rosemary Crothall)

WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE IN THE 1500's - Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and were still smelling pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the odour. Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to keep warm so all the pet dogs, cats and other small animals, mice, rats and bugs lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof hence the saying 'raining cats and dogs.' There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed so they found if they made beds with big posts and hung a sheet over the top it solved the problem hence four poster beds. The floor was just dirt and only the wealthy had anything other than dirt hence the saying 'dirt poor.' They cooked in a big pot which hung over the kitchen fire. Every day they lit the fire and added something new to the pot, mostly vegetables. They would eat the stew for dinner leaving the stew to get cold overnight and then start over again the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it, which had been there for a month, hence the rhyme 'peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.' Very rarely they might obtain some pork to put in it. When they had company they would bring out some bacon and hang it up to show off. It was a sign of wealth and that a man could 'bring home the bacon.' They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and 'chew the fat. Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with a high acid content caused some of the lead in it to leach into the food. This happened most often with tomatoes so they stopped eating them for 400 years! Most people ate off trenchers a piece of wood with the middle scooped out like a bowl. Trenchers were never washed and a lot of the time worms got into the wood. After eating off wormy trenchers they would get 'trench mouth'. Bread was divided according to status. Servants got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and the guests got the top or 'uppercrust'. Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock them out for days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait to see if they would wake up hence the custom of holding a 'wake'. England is old and small and they started running out of places to bury people so they would dig up old coffins and take the bones to a house and reuse the graves. In opening the coffins some were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. They decided they would tie a string to the wrist of the body and thread it through the coffin and up through the ground to a bell. Hence on the 'graveyard shift' they would know someone was 'saved by the bell' or was a 'dead ringer.' (Jo Reynolds for the Blo Norton Bugle, kindly passed to me by Barbara and Bob Palmer)

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OZ on RURAL RIDES - The writer of the *Daily Telegraph* article quoted from in 'Cold Spots' last month might be tickled to know that he reminded me somewhat of William Cobbett. Between 1822 and 1826 Cobbett made a number of fact-finding tours on horseback across the south and east of England, his accounts of which were published in 1830 as *Rural Rides*. On Monday 1st September 1823, he travelled from Folkestone to Dover, not via the Alkham Valley, but along the main road, known today as 'the old A20' or the B2011. He noted the valley "descending all the way to Dover, a distance of about six miles...each side of which may be about a mile and a half", concluding that "there are *eighteen square miles of corn*." This clarity of observation is matched only by Cobbett's vigorous prose style, described by

William Hazlitt as "plain, broad, downright English", as witness his description of Dover itself: "...like other sea-port towns; but really, much more clean, and with less blackguard people in it than I have ever observed in any sea-port before." Cobbett was a fine example of the English 'radical patriot', fiercely loyal to his country, but determined to expose government mismanagement and corruption wherever they occurred. During his stay in Dover, he inspected the underground defences, and became incensed at what he saw as the colossal waste of money on "the only set of fortifications in the world ever framed for mere *hiding*." Uncertain whether to continue to France or along the coast to Thanet, Cobbett allowed his horse to decide, and stopped next at Deal, which he described as "a most villainous place full of filthy-looking people." As a Deal-born radical patriot, I feel obliged to say that Cobbett sometimes got it wrong. (Steve Osborn)

W.I. NEWS - Due to excess water around the village hall the December meeting was cancelled. We hope the January meeting will take place as planned. However, seven members joined in the Kent Federation W.I. outing to France - an outing although much enjoyed was spent mainly on the coach. We set off at 8.30 am and believe it or not we were not able to eat or drink anything until 4.00 pm. Never has Pizza Hut hospitality been better enjoyed. The crystal factory, ride through the countryside, Boulogne, lights at Calais and shopping were great. (Susan Lees)

THE NAILBOURNE has probably never flowed as it has done this year. You may be aware that there is a natural spring at Drellingore just on the Folkestone side of the big white pumping station. In times gone by when there was a water shortage farmers used to come from Capel and other villages with water tanks on their wagons to collect water from the spring. After the water company started pumping water from the aquifer the size of this spring diminished. However, when there is a lot of rain and the water table rises, the spring changes into the Nailbourne which is a term used for similar water courses that occasionally run in other parts of the county. In olden days it was referred to as the 'Woe waters' as it obviously caused woe. A dyke was dug through the village to take these waters and in recent times the banks across the village green were raised to help prevent the flooding. To the west of the village the dyke had become overgrown and the water this year spilled out onto the Alkham Valley Road causing flooding and subsidence to the road. The local council has now dug the dyke out but the problem continues. The water table is now so high that springs have appeared at other places along the valley particularly at Lower Standen where water has appeared in the yard at Patio Products. The Alkham Valley Road is now completely flooded at the entrance to Newlyns Meadow and also in front of Valley Cottages. No wonder it was called the Woe Waters. (editor)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will perform Parts 2 and 3 of Handel's 'Messiah' at 7.30 pm on Sunday 21st January 2001, in the parish church at St Margaret's at Cliffe. The concert, to be given in memory of Dorothy Cornwell, who died last October, will feature international soloists Joseph Cornwell (tenor) and Roisin Cornwell (soprano) together with local soloists Elizabeth Weaver, June Woodland and Philip Spendley. All proceeds will be donated to the Mike Stone Cancer Research Fund. Tickets, price £5, are available from Friends of St Margaret's, members of Dover Choral Society, Bob Joslin (01304 363344) or at the door on the night. (Steve Osborn)

RECYCLING UPDATE - KCC, in partnership with Kent Community Recycling, has now introduced containers for aluminium foil at the recycling centres at Whitfield, Deal and Sandwich. Aluminium can be recycled continually and the process saves over 95% of the energy used to create aluminium from bauxite. (Steve Osborn)

A POEM

The weather is in turmoil
The garden's all a swim,
I wish the rain would go away
We've had enough of him.

The nasty wind, he's as bad
Chilling all our bones,
Sending debris flying
And damaging our homes.

When you hear the thunder clap
You see the willows weep,
Then you hear the oaks all groan
And there's no way you can sleep.

Let us all hope very soon
We'll see a clear blue sky,
With a little sunshine
To wave the storms goodbye.

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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)

Monday	8	Parish Council meeting in the VH at 7.30 pm – all welcome
Tuesday	9	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	13	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Monday	18	Cage bird society in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	21	D & D canine society - village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	20	SEK astronomical society VH
Monday	22	Village Hall committee meeting in village hall at 8 pm
Saturday	27	Beekeepers in village hall
Saturday	27	Annual quiz 7.30 pm in VH
Saturday	3	Jumble sale in village hall at 11.00 am for village hall fund

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
January 7 th	Evensong 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am
January 14 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
January 21 st	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
January 28 th	Joint Benefice – Sung Eucharist at St Lawrence, Hougham 10.00 am		

News from St Anthony's

A happy New Year to you all! On Sunday the 14th of January our Benefice Sunday Club will be celebrating their birthday. Although they meet at 9.30am every Sunday in Capel, the club has served children from both Alkham and Capel so do join us for a birthday celebration at the 11.00am service if you can. On the following Sunday we are marking "The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" by inviting the Revd. Paul Christian from Temple Ewell to come and preach at Capel evensong. Paul is an Anglican priest who is also a member of "Forward in Faith" (the organisation opposed to women's priesting). We are overjoyed that he has accepted an invitation to preach in one of our churches and I do hope you will make that service a date in your diary. It is good to reflect on how we can bridge divisions in our own denomination, as well as looking further afield. Last year some of you will remember a chilly, candle lit service in our old St Mary's church, on the road between Capel and Alkham, to celebrate the feast of Candlemas. We found a special stillness in that beautiful old church dedicated to our Lord's mother and intend to worship there again for this festival on February 2nd. It's a Friday night and our service will be at 7.00pm. So, if you are coming, wrap up warm and bring a torch! (Gill Calver)

CAROL SERVICE – St. Anthony's had a full congregation for the traditional carol service on the 17th of December. The church was decorated and lit by what must have been a record number of candles. Charlie Preston was there as he has been for over 75 years. A few things have changed during his lifetime notably the loss of the children's choir. He told me that they only got paid on their annual outing to the seaside when they each got a shilling, probably worth £4 or £5 in today's money. This year's choir was in good voice and sang a few extra carols at the church door for which they deservedly got a round of applause. (editor)

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.freeserve.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.freeserve.co.uk

Village Hall booking
Rosemary Polden 8248

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, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with village shop and tea room,	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
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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NEWSLETTER – I am grateful to Mr Gordon of Evergreen, Slip Lane for pointing out that the number on the January edition was the same as that on the December one. It's really encouraging that the Newsletter is so well read by some people if not by me. (editor)

ROYAL BRITISH – It is disappointing to report that nobody has offered to take over the organisation of the Poppy Appeal from Betty Preston who is going to leave the village. She tells me that it does not involve a lot of work. If you can spare a little bit of time to organise this worthwhile activity please give Betty Preston a ring on 822421. (editor)

BATHING BELLES – a large crowd turned out to see the bathing belles enter the flooded village green on the 23rd of December. The Dover Express took a wonderful photograph of the belles in the lake, which was published the following week. The ladies taking part were Moira Hoyle who later did an unwise jump to catch a cricket ball as her wellies were stuck in the mud, Cherry Leppard, Helen Scopes, Susan Lees looking particularly fetching in a tutu, Susannah Tapsell and Grace Stacey sporting a Santa hat. After the photograph, some members of the Alkham Cricket Club entered the water for a short game with Mark Robson batting, Den Barnard bowling and Matthew Gerrard and Ian Calloway in the out water. Den Barnard then went on to swim the length of the pitch. It was great fun and congratulations must be given to the great sports who took part. (editor)

VILLAGE PICTURE – at question time during the Parish Council meeting on the 8th of January, Ahmed Ovais of the Three Bells at Swingfield Street presented a framed water colour picture that he had recently painted of the village green in flood. He was warmly thanked for this very generous gesture by the chairman, George Tyler, and was applauded by the council and audience. The picture will be hung in the village hall and a brass plaque put below. Ahmed started the art classes, now held in the village hall, at his pub where further examples of his work can be seen. I can also say that he's a good cook and recommend the mixed grill and curries that are served up by his wife Valerie, in very convivial surroundings. (editor)

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held on the 2nd of April in the village hall. It hasn't been decided who the speaker will be and therefore any suggestions will be welcomed. If you have any ideas please phone Susan Lees, the Parish Clerk, on 822661. (editor)

PRECEPT – the Parish Council agreed a figure of £5500 for the coming financial year. It was felt that an increase in the precept, the amount that the Parish will get through the rating system, was necessary, as there were various expenses to be met, one of which is the costs associated with buying Vicarage Meadow. (editor)

PARISH SPECIAL CONSTABLE – would anybody like to do this worthwhile job? You would be an unpaid volunteer but a uniform and training will be given. I haven't got all the details but last time I put it in the Newsletter there was an age limit of 55. It would be terrific if someone did volunteer, almost like having a village Bobby again. If you are interested and want more details please contact the Parish Clerk, Susan Lees on 822661. (editor)

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL quiz evening on Saturday the 24th of March at 8.00 pm. Teams should be no more than 8 and no less than 6 and to book a table please ring Doreen Lott on 824876. The price will be £3.00 per person and food will be provided. (Doreen Lott)

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL (see also page 3) was congratulated by the Parish Council Chairman, George Tyler, on the splendid work they had done during the recent floods. Doug McHattie was singled out for praise. They have now completed two new overflows to the dyke at Newlyn Meadow, as suggested by a resident master mariner. (editor)

YOUR FLOOD WATER PHOTOS

Don't put them away in a drawer never to be seen again, let other people share them. It doesn't matter if they are grand panoramic views or unposed snapshots, there has to be something for everyone. There will be a **COMPETITION** for the most interesting entry when the photos are **EXHIBITED** in the village hall on Sunday the 8th of April between 2.00 pm and 4.30 pm. You can enter up to six photos, which will remain anonymous until the winning picture is selected. Please give them to either Susan Lees or Brian Wimsett by the 8th of April. The winning photo will be enlarged, framed and hung in the village hall with a suitable inscription underneath. Entry to the competition is free and all photos will be returned. (Susan Lees)

Gary Docherty

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VILLAGE OF THE YEAR – this is not competition for beautiful duck ponds, roses round the doors and litter free greens. It is now judged in five sections, any of which can be entered, these being Environment, Business, Young People, Older People and Community Life. Last year forty-five villages entered the competition, so would anyone from Alkham like to enter this year? If you are interested but feel you would like some help, I would be willing to get involved. In the first instance you have to fill out a straightforward form, which is then judged. If you get to the second round you are then visited with prior arrangement by judges for that section. If you would like to know more please contact the Parish Clerk on 822661 or if you would

like someone to do it with, then please contact me. (editor)

HOGBROOK BARN – the parish council wrote to DDC regarding the inclusion of Hogbrook barn within the village boundary and said that if you include one addition you must look at others. DDC replied (precised) 'It was the Inspector who recommended that the 'Atcost' barn should be within the village confines but this did not provide a presumption in favour of conversion of the barn for residential uses. The Inspector did not recommend any other amendments to the village confines. Any further amendments will be addressed at first review when the housing strategy is reconsidered.' A revised planning application for two houses on the site was discussed by the Parish Council and unanimously rejected for the same reasons as before (intrusive, outside boundary etc). It however appears likely that development of the barn will take place eventually. (editor)

UPPER WEST HILL FARM – following the decision of High Quality Lifestyles not to develop the farm at Ewell Minnis as a home for people with learning difficulties, George Tyler and Lindsay Bennett of Ewell Minnis visited two of HQL's homes. The Managing Director, Jamie Emberson, was very open and caring and explained the training and also training courses which he runs for other organisations. George Tyler said that the major problem at Ewell Minnis was access but if wasn't for that then the type of home run at Temple Ewell would present no problems. The home at Wolverton had people with greater learning difficulties and George and Lindsay found it a bit frightening. George Tyler said however, that he would go as far as to say, that if a home similar to the one at Temple Ewell was set up next to him he would have no objections. (editor)

THE NEW YEAR'S EVE party held in the village hall was a great success and was enjoyed by villagers of all ages. Our thanks must go to the families of Polden and Lott for organising the evening. Doreen has told me that she has already booked the disco for next New Year's Eve. I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy New Year for 2001. (Betty Neely) Doreen Lott also wrote an article saying what a success it was and that a profit of £130 was made for the village hall funds. They hope to make it an annual event and send a big thank you to all those people who made it a great evening.

A KEEP FIT and SLIMMING CLUB is held in the Village Hall on Wednesdays from 10.30am to 12md. There is a structured exercise session designed to improve and strengthen muscle tone, balance control and cardiac output. The exercises are performed by the participants to suit individual needs, limitations and goals, none involve getting down on the floor. The exercise session is followed by optional coffee, discussions about healthy eating, and weekly weighing. If you think this programme would suit you, then you are welcome to join us. If you would like to join us just for coffee you are welcome but we would request that you arrive after 11.25am to avoid disturbing the class. Fees, £1 weekly, proceeds after costs donated to charity. For any further details contact Helen Scopes Tel.822899.

THE VILLAGE HALL now has uPVC double glazed windows, which were installed on the 16th of January.

GARDEN TALK - Please note change of date. The next meeting of GARDEN TALK. will be held at The Willows, Slip Lane on Wednesday, February 7th at 7.30pm when Mr. Keith Turner, the gentleman who judged at the Produce Show and put on that wonderful display of fuschias, will be coming to speak to us. If you do not normally come to GARDEN' TALK but would like to hear Mr. Turner's talk on fuschias, please know that you will be very welcome. (Susannah Tapsell)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS WALK - There was mud, mud, glorious mud, but Paul Tapsell kept us to the roads fairly well and. I think everyone enjoyed the breath of fresh air after Christmas, and, wonder of wonders it didn't rain. It was attended by a good crowd with quite a few members meeting in the Marquis afterwards to quench their thirst. A Happy New Year to All. (Pamela Sayers; Secretary)

NOTHING NEW – Steve Osborn makes mention of 'More Christmas Crackers' by John Julius Norwich in his article this month. Steve e-mailed a quotation by Petronius, who died in AD 65, which is included in the 'Crackers' book.

'We trained hard; but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form into teams we would be reorganized. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing; and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralization.'

It is amazing how a statement made nearly 2000 years ago can be so relevant today. (editor)

COUNTRY NOTES – for various reasons Devina Bartlett is unable to continue with her article. She started writing for the Newsletter in September 1997 and I would like to thank her for all the support and help she has given to the Newsletter over the past three years. (editor)

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OZ on CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

- On New Year's Eve, we celebrated forty married years. At the wedding there was talk of "starting the 1960's properly" and "the new century and millennium in forty years' time." The following summer, during a visit from parents, my father, an inveterate reader, found the newly-published, still shocking, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, on our shelves and disappeared with it into the garden. Hours later, smiling, he replaced the book with "Well, that was a good yarn!" In similar vein is the following review from the American magazine, *Field and Stream*, November 1959: "Although written many years ago, *Lady Chatterley's Lover* has just been re-issued by Grove Press, and this fictional account of the day-

by-day life of an English game-keeper is still of considerable interest to outdoor-minded readers, as it contains many passages on pheasant-raising, the apprehending of poachers, ways to control vermin, and other chores and duties of the professional game-keeper. Unfortunately, one is obliged to wade through many pages of extraneous material in order to discover and savour these sidelights on the management of a Midland shooting estate, and in this reviewer's opinion the book cannot take the place of J R Miller's *Practical Gamekeeper*." I discovered that glorious quotation in *More Christmas Crackers* by John Julius Norwich. For the past thirty years, Norwich has sent out personal selections of poetry, prose and literary oddities, instead of Christmas cards, to his friends. At the end of each decade, he published these selections, collected into single volumes, as *Christmas Crackers* (1980) and *More Christmas Crackers* (1990). I was delighted to discover in my Christmas stocking that *Still More Christmas Crackers* had been published in November 2000. As the Chancellor of the Exchequer will soon say, of something rather different, "I commend it to you." (Steve Osborn)

W.I. REPORT -The January meeting was taken by the Vice President, Rosemary Crothall, who warmly welcomed the new members. Reports were given on our various activities, namely the Carol Coffee morning, which you will have read last month raised £200 for Cancer Research, the trip to France, our Christmas dinner and The "Bathing Belles" fun in the floods, which raised nearly £100 for The British Heart Foundation. Great appreciation was expressed for Cherry Leppard's organisational skills as social secretary and other necessary tasks were assigned. Paul Tapsell gave an interesting and informative talk entitled "A Life of Crime". He provided us with contrasting amusing anecdotes and a compassionate insight into his work as a barrister. A vote of thanks was given by Susan Lees. The speaker at our next meeting, Tuesday, February 13th, will be Eric Hart on "Reflections of Folkestone in the 1960's". This will be an open meeting, so anyone who would like to come will be very welcome at 8pm. (Susannah Tapsell)

A FETE COMMITTEE meeting will be held in the village hall on the 27th of February at 8.00 pm. Will anybody who is interested in helping with the fete on the 14th of July please come along. (Paul Tapsell)

FLOODING - a meeting was held in the village hall to discuss the recent flooding with the appropriate agencies. The meeting was very well attended and George Tyler, the chairman, said that it was not the intention to apportion blame. He complimented Doug McHattie from DDC on all the work he had done recently and this generated a round of applause. Ian Murrell from the Environment Agency spoke first and said it was very unusual to see surface water run-off on chalk soils as the latter normally absorbed the water. Because of the rain intensity the ground had become saturated and the surface water run-off had flooded fields and roads. He said that the September rainfall was 3 to 4 times the seasonal average and that bournes had run in other areas (speaking to him afterwards he was insistent that ours is known as the Alkham Bourne and not 'Nailbourne'). He said that the Agency had no flood defence responsibilities for this area and that the maintenance of the dyke/ditch was the duty of the riparian owner as defined in the Land Drainage Act 1961. Ian McAthey spoke next for Folkestone and Dover Water Company. He said that under licence from EA they extracted clean water from Drellingore and Lower Standen and both these boreholes had been at 40-year highs. Because of turbidity (cloudy), water was not extracted from Drellingore but an overall equal amount was taken at Standen. They will however, when conditions allow, install a facility such that the turbid water can be pumped to waste. He said that it was not possible to store excess water as it flows out to sea. Alan Blackburn and Barbara Moody from DDC spoke next. Following criticism of the state of the ditches and culverts they said that they had taken over the watercourses 18 months ago and were trying to come to grips with the situation. They also said that a MORI poll had been carried out in the past by KCC and with a finite budget the majority said that they would rather have money spent on street lighting than gully emptying. Therefore gullies subject to flooding were cleaned four times a year and others every other year. They were trying to resolve the question of who owned bridge crossings. In summary DDC agreed to work with the Parish Council on drainage clearance, carrying out a survey of the drainage system and if necessary serve notice of entry on riparian owners. Paul Kent of Southern Water spoke last and said that the sewage system had flooded because of the ingress of surface water. Where people had lost sanitation because of this, Portaloos had been installed. Ernie Cook said that water entered the sewage system because the sewers and manholes leaked badly. To a certain extent this was agreed and an order has been placed for contractors to look at the system. Overall it was quite an impressive meeting with people there who knew what they were talking about. It is easy to blame large anonymous organisations for problems but it was clear that individuals were doing their jobs well, within financial constraints. DDC were particularly impressive. (editor)

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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	3	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Saturday	3	Jumble Sale in VH 11.00 am in aid of Village Hall funds
Tuesday	6	Youth Club in VH at 7.00 pm
Wednesday	7	Garden Talk at the Willows, Slip Lane at 7.30 pm
Thursday	8	D & D canine society - village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	10	SEK astronomical society VH
Tuesday	13	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	15	D & D canine society - village hall 7.30pm
Monday	19	Cage bird society in village hall 7.30 pm
Tuesday	20	Youth Club in VH at 7.00 pm
Saturday	24	Beekeepers in village hall
Tuesday	27	Fete Committee 8.00 pm in VH
Saturday March	3	Jumble sale in village hall at 11.00 am for W.I. funds

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
February 2 nd	Joint Candlemas Service St. Mary's (old church) Capel-le-ferne 7.00 pm		
February 4 th	Evensong 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am
February 11 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
February 18 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
February 25 th	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist at St Anthony's, Alkham 10.00 am		
February 28 th Ash Wednesday	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist at St Radigunds, Capel 7.30 pm		

News from St Anthony's - Those of you who value our old church of St. Mary's (on the road between Alkham and Capel) will be glad to know that we are opening it again on the evening of February the 2nd at 7.00 pm. We shall be celebrating the feast of Candlemas, which marks the presentation of Jesus in the Temple by his parents. Do wrap up warm and join us for this candle lit service in a church we only use two or three times a year. Many of you will have contributed indirectly (via Harvest Supper proceeds) to the hospital in Katete in Zambia, which our church supports through the U.S.P.G. On Sunday the 25th of February, at our joint service at Alkham, we have a preacher coming in to update us on the work of the organisation. Don't forget its Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) on February the 27th. Tickets are available from me for our Pancake Supper (6.30 pm at St. Radigunds, Capel). And finally, Lent starts on Wednesday the 28th of February, an occasion we shall mark with the celebration of the Holy Communion at St. Radigunds at 7.30 pm. **N.B. ALKHAM CHURCH AGM IS AT 7.30 pm ON WEDNESDAY THE 4th OF APRIL IN THE VILLAGE HALL.**

(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.freeseve.co.uk
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freeseve.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 822003

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, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with Gift Shop and village shop	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
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. 91 March 2001

Free – non profit
Independent

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DRUGS – children playing on the bank between the flooded football pitch and the garden to Hill View came across five syringes, foil, little bottles, discarded lighters, beer cans and plastic cups. They went to see Wilf Atkins who lives in Short Lane and he phoned the police. They said it was nothing to do with them and he should phone the local council. The children took the items and burnt them by the village green car park. Much to their credit Eliot and Chelsie Woodison of Catherine Cottages and Carla Saltmar who lives in Short Lane came to see me so I could put something in the Newsletter. It is both depressing and discouraging to find such activities taking place in the village but it is encouraging that there are also sensible and decent children around. (editor)

CONGRATULATIONS to Sandie and Paul Tapsell on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Emily, who was born on Friday the second of February at 10.45 am and weighed in at 7 pounds 3 ounces.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL – The new official organiser for Alkham District is Mrs Rachel Fountain of Fair Acres, Alkham, telephone number 823173. Many thanks to all who have helped in the past and to Rachel for volunteering. (Betty Preston)

THE VILLAGE HALL has been closed from Monday the 12th of February because of the floodwater. The water has covered the kitchen floor and come up under the floorboards in the hall. The major problem is that the toilets won't flush and it has therefore been decided to cancel all bookings for March. In the mean time if anyone wants to hold a meeting or an activity for upto 20 people, the old shop on the side of my house may be used. The shop was converted to residential use and has a clear space of about 8 metres long by 5 metres wide. If you would like to use it please give me a ring on 824969 and we can discuss it. The Parish Council meeting will probably be held in the shop but see back page for further details. (editor)

CONGRATULATIONS to father and son, John and Simon Huggins, for obtaining their pilot's license for helicopters on the same day at Manston, on Sunday the 18th of February. (Anne Huggins)

PHOTO COMPETITION – the hire of the hall was discussed at the recent Village Hall Committee meeting. George Tyler very generously offered to pay the hire charge but Doreen Polden suggested selling refreshments and holding a raffle. So please do submit your photos to either myself or to Sue Lees by the beginning of April and then come along and view the competition between 2.00 and 4.30 pm on the 8th of April. (editor)

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR – reading through the literature on the latter, the winning villages appear to be very good, especially Egerton which won the overall title. However, many villages do enter so I thought I would enter Alkham under the 'Community Life' section. I drafted something out and e-mailed it to Sue Lees who expanded on some of the items and now it is ready to go off. If we get through the first phase the judges will come and visit us, so if you see Sue Lees and I walking round with a group of people, please smile. (editor)

THE W.I. JUMBLE SALE scheduled for March the 3rd has been cancelled.

THE QUIZ scheduled for the 24th of March in the village hall has been cancelled because of the flooding. It has provisionally been rescheduled for April the 21st; further details in next month's Newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ray Ashman of Green Lane, Ewell Minnis who has been granted by Her Majesty the Queen the dignity of an Officer in the Most Venerable Order of St. John, which means he is now known as Maj. Ray Ashman MBE O St. J.. Both he and his wife Margaret are delighted with this award.

MISS KATE FRIEND formerly of Fryers Fern Farm, Ewell Minnis, and later "Ferndale", Alkham, died peacefully on Sunday the 11th of February. She would have been 92 on 14th of the month.

HIGHWAYS AND FLOODING – KCC have written to the Parish Council to say that the recent floods have had a hugely detrimental effect on all their roads with large potholes appearing. KCC has spent about £1 million clearing up after the floods and this does not include repairs. They are disappointed that the government's grant for road repairs has only increased by 0.25% but nonetheless they have increased the highway maintenance budget by 16.5% to over £34 million. The purpose of their letter was to tell us they are very conscious of the state of the roads and are doing all they can to put funds into their repair. They ask that we bear with them but to let DDC know of any problem areas or priorities. (editor)

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roof, will be called Old Malmains Dairy. Francesco is more than happy to show people round if you are interested to see what he has done. (editor)

A260 – no doubt most of you will have seen the new road connecting to the roundabout at the bottom of White Hill, which goes up to the centre of the old airfield at Hawkinge. The road was promoted by the developer and the local council and at the moment it is intended to act as an access for construction vehicles and people who live on the new housing estate. I understand that the consortium intend to extend this road in the reasonably near future such that it completely bypasses Hawkinge. There will be a roundabout on Aerodrome Road with the bypass continuing to connect directly into the A260 somewhere near the road to the Transfer Station. The existing A260 will be shut at this connection point making the bypass the through route. (editor)

KIRSTY TAPSELL who lives with her parents in Valley Cottages has recently been awarded a Baden Powell Trefoil Certificate, which is the highest award for a Guide. She was one of two of the River Guides to get the certificate, which is awarded to girls who have proved themselves in Guiding. Activities include exploring the arts, thinking for themselves, home-making, enjoying the outdoors, keeping Guide laws, getting to know people and keeping fit. Kirsty is now going on to help with Rainbows, the 5 to 7 year olds before they go onto Brownies, which meets weekly during school time. Well done Kirsty. (editor)

GARDENTALK - Members of GARDENTALK very much enjoyed an interesting and informative evening with Mr. Keith Turner who spoke to us about raising and caring for fuschias. Thank you to Cal and Helen for your kind hospitality. The next meeting will be held at Bramhall on Thursday April 5th when, hopefully, we will be able to wander round the garden before enjoying our wine and nibbles. (Susannah Tapsell)

FLOODING – in last month's Newsletter I said that Dover District Council should be congratulated on the way they had dealt with the recent floods. Someone phoned from Newlyn Meadow to say that he and other people disagreed with this and went on to say that DDC had been unhelpful especially when contacting them on the phone. I think the praise as given, was mainly for Doug McHattie of DDC who had come out on most days of the flood to try and deal with the situation and others might have not been so helpful. The floods however returned with a vengeance and once again swamped the entrance to Newlyn Meadow. The water in the dyke had never been so high with water over running the bridges and flooding the Alkham Valley Road. Slip Lane literally turned into a river, driving stones and debris down onto the main road. The ground is obviously waterlogged with any downpour now causing a flood. (editor)

PROFESSIONAL DESIGN STUDIOS – Jan Martinez, who is a professional Garden and Interior Designer, is running courses from her studio at Everden. The courses are in Gardening (varied aspects), Quilting (American and English), Drawing (techniques), Samplers (sewing, design and history), Stencils (design and make your own) and Colour (how to use colour in the home). The day rate is £55 including light lunch or from Friday pm to Sunday pm including all meals and stay in country house, £150. Jan started at Camberwell School of Arts getting a National Diploma in Design and then went on to work in the Chelsea Interior Design Studio, London before going on to Scandinavia and Europe doing hotel and garden design. She then opened a studio in Eltham and later gained an RHS certificate from Wisley. Moving to Everden she has done commercial designs for Eastern Docks and other people. Her writings have featured in magazines, slots on Radio Kent and she was also on Garden Question Time. Jan is running the courses to help people who may feel design is for them and want to change career direction. Phone 01303 893462 to book.

MILLENNIUM FUND

The committee, which raised funds for the millennium projects, did a splendid job and ended up with a surplus of about £1000. They have decided to donate the money to various organisations. The Village Hall, The Cricket Club and the Youth Club are each to receive £100 and the remaining £640 is to be given to the Parish Council so that they can buy a new seat to replace the broken one on the corner near the top of Hogbrook Hill. The Committee did a splendid job, the village party being a highlight of last year and the Alkham sign a lasting remembrance of the new millennium. (editor)

THE OLD GRANARY – Francesco Conti, who is converting the buildings on Slip Lane by Malmains Farm, is to be congratulated on the way he has carried out the conversion. The original structure has been retained and brick and flint walls built to fill in the voids. The windows are purpose made box sash and the original flooring to the upstairs has been sanded and sealed. Most of the other flooring is oak as are the stairs and some of the doors. It would have been much easier for him to have carried out a modern conversion but he has spent the money and produced a couple of buildings which Alkham can be proud of. The larger part of the building is called the Old Granary and the single storey structure, which has a room in the

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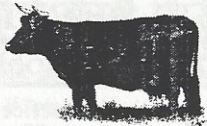
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longer each day before demanding his afternoon exercise. The third seasonal indicator is the sudden and reassuring appearance of snowdrops, in clumps along the flooded edges of Bushey Ruff, undoubtedly descendants of those planted in the original grounds of the Big House. These simple flowers are such hardy survivors that it's difficult to believe that they are not native to Britain. It's all so evocative of Roger McGough's cheerful poem *The Fight of the Year*, which uses a boxing match as a metaphor, starting with "And there goes the bell for the third month / and Winter comes out of its corner looking groggy / Spring leads with a left to the head, followed by a sharp blow to the body." As for *Rustle of Spring*, it's the English translation of *Frühlingsrauschen*, that haunting piano piece by the Norwegian composer Christian Sinding. It was composed in 1896, but not published until 1909, so this is as good a time as any to celebrate its centenary. (Steve Osborn)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present their Easter concert at 7.30 pm on Saturday 7th April 2001 in Dover Town Hall. The concert opens with a lively setting of the *Gloria* by Michael Lewis, well known locally as the Conductor of the Snowdon Male Voice Choir. There follow two major works by Mozart: the *Clarinet Concerto* (K622), featuring Bill Kenchington on clarinet; and the '*Great*' *C Minor Mass* (K427), with chorus and soloists. Tickets costing £8 (Students £4) are available from Dover Town Hall, the Music Box in Maison Dieu Road, and members of Dover Choral Society; and, if there are any left, at the door on the night. For further details please ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

Kids news around Alkham

Drugs - drugs are very harmful, you should never take them. If you see any signs of people taking drugs go straight away. These are the signs of drugs: needles, smell - sometimes it will be herby, foil, lighters/matches, there are other things too. Drugs can sometimes lead to Aids and other deadly diseases. If you see someone taking or has just taken it, find an adult straight away. I hope we have helped you find out about drugs and the effects it causes.

Youth Club - There is still the youth club down in the village hall but it is now on Tuesday. We have not been able to run it because of the recent flooding. We hope to see you in the youth club to come. (Carla Saltmar & Chelsie Woodison)

welcome Tony into our benefice and hope you will introduce yourself to him when you're next in church. Our benefice Lent course begins at 7.30pm in St Radigunds Church on Monday March 25th and will run on the four following Mondays. We shall be exploring our journey of faith in words and music and all are welcome. Finally, don't forget that it's Mothers Day on March 25th and we hope mums, and all those who have responsibility for caring for youngsters at home, will be able to be with us on that day at our 3pm service in St. Anthony's, traditionally followed by tea in the village hall (weather permitting!). This is a special opportunity to express our gratitude to those who have cared for us over the years. (Gill Calver)

OZ on RUSTLE OF SPRING - Last week, the tortoise awoke from her hibernation, as predictably as usual, three days before our daughter's birthday. Other hibernators, for example hedgehogs, bats, amphibians and reptiles, are less conspicuous, but must surely be stirring now. Many insects and small mammals merely become sluggish during the winter, waking from time to time when the temperature rises. Some creatures, such as birds, squirrels, foxes and rats, remain active all winter, using their high mobility and intelligence to maintain food supplies. Another sign of the season is the lengthening of the days. At this time of year, the increase is about four minutes in every day, or half an hour a week, a fact which has not gone unnoticed by our dog, Jak, who waits

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S - We do hope to see many of you at our evening service on the first Sunday this month, to be held in St. Radigund's, Chapel. It is a special occasion in the life of St. Anthony's, as well as the rest of our benefice, and the Bishop of Dover is coming to mark the event, to celebrate the Eucharist and to preach at the 6.30pm service. The reason for this special service are two fold. Some of you will remember that when I came here some five and a half years ago, I was appointed as "priest in charge" of Alkham, Capel & Hougham with special responsibility as chaplain of Dover College. I was licensed at a special service in St. Anthony's in September 1995 and my appointment was for a period of 5 years. As work in the parishes developed, I relinquished the position of chaplain eighteen months ago. I was not technically called your "Vicar", because the freehold was suspended while we looked at what was happening here. Now the five years have come to an end. Things seem to be fairly stable. There are no plans afoot to combine our parishes with any others so there is no reason for that suspension to continue, and the three church councils have agreed to my institution as their Vicar. That is why the Bishop will be coming to institute me as Vicar to the benefice on March 4th. The second event he will mark is the licensing of our newly arrived Reader, Tony Elcombe, who has recently joined in the leading of worship across the benefice. 'Readers' in the Anglican church are lay ministers who have undergone three years training, and are much used in the church's preaching and teaching ministry. They are recognisable by the blue scarf worn round their necks for worship. We are very pleased to

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

THURSDAY Mobile Library Vicarage
Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am

Other events (VH= village hall)

The village hall will be closed during March because of the flooding. The old shop attached to the Old Post Office will be used for the Bingo. The Parish Council meeting will also be in the shop unless it is possible to use the hall without the use of the toilets. The lights will be on in the shop if it is used.

Saturday	3	Bingo at 7.30 pm ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Monday	5	Parish Council meeting at 7.30 pm – all welcome

THE WINE AND WISDOM held on the 27th of January raised £325 for Demelza House, £102.50 of which was from the raffle and £5 from Beattie Jeapes. The questions had been made a bit easier than last year and most of the tables did well with Temple Ewell Post Office once again being the winners. Thanks must go to Sue Lees and Tricia Wright for doing the scoring, which with the introduction of playing cards is not straightforward. Thanks also to Doreen Lott, Doreen Polden and Rosemary Polden who did an excellent job preparing the food. (editor)

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
March 4 th	United Benefice Eucharist Bishop of Dover to preach and celebrate St. Radigunds – Capel 6.30 pm		
March 11 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
March 18 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
March 25 th	Joint Benefice – Sung Eucharist at St Radigunds - Capel 10.00 am		
	Mother's Day Service St. Anthony's – Alkham 3.00 pm		

W.I. REPORT - As the February meeting could not be held in the Village Hall due to flooding, Karen's extremely kind offer that we could meet in The Marquis of Granby was gratefully accepted. Thank you, Karen. The meeting was chaired by the President, Kathleen Goldfinch who informed members of the many and varied activities available within The East Kent Federation of W.I.'s. Alkham W.I. will be host to the Group meeting to be held in October and also to the annual Top Team Quiz, for which Brian Wimsett will be preparing the questions. Olive Harvey read the thank you letter that she had received from Imperial Cancer Research for money raised by the Carol Coffee Morning. This contained very interesting and the latest facts about cancer research. Mr. Eric Hart then gave a delightful talk about restoring the Standaard organ from The Odeon Cinema, Folkestone, sadly long since demolished, and showed slides of the area taken in the 1960's. (Susannah Tapsell)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

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ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

No. 92 April 2001

Free – non profit
Independent

FREDERIC HALL

Solicitors

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& Clyde House, Dover 01304 202411

FLOOD – the cartoon on the right was published in the Dover Mercury on the 28th of February and they have given their kind permission to reproduce it. (editor)

BEQUESTS – Mrs. Southall, who died on the 31st of January very kindly left £10,000 to St Anthony's church and £5000 to the village hall. An obituary is on page 2.

POND WARDEN – The Pond Warden scheme is sponsored by Southern Water and BTCV who run training courses on pond survey, management, design and creation and their use in the community. It's an interesting and worthwhile job and one is needed for Alkham as Grant Preston, the present pond warden, has moved out of the village. If there is anybody who would like take over or like more information, please phone the Parish Clerk on 822661. (editor)

FOOTWAY LIGHTING – if anyone in the Parish considers that further footway lighting is required would you please ring the Parish Clerk, Sue Lees on 822661 and let her know. Any lighting proposed must be for the illumination of a footpath as highway lighting will not be considered. (editor)

VILLAGE HALL – the insurance company has not yet given the go ahead for repairs to the village hall following the recent flooding. Wet rot is starting to appear on the floor and there is the horrible smell of damp. It looks as though it will be at least another month before it can be used again. Meanwhile the old shop to the Old Post Office has been used by two committees, the 'Get it Off Club' each week and Bingo at the beginning of the month with any payments going to the village hall. The old shop will be used for the Village Hall AGM on the 23rd of April.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – because of problems arising from the foot and mouth epidemic, it has been decided to postpone the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for the 2nd of April until a later date. If there are any pressing problems please phone the Parish Clerk on 822661 or George Tyler on 822451.

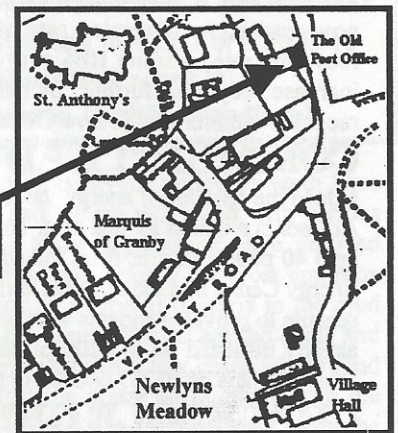
COFFEE MORNING in aid of the village hall is going to be held at Doreen Lott's house, 4 Valley Cottages on 7th of April at 10.30 am.

OLIVE HARVEY has unfortunately undergone another major operation and we wish her a speedy recovery.

PHOTO COMPETITION – the competition for the best photos of the recent floods in the village will still take place on the 8th of April between 10.00 and 4.30 pm. The venue will be the old shop attached to the Old Post Office, which is shown on the plan to the right. Please walk up the front steps and into the old shop. We would appreciate it if you would let us have your photos in plenty of time as we need to mount them. (editor and Sue Lees)



'That's agreed then, cancel the fete and have a regatta instead!'
By George Pitts



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PAPER CHASE – during the last ten months, 907.95 tonnes of paper has been collected for recycling in the Dover District. DDC's challenge is to improve on this, so please take your newspapers and junk mail to the Farm Shop recycling centre if you can. There are also bins for cans and bottles. (Parish Council)

VANDALISM – at the Parish Council meeting, mention was made of the electricity box on the cricket pavilion. Once again the door to the meter has been smashed by individuals who are known to the council. It was considered that exposing the meter was a greater danger than the needles that have been found recently. Should it happen again, witnesses will be sought and appropriate action taken against the vandals.

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lived but in partnership with Theodore Greville she established the well-known camera shop in Folkestone, Hawksworth Wheeler. The business prospered and this enabled them to move to Alkham in the 1950's and buy Greenwood. The house is being put on the market but it is not known whether the extensive lands, which go with the property, will be split up and whether the derelict building by the bridleway will be developed. (editor)

GARDEN TALK - The next meeting will be held at Bramhall on Thursday the 5th of April, hosted by Richard and Susannah. The programme will be a wander round the garden and a topic presented by Devina. All welcome. (Susannah Tapsell)

HOGBROOK BARN - a revised planning application has been submitted for the development of the Atcost barn site on Hogbrook Lane, just past the village hall. The application is for two houses one of which has gable windows in the roof. The Parish Council unanimously voted to reject the application for the same reasons as before, that the development was intrusive and not in keeping with the village. It does however appear that Dover District Council are looking sympathetically at the new application. (editor)

PLANNING APPLICATION - a revised planning application has been submitted for further garages at Brindene, which is the first bungalow past the Marquis. The previous application was turned down by DDC as it was considered not in keeping with the conservation area. The Parish Council approved the application but were concerned that it may be rejected on the previous grounds. The Parish Council thinks that the extra garages could solve the problem of vehicles being parked on the footway and road. (editor)

TREES - Mick Wingfield has done a superb job making small brass plates to be put on the trees which were planted on the village green for the millennium. Unfortunately the floods have taken their toll on the trees and some have not survived. Paul Tapsell is going to do a survey and the remaining trees will form the basis of those which are to be tagged. If there are any objections to this, as the trees were planted in peoples names, would you please phone Paul on 01303 892082. (editor)

PLAY EQUIPMENT - Mike Kingston, who lives in Slip Lane has kindly inspected the swings on the green and pronounced them safe. The steps to the slide have been put in abeyance, as it is impossible to get a vehicle onto the green but as soon as it is dry, the work will be carried out. The steps will also include a handrail as recommended by DDC. (editor)

MORE RUBBISH RECYCLED - It was reported last month that the KCC Whitfield recycling site has now reached a conversion rate of almost 44%, which places it fourth in the Kent league table. Overall, Kent has increased its recycling rate by some 10% over the previous year. Residents across the county are now trying different pilot schemes to try and increase recycling further, including home collection of garden waste and cardboard, and colour coded bin liners to identify recyclable materials. (Steve Osborn)

COMMUNITY ADVISOR - under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995, all local authorities are required to reduce the amount of energy the homes in their area consume. The Kent Energy Centre forms a crucial part of this and a Community Advisor is required for this area. The amount of time it will take is up to the advisor but as a guideline they are looking for each advisor to help 40 people benefit from the scheme. You would be expected to tell the people you come across in your daily life about the Kent Energy Centre and the schemes and their benefits. Examples are free advice on reducing fuel costs, grant schemes and KASH which is a scheme to provide residents with discounted insulation measures. If you took up the post your house could be insulated for £50 or if it is already insulated up to £200 of other energy efficient measures such as energy efficient appliances. If you are interested please ring Jennifer Shaw on 01233 646806 or ring Sue Lees on 822661 and get an application form. (editor)

CHALKSOLE GREEN - at the Parish Council meeting it was agreed that the official village green, which is at the top of White Hill on the left, should have the brambles and weeds trimmed with a flail and overlying branches cut off. It was also suggested that the boundary of the green should be marked.

HELP LINES - for people who are badly affected by farming problems, especially the foot and mouth epidemic, there are various helplines. Kent Farmline, Kent's rural helpline with people who will listen and help, is 01304 813 808 or kentfarmline@hotmail.com. Others are: The Samaritans 08457 909090; The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution 01865 727 888 or rabi@btinternet.com; Rural Stress Information Network 024 7641 2916 who have helpful contacts nationwide plus rusin@btinternet.com.

MRS. SOUTHALL - I did not print the obituary last month for security reasons. She died on the 31st of January and the funeral service was held in St. Anthony's on the 5th of February with a congregation of 71 present. Mrs. Southall lived alone at Greenwood, which is the impressive part timbered house on Chalksole Green Lane bedecked by hydrangeas in the summer months. She was a rich lady and unfortunately had no known living relatives to leave her house and money to. I understand that the bulk of the estate has been left to charity with numerous bequests of £5000 and £10,000 to organisations and people she knew and also those who had been good to her. She was born in 1911 and was later adopted. Her marriage in the 1940's was short

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along Russell Gardens, we discovered a newly planted monkey puzzle tree, the *Araucaria*, also known as the "Chile pine." The name of this strange-looking tree derives from the supposed power of the twisted prickly leaves to confuse monkeys in its native South America. The monkey puzzle was brought to this country in 1796, when the botanist Archibald Menzies, accompanying Captain Vancouver on his exploration of Chile, sent some seeds to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. The name *Araucaria* is also the pen name of the crossword compiler, John Graham, who was 80 in February. His greatest invention was the alphabetical puzzle, where solvers have not only to deduce the 26 answers starting with every letter from A to Z, but also where to place them. He also discovered that "The Old Vicarage, Grantchester" gives rise to the anagram "Chaste Lord Archer vegetating." Finally, near the Abbey gate, we spotted a beech, stained with the crusty green lichen *Lecanora conizaeoides* that thrives on dog urine; but lichens are a story for another day. (Steve Osborn)

W.I. REPORT - The meeting was again held at The Marquis of Granby, very many thanks to Karen, and taken by the President, Kathleen. Opportunities were given for members to attend the Group meeting at Whitfield where the talk will be '60 Glorious years of Fashion' and the Annual Council Meeting held in Margate when the speaker will perform her one woman show 'The Sixth Wife' an account of the life of Katherine Parr. Details of outings to the Agriculture Museum Brook, May 9th and to Pashley Manor, July 18th were given and the social secretary, Cherry, kindly undertook to make all the arrangements. It was reported that three of the members have taken the course of French lessons, two will be attending a Public Speaking Workshop and two a Drama Workshop; all available through East Kent Federation of W.I.'s. Ian McKenzie from 'The Vicarage' then gave a most interesting and thought provoking talk on 'Drug Development from chemical to Pill', which was very warmly received and appreciated. (Susannah Tapsell)

HORSES - Welcome to our new feature! From now on we will be addressing a number of equestrian issues ranging from seasonal horse care to local competitions and events. If there is anything that you wish to know or about or highlight a local issue, please contact me on the number below! Kicking on to the first edition, I think we can all start to look forward to the lighter, longer days. We will soon be wondering how we coped with the dark mornings and even darker afternoons and, not forgetting the persistent rain! We still cannot forget the last point as, if you hadn't noticed - if you haven't where on earth have you been! - the results of the immense rainfall are still visible. The waters are yet to recede and we are still faced with various conditions that can affect our equine friends. Although there have been good points- I know my horses have enjoyed incorporating some water schooling with their hacking - there have also been a number of problems. One of the most common ailments over the winter has been "mud fever". Mud fever is quite simply that- a skin reaction to a type of bacteria in the mud which causes a reaction when in contact with the skin for a prolonged time. Predominantly, the areas affected are the heels and lower legs of horses and ponies- spreading further if left untreated. However, this year there have been a few cases where mud fever has appeared on higher areas of horses straight away. This has been due to the rise of the water table, preventing the absorption of the rainfall into the soil. Certain bacteria have therefore been left at a higher level and come into contact when the horse has possibly rolled or laid down. So, those of you who are still under water or have particularly sensitive neddies, beware! Another common problem that a lot of people have had over this winter is that of respiratory problems. Limited turn out has resulted in a lot of horses being stabled for longer hours than normally. There are various ways you can prevent respiratory problems, and remember- prevention is better (and easier) than cure! Severe respiratory problems are not just for Christmas, but for life! However, now that we are nearing spring, these problems should be easing away. Easy from now on I hear you all say! We now have to think about the return of the flies, excessive amounts of grass and- YES you will be moaning about it soon - HARD GROUND!! (Debbie Holliman BHS AI - 01303 892481)

OZ on TREES - The floods continue, and it remains difficult to gain access to Bushey Ruff. We've been getting there by scrambling up and through the woods behind the walled garden. One day in February, descending the treacherous steps on the far side of the Big House, we heard the snarl of a chainsaw. Three tree-fellers were, with great skill and humour, dismantling the recently deceased giant sequoia opposite The Stables. These enormous trees were unknown to Europeans until the California Gold Rush of 1849. They were introduced in 1857 to the Duke of Wellington's estate in Hampshire and were henceforth known as *Wellingtonia*. Sadly they were never seen by the "Iron Duke", who had died in 1852. On our return journey, halfway

Kids news around Alkham

Accident - On Saturday the 17th of March Bethany Saunders dog, Ellie was hit by a Landrover. The Landrover was speeding up Short Lane and after it hit Ellie it drove off without stopping. The Saunders family would like to know who did it and why they didn't stop. It could have been a child it hit.

Foot and mouth - you are not allowed in any of the fields or woods because of the foot and mouth. It is a disease which only sheep, pigs and cows can get. We can carry foot and mouth but not catch it. The only way to stop any more outbreaks is to slaughter animals that carry it.

(Carla Saltmar & Chelsie Woodison)

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
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Other events

The village hall is closed because of flood damage and the old shop to the Old Post Office is being used for meetings – please see below

Thursday	5	Garden Talk at Bramhall
Saturday	7	Coffee morning at 4 Valley Cottages in aid of village hall.
Saturday	7	Bingo at 7.30 pm in old shop Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Sunday	8	Flood photo competition in old shop 10.00 am to 4.30 pm – please see page 1
Monday	23	Village Hall Committee AGM 8.00 pm in the old shop.

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
April 1 st	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am
April 6 th Lynn Chapman's Farewell Service	Sung Eucharist at St Radigunds - Capel 7.30 pm		
April 8 th Palm Sunday	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
April 12 th Maundy Thursday	Sung Eucharist at St Radigunds - Capel 7.30 pm		
April 13 th Good Friday	The Last Hour on the Cross – Meditation at St. Radigunds – Capel 2.00 – 3.00 pm		
April 15 th	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am	Sung Eucharist 8.00 am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
April 22 nd	Joint Sung Communion (using reserved sacrament) at St. Lawrence – Hougham 10.00 am		
April 29 th	Compline 6.30 pm	Eucharist 10 am Book of Common Prayer	No service

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

– As you can see from our service rota Lynn Chapman will be leaving us to join the religious community at Whitby this month. We shall say our goodbyes on Friday April 6th at a service in St. Radigunds at 7.30 pm followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

In preparation for Easter, our benefice will meet together in one of our three churches each night during Holy Week (April 8th – 15th) – all at 7.30 pm:

Monday: Gill Calver leads a meditation 'Aspects of Love' at Hougham. **Tuesday:** Frank Conley leads a meditation in words and music 'The Suffering Servant' at Alkham. **Wednesday:** 'The Stations of the Cross' led by Lynn Chapman at Alkham.

Thursday: Maundy Thursday Communion at Capel. **Good Friday:** 'Last Hour on the Cross' 2.00 to 3.00 pm led by the Revd. Dr. Michael Hinton.

Our Easter Day celebration will be at 11.00 am and we do hope our whole village can share in this joyful acknowledgement that death and evil never have the last word. A Happy Easter to you all. (Gill Calver)

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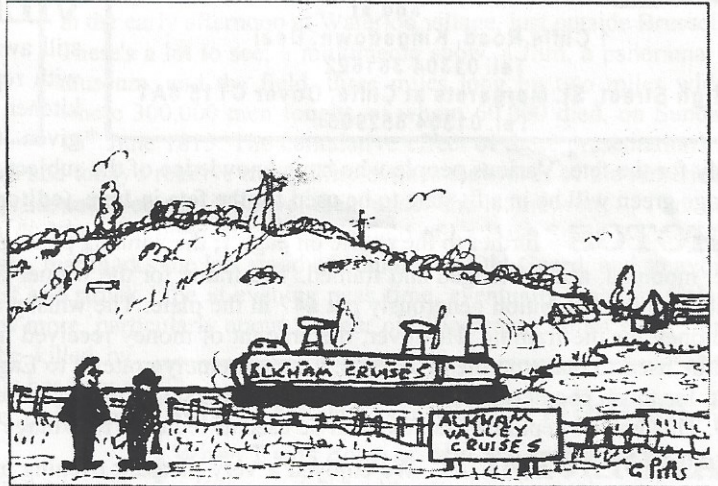
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"I knew we'd find a use for it!"

FLOOD – Once again I am grateful to the Dover Mercury for allowing me to print this cartoon by George Pitts of the recent floods. Things are almost back to normal although sticky wicket springs to mind. (editor)

PHOTO COMPETITION – what a great success the competition for the best photograph of Alkham in flood turned out to be. Susannah Tapsell came up with the idea and the people of Alkham and Capel responded by entering 160 photographs. The old Post Office shop was opened on Sunday the 8th of April and during the day about 90 people visited the exhibition. Adrian Harrison of Seymour Harrison Camera shop, Folkestone, judged the entries and declared Brian Cane of Capel the winner, with Debbie Saunders and Christine Tapsell of Alkham second and third. Their photographs will be enlarged, framed and hung in the village hall. Brian Cane also received a bottle of Teachers Whisky. Debbie Saunders entered a photograph with a liner sailing onto the village green, which was terrific and caused a lot of double takes. Visitors were also asked to nominate the photo, which they thought was the best and 63 people voted. Seven voted for Larry Lambourne's photo of the lake, 5 for another by Debbie Saunders and 5 for the winning entry by Brian Cane. There was also a competition to find the photo that had purposely been mounted upside down. Although many thought it was the Parish Clerk in a fetching tutu and wellingtons, it was actually one of the Old Vicarage. There were 42 entries, most of which were right. With apologies to the adults, I decided to include only the entries made by children and picked out 3 winners. They were Tom Robson, Bethany Saunders and Jacob Ball (grandson of Eve Hartwell who lives in Glebelands) and each received a large Easter egg. (editor)

CONCESSIONARY FARES – the new scheme will start on the 1st of June and this year every resident of pensionable age as well as residents with certain categories of disability will be entitled to claim a free, half fare or off peak Bus Permit for travel within Kent (conditions apply). You can register your application in advance by writing to: Concessionary Fares, Director of Finance and Central Support, DDC, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PF or ring 872122. (editor)

YOUR 'VISIONS OF KENT' – KCC will be launching this major document in July and are inviting entries of photographs which reflect Kent and its unique nature. The deadline is May the 4th and for further information or an entry form please ring 01622 221977. (editor)

BRITISH RESISTANCE FIGHTERS – are you, or do you know someone who was, a former member of the Home Guard Auxiliary Units, Special Duties Section or XII Corps Observation Unit in Kent? Winston Churchill ordered a secret army to be formed comprising men who knew the Kent

hills, forests and marshes to hold up the Germans should they invade. Adrian Westwood living at Hawksdene, The Street, Hastingleigh TN25 5HU, telephone 01233 750563, is researching a book on the subject and would love to hear from you.

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BREAK IN – on the 21st of April a property in the village was robbed. Just after midday a van backed into their drive, two men got out and smashed a lower window and escaped with some antiques. A neighbour who was alerted by the noise had a missile thrown at her when she asked what they thought they were doing. She dialled 999 but by the time the police arrived the robbers were long gone. (editor)

VILLAGE HALL AND FETE – we are still awaiting the approval of the insurance company to go ahead with repairs. The estimate for replacing the floor to the hall and kitchen plus new kitchen units is about £12500. When approval is given it should take about 3 weeks to do, so the hall could be subject are confident, so long as it doesn't rain hard again, that the

ready for the fete. Various people who have knowledge of the village green will be in a fit state to be used for the fete in June. (editor)

PHOTOS – further to the article on page 1, the winning photographs in the flood water competition will be enlarged to A4 size, mounted, acknowledged and framed. The frame for the winner will be larger than the second and third places. On the day, visitors to the exhibition generously put £47 in the plate. The whisky and Easter Egg prizes cost about £20 so there is a shortfall in money for the framing. However, the amount of money received from various groups and committees for using the old shop will be used to make up the difference. I am extremely grateful to Eagle Star Insurance for covering third party risks, at no extra cost, for those people who have visited the old shop. The money raised from those parties who have insisted on paying is about £60. This will be kept in a fund that can be used as required for village activities. (editor)

GARDENTALK -We enjoyed a very pleasant evening at Bramhall. First we peered through the windows into the wild and wet night to see the shape and structure of the gardens and to enjoy the views, then we worked together in groups designing a herbaceous border, discussing companion planting for the control of pests and planting to encourage wildlife; all questions posed by Devina. Then the wine flowed as we discussed our projects and a merry time was had by all. The next meeting will be held at "The Willows" Slip Lane on Friday May 4th at 7.30pm. (Susannah Tapsell)

ODE TO A VANDAL

I've got a new motor, no MOT,
a bit of a banger but rubbish free,
because out of the window I chuck,
all cans, boxes and other such muck.

Updating the lounge, we got a good deal,
on a settee with a leathery feel.
The old one was a bit of a pain
so we dumped it in Hogbrook Lane.

The engines knocking it's almost gone,
I need a new motor, I'll get Ron,
to tow the car down some country lane,
then take me to the auctions again.

verse one and three now repeat

GET IT ON? The 'Get it Off' weight watchers club have been using my old shop whilst the village hall is closed. Unfortunately, on the 11th of April, I went out and totally forgot about them. I think it is my duty to report that rather than suffering from my lapse in memory they had a wonderful time by repairing to Bramhall where they ate meringues, scones dripping with jam and cream plus various other fattening foods. Happy birthday, Helen. (editor)

On behalf of the Village I would like to thank Brian Wimsett for enabling the flood photographic exhibition to go ahead despite the temporary loss of the Village Hall. Not only did he provide the Venue (The Old Post Office Shop) but also set up the excellent and interesting display of photographs. It was good to see it was well attended but let's hope it's not an annual event! Well done Brian.

THE RED CARPET – the walkways, aisle and altar area of St Anthony's church have been covered in red carpet, replacing the old matting. It looks superb and the considerable cost was paid by someone who wishes to remain anonymous. Whomsoever it was, is to be congratulated for such a truly altruistic gesture. (editor)

CHURCH WARDEN – I would like to congratulate Ken Hammond, my neighbour, on becoming a Church Warden at St. Anthony's. It is a considerable achievement of which he should be proud. (editor)

GREEN BOXES - Good news on the recycling front. From next April Dover District Council is introducing a "green box system" whereby contractors

can collect waste paper, bottles and cans from outside homes. The service will be available to 9, 000 properties initially and will be phased in for the remainder over the following two years. (Steve Osborn)

THE COFFEE MORNING and Easter Egg draw held at 4 Valley Cottages on Saturday the 7th of April, was a great success and raised a total profit of £183 for Village Hall funds. In order the following were the winners of eggs: Mrs Powell, Ferndale: Pam Sayers: Tricia Wright: Pauline, 17 Glebelands: Shirley Tapsell: Margaret Milroy: Cath Goldfinch: Mrs Elliott: Ellis Milroy: Charlie Preston: Mrs Wenham: Mrs Robson: Margaret Ashman: Sharon, 5 Glebelands: 8 Newlyns Meadow: Doreen Lott: Mr Trent: Holmans 'Woodlands': Ellis Milroy: M Ashman: Mr Elliott: Mrs D Polden: R Dryden: S Milroy: Val & Bernie.

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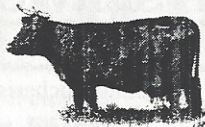
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overwhelming. The contrast between the dreadful war scenes and today's relative tranquillity evokes the words of the American poet, Carl Sandburg, in *Grass*: "Pile the bodies high at Austerlitz and Waterloo, / Shovel them under and let me work - / I am the grass, I cover all." After climbing the 227 steps of the Butte du Lion, and one last look at the field of La Haye Sainte, we set out for home. In order to see the Monument of the Broken Eagle, that marks the last stand of Napoleon's Old Guard, and to avoid the horrors of the Brussels Ring Road, we drove south-west and struck Lille at evening peak time, eventually reaching Calais with twenty spare minutes. The day encouraged me to learn more, particularly about 23-year old Lieutenant James Hart, from Dover, who survived a day of cavalry charges only to be killed by shrapnel, late in the evening, on the other side of the hill. His headstone is in St Mary's churchyard, underneath the tree by the pedestrian precinct. (Steve Osborn)

W. I. REPORT - The last meeting was held in The Marquis of Granby, thank you Karen. Brian and Erica Gray gave a most enjoyable slide show and narrative about the social and economic history of the Waterways of England. The photography of wildlife was superb. Arrangements were made for coming events and outings, previously reported and Rosemary reported on the W.I. walk and lunch. The next meeting will held on May 8th 7.30pm in Capel Church Hall when the Resolutions for the I.G.M.2001 regarding "Provision of School Nursing Service" and "Training of Staff Working with Older People" will be discussed, followed by some fun with hats so bring one of your hats along. There will be a Programme Planning meeting on 16th May 7pm held at "Appletrees" Slip Lane. (Susannah Tapsell)

VILLAGE HALL committee AGM was held in the old shop on the 23rd of April. It was agreed, subject to planning requirements, that two additional windows would be put in the end gable wall by the green. The windows to the hall will also be cleaned quarterly, both inside and out. All the officers were re-elected with Doreen Lott as Chairman, Larry Lambourne as Treasurer and Brian Wimsett as Secretary. All committee members agreed to continue which is a good thing, as the amount of work done by them is phenomenal and a credit to the village. (editor)

HORSE TALK - By the time you get to read this months' horse section, hopefully we will be looking forward to some good weather and, more importantly, an end to the foot and mouth crisis. The impact that the FMD has had on the equestrian world has been immense. Major events on the equestrian calendar have been forced to cancel, including the Cheltenham Festival (racing) and Badminton (3 day eventing). There are still many more events hanging in the balance of whether to run or not. The knock on effects from the cancellations of the equestrian events, on a whole, is actually greater than one would expect. It is not only the venue of the event that suffers, but also a large number of individuals that contribute to the running of the event and of the horses. Such events taking place in the countryside over a couple of days generate millions of pounds to local B&B's, pubs, restaurants, etc. Some business solely run on the money made during such events. The horses that would have been prepared for this season's competitions also face an early holiday (or at least a great reduction in their workload). The people that have spent the past few months preparing the horses also face a great reduction in their work. Attention from the farrier is less frequent, grooms duties are far less, less feed is required, and the list goes on. Mr Blair's boasting of less than 1 million unemployed is sure to be short lived! But then again, he rarely listens to the countryside! Politics apart, we must look on a more positive note. During this time, we can do all of the jobs that we seldom find time to do: Give your horse a thorough daily groom. You will assist the appearance of his summer coat and get to know your horses' anatomy in a greater depth: Pull manes and tails and trim unwanted hair ready for when the shows restart: Ensure you horses jabs and teeth are up to date: Thoroughly clean all of your tack, checking the stitching, buckles, etc: Clean winter rugs to store away for next winter: Spring clean your stable and attend to any maintenance. And, whilst you are limited as to what you can do on horseback, why not seek some tips off the professionals by reading or watching one of the many good books or videos on the market! (Debbie Holliman 01303 892481)

OZ on WATERLOO - Last month we travelled with the Royal Artillery Association on a one-day coach trip to Waterloo battlefield in Belgium. The outward crossing had that feeling of expectation described in Auden's line "... the cliffs of Dover vanish, and the Calais flats appear." After a long drive across the unvarying Franco-Belgian landscape, ("wall-to-wall Gazen Salts" someone commented), punctuated only by occasional red-roofed and white-walled farmhouses, we arrived in the early afternoon at Waterloo village, just outside Brussels. There's a lot to see; a multimedia show, a film, a panorama, a museum, and the field, three miles long by two miles wide, where 300,000 men fought, of whom 60,000 died, on Sunday 18th June 1815. The cumulative effect of these presentations is

Kids news around Alkham

When I was down on the green I saw a boy walking a dog and letting it do its business on the grass. I asked him to pick it up and he said no he didn't want to. He knows who he is and if he can't pick it up let his parents walk it. It is very dangerous for kids on the park and if they get it on their fingers and rubbed his/her eyes they could go blind. So please pick it up in future.

(Carla Saltmar & Chelsie Woodison)

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

THURSDAY Mobile Library Vicarage
Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am

Other events

The village hall is closed and The Old Post Office shop is being used for meetings – please see below

Friday	4	Garden Talk The Willows 7.30
Saturday	5	Bingo at 7.30 pm in old shop Kathleen Goldfinch 822776

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
May 6 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping Together 11 am
May 13 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping Together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
May 20 th	Joining Other Christians From Dover at a Rogation Service at St. Radigunds Abbey 10.30 am		
	Joint Benefice Evensong at St. Radigunds Capel 6.30 pm		
May 27 th	Joint Benefice Eucharist at St. Anthony's Alkham 10.00am		

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S – Christian Aid week begins on May the 13th so watch out for your envelope through the door and for any people being asked to be sponsored on 'the walk'. It's a good opportunity to support some of the poorest people in the world. If every household could spare just the price of a lottery ticket, what a difference that would make to those suffering as a result of natural disaster in so many parts of the world. Watch out for news of our Rogation Service at St. Radigunds Abbey on May the 20th. We shall be joining with other local Christians to mark this event in a service of Blessing of fields and crops at 10.30 am in the 12th century barn, thanks to Grace and Albert Moynan's hospitality. Children's activities are included as the them 'Garden of Eden' is developed with displays of flowers, plate gardens, collage music and refreshments. Bring a picnic too if you wish. At our recent AGM, Ken Hammond was elected as warden as sadly, Betty Preston stood down, in preparation for her move north to be nearer her daughter and family. Thank you Betty for all you have done for St Anthony's over the years. It would take this whole Newsletter to itemise everything. We know you will still be beavering away in the background for a while yet and we will no doubt say our proper farewells later on. Thank you Ken for being prepared to serve the village as its Church Warden, along with Richard Tapsell a practised and much trusted hand! Thank you too to Grace Stacey who has joined our PCC and to all those continuing to serve. Thank you too to the generous donor of our beautiful red carpet. Come and see it if you haven't done so already. It makes our church feel really warm. (Gill Calver)

HEDGE TRIMMING in Short Lane. My most grateful thanks to David Beaney junior, Rob Allen and later joined by Ashley and Nathan Hughes for the excellent work they carried out trimming the hedge in Short Lane. (Tricia Wright)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freeseve.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Betty Preston 822421
Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freeseve.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
Police - Community Support 218151 Report crime taking place 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704

County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
and work number 01795532547

District Councillor Fred Scales 201382
and Trevor Bamfield 202334

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn 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
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with Gift Shop and village shop	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	Fenfield 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

Brian Wimsett: The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
01304 824969

No. 94 June 2001

Free Non
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TRAFFIC - Alkham has been selected by the Highway Authority as one of the sites for installation of interactive speed limit signs. As the name suggests a microwave detector registers the speed of an approaching vehicle and if it is exceeding the limit, displays the speed in the centre of the sign. At the same time two pairs of amber lights flash either side of the speed attracting the driver's attention. There is automatic night-time dimming so the signs should not be too intrusive. They have been used with great effect at other locations in the country and have significantly reduced the speed of traffic. On the Dover approach to the village the signs will be about 12 metres before Short Lane and on the Folkestone side, just past the entrance to John Ullmann's field opposite the end of Valley Cottages. It is good news for Alkham that the problem has been identified and hopefully this will lead on to some measures to deter lorry traffic. (editor)

VICARAGE MEADOW

Paul Tapsell has drawn up the proposed Restrictive Covenant for Vicarage Meadow. A meeting will be held with the Church Property Board on June 14th and hopefully, shortly after that subject to payment, Vicarage Meadow can be called the Village Green. (editor)

THE VILLAGE HALL

repairs to the hall are now complete with new floors to the hall and kitchen, a new smaller stage and new electrical appliances in the kitchen. On Saturday the 2nd of June from 10.30am a **coffee morning** is being held in the hall so that villagers can come and have a look at what has been done. There will also be a raffle, plus other attractions. (editor)

CAMERA - a small black camera was lost on the village green recently. If anyone has found it will they please ring 01303 245654.

KIDNEY RESEARCH

Larry Lambourne would like to thank all the people in Newlyn Meadow who generously donated £22.50 in the recent collection for kidney research.

THE ANNUAL PARISH

meeting will be held in the village hall on Thursday the 31st of May at 7.30 pm. Please do come along and have your say or ask the Parish Council any questions you like. (editor)

VILLAGE FETE - the fete will be held on Saturday the 14th of July at 2.00pm. As always new helpers will be most welcome. Please come to the open meeting on the 14th of June at 8.00 pm in the village hall or phone me on 01303 892082 for more information. Stallholders and competition details will be in next month's Newsletter. (Paul Tapsell)

FROM OLIVE HARVEY to all my dear friends in Alkham and beyond. Thank you so much for your prayers, your thoughts, your visits and all the lovely cards with their encouraging messages. Progress is slow, but the situation is gradually improving and I am extremely well looked after by family and friends. The hospital staff are all so kind and helpful too. I have been overwhelmed by everyone's kindness.

THE CRICKET PITCH is going to be re-seeded and to deter vandalism a big fence is going to be put up around it. In the past such fences have been vandalised and Paul Tapsell has said that if any should take place he will prosecute for criminal damage (he is a barrister). The rest of the village green is recovering remarkably well and there will be no problem with it hosting the annual fete in July. Please do come to the fete meeting on the 14th of June. (editor)

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EWELL MINNIS - at the Parish Council meeting it was reported that youngsters in Ewell Minnis are going around firing air rifles, scaring pets and horses. If it does not stop action will be taken against the offenders. (editor for parishioner)

FOOTPATHS - you are probably aware that footpaths which do not cross fields with livestock in are now open to the public. Signs will be put up at these locations but if you come across pasture land you must stop and re-trace your steps. (PC)

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE of Queen Elizabeth II will be next year and volunteers are needed to arrange a suitable celebration. If you would like to join a committee to organise events then please ring the Parish Clerk on 822661. Generally it's members of the W.I. who organise things but it would great if other volunteers came forward. (editor)

EWELL MINNIS - Coco Ward of Burley Cottage, Ewell Minnis has kindly agreed to be the Parish representative for Ewell Minnis and her phone number is 826914. (editor)

TENNIS tuition is available for all ages starting at three, for individuals or groups, at Hockley Sole. The Alkham Valley Road towards Folkestone widens where there is a crossroads with 'Patio Products' workshop on the right. Turn left at the crossroads and a short distance along you will find Hockley Sole. For further information please ring Ange Snape on 01303 850284. (editor)

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GARDENTALK - We had a most enjoyable evening at "The Willows" thanks to Helen's hospitality. We strolled round her garden helping to name some mystery shrubs, admiring her new gravel garden and pondering on the plight of her camellia.

Over wine and nibbles we all contributed to a discussion on plants and shrubs failing to thrive. The next meeting will be held on Tues. 5th June 7.30pm at "the Hermitage", when Derek will be introducing a topic about laying a patio. (Susannah Tapsell)

HIGHWAYS - as mentioned in the last edition, it will be some time before road repairs caused by the flood will be carried out. If you are concerned about a particular pot hole, please ring the Parish Clerk on 822661 and she will inform DDC. (editor)

COMPOST ADVISER wanted for Alkham. Any volunteer will get a free bin, free training and back up support. Age and ability is no limitation (i.e. could be a youngster) and for more information please ring Pauline Chamberlain on 01233 812033.

BRINDENE - the planning application for further garaging at the bungalow to the left of the Marquis was again rejected by DDC because of the loss of grass bank and the serious effect it would have on the conservation area. (editor)

POSTHOUSE - Dover Posthouse at Whitfield have asked me to advertise the fact that they are offering their Bleriots Room for use by group/club/charity meetings absolutely free. Please phone Karen on 821230. (editor)

ABANDONED CAR - further to the anonymous poem in last month's Newsletter, I see that a car has been dumped in Hogbrook Lane. The bed can't be far behind! A car was also dumped outside Valley Cottages, scavenged and taken away; the one near Chilton has been removed to be replaced by a Ford Sierra at Lower Standen. It is a national disease that needs stamping out. (editor)

ALKHAM BOURNE or locally known as the Nailbourne was walked from Megget Lane to Short Lane by DDC Highways and the Parish Council on the 10th of May to identify problem areas. Where the dyke passes from the garden centre it goes into two pipes, which were put in 1965 when the road was widened, as highway drainage. The pipes are almost blocked, which was one of the reasons for the flooding and partial closing of the Valley Road. DDC appear to have accepted responsibility for these pipes and they will attempt to clear them. The dyke up to the bungalows was cleared in the flood but in front of Valley Cottages and Newlyns Meadow trees are growing in the middle of the dyke. These will be cleared. By the village hall the dyke is filled with silt and rubbish and the Village Hall Committee have agreed to part fund its clearance. The Parish Council will pay for the dyke cleaning across Vicarage Meadow and the adjacent landowner will be asked to move builder's rubble and rubbish. Two footpaths cross the dyke and Kent County Council have agreed to replace the bridges swept away with new ones suitable for disabled access. All but two of the millennium trees survived the flood and these will be re-staked, the latter having the tags made by Mick Wingfield nailed on. (editor)

TREES - up to recently if you wished to fell or pollard a tree you would probably have to get planning permission. Research has shown that only 2.7% of the applications had any comments and only 0.7% had any revisions. It has therefore been decided that no consultation should be necessary where the tree has no amenity (presumably this is open to judgement) and where it does, the Parish Council will be consulted. The filling in of a simple form is required and should you want further information phone DDC and ask to speak to the tree officer. (editor)

DDC have a Local Agenda of which number 21 is awareness-raising articles. I have been asked to print these and here's the first.

- Reduce waste! Stop the assistant packaging twice - say 'I don't need a bag'
- Turn the tap off when brushing teeth
- Take short showers instead of baths
- Consider buying from Charity shops

Did you know? The UK generates more than 10 million tons of packaging waste each year - almost 10% of the total waste generated.

PHOTOGRAPHS - two of the winning photos in the flood competition have been framed. They look superb and will be hung in the village hall ready for its opening. (editor)

HOGBROOK BARN - a further planning application has been received by the Parish Council who still object to the development on the grounds of size and scale. (editor)

SYMPATHY goes to Mrs Nicklinson and family on the death of Frank Nicklinson, husband and father, who lived at 5 Valley Cottages.

BOWLS - Capel short mat bowling club have some vacancies and any one, young or old, is welcome to come along and try their hand. It is played in Capel Village hall on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2.00 to 4.00 pm and Tuesday evening from 7.15 pm to 9.30 pm. For further details please ring Doris Breedon on 01303 257246. The game is similar to bowls played outside but as the name suggests, the length is shorter. Bowls are available for use. (editor)

HEDGE - I have been asked to point out that the hedge adjacent to Hogbrook Lane was inspected by two responsible adults to make sure there were no nesting birds before it was cut down to size. It does look good and allows more daylight onto adjacent properties plus the cricket pavilion can be clearly seen from the houses, which hopefully will deter the vandalism to the electricity box and pavilion. (editor)

POND WARDEN - very pleased to report that Mick Wingfield of Newlyns Meadow has volunteered to take on the job. Colin Griggs is continuing as Tree Warden. (editor)

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OZ on LICHENS - Last September, during the first downpour, I wrote to a friend in Toronto and commented that I was considering building an ark or two. Since then the combination of the floods and the foot-and-mouth epidemic has given some idea of the distress that once afflicted Noah, Job, or the ancient Egyptians. With so much of the countryside out of bounds, we have amused ourselves by examining more closely the minutiae of our surroundings, in particular the lichens that I mentioned briefly in the April newsletter. Until recently, little was known of the structure of these strange and beautiful organisms; botanists classified them, along with mosses, as *Musci*, the Latin for 'mosses'. Around the middle of the 19th century, it was established that the lichen consists of two quite different organisms, a fungus and an alga, growing together. The alga creates food from carbon dioxide and water in the air, together with a few simple minerals, and the fungus then feeds on the alga. It follows that lichens are sensitive to impurities, and so they are used to measure atmospheric pollution. When dry, lichens survive extremes of temperature by going into suspended animation; when wetted, they rapidly absorb water and grow, albeit by only a few millimetres a year. The Victorian poets were very aware of the distinctive nature of lichens, from William Allingham's "crust of lichens yellow and gray", through John Clare's "Grey lichens, mid thy hills of creeping thyme", to Edith Nesbit's "golden-lichened roof and gray-green stone." More recently, Ruth Pitter has described how "the myriad lichens start each into the eye a separate splendour." However, and much as I love the lichens, I shan't mind if their animation is soon re-suspended by a prolonged spell of hot dry weather. **(Steve Osborn)**

NEWS FROM ST

ANTHONY'S - This month is a particularly significant one in the life of our church. Ken Pilgrim, who has been training for ministry with the Ordained Local Ministry scheme for the last 3 years, is to be ordained deacon in Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday June 30th at 3pm. He will have been on retreat in the Old Palace, the Archbishop's house, for 3 days before that, so if you want to wish him well, do so before he leaves. We are incredibly privileged to have Ken as a minister in our benefice. He already gives all his service to us free and will now be licensed to us as our benefice deacon, to continue and develop that work. In a year's time he will be ordained priest and will continue serving Alkham, Capel and Hougham in that capacity. Many of you who come to church regularly, know him well already. He is

an important cog in our growing ministry team and we all share in his and wife Wendy's joy at the ordination. Each candidate at that ordination will only receive a small number of tickets but there will be plenty of seats available for other friends. If you would like to be present at the service, make sure you arrive early to get a good seat. The Cathedral opens at 2.15 pm. Contributions for our gift to Ken are being collected by wardens Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond. Lets make his homecoming party on July 1st a real day to remember. Do make a really special effort to come to his celebratory service and lunch at Capel. This is a benefice event and we have only chosen St. Radigund's because it has all the necessary facilities on one site with very easy access for everybody. The service will be at 10.30 am and will be followed by a shared lunch and reception. We hope people coming to the lunch will bring suitable finger buffet food. We intend to use our new church for the service and party, gathering in the hall and garden for drinks between the two events. Please let us know if you are coming so we can arrange appropriate seating. A list will be put at the back of each church for signatures or phone Vad or Colin Blake on 01303 241399. Its good to be celebrating what is happening amongst us, the body of people who make up the Christian community here. It makes a welcome change from our preoccupation with our building and grounds, vital plant though they are for our life in the village. Have a good summer! **(Gill Calver)**

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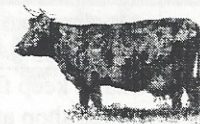
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HORSE TALK - Sunday 6th May saw the annual jumping show at Greenhill Farm, Megget Lane, Alkham. Amidst the recent mass cancellations of the show calendar, Greenhill Farm enabled local riders to finally get out & start to compete again! Following strict foot & mouth guideline precautions, 60 riders took part in the jumping show, which saw 2 rings of show jumping classes. One of the rings, based in their large sand school, hosted a range of classes from absolute beginner to the more experienced. The outdoor ring ran a warm up clear round class until midday, then progressed up to the open class of a 3'0 course. The first class of the day was that of bottom hole in the sand arena. This is based at the younger riders & resulted in the 10 entries all completing double clear rounds! The next class, the mini minimus, still aimed at the more novice combinations, saw all 8 entries achieving a clear round. This class went on to a timed jump off over a shortened course with Jodi Randall on Tom Thumb the winners! The 'Local' jumping class was open to riders living within 20 miles of the show ground. This class was at a height of 2'9" with Samantha Brinkhurst on Pansy the winners. Over in the grass arena, once the clear round jumping had finished, the Novice class commenced. Rose Spicer won this on Milly Molly Mandy. The pairs jumping followed the novice & provided great entertainment for those watching. This class is based on 2 riders each being timed over a course of jumps. This was a fast competition, won by Samantha Brinkhurst & Eleanor Roy. The last class of the day - the open proved the most challenging class & resulted in no clear rounds over the 3'0 course. A jump off was decided on the least faults gained per rider with an eventual winner, Helen Bayley. A good day was had all round with the advantage of good weather as well! Riders were able to take home a memento of the day, thanks to Quantum Photographic's services. Greenhill Farm would like to thank all of their helpers & sponsors on the day. If you would like to sponsor a class at their Open show, please contact Mr. & Mrs. Burrows. Greenhill Farm Annual Open show, Bank holiday Monday 27th August 2001. There will be classes for everyone ranging from In-hand & ridden classes to show jumping & working hunters! **(Debbie Holliman)**

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the old Post Office shop at 10.30 am every Wednesday
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	31	Annual Parish meeting in the village hall 7.30 pm - see page 1
May		
Saturday	2	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Saturday	2	Coffee morning 10.30 am in village hall - see page 1
Tuesday	5	Garden Talk at The Hermitage 7.30 pm - see page 2
Thursday	7	General/local election voting in village hall 7 am to 10 pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	14	Fete meeting in village hall 8.00 pm
Monday	18	Cage bird society in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	21	D & D canine society village hall 5.00pm

Note: There may be other events in the village hall but these were the only ones booked by the 22nd of May. Please phone Rosemary on 824876 to check.

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
June 3 rd Whitsun Day	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am
June 10 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30pm in Canterbury Cathedral (for all Dover churches)
June 17 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
June 24 th	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist at St Lawrence - Hougham 10.00 am		

W.I.REPORT - The resolutions to be presented at the I.G.M.2001 were discussed at the May meeting. Provision of school nursing services was well supported, but specific training to a recognised qualification for all staff caring for the elderly was thought to exclude many people who would make good carers, so this resolution was not passed. Final arrangements were made for the visit to Brook Museum which incidentally took place the next day and which proved to be a most interesting and informative venue, made more so by Brian Wimsett's knowledge of the agricultural exhibits. The meeting continued with some fun and gaiety trying on the many hats that members had brought along. It is hoped that the next meeting will be held in Alkham Village Hall. (Susannah Tapsell)

TELEPHONE BOX

Does anyone have any photographs of the Old Post Office when there was a telephone box at the top of the steps? Whilst clearing the front garden I came across a concrete base, which Doreen Polden told me was the site of the telephone box before it was moved to the Marquis and then on to its present site. I'd love to see any photos of the shop, which subject to agreement, could be scanned and returned. Please give me a ring on 824969 if you have any. (editor)

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	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk
	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	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, Malmain'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

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ALKHAM VILLAGE

FETE this year will take place on the Vicarage Meadow at 2 pm on Saturday the 14th July 2001. 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** stay to help even if it's just for half an hour. Please note - We will need to clear the village hall car park by 1 p.m. to allow for disabled parking. In addition to the usual attractions and features (band, dancing, tug of war, children's races, etc) we should have a fire engine in attendance (siren and all). 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) - who urgently needs to borrow two sets of metric scales to comply with new regulations!; Plants-Sue Tapsell (822295); Books- Sue Lees (822661), Baskets and/or Hoopla prizes- Christine Tapsell (822282); Jewellery and/or Cakes Barbara Palmer (824973). We also have the competitions please do take part, none of them are meant to be too serious 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 "Alkham Vicarage Meadow", with two age ranges "under 7" and "8 to 12" and entries can be paintings, drawings, or models. (Shirley Tapsell 822638). Cookery Competition - Categories are: For the Children only - A Gingerbread Person: and for everyone (adults and children welcome) (a) A Savoury Flan (b) A Fruity Dessert (c) Victoria Sponge, (d) Two Scones, (e) Home made Jam, (f)

Home made wine and (g) Home made liqueur (Shirley Tapsell 822638). The Produce show is open to everyone (the more entries the better) classes as follows - Section A, Vegetables Class (1) 3 potatoes (white), (?) 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. Can everyone who won a trophy last year please get it/them back to Chris Tapsell (824765) as soon as possible. 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 11th. (Paul Tapsell)

BRIC-A-BRAC - Irene and Den Barnard are running the bric-a-brac stall at the fete and would like items for the stall, so long as they are not too big. Please give them a ring on 824845 and they will collect or pop them down to Halton Court on the corner of Slip Lane and the Alkham Valley Road. (editor)

OVERHANGING

BRANCHES - Would anybody who has a garden with branches overhanging footpaths please cut them back so pedestrians can pass safely. (Parish Council)

A PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

will be held in the village hall on the 4th August from 11.00 pm onwards in aid of village hall funds.

BETTY NEELY'S

ANNUAL coffee morning is being held in the village hall on the 28th of July from 10.30 pm onwards with all profits going to the church and the village hall.

THE QUIZ EVENING in the village hall, which was cancelled due to the floods will now take place on the 18th of August. It costs £3 per person with food provided and tables can be booked for not less than 6 or more than 8 by phoning Doreen Lott on 824876.

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THE ANNUAL PARISH meeting held on the 31st of May in the village hall was poorly attended. Trevor Bamfield, one of our local councillors, said that Alkham would in the future be in the same district as River, Capel and Hougham. As only three councillors would be required he was stepping down. He said there was a fair chance that South Alkham would get main drainage, that abandoned cars were to be moved more swiftly and that the White Cliffs Experience could become a Centre of Excellence for adult education and library services. He also said that it was going to cost DDC £350,000 to convert parking metres to take the Euro. Various reports were given culminating with Question Time. Terry Connolly who lives in the bungalow by the traffic island asked if the 30 mph limit could be moved towards the Farm Shop so the interactive speed signs would slow vehicles before they reached the village. (editor)

IT DOES HAPPEN

It appears that a vicar in the 19th century took a parishioner's word literally. On entering the churchyard through the lychgate to the left are four gravestones. The furthest is in memory of James Gilham who died in 1869 and his wife who died in 1875. Her inscription reads 'MARY ANN SIR'. Sue Lees informs me that this is almost certainly due to reverence on the part of Mary's mother, who finished naming her child by adding the word 'sir' in respect to the vicar. It could have been worse. (editor)

GARDENTALK-The meeting held at "The Hermitage" was much enjoyed by everyone. The garden was looking wonderful and Derek gave a very interesting talk about building a patio; thank you both for your hospitality. The next meeting will be held at "The Vicarage" on Wed.4th July 7.30pm.If anyone has some spare plants for the plant stall at the fete, we would be most grateful.

KEEP FIT-In order to develop more fully and freely the Keep Fit has decided to book it's own time, which is 9.30am-10.30am.every Wednesday in the Village Hall, so if anyone wishes to just do a session of Keep Fit only, then they are welcome to join us at 930am. May we take this opportunity to sincerely thank Brian Wimsett for his hospitality in the last few months.

WEDNESDAY CLUB

Following the Keep Fit (above) from 10.30am to 11.30 am there will be the Wednesday Club, which used to be called 'The Get It Off' club.

TENNIS tuition by a qualified tennis coach at Hockley Sole. All ages catered for, individual or group. Holiday sessions are also available for children. Please phone Ange Snape on 01303 850284. (editor)

DDC LOCAL AGENDA

Regarding a more sustainable lifestyle

- If you are going a short distance, walk, cycle or bus instead of the car.
- Reduce waste! Re-use items such as bottles, carrier bags and containers.
- Don't leave electrical goods on standby – save energy!
- Gardeners – compost rather than throw way, collect water in butts phone 872427 for more details

WHAT A DIFFERENCE AN HOUR MAKES – Fledglings

against commerce, Short Lane bungalow new roofs. Scaffolders arrive, before they even start unloading, I told them about the fledglings and the law. Rang Dover D.C. and tried to speak to the Council's Architect. I explained to one of his colleagues and was assured they would leave an area around the nest and not disturb the parents, which of course resulted in very distressed parents, not feeding the young for some hours. Next morning the roofing chaps arrived with every intention of proceeding with just the front of the roof. In the mean time the Council's Architect phoned me and after some discussion he decided it wasn't really practical for just half the roof to be done and two weeks wasn't too long a delay after the length of time it has taken to get this project underway; he would immediately inform the contractors. I would contact him once the birds had left the nest. About one hour later the said gentle man rings me

to say that after consultation with the RSPB, it is eye contact which will disturb the parents and it isn't too long from the contractor's start to finish, maybe 7 to 8 hours for the fledglings not to be fed. I am very sad, the laws are passed and we should uphold them. I tried but the big boys won. What have they done to feel proud, I hope they hang their heads in shame. (Tricia Wright)

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

Doreen Lott told me that somebody connected with the judging of the Village of the Year was in Alkham recently. He had looked round the church and then went to Vicarage Meadow. Here he met Doreen and family and she was able to show him the village hall, and the village in flood photo winners. Doreen was also the ideal person to tell him about all the fund raising, which takes place and the other activities in the village. This of course was written in the submission, so it was good to find out it was true. It's quite encouraging and further judges will be visiting in the near future. (editor)

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

- further to the appeal for people to join a committee to organise events for Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee, only one person has so far volunteered. It would be great if other people came forward, so if you'd like to help please ring Sue Lees on 822661. Youngsters would be very welcome, to help organise events for the youth in the village. (editor)

MALMAINS FARM – John Ullmann phoned to say that he is re-tiling the roof to Malmains Farm. It's finished now and certainly looks attractive. I met John recently and he told me with some pride that he had just celebrated his 75th birthday. Happy Birthday, John (editor)

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HORSE TALK - At last we are seeing some good weather & things are getting back to some form of normality. At the time of writing this article, paths that are free of livestock have reopened & hopefully it won't be long until they all open. As the show season is now under way, we now need to ask ourselves- are we (horse & rider) fit & ready to compete? Recent reports from shows have been commenting on the huge entries in all classes. As riders flock to these shows, often eager to qualify for the bigger shows & make up on some of their loss earnings over the past few months, reports show an above average number of falls & errors. Why is this so? As riders, we are all fully aware of the possibility of 'hitting the deck', sometimes for what can seem no real apparent reason!

However, we can minimise the possibilities of errors if we get our preparation right. After a couple of months with no competitions, a little rustiness can be expected. However much schooling & work done at home, the whole show atmosphere cannot be simulated. It is therefore better to compete at a lower level to get horse & rider going again, rather than jump the gun & risk a silly mistake. It takes seconds to knock horse or rider confidence, but weeks to rebuild! With the recent lull in work, one also has to consider the fitness of horse & rider. This will vary as to what discipline a rider competes in, but ensuring your horse is fit enough to do the job you put to him is vital. An unfit horse that is asked to perform tasks it is not fit enough to do so is dangerous. Not only may this cause injury to the horse-joint & muscular problems-but also a tired horse may fall. Equally, a rider has to consider their fitness. An unfit rider will hamper the performance of the best of horses. No horse would ever be prepared to lug a tiring weight around on their backs. Remember you are 50% of the partnership not just a passenger!!
(Debbie Holliman)

OZ on FINZI - This year's BBC Proms programme celebrates, amongst other things, the centenary of the birth of an unsung hero of 20th century English music. Gerald Finzi was born on 14th July 1901 in St John's Wood, London. When he was eight, his father died. Rejecting the family business, Finzi plunged himself into music, studying with Ernest Farrar at York. By 1918, Finzi had lost his three elder brothers and Farrar, two of them killed in the final stages of World War I. Finzi bravely completed his studies at York with Edward Bairstow and then moved to London, where he started to teach at the Royal Academy of Music and to compose. In 1933 he married the artist Joy Black, and they lived in Berkshire, later building a house at Ashmansworth in Hampshire, where Finzi began, in addition to his musical works, to build his fine collections of books and rare apple-trees. During World War II, Finzi worked for the Ministry of War Transport. After the war ended, he was in great demand as a composer, particularly in connection with the Festival of Britain. Sadly, he fell ill in 1951 with Hodgkin's disease, and died in 1956, just as he started to receive recognition as a composer. Finzi will be remembered as a master of the difficult art of setting to music the words of the great poets, such as Traherne, Milton, Wordsworth, and, most notably, Thomas Hardy. Stephen Banfield describes how, in the 50 settings of Hardy poems, Finzi arranged melodies to such unlikely phrases as "enlarged in scope", "It's gunnery practice out at sea" and even "I have unbarred the backway." He did, however, balk at setting Hardy's *Childhood among the Ferns*, on the not unreasonable grounds that it ended with the word 'perambulate.' (Steve Osborn)

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - Though the Cricket club is plying its trade away from the Meadow this year, not many things actually change - as we have yet to force a victory after 7 attempts. The first game of the season saw us travel to Margate and play in near Siberian conditions against Courtstairs. Batting first Dennis Barnard and Ian Callaway carried on their excellent form of last year with a opening partnership of 50 before the rest of the batting failed and we reached 94/6. In reply they reached the total with ease, and the only thing the side came away with was a cold and a runny nose. Shepherdswell were the next opposition at a lovely ground in weather 100 times better than the previous week and with the sun blazing down we forced a draw. They hit 186 while we replied with 132-4. Dennis again missed out on a century and in turn Irene missing out on a nice slap up meal as he was dismissed for 76. Old Hartsdonians were the hosts the following week with their Skipper Ian Wroot who smashed 200 against us 2 seasons ago was up to his old tricks again as he smashed a 100 in their total of 174 with that man Barnard excelling with the ball this time with 3 wickets. We batted sensibly to force a draw with all the batsman chipping while Paul Simpson did his best for gender relations by being dismissed first ball to their female spinner. The River Woodpeckers match was saw both clubs play for the Mick Sherrell trophy in honour of a fine gentleman who sadly died in April. Mick was a regular in the Alkham side in the early nineties and was a classy left handed bat and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Woodpeckers took the trophy as our front line batsman failed and we were indebted to Neil Moors in scoring 31 to get our total to 95. They easily picked off the runs for the loss of one wicket taken by Alky resident Sam Marlowe. Further defeats have occurred against Hythe, Betteshanger and Worth but the spirit of the club does not diminish as we carry on our merry route around East Kent. Matches in July see us play Westbourne, Coldred (we are coming after you Mr Bianchi) as well as the tour to Eastbourne, which we are all looking forward to. The censored version of our shenanigans to Sussex can be read in the August issue!!! Special note of thanks to Club Chairman Paul Tapsell for his excellent Bar-B-Q on the 16th June which was enjoyed by one and all and special mention to Barbara for her wonderful cakes which definitely have been a missing ingredient in the teas this year. (Matt Gerrard)

W.L.REPORT-The speaker, Sheena McIntosh, a dietician from the local hospitals, gave a most interesting and informative talk on "Healthy Eating". This was followed by a report given by Noreen Knott, the delegate for the 1GM. 2001. Both the resolutions relating to The Health of School-Age Children and The Abuse of the Elderly, discussed at last month's meeting, were passed at national level. A very successful Drama day, a visit to the London Eye were reported on by members and Christine, treasurer, quietly efficient, gave the financial report. Coffee Mornings will be held on 28th July (Village Hall) and 11th August (The Willows). Arrangements are in hand for the visit to Pashley Manor on 26th July. (Susannah Tapsell)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the VH 9.30 am to 10.30am followed by the Wednesday club until 11.30 am
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)

Monday	2	Parish Council meeting in VH at 7.30 pm – all welcome
Wednesday	4	Garden Talk at The Vicarage 7.30 pm – see page 2
Saturday	7	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Tuesday	10	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	14	Alkham Village Fete-see page 1
Thursday	19	D & D canine society village hall 5.00pm
Monday	23	Village Hall Committee meeting 8.00 pm village hall
Saturday	28	Coffee morning in the village hall see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
July 1 st	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist At St Radigund – Capel Followed by Ken's Post Ordination Party 10.30 am		
July 8 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
July 15 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
July 22 nd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony – Alkham 10.00 am		
July 29 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S – Please note that our services are in a slightly different order this month as we shall all be joining together at Capel on the first Sunday to celebrate Ken Pilgrim's ordination. It is Alkham's turn for a joint benefice service on July the 22nd. Next month we hope to open the old St Mary's church for worship on Sunday August the 26th at 10.00 am. As one time Chapel of Ease to Alkham, many people have happy memories of that place, so do spread the word. (Gill Calver)

PASHLEY MANOR AND MERRIMENT GARDENS – Although the outing has been arranged by the W.I. everybody is welcome to come along on the 26th of July. The coach will leave Alkham at 9.30 am and return in the late afternoon. The final cost will depend on numbers, so the more people going the cheaper the cost will be. Please ring Cherry Leppard on 01303 251105 for more details.

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 Ken Hammond 823720
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 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

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FOOTPATHS – The majority of footpaths around Alkham are now open. However, where farmers have a special case for continuing the foot and mouth restrictions there will be signs up asking you not to proceed on the footpath or bridleway. This particularly applies to Sladden Farm, where Derek and Di Smith have a prize winning herd of Dexter cattle. (editor)

EWELL MINNIS – I have been asked to print a thank you to the children in Ewell Minnis who responded to the plea in the last Newsletter to stop using their air rifles. (editor)

PLANNING – The revised planning application for two houses on the site of the Atcost barn, adjacent to Hogbrook Lane, was once again turned down on the grounds that the development would be too high and bulky. It would also not be in keeping with village, the boundary of which has been extended to include the barn but not the concrete area to the front. DDC once again turned down the application for extra garages to the bungalow by the Marquis. The Parish Council are sending a strong letter to DDC who still have no Enforcement Officer and people are getting away with breaches of planning. (editor)

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

We got through the first inspection as two ladies turned up to see Sue Lees and myself again. We have an invite to the presentation in September but are realistic about our chances. However Alkham has appeared in the competition and that's the main thing. (editor)

SPEED SIGNS – at the time of writing the posts for the interactive speed signs have been put up opposite Valley Cottages and just before Short Lane. (editor)

FETE – There will be a meeting in the village hall on the Thursday the 9th of August at 8.00pm for people to give their views about the fete held on the 14th of July. Please come along and express your views, whether positive or negative as it may help us to raise even more money next year.

JUBILEE – A meeting is being held in the village hall on the 21st of August at 7.30 pm to discuss ideas to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The festivities are over a couple of months so please do come along and give us your ideas. Youngsters would be particularly welcome. (editor)

SUMMER FETE – Despite the weather forecast the fete went well with £ 3200 being taken on the day of which about £2400 was profit, which is similar to last year. I thought it might be interesting to publish the amount of money each stall collected: Hot dogs £310: Bric-a-brac £279: Tea tent £226: Cakes £203: Lucky dip £193: Coconut shy £172: Fresh produce £168: Ice cream £164: Books £155: Plants £146: Textiles £116: Tombola £111: Bowling at the pig £60: Golf £49: Jewellery £31: Mini ponies £30: Cards £15: Nails in floor £28 plus £564's worth of draw tickets were sold. Thanks must go to all the stallholders for the marvellous job they did. Thanks also to the small band of people who turned up to erect the tents and then take them down again. There was a downpour just before the last four tents were struck and they have been hung in Hogbrook barn. Our thanks to Peter Rye for letting us use the barn and his forklift truck. It was nice to see my folding bike make a welcome return with John Crothall, the purchaser from last year presumably trading up for something better (not difficult). I'm pleased to say it was resold and we're hoping to see it again next year. The Bowling at the Pig was won by young Jack Hopkins who scored 20. Mrs Burrows senior won the Cookery Shield for her sponge and raspberry jam. Bob Palmer won a lot of prizes in the vegetables competition. In the children's cookery 'Gingerbread Person' competition, Paris Bates was the winner and in the children's art competition 'Alkham Vicarage Meadow', 7 years and under, Paris Bates won again with Fiona McKenzie and Katy Williams second. In the 8 to 12 year old group Sarah Ryder was first and Troy Bates second. Finally thanks go to John Garlinge for working out the finances and also to Paul Tapsell and his team who made the whole thing possible. (editor)

ART EXHIBITION – Ahmed Ovais of the Three Bells and Joanna O'shea are organising an art exhibition in the village hall on the 25th of August from 7.00pm onwards. Paintings will be for sale and there will also be cheese and wine available. (editor)

FOOTBRIDGE – KCC have agreed to install a footbridge suitable for use by the disabled a few metres down from where the previous bridge was, opposite the village hall. A bridge made from sleepers will be installed at the far end of the green. (editor)

OLIVE HARVEY – it is pleasing to report that Olive has returned home and would welcome visitors. (editor)

*Gary
Docherty*

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WHAT'S AGE? – At the fete, one of the helpers putting up the tents was Terry Connolly who lives in Hazeldene, the last bungalow on the Folkestone side of Alkham. I was amazed when he told me that he was 79 and then he went on to say that he was a hockey referee. He belongs to the Folkestone Optimists Hockey Club and gave up playing hockey when he was 76 and that's when he decided to become a referee. He umpires for the entire league throughout Kent and recently went to Le Touquet to referee a match. He and his partner also belong to the local operatic society and perform in plays and musicals. A further surprise was that he and his partner, Pauline Woodward who is 80, got married on the 20th of July and then went to the Little Theatre in Sandgate for a blessing ceremony performed by our vicar, Gill Calver. I think congratulations are in order. **(editor)**

**ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY
ANNUAL OUTING**

– A trip is planned to the Hop Farm Country Park, formerly known as the Whitbread Hop Farm on Saturday 1st September, 2001, which will depart from Alkham at 9.00 a.m. and leave the Hop Farm at about 5 p.m. There seems to be many interesting things to see there, both indoors if it rains and outside, including the beautiful shire horses, which I believe give daily demonstrations and displays, the Hop

Story Museum, The Decades Experience, described as “a highly interactive walk through the main decades of the twentieth century” and other interesting features, including many especially for children. There is also a collection of military vehicles on permanent display. The week-end is also Hop Picking Festival time, and visitors are invited “to join us in our hop gardens, and enjoy our traditional hop picking trip down memory lane”, but I am not too sure what that involves! On top of this, at an extra cost of 60p per head for each item, you can join in a Pottery Workshop or have a dray ride, and on this particular day there is also a free birds of prey display. There certainly seems to be great deal going on, and in between all this, if you can find time to eat, there is the Roundels Country Kitchen which has a licensed bar and serves hot food between 12 p.m. and 2.30 p.m., or you can take a picnic of course. The cost per person will be, not including food:- Adults £11, Senior Citizens £9.50, Children (aged 4-15 incl.) £8, Under 4 years free. 6Op, or £1.20 needs to be added to these figures if you are going to have a “go” at the above extras. Extras unfortunately have to be booked early, so if you are including these, your name and full payment needs to be received by me by Wednesday, 8th August. Otherwise, payment please by Wednesday, 22nd August 2001. It is hoped to welcome a good crowd, and I

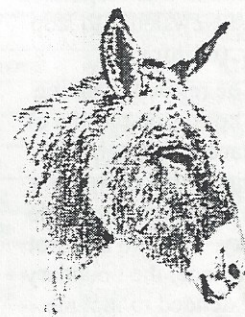
LORRIES – There is and always has been a problem with lorries using the Alkham Valley Road. The Parish Council recently received a letter from DDC in which they put the argument that because of the recently published ‘Lorry Route Map for Kent’, lorries are not finding their way along the Alkham Valley Road because of signing but because they are doing so in error or they are aware that it saves them time and money. It may be surprising to DDC but we already knew this and this is the problem, which we have been asking them to address. The letter is extremely patronising and written by someone who hasn't the slightest idea what they are talking about. The Parish Council have written to Brian Cope, our County Councillor, asking if he would look into the matter. It was only a short while ago that DDC asked the Parish Council to come up with proposals to deter the ‘error’ and ‘knowing’ truck drivers from using the Valley Road but now they have conveniently forgotten about it. It is generally accepted that we can't have a lorry ban; all the Parish Council wanted were measures, such as single lane entries either end of the village, which would induce lorry drivers to use more appropriate routes. In 1998 the County Council published a document entitled the next five years. One of their goals was to reduce the number of lorries on unsuitable rural roads and presumably the KCC map is the solution they have come up with. It certainly will make no difference. **(editor)**

CHURCHYARD – Recently, comments were made about the state of the churchyard, as some people thought it was overgrown and untidy. Every year the grass, flowers and weeds are allowed to grow in the churchyard until late July for environmental reasons, to promote plants which don't grow elsewhere because of pesticides and also to let the wildlife flourish. It has always been this way and hopefully always will be. Credit must also go to the Tapsell families and Ken Hammond who then cut down the overgrown churchyard for little or no reward. **(editor)**

shall be writing to members giving them the above information, but it is really appreciated if you can let me have your names and monies by the due dates. **(Pamela Sayers, Secretary)**

NEWSLETTER – my grateful thanks to Ted Baker, Bill Rolfe and Betty Neely for their kind donation of money to the Newsletter. With regard to the cost of producing the Newsletter, which basically comprises 1300 photostats and some postage each month, income just about covers the annual production cost of about £420 a year. There is however a small reserve, inherited from Tony Ingall, to cover any eventualities. **(editor)**

OLIVER At the Broadstairs and St Peters Horse show on the 1st of July,



Oliver the donkey owned by Helen and Cal Scopes did very well in his classes. This gave him enough points to win the

championship shield and rosette. For the last three years, Poppy had won the ‘Best Mare’ class cup but this year didn't do so well with a second and three fourths in her classes. **(Helen Scopes)**

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NEWS FROM ST

ANTHONY'S – As our noble churchyard working party wait for a dry spell to do the hay cut, this seems a good opportunity to thank them all for all their hard work they do in keeping our village churchyard so beautifully. In many country churchyards it is the task of families to keep the area clear around the graves amidst brambles and thick undergrowth. We are extremely fortunate to have such a well kept area with marguerites, butterflies and all kinds of wild grasses in the spring and a complete cut at this time of the year. So THANK YOU, every member of the team. During August our services follow the usual pattern with a joint service at St Mary's (our old Chapel-at-Ease for Alkham) on the last Sunday. Don't forget Capel Church Barbecue on August the 18th (tickets from the Vicar or the Capel Wardens) and Hougham Fete on August the 25th. And finally, feel free to pick up a Church Newsletter from the porch if you're passing through the churchyard.

P.S. If anyone in the village is interested in confirmation (young people or those who are more mature!) we have a benefice confirmation service planned for November the 4th when the new bishop of Maidstone, Bishop Graham, will be visiting. Phone Gill on 01303 244119 for further details. (Gill Calver)

W.I. REPORT - At the July meeting Mr. Ottewill, a gold and silversmith from Evegate, gave a most interesting talk about his work, which

was thoroughly enjoyed by all. There was special pleasure in having the £25,000 punch bowl, the rings and other works of art, worth thousands of pounds passed around for members to examine closely and marvel at their beauty. There will almost certainly be a visit organised by the social secretary to Mr. Ottewill's workshop later in the year. The business of the meeting was conducted prior to the talk in the usual way, things of note being the osteoporosis scan and a visit to the Marlowe theatre in November. The next meeting will be Members Night and will take the form of an American Supper and members were asked to each bring a plate of food.

(Susannah Tapsell)

GARDENTALK - A very enjoyable evening was spent at "The Vicarage". Fortified by our usual tippie we wandered round the garden, basked in the evening sun, delighted in the various plants and herbs, grieved over the beech tree and chatted over Lucy's list of problems, which she had given us. Thank you Ian and Lucy. The next meeting will be at 1 Standen Terrace on Wed.8th August 7.30pm when Maureen will be hosting and introducing the topic. Following some conversations at the fete, please know that the Garden Talk meetings are very relaxed affairs and that people are very welcome to come and join us when they are able. May we thank everyone who supplied plants for the stall at the fete.

(Susannah Tapsell)

OZ on BEMPTON - On holiday in July, we fulfilled a long-term ambition by visiting the RSPB reserve at Bempton Cliffs on the East Yorkshire coast. Nothing had adequately prepared us for the sight of these majestic chalk cliffs rising sheer from the North Sea to a height of some 400 feet. The coastline here appeared almost straight with several small bays, alternating with headlands that stood in line and upright like palace guards, silent and shimmering in the afternoon heat. From the cliff-top viewpoints the sea and sky framed a dizzying tangle of seabirds screeching their continual babel of competing cries, and the ammoniac smell of bird dung from the cliff-face was quite overpowering. In a moment we went from never having seen a puffin to seeing hundreds simultaneously. These strange and chubby birds are readily identifiable in flight by their rapid wing action, reaching 400 beats per minute to achieve speeds of 55mph. The puffin has the quaint Latin name of *Fratercula arctica*, or "little brother of the north", perhaps an allusion to its stance and plumage, both reminiscent of a monastery brother. It was once believed that puffins were fish, due to their prowess at underwater swimming, and this allowed the eating of puffins on Fridays and during Lent to avoid the Catholic meat prohibition. Moufet and Bennett wrote in 1655 that "Puffins...the feathered fishes...are accounted...by the Cardinals to be no flesh but fish." Others amongst the 200,000 birds clinging to Bempton cliffs are the puffins' relatives, the razorbills and guillemots; 150,000 kittiwakes; 5,000 gannets in Britain's largest mainland gannetry; fulmars, herring gulls and shags. After Bempton, we stopped briefly at Flamborough Head, and saw orchids, butterflies and, with great joy, our first sand-martins of the year, nesting in soil exposed by a recent cliff-fall. (Steve Osborn)

HORSE TALK -This month sees the build up for our local annual horse show at Greenhill Farm, Meggett Lane, South Alkham on Monday 27th August (Bank Holiday Monday). There are classes for everyone, whether you like to keep your feet firmly on the ground for the in-hand showing classes, or attempt a challenging number of obstacles in one of the show jumping classes! The jumping classes range from the mini minimus, for the younger, less experienced rider, to the open, which is for those that like more of a challenge! The jumping classes will run in 2 rings-one on sand, the other on grass. The showing classes will take place both in-hand & ridden. These classes are judged on the confirmation & behaviour of each horse within its suitable class. Presentation of both horse & rider/handler & their equipment are also taken into consideration. For our younger riders, there is a special in-hand child handler class & lead rein ridden classes. Rosettes will be given to all lead rein entrants. At the end of all the in-hand & ridden showing classes, those placed 1st and 2nd in their class, will contest for the annual championship shield. Spectators are more than welcome to attend, with refreshments available on site. There will also be tack stands to browse around! For further information, contact Mr & Mrs Burrows on (01303) 892056 or Debbie Holliman (01303) 892481. (Debbie Holliman)

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FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	4	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Saturday	4	Ploughman's lunch 11.00 pm onwards in village hall
Wednesday	8	Garden Talk at 1 Standen Terrace 7.30 pm - see page 2
Thursday	9	Fete meeting - see page 1
Tuesday	14	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	16	D & D canine society village hall 5.00pm
Monday	20	Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm
Tuesday	21	Jubilee Meeting - see page 1
Saturday	25	Art exhibition in the village hall - see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
August 5 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Baptism and Worshipping together 11 am
August 12 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
August 19 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
August 26 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Mary's 10.00 am		

WATER TABLE - It was said at the Parish Council meeting that a well at South Alkham still had 36 foot of water in it. This is not good news, as a heavy downpour would cause the dyke to flood again. (editor)

THE DYKE - Letters have been sent to all riparian land owners (owner of land by a river) by the Parish Council asking them to make sure that the dyke adjacent to their property is clear and that water can easily flow. The Village Hall Committee received such a letter and the dyke adjacent to the hall is to be cleared at the same time as the Parish Council has the ditch cleared across Vicarage Meadow. Work on the latter has started and currently has a fair amount of water in it mainly due to the ditch being deepened. (editor)

FLY TIPPING - There has been a lot of fly tipping around the parish of Alkham recently. At the junction of Slip Lane and Chalksole Green Lane an enormous pile of building rubbish was tipped on the road and there were similar piles on Hollow Way Lane leading to Swingfield and Warren Lane towards Lydden. A fine of up to £20,000 or imprisonment doesn't deter these people, probably because they know they are unlikely to be caught. If you do see anyone fly tipping please ring the Freephone number 8000 288828. (editor)

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Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freereserve.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
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CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
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ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains 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
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DRUGS – The Parish Council has been informed that drugs, namely cannabis, have recently been sold in Alkham to children living in the village. This is naturally a matter of grave concern to parents. The Parish Council has contacted the police, who at first were indifferent to the situation but now say they are mounting a surveillance operation. (Parish Council)

LOST CAT – You may have seen this in the local press but I've been asked to include it in the Newsletter. An 83 year old pensioner was taken into hospital on the 22nd of July and his cat, Ben, was boarded at Alkhamhurst. Unfortunately Ben escaped and hasn't been seen since. Evidently when a cat is really frightened it may go to ground for some time. If you see Ben, who is black and white like the cat in the Felix advert, please ring me or 823324 in the evening. (editor 824969)

WHOOPS – In last month's Newsletter I reported that Pauline Woodward and Terry Connolly were going to get married. Due to a slight misunderstanding on the phone I said that Pauline was 80 but she is in fact 64. Fortunately Terry and Pauline thought it was highly funny (editor)

BETTY PRESTON died on the 8th of August and printed below is a moving tribute written by Grace Stacey and friends. I thought Betty was a terrific person and she will be greatly missed by all her knew her. (editor)

Betty Preston (nee Fowler) was born and educated in Durham. She joined the WAAF during the war and trained as a Morse decoder in Blackpool. Whilst stationed in Bedford, Betty met Gordon at a dance; they were instantly attracted and Gordon later proposed by letter (a letter which was carefully preserved and kept by the family). Married in the summer of 1946 Gordon and Betty settled in Alkham and had four children, Kent, Boyce, Elizabeth and Grant, and although the family grew up and moved away, "3 Valley" was always home. Betty was a real homemaker, her bread always at the ready for a hungry "bairn", or a slice of cake for a visitor. The beautiful shawls for the babies and later the amazing jumpers for her grandchildren. Who among us will forget that vibrant, purposeful lady, striding through the village or walking her beloved banks with the dogs. For a number of years Betty was employed at Woodside, working with children in care, and later becoming deputy manager of the home. More recently she helped in the Demelza Hospice shop in Dover, where again she was much loved. The newer residents of Alkham will not know perhaps how much a part of village life Betty was. As Churchwarden, a long serving member of both the W.I. and Mothers Union. She helped with refreshment for the over sixties, the cricket teas and took her turn supervising the youth club. Everyone who knew Betty will miss her more than these few words could ever convey. "Greatness is not found only in possessions, power, position or prestige. It is discovered in truth, goodness, humility, service to others and character"

GARDEN PARTY – A Garden Party is being held at Hillview, Short Lane on September the 8th. It starts at 1.00 pm and will be opened by John Bonny O.B.E., J.P. There will be a brass band, side-shows, white elephant stall, second hand bookstall, bring and buy stall, golf games, cake stall, plant stall, kill the rat, spin the wheel, roll the ball and pitch the coin. Afternoon teas and soft drinks will be available in the garden, which will be open to the public plus scuba diving induction course in the pool. Entrance costs £2 for adults with children entering free. All money raised will go to the Boys and Girls Masonic Trust. Everybody welcome. (George Tyler)

FETE – first of all my apologies to Kathleen Goldfinch as I didn't mention the £98.40, which she gave to the fete funds from her regular Saturday Bingo evenings. From the fete profits £1300 will be given to the church, £1300 to the village hall, £100 each to the Snowdon Colliery Band and the Dover Transport Museum, £25 to Capel School, £25 to the Cricket Club and £40 to the British Red Cross. (editor)

THE HARVEST SUPPER this year will be on Monday the 8th of October. Please contact Betty Neely on 822688 to book a seat.

THE CHRISTIAN AID collection in Alkham raised £186. In addition to this Ken Hammond raised £150 on his sponsored walk round Samphire Hoe and Sally (mongrel) sponsored her owner for a modest amount doing the same. (editor)

THE PLOUGHMAN'S lunch in the village hall on the 4th of August, despite being poorly attended, raised over £100 for village hall funds.

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LORRIES – In last month’s Newsletter I reported that DDC considered ‘The Lorry Route Map for Kent’ was the solution to the lorry problem on the Alkham Valley Road. This statement seemed to be fatuous so I wrote to the Leader of Kent County Council, Sandy Bruce-Lockhart to see if he agreed, as one of his five year targets was to reduce the number of lorries on unsuitable roads. I said that DDC had written to the Parish Council in June 2000 asking them for suggestions as to how the number of HGV’s on the Alkham Valley Road could be reduced. Irrespective of this he mentions the new A20, which was opened 7 years ago and also says that the ‘pinch point’ measure at either end of the village was rejected because of poor visibility and that it could be hazardous. This is not true, as the most recent proposal by the Parish Council had the 30 mph signs moved slightly out of the village so that there was full stopping sight distance for 30 mph in both directions. He says that there are no HGV signs to indicate that Valley Road is a lorry route, which is true but totally unhelpful, as it is the existing lorry problem which needs addressing. The letter ends by saying that should the Parish agree that HGV’s are still a problem, a further survey could be carried out to establish the number of lorries plus their destinations, given that a proportion may be servicing local premises (sic). The pinch point option could also be re-investigated. (editor)

THE DYKE – irrespective of past performance DDC are to be congratulated for the work they have done in cleaning out the dyke from the Farm Shop to Valley Cottages. They will continue along the front of Newlyn Meadow. The Parish Council and the Village Hall have paid for the dyke to be cleared from the hall and across Vicarage Meadow. I have been asked to include a request for the other riparian owners to clean their part of the dyke. If there are any problems please contact the Parish Council. (editor)

I am grateful to a couple of donkeys,
which sent me the following poem.

The Churchyard

Two donkeys would be very sad
If the grass looked like a park
For it provides our winter-feed
When days are cold and wet and
dark.

If people want the churchyard neat
We’d protest with our back feet
We two donkeys like our hay
So please don’t mow the grass each
day.

**Zebedee and Zara
Common Hill House**

The Tapsell families and Ken
Hammond should be congratulated for
cutting and baling the hay from the
churchyard. In addition I understand
that Mark Robson and Larry
Lambourne also pitched in, so thanks to
them as well.

The Church PCC and the team
who cut the churchyard grass would
like to say many thanks to John
Ullmann for his generosity and
kindness for once again letting us
borrow his motor scythe to cut the
grass. (David Tapsell)

THE W.I. COFFEE morning
hosted by Helen Scopes at the Willows,
Slip Lane raised £109 for W.I. funds.

**ALKHAM VALLEY
SOCIETY**

annual outing to the
Hop Farm Country Park - There are
still some spare seats on the coach trip
to the Hop Farm, and if anyone who is
not a member is interested in going, we
shall be pleased to welcome them on
board. It certainly seems a popular
place to go and there are many different
things to see, including this particular
weekend a Hop Picking Festival and a
Birds of Prey Display. Fuller details
were given in the August issue of the
Newsletter, but if anyone wishes to
know more about it please give me a
ring. The cost per person is as follows:-
Adults £11, Senior Citizens £9.50,
Children (aged 4-15 incl.) £8, under 4
years free. The coach is, of course,
inclusive., and will leave Alkham at 9
a.m., and depart from the Hop Farm at
about 5 p.m. If there is anyone who
would like to join us, then please do
contact me as soon as possible,
payment to be by the 22nd August.
(Pamela Sayers 822397)

COFFEE MORNING

I would like to thank everyone who
came to my annual coffee morning on
the 28th of July for their support and
donations. A profit of £129 was made,
which was equally shared between the
church and the village hall.
(Betty Neely)

BEATTIE JEAPES

would
like to give her heartfelt thanks to
everybody for their prayers, cards and
messages to get well. On the 4th of July
she dialled 999 after collapsing at
home, and was taken by ambulance to
the very busy A & E at William Harvey
Hospital where she was ‘stacked up’ by
the very frustrated staff until a bed was
available in the assessment ward. They
found she was a serious case and was
later taken to St Thomas’s in London
for a pre-arranged appointment. On the
25th she remembers being wheeled to
surgery, being ‘zapped and then the 2 ½
hour heart operation took place. She
was later transferred to a ward with
views of the Thames and Houses Of
Parliament Ward joining fellow patients
walking up and down clutching teddies,
or in Beattie’s case a towel, having left
home in the ambulance. The staff were
superb and the food was good. On the
31st of July Beattie came home and
Alkham never looked lovelier. (editor)

THE QUIZ

on the 18th of August
in the Village Hall was a great success
generating a profit of £108. The
questions were set by Mike Stevens of
Thanet Local Radio who was
impressive as was the food prepared by
the Lott and Polden families. It made a
very pleasant evening and bookings are
now being taken for his next quiz on
the 24th of November. Please ring
824876. (editor)

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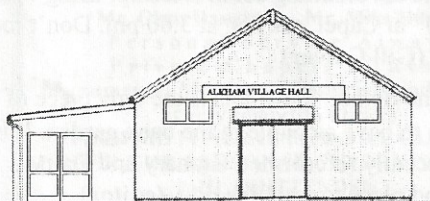
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VILLAGE HALL



The Village Hall Committee have agreed to have two additional windows installed in the front of the hall and a village hall sign placed above the old entrance. Also, quotations have been obtained for installing gas central heating and hopefully work on this should start before the winter.

JUBILEE COMMITTEE

met for the first time on the 21st of August in the village hall to decide what events to stage for the Queen's Jubilee and how to raise the necessary funds. It was decided to have events on each day of the Jubilee celebrations, from the Saturday to the Tuesday. On Saturday the 1st of June it is planned to have a dance similar to the very successful one staged for the Millennium. It is hoped that the Atcost barn can be used but with the site subject to repeated planning applications, this might not happen. Alternative venues will be sought but it is accepted that a marquee would be an expensive option. On the Sunday a 'silly' game of cricket is planned perhaps with a mixture of women, men and children. On the Monday a walking treasure hunt will be organised ending up with a barbecue, probably on Vicarage Meadow. Tuesday will be primarily for youngsters in the village

with races, fancy dress and other events. Fund raising will be from a number of sources. Profits from the annual quiz, already booked for the 26th of January, will go to the fund as will a further one in March. There will be jumble sales, coffee mornings and perhaps a Boot Fair but the most intriguing idea is a slave market. People will offer their services for a fee, say gardening or cooking and these will be auctioned with the money raised going to the fund. The next committee meeting will be on the 20th of November at 7.30 pm in the village hall. If you've got any ideas please come along or if you want to have your say now, phone Sue Lees on 822661. The committee members are Doreen Polden and Lott, Rosemary Polden, Betty Neely, Maureen Hever, Grace Stacey, Lou Matcham, Devina Bartlett, Tricia Wright, Marion Banks-Nash, Andrea Smith and Susan Lees. Roy Adams will probably keep the finances but this may be the first he knows about it.

W.I.REPORT-The August meeting is traditionally known as Member's Evening, there being no speaker or business, only socialising and entertainment arranged by members. A marvellous spread was enjoyed by all, whilst brains were teased by two quizzes, after which the first rehearsal for the Fashion Show was held. Helen's coffee morning for W.I. funds raised £109. The osteoporosis scanning co-ordinated by Belly is on Sept. 13th, Cherry is arranging a meal out that evening and there will be a Jumble Sale on Saturday September the 15th. The next meeting will be on September 11th.

OZ on SPOONER - It sometimes happens that individuals, by their actions, donate their surnames to the language as uncapitalized everyday words, as in 'sandwich', 'wellington' and 'boycott'. Another such word is 'spoonerism', defined by *Chambers Dictionary* as "a transposition of initial sounds of spoken words - eg 'shoving leopard' for 'loving shepherd'. From Rev W A Spooner... a noted perpetrator." William Archibald Spooner was, for over sixty continuous years, a member of New College, Oxford, first as a scholar, then Fellow, and, finally, Warden from 1903 to 1924. He was a tiny albino, with an unusually large head and pale blue eyes. William Hayter wrote that "All his life, Spooner looked like a white-haired baby. His appearance hardly changed." Spooner was, in his own words, never more than "a moderately useful man" and, arguably, would have remained unnoticed save for the spoonerisms. Many of these, such as 'tasted a whole worm', 'hissed my mystery lectures', and 'half-warmed fish', are now regarded as apocryphal, invented by undergraduates and colleagues to tease their beloved 'Spoo', although he did once admit to announcing a hymn as 'Kinquering Kongs'. Of more lasting interest are the well-documented examples of Spooner's transpositions of ideas. After a puzzling sermon, he remounted the pulpit to say, "In the sermon I have just preached, whenever I said Aristotle, I meant St Paul." Eleanor Jourdain recalled that once, at dinner, Spooner upset a salt-cellar and then dripped claret on the salt "until he had produced the purple mound which would have been the end-product if he had spilled claret...and had then cast a heap of salt on the pool to absorb it." Spooner died peacefully in 1930. For epitaph, we need only his words, comparing his misattributions with those of Homer and Shakespeare: "I err in very good company." (Steve Osborn)

GARDENTALK-A very enjoyable time was spent in Maureen's garden at Standen Terrace followed by a most entertaining quiz, which she had prepared. Thank you, Maureen for your hospitality. The next meeting will be on Friday the 7th of September at Brook House, Megget Lane, when John will be introducing the topic. (Susannah Tapsell)

Horse Talk - This month's horse talk column is here to warn everybody of some recent thefts & crimes related to horses. There have been a number of tack rooms broken into, resulting in large quantities of horse equipment being taken. To reduce the risk of your tack being stolen, always make sure your tack room is padlocked at all times. There are some alarm systems on the market that may act as a deterrent, but those that are the most effective will prove to be very expensive. And, last but not least, if you have none of the above on your tack room or keep your horse in a very remote area, don't risk leaving your tack on site- take it home! Another recent crime- this time far worse - was that of an attack on a horse. The horse, kept in West Langdon, suffered 2 cuts on the flanks, both of which were about 18" long. Veterinary attention was sought, although the cuts proved to be superficial. Kent police are urging everyone to keep an eye out for anyone acting suspiciously around field kept horses & ponies. If anyone does suspect anything, please give them a call before an animal is seriously injured! (Debbie Holliman)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the VH 9.30 am to 10.30am followed by the Wednesday club until 11.30 am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Monday	3	Parish Council meeting in the VH 7.30pm - all welcome
Friday	7	Gardentalk 7.30 pm Brook House, Megget Lane
Saturday	8	Garden Party - see page 1
Saturday	8	SEK astronomical society in VH
Tuesday	11	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	15	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Saturday	15	W.I. jumble sale in VH 11.00 am
Monday	17	Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm
Thursday	20	D & D canine society village hall 5.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
September 2 nd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am
September 9 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
September 16 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
September 23 rd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Lawrence - Hougham 10.00 am		
September 30 th	Workshop 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm "Exploring the Music for Common Worship" Followed by tea and Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist 6.00 pm - St. Radigund's Capel		

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S - last month was a very sad month for us as we held the funeral of our much loved former Church Warden, Betty Preston. She will be much missed for her many unobtrusive acts of love and service in the village and church and our sympathy goes to her whole family as they grieve her loss. This month we shall be exploring new ways of using music in our services, especially the Eucharist. Come and enjoy an afternoon's singing, a shared tea and the resulting act of worship, using what we've learned on September the 30th at Capel, starting at 3.00 pm. Don't forget a plate of food to share at tea time. (Gill Calver)

CHALKSOLE GREEN has been given its annual tidy up. For those of you who do not know, this is the only piece of common land in the parish where you can officially water your cattle, should you happen to have a couple in the back garden. It is situated at the top of White Hill, which is the very steep hill off Slip Lane opposite the recently refurbished Granary and Dairy. I understand the pond has been puddled such that it should now hold water. It is also a good place to walk the dog. (editor)

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 Ken Hammond 823720
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
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DAVE WILKINS



HIGHLY COMMENDED – In the Village of the Year competition, Alkham was highly commended in the Community Life section. Ashurst came first, Egerton second and we were in third place with three other villages. A further five villages were commended with a total of 18 villages having entered. The overall village of the year was Ashurst but Alkham should feel proud of itself particularly the W.I., Parish Council, Village Hall Fund Raising Committee, the AVS and the Church with its Garden of Remembrance, bell ringers and services, plus all the other committees and clubs. Susan Lees and myself went to the award ceremony in Egerton Village hall on the 18th of September. The ceremony was extremely well organised with a BBC Radio Kent presenter hosting the evening and the sponsors awarding the prizes. Alkham got a certificate for being highly commended and, subject to agreement, this will be framed and hung in the village hall. (editor)

EWELL MINNIS

The local representative for the Parish Council in Ewell Minnis is Coco Ward. If you have any problems or queries, which you would like her to raise at Parish Council meetings, please give her a ring on 826914.

LOST CAT – The cat belonging to an 83 year pensioner, reported in last month's Newsletter as being lost, was found safe and well on the 22nd August in the garden behind Alkhamhurst Kennels.

THE THREE

BELLS – Sadly the Three Bells at Swingfield Street is now closed and will become a private residence. Ahmed and Valerie would like to thank you all for your valued support. (Ahmed and Valerie Ovais)

THE DYKE – the Highway Authority decided they would leave the trees growing in the dyke when they cleaned it out. The Parish Council is unhappy about this and will ask DDC to remove them. DDC are to be congratulated on their cleaning works, having had a large jet washer on site to clean the culverts. (editor)

CESSPOOLS – DDC has decided it would be uneconomic to put properties at the west of Alkham on main drainage, even though they give large subsidies at present. (editor)

BRIDGES – as you may have seen KCC have installed a couple of bridges over the dyke on the rough line of public footpaths. The one nearest the Village Hall is three sleepers wide with a chestnut rail on one side and a toe-board on the other. The one at the end of the football pitch is two sleepers wide.

20 MPH SPEED

LIMIT – without going into technical details, the highway authority have said no to a 20 mph speed limit through Alkham.

(editor)

INTERACTIVE

SPEED SIGNS – as you can no doubt see, the posts are in place but the signs are not. Evidently this is because SEEBOARD have not got round to installing them and no date has been given to DDC as to when they will be put up. (editor)

VICARAGE MEADOW

According to Paul Tapsell, negotiations to buy Vicarage Meadow from the Church have hit a brick wall. Evidently DDC are not keen on the ideas of Trustees being ultimately responsible for the village green. George Tyler said that an urgent meeting should be set up between all parties to resolve the matter. (editor)

THE MILLENNIUM

SEAT, which is currently in storage, will be installed as a replacement for the existing seat at the junction with Hogbrook Lane, near the bus stop. (I did see Rob Lees mending it, so this may change) (editor)

CHALKSOLE GREEN has been tidied up but further works are necessary. It was suggested at the Parish Council meeting that a **working party** should be put together to do these works. If you'd like to express an interest in volunteering to help, please phone Sue Lees on 822669. It will be a worthwhile job as the Green is a historic part of Alkham.

GARDEN PARTY – The Garden Party held at Hillview, Short Lane on the 8th of September raised £2900 with all the money going to the Boys and Girls Masonic Trust. I would like to thank all the people who donated cakes and raffle prizes and helped us on the day. (George Tyler)

A VILLAGE TRANSPORT representative is required to report back to the Parish Council, perhaps three times a year, on the transport facilities available in the village. This will primarily be bus use, so if you'd like to help please phone the Parish Clerk on 822669.

QUIZ – There will be another quiz organised by Mike Stevens of Thanet Local Radio in the village hall on the 24th of November. To book a table please phone 824876.

CROSS STITCH – Devina Bartlett has a large collection of cross-stitch magazines, which she would like to give free to a good home. Please phone her on 827548.

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GREENWOOD FARM

Some people had raised concerns about the earth moving taking place in the fields adjacent to Greenwood Farmhouse. The latter is nearly opposite the half-timbered property on Chalksole Green Lane, which is currently up for sale. At the parish council meeting it was confirmed that the fields had been graded to form two landing strips and this inevitably caused large mounds of earth to appear for a short period. The fields are now level and will be grassed for sheep to graze on. The new owners of the farm appear to be within their rights to carry out the works and the fields can be used for landing aircraft on 28 days in a year. Concern was raised at the meeting about horses being scared when aircraft came in to land over the bridleway, which crosses the fields. Reassurance was given, that if an aircraft was going to land the pilot would check to make sure there were no horses in the vicinity and if there were, the plane would circle until the horses were at a safe distance. (editor)

CYCLE RIDE - both Ken Hammond and Billy Hollis took part in the Friends of Kent Churches cycle ride on the 8th September. Remarkably Ken did 71 miles and visited 71 churches raising £218.15 in sponsorship and Billy Hollis also did very well, raising over £100. It nearly killed me when I cycled to Capel, so congratulations to you both. (editor)

LORRIES - in the interval at the Parish Council meeting a member of the audience complained that the Newsletter was always having a go at lorry drivers and went on to give the reasons why he thought it was unfair. After the meeting I had a chat with the person concerned and explained the reason why I wrote about lorries. Last year the Highways Authority said that there were funds available to deal with lorry problems on unsuitable rural roads and the Parish Council were invited to propose solutions. Their response was that a single lane entry at either end of the village would be the best idea and this was submitted to DDC. Previously the Parish Council has tried to get KCC to install traffic calming in the village but KCC always said that limited funds were available and that sites are mainly judged on their accident record. Alkham village has a pretty good accident record and is therefore a long way down the list. When they said they had money for lorry calming, it seemed a good idea to keep banging away about lorries in the hope that the Highway Authority would install some traffic calming. I'm sorry that the person was upset by the articles and I accept that lorry drivers have a living to make and will try, where possible, to minimise the effect on villages and towns. In the meantime KCC and DDC have conveniently forgotten that they asked the Parish Council for suggestions and we are now back at square one. (editor)

MOTORBIKES - continuing the above discussion at the Parish Council meeting, the subject of motorbikes was raised. Evidently various speed records exist going from points to points along the valley and this is certainly borne out by the high speeds that some travel at. Everyone thought it was a problem and a nuisance and the inevitable result was that someone was going to get killed. On the 17th of September two motorbikes overtook cars between Hogbrook Lane and the Marquis of Granby. (editor)

MARGARET MAXTED

passed away recently. She was born in Alkham 68 years ago and was a well-known character. At various times she lived at Rose Cottage, Slip Lane and in a house at the bottom of Giebelands.

HEDGE LAYING

We are about to renew our efforts, and at the end of October, continue the hedge laying of Pimlico Way. Very little was actually achieved last winter because of the horrors of the foot and mouth epidemic but it is hoped that this year will be more productive. We are rather few in number and so I would welcome any new volunteers, male or female, who would be interested in learning the ancient art or would just like to get out into the fresh air and help. Please ring John Garlinge on 824201.

WELCOME DAYS are for volunteers to get involved in practical and varied conservation activities with a friendly group. On October the 24th at 9 am and 28th at 10 am it's Lydden, Temple Ewell. I don't know this location but a pick up is available on request from Kearsney Station. You need to take a packed lunch and strong shoes. For further information please contact Debbie Atwill at Kent Wildlife Trust on 01622 662012. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY Annual Outing.

It was unfortunate that due to lack of numbers the coach arranged for this trip to the Hop Farm Country Park had to be cancelled. However, eighteen members and friends went by car to visit the Hop Farm and had a most enjoyable day. We were obviously lucky that our trip was booked for their Hop Festival weekend when there were other attractions going on, such as a birds of prey display and a gent who admirably imitated George Formby playing and singing with his ukulele. It was, I felt, an enjoyable and interesting day out and worth the extra effort involved. Will members please note there has been a change of date for the A.G.M., which will now be held on Thursday the 22nd of November, and not the 29th of November. (Pamela Sayers)

GREEN UPDATE

In the August 2000 edition I described the new facility for recycling garden waste at the Whitfield refuse disposal centre. The processed material is now available at the centre as soil improver, costing £2.50 for a 40-litre bag. (Steve Osborn)

GAS should be connected to the village hall on the 28th of September with central heating works starting shortly afterwards.

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W.I. REPORT

A minutes silence was observed in view of the terrible events in America. Our speaker, Mr Black, then gave a very interesting talk on his career in the Customs and Excise. He began with an intriguing question, "Why were there no women Custom Officers working in the dock area before 1972?" The answer being simply that the toilet facilities were not thought suitable for those of the fairer sex! Refreshments were as delicious as usual. The destination for the Christmas outing is as yet undecided. There will be fashion show rehearsals on October the 2nd and 11th for the Group meeting on the 16th of October. Our next meeting will be on the 9th of October.

(Devina Bartlett)

GARDEN TALK

Thank you to Rosemary and John who hosted our Garden Club; a lovely time was had by all. John organised a very interesting quiz based on shrubs and plants found in fields and hedgerows around their home. The next meeting jumps to November the 8th at Bramhall. (Devina Bartlett)

HAIRDRESSER

There is now an advert for a local mobile hairdresser under Local Businesses and Services on the back page.

OZ on DOVES AND HAWKS - Since the Yorkshire holiday in July, we've been confined to the house, nursing an aged and disabled parent. A continual accompaniment has been the relentless "coo-cooo-cu" of the collared dove that resides on the chimney during the day. The effort of accenting the second syllable seems to lower its pitch by a semitone. Sometimes the song changes to triplets of "coo-cooo-cu"s, involving falls in pitch of two tones, then one, and finally a semitone, in that order. Collared doves spread slowly at first from India, arriving in Asia Minor in the 16th century and the Balkans three centuries later. After 1912, they embarked suddenly on a remarkable colonisation of western Europe, reaching Austria in 1938, Germany in 1943, France in 1950 and England in 1952, eventually nesting as far north as Iceland. Ernst Mayr explained that "After a long period of stagnation a land-bird suddenly enters upon a phase of aggressive expansion." James Fisher suggested that the collared dove, a grain-eater with little fear of man or other creatures, found such expansion easy in Europe at a time when the chicken-farming industry was growing and waste grain was available. As the long hot summer finally gives way to chilly autumn, and we start winter bird-feeding, a different kind of raider lurks. The sparrowhawk will undoubtedly kill a small bird or two in the shrubs by the bird-table. Unlike the collared dove, the "sperhauke" has been around for at least a thousand years, according to literary sources alone, being known as a long-term resident to both William Langland (1362) and Geoffrey Chaucer (1382). I just hope that the sparrowhawk doesn't attack the collared dove. It might prove too much of a mouthful, and also I've become rather attached to the dove's second song. (Steve Osborn)

ALKHAM CHURCH

YARD - The Autumn edition of *Wild Kent*, published by the Kent Wildlife Trust, features an article on wildlife in Kentish churchyards, entitled "Life from Beyond the Grave", in which the authors illustrate how churchyards can become havens for wild life. As a result of recent assessments, the Trust has now designated a number of churchyards as Wildlife Sites, including those at Adisham, Alkham, Mereworth and Sutton at Hone. This means, amongst other things, that the sites are registered with the District and County Councils for use in considering planning applications. Among the matters noted in the Alkham report are the presence of 65 different lichens on walls and tombstones, and the fine example of a chalkland grass meadow. (See the 'Churchyard' article in our August edition). Paul Cottington, the KWT's Wildlife Sites Officer, is happy to give further information and advice, and may be 'phoned on 01622 - 662012. (Steve Osborn)

NEWS FROM ST.

ANTHONY'S - Harvest Festival time is here again and we shall celebrate in church on October the 7th. In a year when our farming communities have been very much in our minds as a result of the foot and mouth outbreak, this is a good

time to remember, in our prayers, all who grow and produce our food. We are also recognising St. Luke's tide this year. St. Luke was a doctor, as well as one of the gospel writers, and the Revd. Paul Kirby has agreed to come and speak to us about the healing ministry in our hospitals at a joint service at 10.00 am at Capel on October the 21st (the nearest Sunday to St. Luke's Day, which falls on October the 18th). Paul is the senior chaplain in the team, which serves the local hospitals. On the last Sunday of the month we will be hearing about an exciting community project being run by the United Dover churches on Buckland Estate. Nigel Collins, the project coordinator, will be preaching at Alkham at the 10.00 am service and in the evening we shall be joining other Dover Christians in a United Service at the London Road Methodist church..... and don't forget that the new Bishop of Maidstone, Bishop Graham will be coming to a confirmation service at Alkham on the first Sunday in November at 10.00 am. Do join us for that special occasion. And to the wider world stage our prayers go out to those affected by events in the United States on September the 11th as we await with some trepidation, the response from the United States government with others. Some of you might find the two prayers overleaf put into words feelings it is difficult to express. (Gill Calver)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the VH 9.30 am to 10.30am followed by the Wednesday club until 11.30 am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	6	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Monday	8	Harvest Supper in village hall
Tuesday	9	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	13	PCC jumble sale in VH 11.00 am
Monday	15	Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm
Tuesday	16	W.I. Group meeting in VH
Thursday	18	D & D canine society in VH
Saturday	27	Beekeepers in VH during the day with their Honey Show

TELEPHONE NUMBERS - I am grateful to a person from Everden who pointed out that the code for London had changed. The only other number to change was unsurprisingly the Police, where the Community Support number has disappeared to be replaced by one number.

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
October 7 th	Sung Eucharist Harvest 11 am	Sung Eucharist Harvest 9.30 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
October 14 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
October 21 st	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund's Capel 10.00 am Revd Paul Kirby to preach (East Kent Hospital Chaplain)		
October 28 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony's Alkham 10.00 am Nigel Collins to preach ('Crosslinks' ecumenical project on Buckland Estate)		
United Service for all Dover churches London Road Methodist church 6.00 pm			

Prayer for those affected by the events in the USA

Almighty God, we pray for all those affected by the events in the United States of America. We pray for those who have died, those who are injured, those who mourn and those who still wait for news of loved ones. We pray, too, for all members of the emergency services and the communities where they serve. Comfort them with the presence of your Holy Spirit, and with the confidence of Your Love that never fails, even in times of darkness. In the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

The Peace Prayer

Lord, lead us from Death to Life
From Falsehood to Truth
Lead us from Despair to Hope
From Fear to Trust
Lead us from Hate to Love
From War to Peace
Let Peace fill our hearts
Our World.
Our Universe. Amen

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
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 - all calls except 999 phone 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
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
HAIRDRESSER - Mobile	Registered hairdresser - Senior citizens at reduced rate	Ewell Minnis 01304 824492
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cat; & 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, Dover 01303 253212
WINDOW CLEANING	Turtle Window Cleaning: Houses, shops & businesses welcome	Dover 206986 or 07971 011736

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DAVE WILKINS



VILLAGE OF THE YEAR – We had feedback from the competition organisers and their comments are as follows: ‘**Community Life:** Neat and tidy village sliced through the middle by the main valley road to Dover. They had a wretched winter with severe flooding problems. They haven’t been able to use the cricket pitch (Club 200 yrs old) at all this summer because of water. The village hall was under water, but good for them, they held meetings in a house for many months and now they have a beautiful new floor and kitchen installed. We had the impression of a close knit community. They made good efforts for the millennium; the new cross on Church Tower is in place. Their churchyard would have pleased the Environment section - half cut - half wild. The fete sounded excellent.’ *We didn’t win but at least Alkham made a showing and we’ll enter next year. It would be great if some youngsters would enter the Environmental section. (editor)*

VILLAGE HALL

Susan Lees has decided to give up the job as caretaker to the village hall. If anyone is interested in taking it on please send an application to, The Village Hall Secretary, The Old Post Office, Alkham CT15 7DE by the 23rd of this month so that the matter can be discussed at the Village Hall Committee meeting on the 26th. At present about two hours a week is paid for. (editor)

WORKING PARTY

We need some help to carry out the ‘Autumn Tidy up’ of the churchyard. If you can help on Saturday the 3rd of November between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm, please come along armed with spades and forks etc. and some liquid refreshment. Thank you.

(R Tapsell & K Hammond)

CHURCH BAZAAR

on the 24th of November from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Please bring items to sell and do join us for a coffee and the raffle.

BLUEWATER

Cherry Leppard is organising a trip to the Bluewater shopping centre on the 30th of November. There are spare seats and the cost will depend on the numbers who go. Please ring Cherry on 01303 251105 for further details.

QUIZ – a quiz organised by Mike Stevens of Thanet Radio is being held in the village hall on the 24th of November. Tables may be available, please ring 824876 for details.

TYPIST – Stephen Comfort, who lives at Hogbrook Farmhouse and has a physiotherapy practice in Deal, requires a typist. If you are interested please give Steve a ring on 822619 in the evening. The work will have to be carried out from home with the use of your own computer..... and

HELP is needed by Steve to let out and put animals back in at Hogbrook Farm. Please give him a ring on 822619 in the evening for more information.

FRIGHTENING

Fancy Dress Parade on the 27th of October at Kearsney for 7 year olds and under and 8 year olds and over. It is organised by a consortium of organisations including DDC, KCC and Shepway DC and is part of activities for children during the school holidays. If you’d like to enter the competition go to Kearsney Abbey Café car park by 5.00 pm dressed as either a ghost, witch, wizard, vampire or a miscellaneous ‘spooky’. This is followed by the Pumpkin Parade Walk at 6.00 pm. If you don’t want to enter the fancy dress parade just go along at 6.00 pm and bring along a pumpkin lantern to join the family parade around the park. There are prizes for both events and the entry cost is £1. Any queries please phone Melanie Wrigley on 241806. (editor)
See also page 2 for two other events

CHILDREN IN NEED

The Alkham Fashion House invite you to view their infamous Autumn Collection at a “**CRISPS AND CRUMPET**” evening in aid of Children in Need on Wednesday the 14th November at 8.00 pm. in the Village Hall. Entrance £2. Come and support us at this fun evening and please bring a plate of nibbles to share. In order to keep expenses to the minimum, if you would like to donate a bottle of wine, please leave it with one of the following people before Saturday the 10th of November: Christine Tapsell, Slip Lane; Esther Preston, Glebelands; Joan Scott, Newlyn Meadow; Paul Tapsell, South Alkham. (Susannah Tapsell)

CHALKSOLE GREEN

Even though I phone Sue Lees on a regular basis, I still managed to get her phone number wrong twice in last month’s Newsletter. I have apologised to the lady in River who had 5 phone calls offering to join a working party to finish tidying up Chalksole Green. Irrespective of the mistake it was encouraging to get a positive result, so if there are any other people who would like to help please ring Sue on 822661. (editor)

A FETE COMMITTEE

MEETING will be held in the village hall on the 22nd November at 8.00pm. Everybody is welcome, so please come and support the fete.

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VILLAGE HALL

– for those of you who live outside the village and haven't seen them, the village hall now has two additional windows in the front wall above the old entrance. It certainly gives the hall a more airy feel and should you be bored in a meeting you can watch the traffic as it negotiates its way round the bends by the village green. The gas supply is also now connected to a meter on the village hall so the installation of the central heating can go ahead. (editor)

HARVEST FESTIVAL & HARVEST

– Unbelievably after last winter's floods the year's produce has been excellent and the church looked so attractive bedecked in autumn flowers, fruit and produce, the final touch being the magnificent Harvest Loaf made by George Mittens. All the goods were taken to the village hall for Monday's Harvest Supper and displayed on the stage for the auction at the end of the evening. The auction was of course preceded by the excellent supper. There are too many people to be named here and so many donated things for the supper and auction. All that can be left to say is the evening raised £550 to be divided equally between the hospital in Africa and the Kent Air Ambulance. (Susan Lees & Betty Neely)

GREEN GANG – on the front page of the Newsletter, I have put an article about a fancy dress and pumpkin parade. Unfortunately the information was sent to me at the beginning of October for events during the month, so most of the activities have passed. As mentioned, it is organised by a number of bodies who have arranged fun activities over the half term...

HEAVENLY MOBILES at 2.00 pm on the 28th of October at the Amphitheatre, Lower Leas Coastal Park, Folkestone, there is the chance to create mobiles of the moon and stars as the nights begin to draw in.....

GHOSTS IN THE LANDSCAPE on the same date and time at The Square, Elham there is an afternoon stroll as a landscape detective to search for clues to lost features in the changing countryside. (editor)

W.I. FASHION SHOW – On the front page is an item inviting people to help Children in Need on the 14th of November, when the W.I. will repeat their fashion show last seen at the Group Meeting. I was there helping with the sound and the show was great. I've been asked not to give anything away but they were all great sports and there were some terrific performances, so please do come along on the 14th as it really shouldn't be missed. (editor)

HOGBROOK BARN – A further planning application has been received by DDC for the Atcost barn on Hogbrook Lane. The proposal is for a terrace of 6 houses with carports. The Parish Council has yet to meet to discuss the proposal but I understand there are mixed feelings. At present the original planning application for detached properties has gone to appeal and the decision is awaited. Either way it looks as though the property developer will eventually build on the site of the old farm building. (editor)

CHURCH JUMBLE SALE

– where do all the goodies come from for the sale? Takings on the sale and raffle raised £75 for the church funds.

GARDENTALK The next meeting will be held at "Bramhall" on Thursday the 8th of November at 7.30pm. when the topic will be Autumn Planting. It will be a good time to bring along plants for the Swop table.

(Susannah Tapsell)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

- It is difficult to believe this year has passed so quickly, and that it will soon be time to hold our Annual General Meeting. Will you please note the date for this has changed and it is now on Thursday, 29th November 2001, and not the 22nd November as reported in the October Newsletter. My apologies to members - will you please alter your diaries. It will, as usual be held in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30 p.m. After the meeting there will be a talk by Johanna Westgate on Wildflower Gardening accompanied by slides. Johanna Westgate runs a wildflower nursery and is, I understand, very knowledgeable on this subject. All are welcome at the meeting so please do come along. (Pamela Sayers)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY

will present two very different settings of the Mass for their Autumn concert in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 24th November. **Mozart** sadly died before he could finish his **Requiem Mass**, and the work was completed by his friend and pupil Franz Süssmayer. Although Mozart began the work as the result of an anonymous commission, as he lay dying he saw it as his own Requiem and this is reflected in the passionate intensity of the music. **Haydn's Harmony Mass**, so called because it uses a full complement of woodwind instruments including clarinets, was written in 1802, eleven years after the death of his "dear friend Mozart". It was Haydn's last major work, but shows no signs of failing inspiration, and is, typically, full of musical surprises. Soloists, chorus and The Connaught Orchestra (leader George Simpson) will be conducted by Dover Choral Society's Musical Director, Michael Foad. **Tickets** £8 (Schoolchildren £4) are available from Dover Town Hall, The Music Box in Maison Dieu Road, and from members of Dover Choral Society. For further information ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Michael Foad and Steve Osborn)

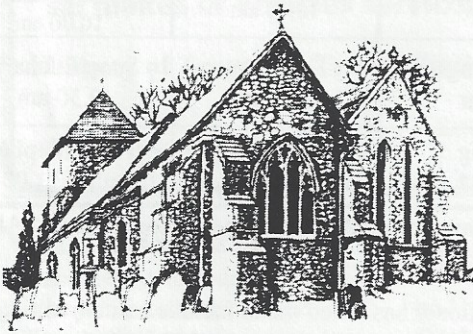
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NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S

Come and hear the new Bishop of Maidstone, Graham Cray, preach at the benefice confirmation service on the 4th of November A good opportunity to celebrate together. November is a special month of Remembrance in our churches and as usual our Remembrance Day service in the church concludes with the wreath laying and two minutes silence round the memorial in the churchyard. On the evening of November the 4th we shall all meet at St. Radigund's to remember our loved ones who have died. There will be a chance to light a candle and members of our three parishes who have lost loved ones during the last year are given a special invitation to attend this All Souls tide service..... and don't forget to look at the rota if you're coming to church any time this month because the plan is slightly different from usual.

(Gill Calver)

W. I. REPORT

At the October meeting, final arrangements were made for hosting the Group Meeting, which would be held on October the 16th. Members were invited to attend the various activities arranged by the local Group W.I.

The social secretary gave information about the trips to Bluewater, to shop, The Marlowe, to be entertained and the Christmas Dinner, to eat! Unfortunately the booked speaker was unable to attend, but that did mean that the social time over refreshments was extended, which is always enjoyed by members. The next meeting will be on the 13th of November. The Group meeting was held on the 16th of October and the Alkham W.I. ladies as usual came up trumps, not only providing a sumptuous feast but also entertaining group members with their riotous Fashion Show.

(Susannah Tapsell)

ALKHAM CHURCH YARD KENT

WILDLIFE TRUST -

Further to last month's article, Steve Osborn has now received from KWT a copy of the schedule for Alkham Churchyard. The summary reads as follows: This large churchyard comprises relict unimproved chalk grassland on a south-facing slope, together with both acid and calcareous rock surfaces in the form of walls and tombstones. The present management regime, with the area close to the front of the church and the grassy paths cut short on a regular basis and the remainder being cut less frequently, is ideal for wildlife. The grassland supports a diverse flora, with an abundance of

both calcicoles and neutral grassland plants such as yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and other small legumes. Quaking grass *Briza media* and downy oat-grass *Helictotrichon pubescens* are the dominant grasses present. The tombstones, church and churchyard walls support an excellent range of lichen species, with both lime-loving and acid-loving species present. A total of 65 species have been recorded recently, including *Ramalina farinacea* on a vertical tomb face. This species is more usually seen on trees. Other interesting species include *Parmelia revoluta* and *Pertusaria amara* on acid tombs. The shady churchyard wall supports *Collema tenax* and *C. auriforme* in the mossy mortar, together with *Acrocordia salwayi*. The grassland held good numbers of common blue, small heath and orange tip butterflies on the day of visit. (Kent Wildlife Trust - for further information contact Paul Cottingham on 01622 - 662012).

OZ on EARLE

- This year marked the 400th anniversary of the birth of essayist John Earle. I chuckled on first discovering, in an ancient anthology, his comment that "The common singing-men in cathedral churches are a bad society, and yet a company of good fellows that roar deep in the choir, deeper in the tavern." That came from *Microcosmographie: or A Piece of the World discovered in Essays and Characters*, that Earle started to write while studying at the Oxford colleges of Christ Church and Merton. He graduated in 1624, becoming chaplain to Lord Pembroke and joining Viscount Falkland's liberal circle at Great Tew, near Oxford. The *Microcosmographie*, eventually published in 1628 to instant acclaim, was a collection of witty character sketches and essays. The first line of each sketch consisted of a definition, eg "A young raw preacher is a bird not yet fledged that has hopped out of his nest to be chirping on a hedge", or "A handsome hostess is the lodestone that attracts men of iron, gallants and roarers." Earle was appointed tutor to Prince Charles in 1641 and then became chaplain to him during his exile in France. After the Restoration, Earle was rewarded with the Deanery of Westminster. Later he became Bishop of Worcester (1662) and Salisbury (1663) in which roles he defended persecuted Nonconformists. In 1665 he retired to Oxford with the court to avoid the plague, and died in his old college lodgings. The reading of "characters" was popular in the 17th century, at a time when the distinctiveness of individuals was still considered important. Earle's characters were devastatingly accurate because he lived among and loved the people he described. "The singing-men's gowns are laced with streamings of ale" - yes, that certainly has the ring of truth about it. (Steve Osborn)

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the VH 9.30 am to 10.30am followed by the Wednesday club until 11.30 am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	3	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Monday	5	Parish Council meeting 7.30 pm
Thursday	8	Garden Talk Bramhall 7.30 pm
Saturday	10	Jumble sale in VH 11.00 am
Tuesday	13	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Wednesday	14	Crisps and crumpets in village hall 7.30 pm - see page one
Thursday	15	D & D canine society in VH
Monday	19	Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm
Tuesday	20	Jubilee Committee meeting 7.30 pm in village hall - all welcome
Thursday	22	Fete committee 8.00 pm in VH
Saturday	24	Church bazaar - see page 1
Saturday	24	Beekeepers in VH 2 to 5 pm
Saturday	24	Quiz in VH at 7.30 pm
Thursday	29	Alkham Valley AGM - see P2

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
November 4 th	Benefice Confirmation and Sung Eucharist St Anthony's Alkham - Bishop of Maidstone to preach 10.00 am A Service of Remembrance for our loved ones who have died (where candles are lit and prayers are said for the departed) St. Radigund's - Capel 6.30 pm		
November 11 th	Remembrance Day Service (followed by 2 minutes silence at the memorial in the churchyard) 10.00 am	Remembrance Day Service (followed by 2 minutes silence) 10.00 am	Remembrance Day Service (followed by 2 minutes silence at the memorial in the churchyard) 10.00 am
November 18 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
November 25 th	Evensong 4.00 pm *	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am

* Please note that, during the winter months, Evensong at Hougham and Alkham is at 4.00 pm

BB Guns - A parishioner has asked me to include an item asking parents to make their children aware of the danger of firing BB guns.

MANY THANKS to the Hyland family at Little Garth and Heather Dodd at Ewell Minnis for volunteering to deliver the Newsletter. Thanks also go to the other deliverers without whom it would not be delivered free to every house in the parish. Should anyone wish to see the accounts for last year please give me a ring. (editor)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freeseerve.co.uk
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freeseerve.co.uk
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Police - all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055
	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

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WINDOW CLEANING	Turtle Window Cleaning: Houses, shops & businesses welcome	Dover 206986 or 07971 011736

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DAVE WILKINS



NEWSLETTER 100 – This month the Newsletter has reached its one hundredth edition. Tony Ingall started it in September 1993 and I took over in June 1997 with issue number 46, when it was expanded to four pages. Thanks go to all those who have contributed articles over the years, to the advertisers who pay for it and the people who deliver it free to your door.

Merry Christmas



A CAROLS and coffee morning will be held in the village hall on Saturday the 8th of December at 10.30 am. Oliver the donkey will be giving rides in his trap. Please see W.I. report on page 3.

BURGLARY -unfortunately two properties in the centre of the village were burgled on the 21st of November..... I'd like to say a big thank you to Luke Baber, who lives in Glebelands, for being so kind and brave when I was recently burgled. He happened to be walking past when I ran out into Slip Lane as a quivering wreck. I'd never met him before but he walked in front of me into the house and we went round holding hands. He was so kind and comforting and I'm so grateful. A lot of people, including Gill Calver, have been so good to me and it just goes to show what a great village we live in. I'd also like to say that the police have been superb.

(Irene Barnard)

CHILDREN IN NEED evening raised £1028. Please see full story on page two. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY Society Christmas walk is on Thursday the 27th of December starting at 10.30 am from the village hall car park and finishing at the Marquis about 12 noon. Please come and join us, dogs as well. (Pamela Sayers)

NEW YEAR' EVE PARTY – tickets are still available. The cost is £5 with food included but bring your own drink. Please ring 824876 for more details.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ, which this year will be in aid of the Jubilee fund, will be held in the village hall on the 26th of

January. Arrangements will be similar to last year and to book a table please ring either Sue Lees on 822661 or me on 824969. The assumption will be that those people who regularly have a table will join us again but please ring to confirm. (editor)

SOUP KITCHEN

There is a soup kitchen in Dover on the car park in front of the old MFI building. Alkham has volunteered to provide food and drinks at a number of times through the year. Some ladies in the village have agreed to make sandwiches and donations of tins of corn beef, tuna or any other fillings would be greatly appreciated. Tins of soup, cheese, biscuits and the like would also be welcomed. If you would like to donate any items there is a box in the church or alternatively they can be left in the red box outside Meadowside, Slip Lane behind the Old Post Office. (editor)

POPPY APPEAL

– thank you to all the villagers who donated money to this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and to all those who helped. A total of £184.41 was raised. (Rachel Fountain)

VICARAGE MEADOW

After approaching both parties again (DDC & Church), it now appears that they are quite happy to proceed with the sale of the meadow. Paul Tapsell said he was waiting for the draft contract and that things should proceed swiftly after that. We will then be able to call it the village green. (editor)

NEWS from EWELL MINNIS

Fly tipping – Concern was expressed about the amount of fly tipping, which was being carried out at the Minnis, especially in Ferne Lane. The Parish Council will write to DDC and ask them to remove the rubbish.

Quad bike – would the person(s) who is upsetting people at the Minnis by riding a quad bike at speed round the lanes please stop or at least slow down and do it less often.

Upper West Hill Farm – the Parish Council is going to write to Mr Emberson of High Quality Lifestyle to find out what the plans for the buildings are, as there is some concern that they may be used by HQL Ltd.

Marker posts – Mrs Wash informed the council that the verge marker posts adjacent to the Valley Road near Wolverton Hill had disappeared and there is a dangerous drop into the woods. The Council will write to DDC. (From the Parish Council meeting)
IF you live in Ewell Minnis and would like to put something in the Newsletter please send, phone, e-mail or deliver it to me. (editor)

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CHILDREN IN NEED - £ 1028

was raised in the village hall on Wednesday the 14th of November. Susannah Tapsell had organised a repeat of her W.I. fashion show with a few surprises, of which there were many. All the tickets had been sold before the event and bouncers were on the door to prevent any gatecrashers. The bouncers were Doreen Lott and Sandie Tapsell both of whom were dressed in dinner jackets with Sandie sporting a threatening moustache and goatee beard together with rings and a knuckle-duster on her hands. Betty Neely was dressed as a 'Madame' with long eyelashes, a stylish hat and a boa round her neck taking money for the raffle. Rosemary Polden also helped with the raffle going around the hall dressed as a member of the Salvation Army. At 8.00 o'clock to a trumpet fanfare, Paul Tapsell announced to the hundred people present that each table would have a waitress to supply the food and drinks, for a suitable donation. To further fanfares the waitresses appeared, some of whom were clearly men dressed as women. I'm sure Den Barnard will not mind me saying that he looked horrible as a woman dressed in a wig and fish net stockings. Some people found John Garlinge and Mark Robson attractive (at a distance) and Ken Hammond looked resplendent in a bow tie and cycle shorts. John Huggins also came as a would-be Chippendale except that he was wearing a kilt with some debate as to what was underneath. The attractive waitresses were Irene Barnard, Debbie Robson, Maureen, Lou Matcham and Lucy McKenzie. The fashion show started at 9.30 with Sue Garlinge dressed as an outrageous teenager, followed by Pam Sayers

elegantly attired as English country style. Susan Lees then bounced on in rural country wear complete with wellingtons, bucket and fork. Emma, Helen Scope's granddaughter, was next dressed in sophisticated horse riding gear. Devina Bartlett demonstrated the soft lines of rural summer charm and shortly after Margaret Batcheldor and Joan Scott appeared as a couple of city swells who were the worse for drink, dressed in evening suits. Margaret Knowles was a city slicker in a very smart outfit, carrying a mobile phone and brief case. Next, Rosemary Crothall appeared as a very convincing bag lady. She was quite hilarious and trudged up and down looking very much the part covered in old clothes and carrying two carrier bags. Tricia Wright was dressed as a French onion seller and Grace Stacey as an English football hooligan with a draped England flag and the cross of St. George on her face. Then came Cherry Leppard who gave a bravura performance as Madonna suitably clad with pyramidal attachments and she was followed by Doreen Wilks as a past/present W.I. lady in a traditional tweed suit. Liz Lambourne was the lady of the future with a laptop computer, CD and DVD and Helen Scopes completed the show. To the ringing tones of 'Hey big spender' she came on as one of the W.I. calendar ladies (the revealing one) with a feather in her hair and wrapped in a towel. Another stunning performance, which was repeated as an encore with all the fashion models following behind as they walked down the hall to enormous clapping and cheering. A really great evening and once again congratulations to Susannah Tapsell for organising the event, thanks to all the people who took part and the generous people in the hall who donated so much money for a good cause. (editor)

LITTER BIN - the Parish Council have agreed to buy a litterbin from Dover District Council for £104.50, which will replace the one opposite the village hall. The reason for purchasing it is that DDC will now empty it free of charge.



THE PLANNING

application for a terrace of 6 houses on the site of the barn on Hogbrook Lane was rejected by the Parish Council.

THE STEPS to the slide on Vicarage Meadow have been completed and granny tested according to the Parish Council. (editor)

CHURCHYARD -

thanks go to Paul and David Tapsell, Dennis Barnard and Brian Wimsett for helping us carry out the annual tidy up of the churchyard. (Richard Tapsell & Ken Hammond)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY

will lead the singing in 'Come Carolling', the Christians Together in Dover carol concert, in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 10th December. Accompaniment will be provided by the St Edmund's School Wind Band, and the concert will also feature a production by the children of St Richard's Primary School. Tickets are available from local churches and the Town Hall. (Steve Osborn)

PUB WALK arranged by Coalfield Parishes: Old Deal on the 8th, ring David Collyer 364326 or on the 9th meet at Ripple, ring Chris Hall on 241806. On the 22nd there is a mysterious Christmas 'Crackers' walk round Deal. Phone 364326.

SOUTHERN

WATER are aware that some of their covers need replacing to stop sewage coming out in the floods. Orders have been issued and the work is awaited. (editor)

GARDENTALK-The November meeting was held at "Bramhall" and the wide topic of autumn jobs in the garden was discussed in full, the discussion animated by our wine and nibbles! Our next meeting will be our Christmas do, on Monday 17th December 7.30pm at "The Vicarage" when old and new members will be made most welcome to join in the fun. (Susannah Tapsell)

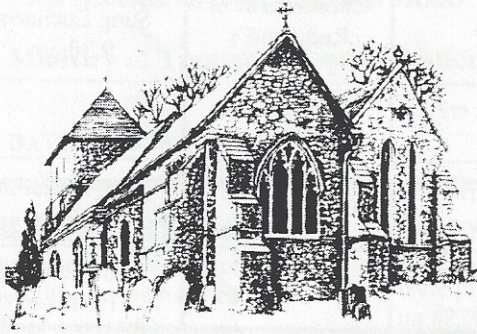
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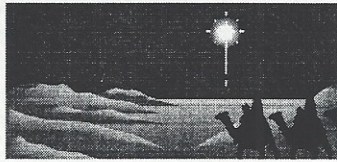
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NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S

Thank you to all those who made our church look so beautiful and who provided refreshments for last month's visit of our Bishop for the confirmation service. It was an inspiring event. This month our church will be celebrating once again the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. How fortunate we are to have at the centre of our village, a beautiful building where all from the village can gather to share in such celebrations. Surely, this year as we look at all the hatred in our world and hear the harsh words of those who wish to fan the flames of prejudice, we need to home in again on the one who brought us good news – good news of a God who loves us and came to share in all the messy affairs of our world, caring for someone. We hope that somewhere in our programme of services there is something for you whether it be the informal family service on Christmas Eve or the traditional 9 lessons and carols service on December the 16th. And do have a Very Happy Christmas, wherever and however you celebrate it.
(Gill Calver)



W. I. REPORT - The A G.M. was held on Tuesday the 13th of November in the Village Hall in the presence of the V.C.O. and tellers from local W.I.'s. Kathleen Goldfinch, the retiring President, was given a vote of thanks by Susan Lees, and the new President, Rosemary Crothall, was welcomed by members. The committee remains the same except that Doreen Polden had to stand down due to work commitments and Iris Bowshell was voted on in her place. On Saturday the 8th of December at 10.30am in the village hall, there will be "A Carols and Coffee morning" with Oliver the donkey giving rides in his trap, aided by Helen, all in aid of Cancer Research. The W.I. Dinner will be on Thursday the 13th of December and the next meeting will be on Tuesday the 11th of December at 7.30pm. (Susannah Tapsell)
May I give a huge thank you to everybody involved with the "Crisps and Crumpet" evening for their help, support and enthusiasm and to the generous people who donated so much money.

OZ on BARNES - In October we holidayed in Dorset, staying for a week in a rejuvenated farm-cottage in Upway, between Weymouth and Dorchester. The walking, bird-watching and Thomas Hardy trail happened as planned, but tracking the 'Dorset Poet', William Barnes, became a major obsession. Barnes was born 200 years ago at Bagber, in North Dorset, into a large and poor subsistence-farming family. He left school aged 13 to become a solicitor's clerk, and embarked on a long and ambitious programme of self-education, becoming proficient in the sciences, arts, languages, and, above all, literature, especially his great vocation of poetry. In 1823, Barnes founded a school in Mere, Wiltshire, followed by another in 1827 after his marriage to Julia Miles. Following the birth of their eldest children, the couple moved to Dorchester where they continued to run schools, allowing Barnes to study as a 'ten-year-man' for an external degree from St John's College, Cambridge. He graduated and was ordained in 1850, having been curate of Whitcombe for the previous three years. In 1852, his 'beloved Julia' died of cancer, and the school went into a rapid decline. From 1862, Barnes was rector of Winterborne Came, near Dorchester, until his death in 1886. Barnes was a lyrical but realist poet, whose subjects and language came directly from his own experience. He wrote in two tongues, 'National English', (ie Standard English), and Dorset dialect, as in "birds do hush their zingen" and "cloudless zunseen", both from *Linden Lea*, famously set to music last century by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Barnes also proposed a 'purified language', with words of Latin or French origin substituted by Anglo-Saxon equivalents, such as "birdlore" for "ornithology" and "moonmad" for "lunatic". If he'd had his way, this *Alkham Monthly Newsletter* "centenary edition" might translate as "hundredth givewords."
(Steve Osborn)

THE ALKHAM VALLEY

Garden Centre, incorporating Southern Equestrian Supplies and country clothing wish to invite you to their Christmas weekend on the 8th and 9th of December. Southern Equestrian Supplies have a wide range of equestrian products for horse and rider; feed supplements are also available – livestock feed available to order. Over the Christmas weekend, Southern Equestrian is offering discounts on various items and a free raffle. The Garden Centre boasts a wide variety of Christmas gifts and garden pots * look out for their customer loyalty discount cards!! Open Monday – Sunday 9.00 am to 5.30 pm. For the Garden Centre telephone 01303 893351 and for Southern Equestrian Supplies telephone 01303 891996.
(Debbie Holliman)

MILLENNIUM SEAT

John Huggins has kindly offered to do the groundwork and supply the concrete base for the seat, which was bought for the Millennium. Because of this it can now go down on the green, rather than replace the one on the corner near the bus stop.

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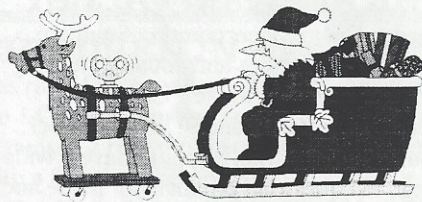
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Saturday	8	Carols and coffee morning in VH at 10.30 am - see page 1
Tuesday	11	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Monday	17	Garden Talk at The Vicarage at 7.30 pm
Monday	17	Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm
Thursday	20	D & D canine society in VH
Monday	31	New Year's Eve party in village hall 8.00 pm



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December 2 nd	Evensong 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
December 9 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	A Village Service at the Village Hall 'Preparing for Christmas' 11.00 am Evensong 4.0 pm
December 16 th	9 Lessons and Carols 6.30 pm	9 Lessons and Carols 10.00 am	
December 23 rd	Evensong 4.00 pm	Christmas at St Radigund's 11.00 am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
December 24 th	Blessing of the crib 6.00 pm	Midnight Mass 11.30 pm	
December 25 th	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am		Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
December 30 th			Joint Benefice 10.00 am

Weekday Services: Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday- Friday at 8.30 am, Evening Prayer at Hougham Wednesday at 5 pm and there is a Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am.

WELCOME – a welcome to the village is extended to Max and Jo Walker who have moved into Rectory Cottage – also to the new people who have moved into 3 Valley Cottages.

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