

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 101 January 2002

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DAVE WILKINS



Happy New Year

SLAVE AUCTION – To raise funds for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, a slave auction is going to be held in the village hall on the 23rd of February 2002. The idea is that people in the village will offer their services and these will then be auctioned, with the highest bidder winning.

Volunteers are therefore needed to be slaves for whatever time period they choose. Most people have got something to offer, such as doing gardening, cleaning, cooking, typing, sewing, driving, tuition of some variety, or any other activity that you can think of. Please ring either Helen Scopes on 822899 or Sue Lees on 822661 to offer your services. A man is shown on the right, as that was the only suitable graphic that I could find, but it is hoped that there will be good mix of both men and women volunteering to be slaves. **(Sue Lees/editor)**



CAPEL – for the first time a book on Capel's history has been published. Capel Parish Council decided the history of the parish was worth telling and Susan Lees took the project on. There are 136 pages full of history and with 159 photos worth reading at £7.50 per copy. Farms, airships, the war years, smuggling romance and murder. It's all there. Ring Sue Lees on 822661 to order your copy.

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HELP REQUIRED to work with horses 2 to 3 mornings per week. Please contact Wendy at Greenhill Farm, Meggett Lane or phone 01303 892056.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ, in aid of the Jubilee fund, will be held in the village hall on the 26th of January, starting at 7.30pm. Food will be supplied but it has been decided not to include drinks this year. The cost will be £4 per head and this will be collected on the night. **(editor)**

VILLAGE HALL – Karen Mears has accepted the position as caretaker to the village hall and will take over in a couple of month's time from Sue Lees. Thanks must go to (although she won't thank me) Sue Lees for doing such a splendid job over the years. **(editor)**

FETE COMMITTEE
On Thursday the 24th of January at 8.00 pm, the AGM of the Fete Committee is being held in the village hall. Everybody is welcome. Please come and support us. **(Paul Tapsell)**

FOREIGN COINS – Ockenden International, which is one of the few British charities in Afghanistan at the moment, would like any old currency, which you may have. It can be from any country and with the advent of the Euro in Europe some coins may become invalid. If you would like to donate any currency, coins or notes, please drop it in my local mail box at the top of the drive behind the Old Post Office. It will be bagged up and taken to a local bank. I understand there will also be a box at the church. **(editor)**

DONKEY RIDES and Carol Singing – what a seasonal morning with lovely handmade Christmas gifts to buy. Well supported by grandparents and grandchildren with a sprinkling of the very busy parent age group. It was a truly excellent morning with Helen dressed as Father Christmas leading Oliver the donkey giving children rides. The grand sum of £225 was raised for Cancer Research. **(Susan Lees)**

CAROL SINGERS – Five of our village teenagers, took it among themselves, to go out and about singing Christmas carols. When they came to me, I asked them who was going to benefit from their efforts? They sort of looked at each other, blank expressions on their faces. It was then said, they had rather dry and sore throats, so cough sweets would be rather nice. I then gave them a sort of lecture and suggested they thought of people less fortunate than themselves. Their smiling faces said 'what a good idea', they would donate it to the church, and off they went. The following morning, at approximately 8.30 am, David handed me this bag of money, saying they had collected £9.61, but his mum had made it up to ten pounds and would I please make sure it goes to Demelza. I think it is wonderful that David Beaney, Paul Reed, Joel and Holly Degrossa and Bethany Saunders, just five of our young village teenagers, listened to what I said and then thought of others before themselves. I am so proud of them. I have been told there is about £8 more to come. **(Tricia Wright)**

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Dover care and repair is a long established Home Improvement Agency giving advice to elderly (55 and over) and disabled homeowners regarding essential repairs, improvements or adaptations to their houses. There is a growing problem of disrepair in Britain's housing stock and this problem is particularly acute in private property occupied by elderly people. Older people spend much of their time at home and are vulnerable to the effects of damp, cold or lack of amenities. Surveys have shown that elderly people do not make full use of improvement grants where these are available. They do not always apply for the support to which they are entitled under the Welfare Benefits system. As a condition of funding Care & Repair must charge a fee for their services but the grants, which finance the cost of repair work, also meet the cost of fees incurred. Staff will advise on the extent of building works required, ways of financing the work, e.g. local authority grants, interest only loans etc, and will also check welfare benefit entitlement where appropriate. Reliable builders can be recommended for all sizes of jobs, from the replacement of guttering to major renovations and the Projects Technical Officer will supervise work through to completion. Dover Care & Repair will be happy to provide further details. Please phone Dover Care and Repair on 211551.

ALKHAM VALLEY

SOCIETY - AGM - In spite of the weather this was reasonably well supported. Mr. Paul Tapsell took the Chair and was re-elected as were the officers and members of the committee - Pamela Sayers Secretary, John Garlinge, Treasurer and committee Marion Banks-Nash, Mary Sullivan, William Rolfe and Ken Hammond. John Garlinge and his helpers were sincerely thanked by the Chairman for the good work they were carrying out hedge laying at Pimlico. Volunteers were requested for this and also for the Parish Council's Working Party on the 13th and 27th January to tidy up Chalksole Green Common. Questions were asked about the recent flooding in the village and what improvements had been carried out to avoid a recurrence. Susan Lees, Clerk to the Parish Council assured members that the dyke had been dug out by the authorities from The Garden Centre to Chilton Farm. It was hoped this would alleviate the problem considerably. The demolition of Hogbrook Barn was discussed and concern was expressed over the developers' planning application to construct six cottages, and also their planning application under appeal at the moment for the development of two houses. There were objections to both application both by the Parish Council and the Society. It would be possible to give verbal representation at the

EDITORIAL - The purpose of the Newsletter is to report what is going on in the village and not to give personal opinions, except when they relate to anonymous bodies like KCC and DDC. However, a parishioner brought me a note that he had written and on reading it, I agreed to publish the gist of the letter. He says that some people find it easier to go ahead with projects without consulting adjacent property owners, the Parish Council or the planning authority and then argue about it afterwards. The latter is made easier because there is no effective enforcement of planning requirements by DDC. It may be that some of the items to which he refers are not subject to planning constraints but he feels that just out of courtesy people should be told before works are begun. The Parish Council is aware that planning requirements have been ignored and have written on a number of occasions to DDC requesting that there is effective enforcement. DDC's response is that they do not have enough Enforcement Officers, so it is very difficult to monitor all planning breaches. The Parish Council was extremely irritated by this response and is taking the matter further. In summary, the letter effectively says that it would at the least be polite to let people know what is going on before carrying out works, which affect the parishioners of Alkham. (editor)

CENTRAL HEATING - The installation of gas central heating in the village hall is almost complete.

INTERACTIVE SPEED SIGNS - despite the posts being erected in July the speed detector signs have not yet been installed. I phoned SEEboard but they couldn't help and DDC appear to be out on site as there's only voice mail. Hopefully more news next month. (editor)

Committee meeting regarding the six cottages, and a Hearing on the Appeal was scheduled for January. As usual the Christmas Walk will be on the 27th December, meeting at 10.30 a.m. in the Village Car Park. Members, their friends and anyone else, including our faithful dogs are welcome to join in. Mr. Christopher Tapsell will be leading it. The meeting closed at 8.20 and an extremely interesting talk was given by Mrs. Johanna Westgate on Wildflowers, who illustrated the beauty and the benefits to nature of wild flowers in gardens, woods, fields and by water. (Pamela Sayers, Secretary)

THANKS go to Peter Chambers and Bill Rolfe for their generous donations to the Newsletter. (editor)

MRS SOUTHALL - several people have thought that I (as Secretary to the Village Hall) should write to the executors to thank Mrs Southall for her kind bequest of £5000 to the village hall. As Mrs Southall had no near relatives, I could see no point in writing to the solicitor acting as her executor, as his interest is purely pecuniary. Therefore, on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, I would like to express our gratitude to the memory of Mrs Southall for her very kind donation. (editor)

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NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S

A packed church enjoyed our pre-Christmas festival of nine lessons and carols to the full again this year. Hundreds of tiny candles lit the church thanks to Ken Hammond and team and the warmed mince pies (thanks to Sue Lees' microwave in the vestry) were as added bonus after the service. Many thanks to Betty Neely who organized the wine and Richard Tapsell and team who waited on us in our pews. Thanks especially to our musicians, singers, choirmaster and organist who led the service for us so well. As I write this piece we are just preparing for the Christmas weekend and then a break before our New Year festivities. A custom started in our benefice at the beginning of the millennium. It was the use of a special service at the first Eucharist (communion service) of the New Year to enable us to renew our commitment to God. We use the words of the Covenant Service, which comes from the Methodist Church and, for many it is a profoundly moving occasion, faced again with what it really means to follow the way of Christ and all too conscious of how we fall short. Come if you can. It's at

Capel on January the 6th. If you can't make it, then how about using the prayer on page 4 to start 2002. And don't forget we're holding another Candlemas Service at 7.00 pm on February the 1st (the night before feast day). It will be in the old St. Mary's church. Wrap up warm and bring a torch. A Very Happy New Year to you all. (Gill Calver)

W. I. REPORT - The shopping trip to Bluewater was eventually cancelled due to lack of numbers. Everyone enjoyed the Marlowe trip, many thanks to Cherry, and Doreen spoke of an enjoyable time at the Capel carol service. The next walk with Rosemary will now be in January. It was reported that the Christmas fete, complete once again with Oliver the Donkey, raised a wonderful £225 in aid of Cancer research. Betty and Kathy attended a meeting regarding the constitutional changes that are to take place soon. It was quite a complicated session, but one thing became clear, those ladies who have dual membership of institutes will only be able to vote at one branch of their choice. Subs are now due at a cost of £16.25. Mr Easdown then gave us a tour of Pleasure Piers in Britain. He was obviously very passionate about his subject and that came over in his talk. Many thanks to him for coming out on such a cold night.

OZ on CORVIDS - Every year around this time, I'm struck by the behaviour of crows, those "clever and resourceful birds", as I described them in the November 1999 Newsletter. Collectively, the crows, magpies and jays are known as 'corvids' from the family name *Corvidae*, which in turn comes from the Latin 'corvus' for raven. It's interesting to note that the Romans also used 'corvus' for a military grappling-hook, presumably from its resemblance to a raven's beak. Corvids comprise 107 distinct species, and are found worldwide, except in New Zealand. Currently, there is much research into whether corvids have a "theory of mind", bordering on self-awareness, that allows them to picture, and hence take advantage of, future situations. Henry Gee, in *The Guardian* on 22 November 2001, reported that: "One kind of crow has learned to drop nuts in front of the obliging tyres of trucks - but only on pedestrian crossings, so the crows can retrieve their dinner in relative safety." N J Emery and Nicki Clayton, a husband-and-wife team from Cambridge University, described in November's *Nature* journal how the corvids have extended this tool-using behaviour to manipulation of social situations. They have observed, across Europe and North America, that when some birds store food in full view of their rivals, they often return later, in private if possible, to move their caches elsewhere. In further experiments, Emery and Clayton showed that birds, which carry out cache switching, are those "with established criminal form", i.e. they have previous experience of raiding other birds' caches. The suggestion is that corvids can construct scenarios of the form "Now, what would I do, if I were him?" It's not surprising that science has found this trait in corvids, confirming the traditional view of them as thieves and mischief-makers. (Steve Osborn)

The Christmas meal over at Sandwich was a great success, the food was delicious and a good time was had by all. The January meeting will be a talk on "Health When Flying" by Ian McKensie. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. (Devina Bartlett)

CHRISTMAS

Now the weathers changing
The frost is first to call,
Then the gentle blanket snow
Will softly start to fall.

Once the land is covered white
And I'm all tucked up indoors,
I certainly count my blessings
I hope you too count yours.

I've hung the Christmas decorations
With holly on the wall,
To make a seasonal welcome
For all who care to call.

When I write out my Christmas list
For old friends and anew,
I never forget my precious pets
For they like presents too.

After a super Christmas lunch
With brandy or a stout,
I sit and relax on the sofa
For I'm truly all worn out.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas,
God luck and lots of cheer,
And hope you are, like myself
Looking forward to New Year.

(Margaret Ashman)

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 | 12 | Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776 |
| Tuesday | 15 | W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Thursday | 17 | Jubilee Committee meeting 7.30 pm in village hall |
| Saturday | 19 | SEK astronomical society in VH |
| Thursday | 24 | Fete Committee meeting in the village hall 8.00 pm |
| Saturday | 26 | Beekeepers in village hall |
| Saturday | 26 | Annual Quiz 7.30 pm in the village hall |

CHURCH SERVICES

| Day | Alkham | Capel | Hougham |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| January 6 th | Evensong 4.00 pm | Sung Eucharist Covenant Service 9.30 am | Worshipping together with Baptism 11.00 am |
| January 13 th | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Evensong 4.00 pm |
| January 20 th | Worshipping together with Baptism 11.00 am | Evensong 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am |
| January 27 th | Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist at St. Radigunds - Capel 10.00 am | | |

PRAYER (see page 3, News from St. Anthony's)

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you: let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and whole heartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen

SOUP KITCHEN - many thanks to the ladies who donated items and to those taking part. The response to last month's article for items for the soup kitchen was disappointing. Many people feel that the soup kitchen is taken advantage of by alcoholics, drug addicts and spongers. To a certain extent this is true but of the people who come to the portakabin in Dover, there are people who live rough and are genuinely in need. As it is the policy not to ask questions, anyone who comes to the soup kitchen can have soup, drinks and sandwiches and at least in this way the needy are served. There is no problem with refugees, as they don't come mainly because they are catered for elsewhere. If you can help, please leave any items in the box at Meadowside, behind the Old Post Office or at the church.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|---|---|
| Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397 | Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119 |
| Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704 | 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 |
| District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334 | Police - all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055 |
| | Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876 |
| | 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, 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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THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

We are going to have a jam packed weekend for you from the 1st to 4th of June this year, so make sure you keep this time free to join in the fun. But, and there is always a but, money will be needed to keep costs down. We have a very short time in which to raise the funds, so we hope you will all help in one way or another. The first fund raising activities are (i) the quiz on the 26th of January (ii) Jumble sale on the 9th of February – jumble received at 10 am, doors open 11 to 12pm (iii) slave auction on the 23rd of February. Watch out for more events in March. **NEEDED** – ideas for a long-term project to commemorate the occasion. Two ideas have been named to date. The first is to replace the more awkward and well used stiles with kissing gates, and the second is to plant a mature oak tree, site not chosen. The next Jubilee Committee meeting is on the 13th of February at 7.30 pm in the village hall. (Sue Lees)

SLAVE AUCTION on the 23rd of February in the village hall at 7.30 pm. This is a new event to the village and we hope, one you will enjoy. There will be a charge of £1 per person, bring your own drink with nibbles provided. You can inspect the slaves and look at the tasks they have offered to do, and then make your bid. **ANYONE WILLING TO PUT THEMSELVES IN CHAINS?** Please phone either 822661 or 822688 to offer your services. (Sue Lees)

CAPEL BOOK – the excellent book by Susan Lees about Capel-le-ferne is available for purchase from the author at a cost of £7.50. Please phone 822661 or pop round to Forstal Cottage by the Marquis of Granby and see her.

DELIVERY -- Would any dog walker/walker be willing to deliver 9 Newsletters on a two mile hilly circuit, starting and finishing in Alkham? If you would like to help, please give me a ring on 824969. (editor)

HELP WANTED - A very busy couple are seeking reliable and experienced help at their home in the centre of the village. It's an old characterful house and they need someone to do regular cleaning and general housework. They also need ironing to be done, but this could be a separate role if necessary. Also, once the spring arrives they need someone to mow lawns. Anyone interested in any of the tasks should call Peter or Denni on 820067.

EWELL MINNIS – High Quality Lifestyle Ltd. have confirmed that they do not intend to use Upper West Hill Farm. It is being refurbished and has been put up for sale. George Tyler, Parish Council Chairman, confirmed that all the items raised by Mrs Neve at the Council meeting on the 5th of November had been addressed. (editor)

SKIP LORRY – evidently a council skip lorry goes once a month to River and Capel etc. to pick up bulk waste. DDC are to be approached to provide this facility at Alkham. Also the bars at the waste centres are to be raised 150mm.

INTERACTIVE SPEED SIGNS – DDC are acting as agents for KCC and the latter have been waiting for SEEboard to install the power supply. I understand that one of the speed signs should be in position by the time you read this and the other will be when SEEboard have done their work. It's a great pity that the works have been delayed by one company for so long. Alan Ross of KCC is in charge of the project and on past experience is very conscientious and I've no doubt he's trying his best to resolve the situation. (editor)

GRASS CUTTING - We are looking for someone to take on the job of cutting the churchyard grass. The requirement is to cut and clear the total area of the churchyard during the month of July. The request is open to individuals or a contractor. Anyone interested is asked to contact either David Tapsell on 822282 or Richard Tapsell on 822295 or Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082 so we can meet to discuss proposals including payment.

PRECEPT is the amount that the Parish Council obtains from the District Council for parish activities. The Parish Council discussed the required precept for the next financial year and decided that because of increased costs the precept should be increased by £1000 to £6500.

FOREIGN MONEY – The appeal for old European Community money for help with an Afghanistan charity has been quite successful to date. We received French, Belgian and Swiss francs, German marks, lira, guilders, schillings, pesetas, escudos and drachma. In addition there were coins from the USA, Cyprus and Israel plus various coins, which were undecipherable. At a rough count, I think there was about £70's worth of coin and notes at exchange rate value. Having sorted out all the coins I'm now a great fan of the Euro in mainland Europe. The collection will continue, so please drop any coins in my local mail box or leave at the church. (editor)

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Wheel Chair Access

proposals (Newlyns Meadow was cited as an example). Because of his bias he passed the chair to Neil Burrows. Neil said that we should be realistic and that the approval for six houses would probably go through at the next planning meeting. He went on to say that in the latest proposal (5 houses), the architect had reduced the roof height by a metre and dropped the base level by half a metre into the ground (Colin Griggs later said this was a flood waiting to happen). The eaves height had also been dropped by two thirds of a metre. The houses are within the revised village boundary but the car parking is outside. The meeting was then opened to the audience. Mark Robson (adjoining property) said he was concerned about loss of light and thought the height of the properties totally inappropriate. Larry Lambourne asked about the status of the first planning application for two houses. It was confirmed that this was subject to appeal, with a decision in the next 4 weeks, so the latest proposals could be superseded by the decision. Pam Sayers was concerned about the skylights; these have now been angled so that only sky can be seen. There was justified concern that the loft space would be turned into a further room with dormer windows. Various other comments were made about noise, intrusion and sewage disposal. The Highway Authority had objected to the two house development but not the terrace of 6, which was thought nonsense. When Newlyn's Meadow was proposed they wouldn't allow an access off Hogbrook Lane but now they would, for possibly 12 cars plus visitors. Stephen Comfort expressed concern about the high television aerial masts which would be needed to gain a signal. The Parish Council then voted on the latest proposal with 4 against and one abstention. The Council will object on the grounds of height, noise, traffic, cars and parking outside the village envelope, dustbins, skylights, sewage and TV aerials. (editor)

CHALKSOLE GREEN is now looking a bit better. On the 13th of January a working party got stuck in and cleared trees and branches left when the previous tidy up took place. A couple of people had rightfully complained that they couldn't get on the green because of the mass of material blocking the entrance at the Chalksole end. This gap has now been cleared and all the wood burnt on a large bonfire, which finally got to working temperature by applying age old techniques (sic). Thanks must go to Colin Griggs for organizing it and to Ron Smith, Mike Rook, me (I suppose) and Paul Tapsell (plus young James) for clearing some of the site. There will be another working party on Sunday the 27th of January, so please come along at about 10.00 am. for a couple of hours. It is our official village green, so please do use it. (editor)

OFF ROAD VEHICLES –

At the Parish Council meeting Kevin Elks, who lives on Pimlico Way, raised the subject of off road vehicles. The previous weekend, various four wheel drive vehicles had gone up Pimlico Way to get to the farm land overlooking South Alkham, to do

some off road driving. He said that he had spent over £1000 laying tarmac strips from Slip Lane up to his house and resented the damage which these vehicles could do. They then proceed along Pimlico Way leaving deep ruts. He said he had no objection to lots of horses, dogs and walkers using the bridleway but could anything be done to stop vehicles? George Tyler said he was aware of the problem but there was nothing the council could do, as by an inherited right, any vehicles could use Pimlico Way. He said that he would get Barbara Andrews, the KCC footpath officer, to come out and walk the route to see the damage which had been done. Paul Tapsell said that he suffered similar problems at the other end of Pimlico Way at South Alkham and said that if DDC were phoned they would send out an officer to make sure no mud was taken onto the road. Neil Burrows said that the Countryside Right of Way Act was out to consultation and this should close the loophole, but not for a couple of years. Somebody had suggested contacting the police but because it was thought that one of the off road drivers was a policeman, there seemed little point. (editor)

HOGBROOK BARN – The Parish Council organised a meeting on the 16th of January for parishioners to express their views on the various planning applications made for the development of the barn, which was part of Hogbrook farm. The meeting was well attended with 18 parishioners studying the latest plans for a terrace of five houses. George Tyler started the proceedings and said that there had been a meeting with the planning authority on site regarding the previous proposal for a terrace of 6 houses. Two were in favour, two against and one abstained. The same happened at the full planning meeting with the vote split down the middle. The Chairman said that he would defer the decision for a month so the for's and against's could think further on the matter. George Tyler went on to say that if tonight's meeting voted in favour of a terrace of 5 houses and planning permission was ultimately given, experience showed that some developers then changed their

E-mail- please note, I have had to change my e-mail address because of multiple spam (800), and it is now brian@alkham50.freemove.co.uk (editor)

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NEWS FROM ST

ANTHONY'S – Those of you who look forward to the occasions when we hold a service in the old St. Mary's church (off the road between Alkham and Capel) will be glad to hear that we'll be there again on February the 1st. We shall once again be celebrating Candlemas at an evening service, so don't forget your torch. The box for the foreign currency, superseded by the Euro, will be in the church until the end of February. So sort out any loose change you've still got. It will be sent, with that of other churches to the charity 'Ockenden International' which helps displaced people especially in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and the Sudan. Finally 'thank you' to all of you who sent me cards, visited me and prayed for me, during the recent spell in the William Harvey Hospital for surgery on my knee. The walk up to St. Anthony's is proving excellent physiotherapy as I get back into working order. (Gill Calver)

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

The Parish Council are keen for Alkham to be entered in the competition again. Sue Lees and I will do Community Life but would anyone fancy doing the Environmental category? The main reason for wanting to enter is that the churchyard has been praised by Kent Wildlife Trust. It is only cut once a year and plants flourish. We also score well on recycling facilities. If you'd like help please give me a ring on 824969 or send me an e-mail. (editor)

OZ on QUIZZES

- It's winter again, the Wine and Wisdom season. Writing in 1941, in his essay *The Lion and the Unicorn*, George Orwell described England as "a nation of stamp-collectors, pigeon-fanciers, amateur carpenters, coupon-snippers, darts-players, crossword-puzzle fans", to which he might well have added "quiz competitors". The quiz is long established as an educational and recreational device. Mr Gradgrind, in Dickens's *Hard Times* (1854), declared that "...what I want is Facts...facts alone are wanted in life." Later, in the 1890's, the two great literary quizzes, *Nemo's Almanac* and *Hide and Seek*, were established to encourage and entertain students in close reading of texts. During the 20th century, the rise of universal education combined, first with radio to produce such programmes as *Have a Go* and *Twenty Questions*, and then with television, resulting in *64,000 Dollar Question*, *Double Your Money*, and, more recently, *15-1*, *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, and *The Weakest Link*. The last decade has seen the growth of the Wine and Wisdom quiz as an important part of community life, in which several strands may be detected. The provision of food and drink often reflects the pattern of the American Supper of thirty years ago, enlivened by today's easier access to alcohol in the supermarkets. Also important is the availability of personal computer technology, enabling quiz setters to research information rapidly and to organise the paperwork. But above all the Wine and Wisdom quiz is an outlet for controlled competitive aggression. Orwell's essay continues, "All the culture that is most truly native centres round things which even when they are communal are not official - the pub, the football match, the back garden, the fireside and the nice cup of tea"; to which we should perhaps now add "the wine and wisdom quiz". (Steve Osborn)

W.I. NEWS

- Ian McKenzie gave us a very interesting talk on the health side of flying. It became apparent that there is a lot we take for granted when we board an aircraft. The oxygen levels and air pressure are all designed to keep us comfortable and safe at high altitudes. However, the onus is on us to be reasonably fit before attempting a flight and there are some extra precautions that we should take. Our luggage should include nasal decongestant for blocked sinuses, support tights against DVT, we should drink copious amounts of water, swallow and yawn a lot, walk up and down as much as possible and allow screaming babies to do so, in order to keep their ear pressure safe. If you survive all this, you should have a good holiday! Members are reminded that this year's subs are now due. Jobs for the year have all been re-allocated to the same ladies as last year and the previous centuries before! (Devina Bartlett)

COUNTRY FILE

- During these winter months and when the countryside is in its dormant state, I wonder if the following statement would mean anything to you. What grows overnight and then stays still? One would only have to look round the lanes and footpaths to soon find the answer. I think of course, if you had not guessed already, it is the dumpers or fly tippers (to give them the modern name) from vehicles, garden waste, household goods and building materials. These individuals load their vehicles with

unwanted items, and as we have all seen at various times, deposit it in any secluded spot, be it hedgerow, gateway, field or lay by, usually under the cover of darkness, then return home feeling that's out of my way! It makes one wonder how much disregard these people have for the countryside. Unfortunately it's then left to the landowners or the District Council to clear up behind them. Weather-wise, although we have had rainy times just lately, it's worth mentioning how dry the last two months have been. Last November and December rainfall only amounted to 3.75ins. (9mm), which is less than 50% normal for the time of year? Compare it with the same period last year, when we were in the middle of that deluge, when 10.20ins. (255mm) fell. Then just to remind us that we do still have seasonal weather, at the turn of the year we had eight days of frosts with temperatures down to minus 4. The gardeners and farmers among us were very grateful as this does a lot of good in different ways, from checking diseases, killing off bugs etc. and especially helps break up the soil, that's if you have managed to get it turned over in time! (Keith)

This article is written for 'Grapevine', which is the Newsletter for Capel, and because there is a family connection with the village, I hope to include it each month, space permitting.

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 | 2 | Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776 |
| Wednesday | 6 | Garden Talk at 8A Newlyn's Meadow at 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 9 | Jumble sale in village hall in aid of Jubilee fund at 11.00 am |
| Tuesday | 12 | W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Wednesday | 13 | Jubilee Committee meeting - see page 1 |
| Monday | 18 | Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 23 | Beekeepers in VH |
| Saturday | 23 | Slave Auction - see page 1 |

CHURCH SERVICES

| Day | Alkham | Capel | Hougham |
|--|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| February 3 rd | Evensong 4.00 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am |
| February 10 th | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Evensong 4.00 pm |
| Wednesday February 13 th | CAPEL ST. RADIGUND'S ASH WEDNESDAY EUCARIST 7.30 pm | | |
| February 17 th | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Evensong 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am |
| February 24 th | ALKHAM Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist 10.00 am | | |

GARDEN CLUB - Belated thanks to Ian and Lucy for hosting the December meeting and providing us with pre-Christmas goodies and mulled wine on a grand scale. The entertainment was fun, (guessing items sewn into bags), and raised a few laughs, particularly the oxo cube! Thanks to Fiona for the game of Jack Straws. The next meeting will be held at Debbie and Marks, 8A Newlands Meadow, on February 6th at 7.30pm. (Devina Bartlett)

ALKHAM CARDS - You are probably aware that Margaret Knowles has, over the years, drawn some wonderful pen and ink drawings of features around Alkham, which have been copied onto cards. I understand that following the recent sale of these cards, she has put £100 into the Church Fabric Fund. Margaret is to be congratulated for producing such wonderful cards and also for passing on the profits to the church. If you want to see any of these cards, I understand they are on sale at the Garden Centre and in St. Anthony's church or failing that, contact Margaret herself. (editor)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 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@alkham50.freereserve.co.uk | 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.freereserve.co.uk | Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876 |
| | 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 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, 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, 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 |
| SLADDEN FARM | Phone 825188 | |
| VEHICLES | Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone | 53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212 |

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ALKHAM GOES ONLINE - Following a discussion with Sue Lees and Brian Wimsett we thought it was about time Alkham was brought into the 21st century, so we have set up a web site for Alkham. If you have Internet access you will find us on, www.alkham.info. Sorting this out has been an intense learning experience for Vince and myself. As you may know, web design is very expensive and so is web space. We have saved a huge amount of money by buying the name [alkham.info](http://www.alkham.info) as soon as it was launched (£37.50 for two years!). Vince has donated the web space and by doing the artwork ourselves we have probably saved at least another £200.00. The only thing we have had to pay for is the name, the software for the scripting and a small sum paid to the professional to finalise and upload the whole thing. Final start-up figures will be available in a few weeks to anyone interested. We would be very interested in your opinions, comments and suggestions. We do have a few sponsors but we need more to keep the site running. Any profit made from this venture will be ploughed back into the village. *(Debbie Saunders) I have accessed the site and it really is terrific. Debbie and Vince are to be congratulated on their achievement. (editor)*

EASTER COFFEE MORNING on the 30th of March from 10.30 am at the Willows, Slip Lane, home of Helen and Cal Scopes. Look out for the girls selling Easter egg raffle tickets at your door prior to the coffee morning. All profits will go to the Jubilee fund.

GWYN PROSSER MP will be holding a surgery in the village hall on the 8th of March from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.

QUIZ - tables are still available for the quiz run by Mike Stevens from Thanet Radio on the 23rd of March. Please phone 824876 to book.

BYGONE DAYS ON EWELL MINNIS

I would like to thank Bill and Sarah Roberts for allowing me to visit them and talking to me about Ewell Minnis as it was when Bill was a boy. I spent about two hours quite spellbound, talking to them. Bill's memory is quite amazing and as he is probably one of the oldest residents on the Minnis it was a privilege to talk to him. He agreed that I could make notes to pass on to Sue Lees so eventually she can use them in a new updated book on Alkham and Ewell Minnis. If anyone else has memories they would like to pass on to myself (Pauline Boy) or Sue Lees we would love to hear from them. (Pauline Hoy - 828007)

POST BOX - It was probably a combination of the postman and me getting on to Melven Kirby, who farms at Chalksole, that he very kindly installed a post box on his farm gate. Unfortunately his bull leant against it, so we are now back to using the cat flap. (editor)

PLANNING PERMISSION

The original planning application for two houses on the site of the barn adjacent to Hogbrook farmhouse was approved at appeal. The developer also revised the 5 terrace house proposal and this was approved by Dover District Council before the Parish Council could comment on it. A meeting was held in the village hall on the 11th of February to discuss the matter, which several local residents attended. The Parish Council has written to the Complaints Officer at DDC with regard to the passing of the terrace proposal. (editor)

GREEN LEARNING

As part of the White Cliffs Countryside Project, there is a chance to find out about hedge laying at Sladden Farm. If you are interested, please go there on the 3rd of March at 10.20 am and join in with the group. There are many other activities; please ring me on 824969 for a leaflet. (editor)

STEVE LUXTON - I'm very sorry to report that Steve Luxton died in the Pilgrim's Hospice on the 17th of February at 10.30 am, where he had been for three weeks. He was born in 1946 and was the brother of Cherry Leppard. They moved with their parents from Enfield to Alkham when they bought the Post Office Stores, the house I now live in. His father, John was a neighbour of mine for some years and Steve became a good and generous friend. Sympathy goes to his family and friends. (editor)

GRASS CUTTING

There was no response to last month's appeal so I'm reprinting it. The requirement is to cut and clear the total area of the church yard during the month of July. The request is open to individuals or a contractor. Anyone interested is asked to contact either David Tapsell on 822282 or Richard Tapsell on 822295 or Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082 so we can meet to discuss proposals including payment.

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GARDENTALK - We had a most enjoyable meeting, held at Mark and Debbie's home, in February. Our hosts had prepared a plan of their garden for us to try our hands at garden design and for them to get some fresh ideas. A good time was had by all, thank you for a lovely evening. The next meeting will be at "The Willows" on Friday 12th April at 7.30pm.

(Susannah Tapsell)

THE PINES GARDEN & St. Margaret's Museum can be found by taking the A258 to Deal and turning off, through St. Margaret's to Beach Road. The magnificent gardens were created in the early 1970's and look spectacular in Spring. The gardens are open through the year from 10.00 am to 5.30 pm, entry £2 and the museum £1. Children go free on the weekends between the 23rd of March and 14th of April. Phone 852764 or 851737.

INTERACTIVE SPEED SIGNS

- As most villagers will have seen the speed signs have been put up at either side of the village. The one on the Folkestone side has yet to get an electrical supply. It was expected that the signs would show the speed of the vehicles but it looks as though they just flash 30 mph. When the Dover one was flashing it did have a marked effect on driver's speed as did the Folkestone one, as with no power it looks like a speed camera.

ACCIDENT - In January, a schoolboy was hit by a car after he overbalanced and fell forward onto the Alkham Valley Road opposite the bottom of Slip Lane. Fortunately he suffered only cuts and bruises but was obviously badly shocked. Children play on the swings and horse before crossing the road to board the school bus and this is when the accident occurred.

ACCIDENT - On the 15th of February a car was pulling out of Slip Lane onto the Alkham Valley Road when a security van, carrying money, came through the gap between Forstall Cottage and Martinvale. The van braked sharply, lost control, hit the wall and overturned. As I understand it there were no injuries but several people suffered from shock, especially the lady driver of the car.

POLICE - The police response to the above two incidents is worthy of mention. Just after the child was hit by the car, I came out of the drive with my dog and I saw three or four people standing on the pavement with a car parked by the side of the road and traffic flowing smoothly in both directions. There appeared to be room for an ambulance to park in front. When I returned from the walk, there were a number of police cars and the traffic was at a halt. With regard to the other accident, just after the van had turned over, I drove out of Slip Lane. The van was across the road but traffic was being controlled by two villagers with alternate flow of vehicles. It was abundantly clear that there was no threat of robbery. Shortly after this I understand a number of police cars arrived. According to one eye witness a late arrival made an entrance like an excerpt from the Sweeney. One police car later went at high speed round the village car park and disappeared past the Marquis to presumably stop vehicles at the Folkestone end. Going through the village at a safe speed would have added 30 seconds to the journey caused by a non life threatening incident. It would appear that on both occasions there was a lack of communication from the first officers on the scene as to what the situation was. (editor)

NEWSLETTER - Many thanks to Peter Mercer for volunteering to deliver the Newsletters around the hilly circuit to the south of the village. Also thanks to Helen Price, Diana Crockford and Clive Batchelor for also volunteering. (editor)

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

- It has been decided to concentrate our village entry this year on the Environmental Section as we do quite well in most categories. We have a pond warden and the recently puddled pond at Chalksole, John Garlinge and his merry men doing some hedge laying and Bethany Saunders with Carla Saltmer concentrating on the church yard. We have nothing to put in the 'Transport Issues' section, so if you have any information with regard to the use of bicycles, 'walking bus', car sharing or something on the bus service please give me a ring on 824969. (editor)

BENCH & BIN

Thanks go to John Huggins for getting his firm to place the concrete and then fix the Millennium seat and new waste bin by the car park on the village green. There was probably a day's work involved and this saved the Parish Council quite a lot of money. (editor)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY

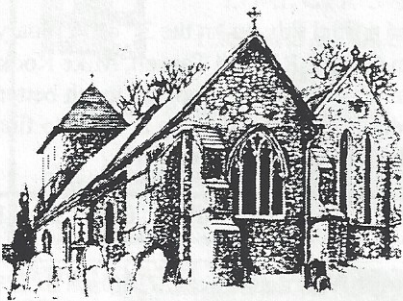
will present a very special performance of J S Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* at 7.30pm on Saturday 23 March in Dover Town Hall. It will be a semi-dramatic production with Kent Opera baritone John Hancorn singing and acting the role of Jesus. Especially dramatic will be the confrontation between Jesus and Pilate (sung by local bass Philip Spendley), with the Crowd, i.e. the Choral Society, dressed in everyday clothes, not their usual 'black and whites', shouting 'Let him be crucified!' The score is the new English translation by the celebrated tenor Neil Jenkins, and we are privileged in having Neil himself to sing the part of the Evangelist. It will also be a great joy to welcome back international soprano soloist Mary Seers who was born and educated in Dover. Two fine local singers, June Woodland (contralto) and Paul Young (tenor) complete the line-up of soloists. The performance will be accompanied as usual by the Connaught Orchestra led by George Simpson, and conducted by Michael Foad. Tickets £8 (Children £4) are now available from Dover Town Hall, The Music Box in Maison Dieu Road, and members of Dover Choral Society; also - if there are any left - at the door on the night. This work is one of the most sublime pieces of music ever composed - do come and hear it! For further information ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

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NEWS FROM ST.

ANTHONY'S – Mothering Sunday in Alkham will be marked once again by a 3.00 pm service in church where flowers will be given to all mothers attending. This will, as usual, be followed by afternoon tea in the village hall. Do join us, with those of all ages from your family, on this happy occasion. During Holy Week and Easter we try to use all three churches, which make up our benefice in a series of services. In recent years some people have found the journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Day has been well marked by an hour taken out each night to meditate in a different way on Jesus passion. Once again Frank Conley will be leading us in a musical meditation at St. Anthony's on the evening of Tuesday the 26th of March at 7.30 pm. On Monday, our deacon Ken Pilgrim will lead a meditation at St. Radigund's, Capel and on Wednesday Tony Elcombe, our Reader, will lead us at St. Laurence's at Hougham. Our Maundy

Thursday service will also be at Hougham. All these chances to step aside and be still will start at 7.30 pm ... and on Good Friday we have the Diocesan Leader of 'Weeks of Guided Prayer' coming to lead us in an hour's meditation at St. Radigund's from 2 to 3 pm. Our Easter celebration at Alkham will be at 6.30 pm on Easter Day. I do hope something from this programme will enable you to join us. Have a very Happy Easter. (Gill Calver)

W.I. NEWS - Ian Smith-Biggs gave us a very interesting talk on his career as an artist, starting in Scotland and after some interruption, i.e. the war, he eventually made his way south. He is obviously very passionate about his subject and that came through in his talk. He had the very great honour of meeting two of the world's best known artists, namely Salvador Dali and Picasso. He is very committed to the Alkham Art Group, which meets on a Tuesday. He extended an invitation to anyone who would like to join in, or at least see the members and their work, to come down to the Village Hall and have a look. The summer outing was discussed, but as yet a decision has not been made. The options are a trip through the tunnel to Boulogne or a return visit to Groombridge, which is always popular. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday March 12th at 7.30pm. The theme will be the Story of English Cheeses. (Devina Bartlett)

OZ on BIRDWATCH – Last autumn, we joined Garden BirdWatch, a project organised by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Thousands of amateur volunteers collect data on wild birds in their gardens for use by BTO in influencing decisions on conservation and protection issues. The discipline of observing and recording produces some unexpected insights. For example, we assumed that, when the clocks go back in October, birds flock into the garden looking for peanuts. Not so – as Derwent May pointed out recently in the *Times*, summer fruits last well into winter, and the most difficult months are February and March. James Fisher took the view that really hard winters, putting food sources outside foraging range, occur on average eight times in a century. Fisher quoted the Reverend Gilbert White on one such, the famous frost of January 1776, when “skylarks settled in the streets because they saw the ground was bare...rooks frequented dunghills close to houses.” More recently, Fisher was quoted as saying that over half the birds living in the country before December 1962 were dead after the end of the terrible winter that followed. Richard Fitter estimated that, during that winter, British housewives saved at least a million birds by feeding them in gardens. On a radio programme, Fisher once asked listeners directly “Why do you feed the birds?” The consensus seemed to be “Somebody's got to do it.” As Fisher summarised, “people feel their duties pressingly, and so deeply, that to them the birds are “their” wild birds like family dogs and cats. It is a dignified acceptance that humans adopt from early childhood, without much sentimentality. People just *do it*.” Readers who wish to just do it, and record it, should write to Garden BirdWatch, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford IP24 2PU, or 'phone 01842 750050. (Steve Osborn)

COUNTRY FILE - Although we have had a few colder days lately, how noticeable it's been, so far this year, seeing the bulbs and plants flowering early, brought about by a lengthy mild spell since early in the new year. Now as we near the end of the short month of February, the days are getting noticeably longer, and the birds sounding their cheerful notes, one does anticipate that spring cannot be far away. Talking of birds, I wonder if those of us who keep a fish pond in the garden have counted the fish lately, because in several different locations a heron has been seen lurking. These birds are noted for taking fish from ponds and no doubt awaiting the opportunity to test out any vulnerable ponds which haven't been guarded. These large birds are not that common in this part of the countryside, but around the lakes notably along the Alkham valley, they can be seen more often. Weather wise, looking back to last November and up until mid January, we had an exceptionally quiet period of weather, where winds were mostly light, which is unusual for this time of year, normally strong to gale force wind at this time are common, but nature has a habit of evening itself out, as the first two weeks of February proved, because the S.W wind blew strong to gale force nearly all the time. Rainfall total for the last four weeks amounted to 3.55ins (88mm) which is slightly above average. (Keith)

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 | 2 | Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776 |
| Monday | 4 | Parish Council meeting in the VH at 7.30pm - all welcome |
| Friday | 8 | Gwyn Prosser MP surgery in VH from 10.00 to 12.00 pm |
| Saturday | 9 | Jumble sale in village hall in aid of W.I. funds at 11.00 am |
| Sunday | 10 | Mothering Sunday tea in VH see page 3 |
| Tuesday | 12 | W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 16 | SEKAS in village hall |
| Monday | 18 | Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 23 | Quiz in VH at 7.30pm - see P1 |
| Tuesday | 26 | Jubilee committee 7.30 in VH |
| Saturday | 30 | Coffee morning - see page 1 |
| Saturday | 30 | Beekeepers in village hall |

CHURCH SERVICES

| Day | Alkham | Capel | Hougham |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|
| March 3 rd Lent 3 | Evensong 4.00 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am |
| March 10 th Mothering Sunday (Lent4) | Mothering Sunday Service followed by tea in the village hall at 3.00 pm | Mothering Sunday service 11.00 am | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am |
| March 17 th Lent 5 | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Evensong 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am |
| March 24 th Palm Sunday | Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund's, Capel 10.00 am | | |
| March 28 th Maundy Thursday | Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Laurence, Hougham 7.30 pm | | |
| March 29 th Good Friday | The Last Hour on the Cross St Radigund's, Capel 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm | | |
| March 31 st EASTER SUNDAY | Sung Eucharist 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 11.00 am | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am |

Weekday Services Morning Prayer, Capel Monday - Friday 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham at 5 pm and Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am

CHALKSOLE GREEN had a final tidy up on the 3rd of February with a working party comprising Colin Griggs, Richard Tapsell, Mike Rook, George Tyler, Paul Tapsell and son James plus me. It's looking much better and James planted a small tree. Sue Lees is currently looking at maps to find how the common land went from Alkham to Chalksole. (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@alkham50.freeserve.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.freeserve.co.uk |
| | Police - all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055 |
| | Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876 |
| | Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688 |

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| ACCOUNTANCY | John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services | 18 Newlyn's Meadow 824201 |
| ARBORICULTURE | Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance & removal | Wolverton 824853 & 07973 5013 |
| 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 |
| EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES | Alkham Valley Garden Centre - everything for horse and rider | South Alkham 01303 891996 |
| 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, 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 |
| 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 |
| SLADDEN FARM | | Phone 825188 |
| VEHICLES | Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone | 53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212 |

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

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ALAN MINTER the World Middleweight boxing champion in 1980 has agreed to open the fete this year. Great news.

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR – This year's entry for Alkham has been submitted in the Environmental Action section. This covers the natural environment, conservation, waste, transport and education. (editor)

GOLDEN JUBILEE - Regardless of the public's opinion of the Royal Family, the Queen inherited the thankless task of wearing the Crown fifty years ago, and she has carried out the task to the best of her ability. We should support the Queen, respect her wishes and try to celebrate the past fifty years. It is towards this end that a committee of 10 women and 1 brave man has set out to give everyone in Alkham Parish a chance to join in the festivities and enjoy the first weekend in June. It is not easy to whip up enthusiasm, because we have only just finished fund raising for the Millennium. We aim to provide even more entertainment on this occasion, and hope the sun will shine this time. It is hard to believe, but the committee has raised £1386 since the 26th of January. This money will go a long way to pay for the fun and games planned for the four days 1-4 June, however, we aim to raise more money, and your support at the following functions would be appreciated. **Spring Quiz 23rd March**, Village Hall 7.30pm (01304 824876); **Easter Coffee Morning at The Willows**, home of Helen & Cal Scopes 30th March 10.30 am; **Coffee Morning at 6 Glebelands**, home of Lou and Steve Matcham 4th May 10.30 am; **Boot Fair 6th May**, details next month; **Ploughman's Lunch 18th May**, Village Hall, details next month. Any other suggestions? (01304 822661 or 01304 822688) (Susan Lees)

BUSES – KCC and DDC with funding from the Rural Challenge scheme have set up Dart Kent Karrier. This is a Dial a Ride bus service for people in rural areas who live more than 500 metres from a bus service and those with mobility impairment irrespective of where they live. You have to pay £5 to join the scheme and then pay £2.20 return no matter where you live around Alkham. The service is on Fridays and goes to Dover urban or central plus Whitfield Tesco. To join or Dial a Ride phone 209660 or for more information phone 01622 605349 and speak to Mick Barnard. (editor)

THE SLAVE AUCTION

Was it the name of the event, which put you off attending? We do hope not, because the 38 adults and 10 youngsters thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Paul Tapsell, despite looking like a priest in the Dover Express photo, made an excellent auctioneer. The first slave was Matthew Elliot bedecked with chain around his neck and a ball and chain around his ankle, being dragged across the floor by his

father, who offered him to clean someone's car. The auction was not only for slaves, but for the many generous gifts donated by local business men, and other people - steam clean carpet (John Hoy), an Acer tree (Peter Davis), three pet beds (Alkhamhurst Kennels), tea for two (the Barn Tea Rooms), a car valet and in addition a school run in a Rolls (George Tyler), a juicy rib of beef (Sladden Farm) a family ticket to Dover Castle (English Heritage), and two green fees for Sene Valley Golf Course — wish you had been there? The grand total raised at the event was £724. Thank you for the support. (Susan Lees)

A LOCAL – After attending the Slave Auction, I was pleased to have bid for a number of services and helped financially towards the village. But alas, apart from two of my bids, not one person has come forward to arrange their slavery. I feel very disappointed by this because if I make a promise, I try my hardest to keep it. (The Local)

AMERICAN SUPPER

An American Supper will be held in the village hall on the 13th of April at 8.00 pm with profits going to Meningitis Research. There will be live music provided by 'Cut Loose' who play 60's style music and folk music. The entrance charge is £5.50 and you should bring your own food and drink. Please phone 824340 to reserve your tickets. (Anne Huggins)

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

– This is not a Parish Council meeting but a meeting for parishioners to express views on anything in the parish. Please do come along to the village hall on the 29th of April at 7.30 pm and have your say. There is normally a speaker who gives a short talk on some topic and at the moment we don't have one. If you have any suggestions please phone the Parish Clerk on 822661.

SWINGS – Thanks go to Mike Kingston for overhauling the swings on the village green and replacing all the 'U' bolts. A replacement seat has been ordered.

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Manager

Mr. Mike Hands

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Private Chapels of Rest

Victor Prescott 1919-2002 - We are sad to report the death of Vic Prescott of Sunaryse, Meggett Lane, South Alkham on 17 January. Vic was born on 16 August 1919 at Chart House, South Alkham, the fourth of seven children of Ted and Frances Prescott. Vic attended Alkham School and left at the age of 14 to start work on local farms and at the Hawkinge brick fields. Ted Prescott took over sole ownership of South Alkham Farm when his brother, Tom, moved to Densole. At this time, Vic came to work on the family farm and did so until his retirement and the sale of the property in 1984. This was the first time that the 49-acre farm had been on the market for 75 years. Vic was well known as a local character who upheld traditional farming practices. He had two working Shire horses, Prince and Duke, long after tractors were the norm and milked his dairy cows by hand morning and night every day of the year until he retired. He was also renowned for his thatched corn stacks and the 'dollies' that adorned their conical roofs. Those who knew Vic well will remember him as a true character who enjoyed nothing more than a good yarn or to reminisce about times gone by. Fewer people will be aware, however, that Vic's love of the countryside and its characters often inspired him to write poetry. One of his poems was published in the book 'Poetic Moods' by Poetry Press. Vic will be missed and fondly remembered by both his family and friends alike. (Colin Smithen)

FOOTPATHS - Anybody who has walked up Common Hill to Green Lane at Ewell Minnis will know the general state of the footpath through the wooded part. At the far end it is not helped by an overflowing soakaway but one reason why it is so boggy is because of the water running off the hill. The relevant authority hopes to dig a ditch on the high side to intercept the water and hopefully solve the problem. A lady had complained about the path being blocked at the far end by a gate. This gate to a house, which is opened when the yard is being cleaned and can be removed from the path should a walker or horse rider wish to pass by. (editor)

PONDS - Mick Wingfield, who is the pond warden for Alkham, has just finished a two day course relating to ponds at the Canterbury Environmental Centre. A comprehensive survey is now planned for the ponds at Chalksole Green to discover what wildlife is present before any other work is carried out. (editor)

TREES - If anybody was wondering why the trees outside Valley Cottages have been pruned the way they have, it was that the work had to be done by SEEboard because of their overhead wires. (editor)

FOOTPATHS - Thanks go to Ken Hammond for repairing the stile to the footpath off Chalksole Green Lane. KCC are quite happy for people to carry out repairs to stiles so long as Barbara Andrews is contacted to arrange suitable insurance. Further details can be obtained by phoning Sue Lees on 822661. The footpath through Upper West Hill Farm at Ewell Minnis is now clear and a sign will be put up at the southern end. (editor)

ALKHAM WEB SITE has now got photos of individual members of the cricket team, their averages and fixtures. There are also details about nearby towns, a short history of Alkham, a complete footpath map with 5 walks described in detail and also a prize crossword. Do visit alkham.info and have a look. On the Dover web site is a list of abandoned

cars, their location and a photograph. Currently there are 106 cars listed and the previous month 166 cars were removed. There is also a recycling site from which the following was copied. 'In 2001 it will be time to say goodbye to National Spring Clean and welcome a brand new campaign. There are 2 things everyone can do:

SPREAD MESSAGE: Remember the slogan - 'Just Bin It' - whenever you or anyone else around you is about to drop rubbish. **GET INVOLVED:** Nominate a litter 'grotspot' in your area, somewhere in need of a clean up and get together with friends to sort it out. This won't cost you a penny because Tidy Britain Group will provide the protective tabards and rubbish sacks you need for the clean up.' For further information please access the web site. (editor)

LORRY SIGNS - Bryan Cope, our County Councillor, is trying to get lorry signs put up at either end of the valley to deter lorries from using the Valley road.

BELSEY LANE - Doug McHattie from Dover District Council is very concerned about the state of Belsey Lane in Ewell Minnis and he definitely wants to repair it when funds become available. Several road signs also need to be replaced around Ewell Minnis.

A FEW WORDS OF WISDOM

my father said to me long ago and always remembered 'Never a borrower or lender be'. Words that common sense tells us we should try to adhere to but of course, being human, we do forget sometimes. There are a lot of retired people in this village who should not be taken advantage of and I find it sickening that this could be happening. Please remember my old father's words. (I was asked to print this anonymously but hopefully the person to whom it is directed will get the message - editor)

GARDEN TALK - The next meeting of Garden Talk will be held at the 'Willows' Slip Lane on Friday 12th April at 7.30 pm. (Susannah Tapsell)

WATCH OUT for bogus cheap remnant carpet sellers from the back of a van and ring 218151 if any 'knockers' selling dusters etc come to your door. (Neighbourhood Watch)

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NEWS FROM ST.

ANTHONY'S – Every few years our Anglican Churches ask their regular attenders to fill in a form to enable them to become members of our electoral rolls. This year is the year on which a fresh roll is drawn up, so if you would like to be registered as a voting member of our church of St. Anthony, do contact one of our wardens. They will explain the procedure more fully and indicate the responsibilities associated with such a commitment. We do hope all who are interested in the ongoing life of the church in our village, will be at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. It will be held at 7.30 pm in the village hall on Thursday the 18th of April.... and an advance notice – on the 12th of May we shall join our Methodist and Anglican friends from River in a special service at St. Radigund's Abbey. Albert and Grace Moynan open their farm to us on this Rogation Sunday. We invite young and old to a service, which will enable us to thank God for his gifts and pray for the blessing on all farming endeavours. The service is at 10.30 am. Do bring a chair and a picnic for after the service. There will be plenty to keep youngsters amused. (Gill Calver)

SOAKAWAY – On behalf of Richard Tapsell and myself, I would like to thank Max and Jo Walker for cleaning out the soakaway on the church side of the lych'gate. It is the first time I can remember in the seven years I have lived in the village that it

has been cleaned. I would like to say well done to both of you; it goes to show what a wonderful Christian spirit there is in this lovely old village.

(Ken Hammond)

W.I. NEWS – We had an excellent talk on the subject of English Cheeses. Mr. March is an obvious connoisseur, his favourite being the king of them all, Stilton. His explanation of how it was discovered included a sick relative, some goat's milk, a long camel ride and a thirsty Arab gentleman! It has been found in the tombs of the Pharaohs and fed the roman legions, monks and of course all those hungry ploughmen. A 4oz piece of cheese has as much protein as a steak. We had a wonderful taster session and my favourite was the Wenslydale with cranberries, absolutely delicious! The summer outing seems to be favouring the trip through the tunnel to Boulogne. Anyone who has any ideas of talks or crafts they would like to see featured in next years programme can contact me, and I will see what can be done. Please have a good think as any fresh ideas are most welcome. The next meeting is on April 19th, the subject is a Caribbean Childhood.

(Devina Bartlett)

PHEASANT – has anyone lost a fancy pheasant? Helen Scopes has been feeding a rather beautiful semi tame one up at the Willows recently. It is obviously not a wild one and someone may be missing him. Please phone Helen on 822899.

OZ on SWORDS AND PLOUGHSHARES

Among the most pleasant of literary activities is the discovery of an unexpected but recurring theme. One such is "The helmet now a hive for bees becomes", the first line of Ralph Knevet's poem *The Vote*. Knevet (1600 – 1671) was Rector of Lyng in Norfolk, and wrote the poem as a thanksgiving at the end of the Civil War. The image is uncannily pre-dated in George Peele's 1590 poem *A Farewell to Arms*, with its line "His helmet now shall make a hive for bees." Peele, a friend of Shakespeare, addressed the lines to Queen Elizabeth to mark the retirement of Sir Henry Lee, the Queen's Champion. It isn't difficult to imagine the relief when, after years of wearying battle, sometimes against brothers and cousins, soldiers were allowed to return to peaceful normality. Thomas Dekker, in *The Magnificent Entertainment* (1603), wrote "And when soft-handed Peace so sweetly thrives / That bees in soldiers' helmets build their hives." Many years later, at the end of the American Civil War, the great American poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, wrote, in *The Hive at Gettysburg*, the lines "A stained and shattered drum / Is now the hive, where, on their flowering rounds, / The wild bees go and come." And last century, Robert Graves, in *Spoils*, declared that "When all is over and you march for home, / The spoils of war are easily disposed of: / Standards, weapons of combat, helmets, drums / May decorate a staircase or a study." The earliest references I can find to this theme are in the Greek and Persian poets, writing of spiders weaving in abandoned armour. The most recent examples, probably shared by all, come from our memories of parents and grandparents and their use of shell-cases from the two World Wars as ashtrays and spill-holders. (Steve Osborn)

COUNTRY FILE - One of the privileges of working in the countryside is seeing what is happening round and about you, seeing the wild habitat living in its natural environment. When a friend asked me, a few days ago, if I saw hares in the fields these days, I was able to say that hares are quite a common site in some areas. Like all wild creatures they like to be left alone and not disturbed, and it's usually away from roads, footpaths etc. that they are more likely to be found. Hares are difficult to detect, with their grey/brown coated camouflage they make themselves small by crouching in a small depression they've made for themselves, usually 3-4ins. deep. It's not until the last moment, they decide to make off from the approaching tractor. March for hares is the start of their breeding season, and the old saying "mad as a March hare" is often very true. It is not uncommon to see three or four hares together chasing after one another at a very fast rate of knots. Although hares do a certain amount of damage to grass and cereal crops because they keep moving around to feed, damage is minimal. Weather wise, March is the month when the weather and temperature fluctuate more than any other time. This year it has lived up to its reputation, the thermometer has been down to freezing and up again to the mid 60's (17C), with some pleasant days but also rainy ones. Rainfall these last 28 days has been 2.52 (63mm) which is just about the average for this time of the year. (Keith)

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 |
| Saturday | 6 | Jumble Sale in aid of PCC funds 11.00 am in V.H. |
| Tuesday | 9 | W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 13 | Coffee morning in village hall 10.30 am for V.H. funds |
| Friday | 12 | Garden Talk at the Willows, Slip Lane 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 13 | American Supper - see page 1 |
| Monday | 15 | Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm |
| Thursday | 18 | PCC AGM in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Monday | 22 | Village Hall AGM in village hall at 8.00 pm. |
| Monday | 29 | Annual Parish Meeting - see page 1 |

CHURCH SERVICES

| Day | Alkham | Capel | Hougham |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| April 7 th | Evensong 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am |
| April 14 th | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Evensong 6.30 pm |
| April 21 st | Evensong 6.30 pm | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am |
| April 28 th | Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Laurence, Hougham 10.00 am | | |

TRAFFIC CALMING

- At the Parish Council meeting mention was made of the interactive speed signs and Paul Tapsell said that we should now ask for phase two to go ahead. Phase two is the narrowing of the road to one lane between Martinvale and Forstall Cottage with a footpath on one side and traffic giving way to the priority flow. The Parish Clerk is pursuing the matter.

BETTESHANGER BAND will be at Whitfield Village Hall on the 29th of June to raise money for their Jubilee celebrations. It is between 7.30 and 10.00 pm and tea and coffee will be available. The entrance fee is £4.00 and to book please phone Edie on 820343.

VILLAGE HALL AGM is on the Monday the 22nd of April at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

THE BULK WASTE collection, which was mentioned in last month's Newsletter, will not come to Alkham as it would be very costly.

MILLENNIUM TREE TAGS - Paul Tapsell says that the tree tags showing the sponsors of the trees on the village green will be attached by the end of April.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|--|--|
| Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397 | Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119 |
| Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704 | Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720 |
| County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547 | Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876 |
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| Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@alkham50.freeserve.co.uk | |
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Alkham web site alkham.info

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| 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 |
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| GARDEN CENTRE | Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop | South Alkham 01303 893351 |
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| LIVERY | Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries | Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056 |
| 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 |
| SLADDEN FARM | | Phone 825188 |
| VEHICLES | Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone | 53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212 |

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

FOOTBALL – Den

Barnard and Ken Hammond, after requests from some lads in the village, have started football practice on the pitch by the village green. It is on Wednesday evening beginning at 6.00 pm and everyone is welcome.

BONFIRES – I have been asked to include an item in the Newsletter about bonfires. Would people please give some consideration to not having a bonfire in the mornings when washing is invariably on the line. (editor)

STILES – Mark Loveday has given his approval for the two stiles on his land to be converted to kissing gates or some other easy access as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. The stiles are on the footpath which exits from the top of the churchyard.

BRIC-A-BRAC – Irene and Den Barnard are running the bric-a-brac stall again at this year's fete. If you have any items please give them a ring on 824845

CHURCHYARD

The only offer for cutting the churchyard was for shredding in May and a later cut in the year. This would obviously kill the ox-eye daisies and seriously affect our Village of the Year submission, so I suggested that the churchyard be split into 10 areas and volunteers sought. I'm delighted to say that the proposal was accepted and at any time during the week commencing the 15th of July the volunteer can cut his area and then turn the hay. At a later date it will be baled. There was no problem in getting volunteers and they are Den Barnard, Larry Lambourne, Ken Hammond, Gerry Newitt, Derek Banks-Nash, Clive Batcheldor, Mark Robson, Roger Lott, Mick Wingfield and me. It is difficult to see how the judges of the Village of the Year Award can failed to be swayed by such an impressive line up. (editor)

FETE Committee stall holders (past, present and future) meeting on the 16th of May at 8.00 pm in the village hall.

ANN HIBBERT - I am very sorry to report that Ann Hibbert passed away at the beginning of April. For those unfamiliar with the name, you may have seen her at the annual village fete with her miniature ponies. She was a kind and gentle person who I often met walking up Slip Lane, always with a treat for my dog in her pocket. Sympathy goes to her husband Martin, family and friends. (editor) ..I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of Ann's friends in the village for all of the help offered and given to both of us over the last few weeks. I was overwhelmed and moved at the spirit and generosity and genuine care existing within the people of the village. Sadly, although Ann lost her battle against her illness, I am sure that she was aware of the genuine outpouring of love given and prayers said on her behalf. She will always be in our hearts. Again, thank you to all of you – if the world was full of people from Alkham it surely would be a better place to live in. (Martin Hibbert)

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS – There should be a separate piece of paper included with this Newsletter giving details of the celebrations. In précis they are: June 1st a dance in the village hall and attached marquee: Civic Service at St. Anthony's on the 2nd: Monday the 3rd a fun cricket match: a family treasure hunt followed by a barbecue with pig roast: Tuesday a Teddy Bear's picnic, fancy dress parade, races and a bouncy castle. On the 9th of June there is a buffet supper for the over 60's. If you don't have the extra page please phone Betty Neely on 822688.

BEST DRESSED HOUSE – An appropriate prize will be given to the owners of the house which is voted the best dressed with flags and bunting etc. in celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

AMERICAN SUPPER

The American Supper held in the village hall on the 13th of April, raised £4011.60 for Meningitis Research, of which £1220 was through donations. Anne Huggins would like to thank all the people who gave donations and also apologise to the people who couldn't get in because all the tickets were sold.

STORAGE SPACE WANTED!

Do you have a dry, spare room in your home which we could "hire"? Would you be willing to allow us to store our furniture and effects, with occasional access if necessary? We live in a small cottage in the centre of Alkham and may soon need to store some extra furniture etc. for 6 months to a year. Please contact Nikki or Mel on 0780 3656866 with details and your suggested cost.

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POISONING - Illegal poisoning of wildlife is unacceptable. The illegal use of poisoned baits is indiscriminate and poses a high risk to wildlife, domestic pets and even people. It is dangerous and unnecessary. The latter was taken by a leaflet published by DEFRA, which goes on to say: **We have a problem** - Farmers, gamekeepers and landowners need to protect their livestock, crops and game. Legal methods of pest control exist, including pesticides, provided they are used properly. Most pesticide users are responsible and stick to the law. But a few are using pesticides illegally to poison wild animals including birds. This is cruel, dangerous and damaging to wildlife. Legal methods of pest control must be humane, selective and safe. Methods including cage traps, shooting, snares and pesticides - under strict rules, certain pesticides can be used for rats, moles and rabbits, but must not be accessible to other animals. Animal lovers may find that even the legal methods of pest control are distressing. However it is vitally important that they are not interfered with as this may encourage illegal methods, which are far more cruel and dangerous. Almost a fifth of birds are killed by illegal poisoning. **ACTION PLAN** **If you discover a possible poisoning incident:** Do not touch the dead animal, bird or bait as poisons can go through the skin: Warn people to stay away: Note the exact location: Cover the evidence to make it safe, if this will not disturb it: **Report the incident on 0800 321 600:** If your pet or another animal shows signs of poisoning (e.g. breathing difficulties, convulsions) get vet help immediately.

GARDENTALK - A delightful evening was held at Helen's home for our April meeting. Thank you Helen, for your hospitality and Devina, for testing our knowledge, or lack of it, on herbs. Our next meeting will be on Friday 10th May 7.30pm at 9 Newlyn Meadow. All welcome. NB. If anyone is able to pot on ev just a couple of extra plants ready for the Plant Stall at the Fete, their contribution would be much appreciated. (Susannah Tapsell)

VAN MAN - In last month's Newsletter I put a warning about men selling leftover carpet at exorbitant prices from the back of a van. Sure enough they turned up at Glebelands and were quite aggressive to one lady and quoted £700. A relative phoned the printed number as did Tricia Wright who was also approached. Unfortunately there was no one in, so Tricia phoned the police and they came out but van man was long gone. If it should happen again, perhaps the best idea is show them this article and then phone the police on 01303 850055. (editor)

EASTER EGG RAFFLE

The following people won one or more prizes in the Easter Egg raffle: Sue, 24 Glebelands, Rosemary Hedde, 17 Newlyn Meadow, Pam and George Tyler, Liam and Ellis Milroy, Doreen Polden, Mrs Barrow, Isabel Bartlett, the Sayers, Karen at the Marquis, 2 Valley Cottages, Peter and Marilyn Mercer, Dave, 3 Short Lane, Mrs Barrow, Lucy Matcham, Ron Dryden, Pat Gittus, Kath Norris, 18 Newlyn Meadow, John Petulla, Daisy, Sue Lees, Mike Kingston.

PONDS - Mick Wingfield, who lives in Newlyn Meadow, is doing a splendid job as Pond Warden. He regularly attends their meetings and is going to chair the next one. We did a plan and level survey of the pond at Chalksole Green on the 20th of April and Mick also looked for pond life. He hopes to renovate the pond. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY

SOCIETY Sissinghurst Castle Garden. This is our proposed venue for the Society's annual trip on Saturday 29th June, 2002. Several members suggested these famous gardens, designed by Vita Sackville-West, so it is hoped it will be well supported. The coach will leave Alkham at 9 a.m. and depart from Sissinghurst at 4.30 p.m. There is a licensed restaurant which serves hot and cold meals at reasonable prices, or, of course, you can take a picnic. What could be more enjoyable than to eat outside in such lovely surroundings? The cost per adult will be £13.50, children 5 - 16 years inclusive £10.50 and the under fives are free (although if a seat on the coach is taken, there will be a charge for this). If you are a member of the National Trust there is no entrance fee, just the coach to pay for. Sissinghurst Gardens are lovely with their lakes and woodlands, and it is hoped this venue will appeal to members their families and friends. Please contact me if you are interested, indicating if you are a member of the National Trust.

(Pamela Sayers)

CARNIVAL

PROMS Why not celebrate the Jubilee by supporting the Dover Carnival "Golden Jubilee" Prom Concert, as either singer or

listener? The concert, on Friday 5 July at 730pm in Dover Town Hall, will feature various Coronation anthems, the first performance of Peter Cork's *A Man of Kent Suite*, and the traditional Proms Finale: *Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory*. All singers are welcome, but must attend at least 5 rehearsals, the first of which is at 730pm on Thursday 23 May in the Methodist Church, Lewisham Road, River. For further details ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

CHURCH KNEELERS

At the A.G.M. of the Alkham P.C.C. it was suggested that some more kneelers could be worked as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, to give continuity and to complement the wonderful work done by the ladies of the village 25 years ago at the Silver Jubilee. The kneelers come complete in kit form, cost £25 and I am assured that they are simple to do. If anyone would like to make one or donate the money to have one made, could they contact me Tel. 01304 822295 by Sunday 3rd May. (Susannah Tapsell)

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NEWS FROM ST.

ANTHONY'S - It is a very old tradition of our Christian church, to set aside some special days around Ascensiontide, to acknowledge mankind's dependence on God. Our Methodist and Anglican friends have met several years at St. Radigunds Abbey for an 'all-age' Sunday service (thanks to Grace and Albert Moynan's hospitality). Last year some from our benefice joined them and once again this year our churches have sent representatives to be involved in planning the 45 minute outside service (under cover if wet weather prevails). The service concludes with a short walk to the nearby field for a simple act of blessing and a hymn. Toilet facilities are available and there will be a play area for very young children. Some seating is provided but do bring a garden chair if you'd like to and a picnic lunch if you care to stay on and enjoy the beautiful setting after the service. This Rogation tide service is at 10.30 am on Sunday May 12th and will be the main service for all our benefice that day. **DON'T FORGET CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12th - 18th MAY. (Gill Calver)**

W.I. NEWS - We had a very pleasant evening in the company of Tammy Stewart Jones who told of her childhood in the Caribbean. In some ways life for her was very sad, her mother died 3 hours after her birth and her father, although he loved her, wasn't there for her. In stepped a wonderful Grandmother to take care of her.

OZ on POND INVADERS

- At last we've cleared the garden pond, a heavy and smelly task. Strained backs are guaranteed by lifting while standing on pond-edges and dividing huge matted clumps of iris, lily and sedge. These problems, however, are small compared with those presented by some recently imported pond invaders. The environmental organisations English Nature and Frogwatch have identified the Australian Swamp Stonecrop *Crassula helmsii* as a particular threat. This plant can grow an inch a day, and has colonised over 2,000 ponds and lakes, including many in the Lake District, choking native plants such as the Floating Water-plantain *Luronium natans*. Physical destruction of the invader worsens the situation as each broken piece regrows into a new plant, and English Nature is now implementing total weedkilling and replanting. Additionally they are seeking to control sale of the plant, often described as an oxygenator or mislabelled *Tillaea recurva*. Another such invader, with leaves six feet long, is Parrot Feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum* from the Amazon basin. Older invaders such as Floating Pennywort and Water Fern continue to damage wildlife when uncontrolled. After our spring-clean the shadows and ripples on the pond's surface gave rise to those images, "psychic invaders" perhaps, that so often feature in literature. The playwright John Webster, writing in 1613, saw "in the fishponds... a thing, arm'd with a rake." Wordsworth's poem *The Thorn* described "the shadow of a baby's face", while Tennyson's *Churchwarden and the Curate* spoke of "nasty sins in my pond", and William Davies's *The Pond* held "a dead woman's upturned face." Part of the reason for our efforts was to assist frogs in rearing tadpoles. Within two days a mallard duck and two attendant drakes invaded and ate all the frogspawn, some of the duckweed and, thankfully, more than a few slugs. (Steve Osborn)

The local people were wary of her as they believed she had caused her mother's death and was therefore a "Witch". School was something to be endured and it was obvious that some of her relatives disliked her. However her Grandmother's position within the community offered some protection and respect. She eventually came to England on the death of her beloved Grandmother where, at the age of 12, she believed the streets of London were "paved with gold"! Throughout her life she has always remained happy and positive, despite those early years, and her wonderful smile cheered us all up. The next meeting will be in the village hall on May 14th at 7.30 pm. There is no speaker as it is a Resolution night.

(Devina Bartlett)

COUNTRY FILE

Although there doesn't seem to be so many around these days, one of our best loved mammals is the hedgehog. These harmless creatures do us a power of good in the garden. If you are fortunate enough to come across one on the vegetable patch or the flower border, they are well worth encouraging (for example putting out cat food). It's usually at dusk that they appear, looking for insects, snails, slugs etc. which at this time of year, when plants and seedlings are small and vulnerable, hedgehogs can be a gardener's best friend. Weather wise, as these notes are written, the weather has been mostly dry these last 4 weeks, often with a cold N.E. wind and night frosts, the ground already getting

dry. Looking back to this time last year, it was very wet having had 17.68 ins. (442mm); by contrast the same period this year has produced 9 ins. (225mm) which goes to prove that there is very rarely two seasons alike. (Keith)

GOOD FRIDAY MEMORIES

As a child during the 1950's, my sister and I attended London Road Methodist Church Sunday School and every Good Friday, a group of children together with the Sunday School Superintendent (Mr. Walter S Lewis) and other members of the Church, would walk from London Road, Dover via Buckland, Kearsney and onward through the Alkham Valley to Alkham village. On the journey, we would chat, pick flowers and generally enjoy ourselves, thinking nothing of the long walk and at that time did not see a lot of traffic. The purpose of our journey was to help celebrate the Anniversary of Alkham Methodist Church and upon arrival, we would join members of the village congregation for a service. Following this, we would enjoy our picnic in the Village Hall followed by more games on the Green. I do remember one occasion when we saw some lovely daffodils and primulas by the side of the Green which we innocently proceeded to pick, only to be confronted by the Vicar in whose garden these plants were growing! He was very kind and let us keep the picked flowers. By late afternoon we began our return journey having had an enjoyable day out and every Good Friday my thoughts and memories return to Alkham. (Margaret Hancock)

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 | 4 | Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776 |
| Saturday | 4 | Coffee morning 10.30 am at 6 Glebelands - see opposite |
| Friday | 10 | Garden Talk at 9 Newlyn's Meadow 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 11 | Table Fair in aid of Jubilee funds in VH 10.00 to 4.00pm |
| Monday | 13 | Parish Council meeting 7.30 pm in VH all welcome. |
| Tuesday | 14 | W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Thursday | 16 | Fete stallholders meeting - see page 1 |
| Saturday | 18 | Ploughman's lunch in aid of Jubilee Fund 11.30 am |
| Monday | 20 | Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 25 | SE Kent Astronomical Society in Village Hall pm |

CHURCH SERVICES

| Day | Alkham | Capel | Hougham |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------|
| May 5 th | Evensong 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am |
| May 9 th Ascension Day | No service | Sung Eucharist 9.15 am (refreshments) | No service |
| May 12 th (bring a packed lunch) | No service | Said Eucharist 8.00 am | No service |
| | Joint Benefice Rogationtide Service St Radigund's Abbey (with River Methodists and Anglicans) 10.30 am | | |
| May 19 th | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Evensong 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am |
| May 26 th | Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony's - Alkham 10.00 am | | |

A COFFEE MORNING is being held at 10.30 am on May 6th at Lou Matcham's house, 6 Glebelands, to raise money for the Jubilee fund. On the 11th there is a Table Fair at 10.00 am and on the 18th a Ploughman's Lunch at 11.30 am, both in the village hall with profits going to the Jubilee funds.

CIVIC SERVICE - As part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations there will be a Civic service in St. Anthony's on June the 2nd at 11.00 am. The Parish Council has been invited as are all parishioners and friends. Please do come along

SOUP KITCHEN - Alkham is now doing the soup kitchen on a regular basis. Donations of sandwich fillers, soup etc would be most welcome. For ease, please leave donations in the box on my property and I'll pass them on. (editor)

APOLOGIES to the houses in hearing distance of the bells at St. Anthony's as we have been practicing ringing the bells up and down on Friday evenings. The insurance company say the bells should be pointing downwards when they are not in use as they weigh 4, 5, 6 and 7 hundredweights each.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 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@alkham50.freemove.co.uk | 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 - all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055 | Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688 |

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CONCESSIONARY

TRAVEL – Free permits are now available to all residents of pensionable age and residents with certain categories of disability. The permit provides half fare travel within Kent at or after 9am Monday to Friday and all day Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays.

Information and application forms are available from Concessionary Fares, The Council Offices, DDC, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, CT16 3PF or Maison Dieu Gardens, Dover. Enquiries can be made on 01304 872122.

RUNNING FOR RYAN

Sponsored Fun Run (or walk) over approx. 3 miles for Meningitis Research on the 7th of July. Entry fee is £3.00, tee shirt supplied by the Meningitis Foundation. For details and sponsor form ring Anne Huggins on 824340

THE CHRISTIAN AID

WALK sponsorship from Alkham raised £160. Thanks go to all the people who sponsored the walk. There were 30 people from the Dover area who took part in the walk over a distance of 10 miles and in total £1600 was raised.

AN OPEN GARDEN AND BARBECUE

will be held at Hillview on the 15th of June from 2.00pm to 6.00 pm. There will be a plant stall, cake stall, games, tombola and side shows. Chicken, hot dogs, beef burgers, with salad and drink cost £5.00, children £2.50. All in the aid of the Masonic Hall Building Fund. (**George Tyler**)

KATH GOLDFINCH after 11 years has decided to cease running the monthly Bingo. The Fete Committee is nearly £1000 better off for this effort. Thanks must be given to Kath and husband Will and friends Brian and Mary who have helped raise the goodly sum over these years. (**Susan Lees**)

ALKHAM WEB - Steve Finch of Columbia, Missouri, USA found the Alkham Web site and e-mailed Vincent Holness and said what a good site it was, particularly the News Page. He said that his grandparents, Thomas Smith and Elizabeth Palmer emigrated from Alkham in about 1833 moving to New York State and then on to Michigan. He also wondered what an American Supper was. (**editor**)

TWIN TOWNS – What do you think? Is it worth twinning Alkham with another town? The Parish Council is very keen to have parishioner's opinions on the matter, so please ring the Parish Clerk on 822661 and have your say. It does seem quite an attractive proposition especially if we could get another village similar to ourselves in Europe or even America. (**editor**)

MOTORCYCLISTS – The Parish Council are very aware that some people in the Parish find speeding motorcyclists a nuisance. They therefore wrote to the police and as a result two speed checks were carried out. The first was on Thursday the 4th of April when 37 fixed penalties and 2 summonses were issued and the second on Sunday the 21st of April when 44 fixed penalties and 1 summons were issued. These were for all vehicles and there is no breakdown as to how many were motorcyclists but 11 motorcyclists have been caught speeding in the village and 4 outside where the national speed limit applies. The Parish Council is writing to the police to thank them for their efforts and suggest that they have another session. It is clear that the Alkham Valley Road is very attractive to motorcyclists with the number of twisting bends and rural setting. (**editor**)

CHURCH – St. Anthony's church was left some money in the will of Mrs Southall, who lived at Chalksole. Some of the money has been spent but Gill Calver, the vicar, would like suggestions from parishioners as to how the rest of the money could be spent on the church. If you have any ideas will you please write to Betty Neely at Mount Ararat, Abbey Road, Alkham CT15 7DJ before the end of June.

CHURCH – At the Parish Council meeting the invitation from Gill Calver was read out inviting the Parish Council Chairman and other members to the Civic Service at St Anthony's on the 2nd of June at 11.00 am to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The invitation is also extended to all parishioners.

GATES – Some of the gates on bridleways around Alkham cannot be passed by horse riders. Please would the owners of these gates have a look at them and see if they can be made passable. If a horse rider comes across a gate they cannot get through please phone Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082.

CAMERON SALTNER was crossing the road over to Elliot Woodison on the 24th of May. He looked to see if anything was coming down the road. Nothing was coming so he started to cross. He was hardly off the path when a lady driver hit him hard enough to knock him to the floor. He got cut on his hip. The lady who knocked him got out of the car and asked him where he was hurt. He showed her, she then said it will be all right and then got in her car and drove off. (**Bethany Saunders**)

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AM or PM that is the question?

Sue Lees put in her flyer for the Jubilee events that the Coffee Morning was 10.30 am to 12.00 am. I said that I thought it should be 10.30 am to 12.00 pm. I asked Steve Osborn (OZ) and he went on the Greenwich Web site which confirmed we were both wrong. (editor)

GREENWICH SITE

AM and PM start immediately after Midnight and Noon (Midday) respectively.

This means that 00:00 AM or 00:00 PM (or 12:00 AM and 12:00 PM) have no meaning.

Every day starts precisely at midnight and AM starts immediately after that point in time e.g. 00:00:01 AM To avoid confusion timetables, when scheduling around midnight, prefer to use either 23:59 or 00:01 to avoid confusion as to which day is being referred to.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - At the Parish Council meeting Mike Chalkley, the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator gave a short speech. He accepted that Neighbourhood Watch had been dormant since the local police officer left but nevertheless still thought it a good idea. Neil Burrows suggested that Local Co-ordinator meetings should start again and Mike is going to consider this. Mike also said that a quarterly magazine was going to be published shortly. He is a crime prevention officer and if people want advice on security matters to get in contact with him on 820798.

TO THE GENTLEMAN

who attended the last Parish Council Meeting criticising the uselessness of the councillors, which he has every right to do provided he has the facts correct. I would just like to point out that these councillors not only give their time freely, but amongst them is included the Chairman of the Cricket Club, the Chairman of the Fete Committee, W.I. President and members of the following committees: Fete, Golden Jubilee, Village Hall, W.I., Cricket Club, PCC, bell ringers, Alkham Valley Society etc. etc. (also time freely given). So come on, instead of criticising us how about contributing? You would be most welcome except by the W.I. of course. Maybe this would give us more time to wander around the village and note all the misdemeanours that are going on. (Councillor Rosemary Crothall)

On a personal note, as editor of the Newsletter I regularly attend the Parish Council meetings and I think we are extremely lucky to have such a committed group of people representing us. They may not have wide powers but they do make sure that the voice of the village is heard and also do very effective work. (editor)

GATES - Mark Loveday has said that if the stiles adjacent to the Old Rectory are replaced for the Jubilee he would prefer them to be wrought iron kissing gates. Sue Lees is getting quotes for making them.

LETTER OF THE WEEK?

- It was with some surprise to see a 'Letter of the Week' in the Dover Express, from a youth in Alkham complaining about the attitude of other youths in the village. It appears that he listens to Goth music and gets abused and threatened by the local 'Rude boys' and wonders whether this is Nazi Germany. He also asks what the elders of Alkham are going to do about it? I think I understand his predicament but writing to the local paper in such a fashion about Alkham doesn't seem to be the best way to solve the problem. Perhaps he would like to drop me a note about the situation and I will publish the gist of the letter. Alternatively the 'Rude boys' can let me have their version. (editor)

GRAHAME WHITE

passed away on May the 3rd 2002 at the grand old age of 92. Many of you will recall the 'heady' years in the seventies when Betty and Grahame were publicans at the Marquis, when time was called, the doors were bolted and barred and the punters locked in! The tales to be told of those years are as long as the nights spent in the pub. Betty and Grahame have left many happy memories. (Susan Lees)

GARDENTALK - Although, due to 'affairs of the heart' I was unable to attend the meeting held at 9 Newlyn's Meadow, I know that members thoroughly enjoyed wandering around the beautiful garden and identifying various plants. Thank you, Joan and Peter, for a lovely evening. As June will be very busy with various events, we have decided to hold the meeting on Tuesday July 2nd at 7.30pm when we have been invited to enjoy the gardens of Hockley Sole. (Susannah Tapsell)

MILLENNIUM TREES

Paul Tapsell has sensibly decided that putting tags on stakes adjacent to the trees planted at the millennium would not be a good idea because of possible vandalism. He and son James have therefore done a survey of the trees and will put a plan on the village notice board showing the trees and the names of the people who sponsored them. (editor)

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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

We have celebrations both at the beginning and end of the month. Our church will join in the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations with a special service to mark the event at 11 o'clock on June 2nd (timed so you can have a lie in after the party the night before!). We shall use symbols and readings to remind us of the Queen's coronation as well as those to help us look forward to the future of the village and our nation. Then at the end of the month, our Deacon Ken Pilgrim will be ordained priest in Canterbury Cathedral. The ordination is at 3 pm on Saturday the 29th of June. Sign up at the back of the church if you'd like to join the group going by coach (at £4 a head). Then at 10 am on Sunday the 30th of June, Ken will preside at his first celebration of the Eucharist at Capel, when his old friend and former priest in Dover, Canon Brian Duckett will be coming to preach. (Gill Calver)

W.I. NEWS - It was Resolutions night this week and both motions were passed with no one against. We are urging the Government to look at ways of opening more localised abattoirs to stop animals having to be transported hundreds of miles for slaughter and to also impose stricter checks on food imports. There then followed a series of small 2 minute plays in which most of us took part and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Margaret and Helen for the arrangements. Highlights had to be

OZ on MIGHTY OAKS – A new tree disease, “sudden oak death”, has arrived from America, leading to a ban on certain imports in order to protect English oaks. The fungus *Phytophthora ramorum* also attacks some garden shrubs, which become carriers. In infected trees the bark splits, leading to sap loss and tissue death within months. Horticulturists consider that the disease can be controlled using sensible precautions, unlike Dutch elm disease, which spread because elms were specifically targeted by elm bark beetles. Oaks have been sacred to Europeans since prehistoric times, for both spiritual and practical reasons, and hold a central place in our culture. In 1791 William Cowper wrote, but never finished, the poem *Yardley Oak*. William Hayley discovered it after Cowper's death “amid a heap of discarded note-books and blotted manuscripts”, adding that he could hardly have been more surprised if “an oak, in its natural majesty, had started up from the turf of the garden, in full foliage”, before him. Cowper tells the oak “Thou wast a bauble once; a cup and ball, which babes might play with” and continues that “a thievish jay might have purloined the auburn nut that held thee.” Later, he describes how “Time has made the oak a cave for owls to roost in.” That could almost be a description of our largest oak, at Bowthorpe Park in Lincolnshire, and estimated to be 1,000 years old. In 1768 its hollow trunk was smoothed to make a dining-room for the squire and twenty friends. Nearer home, in Fredville Park at Nonington, is the second largest oak, called ‘Majesty’, and sketched by Jacob Strutt in 1820. Both of these gentle giants have survived centuries of storm and disease to face, not a “sudden oak death”, but rather a slow demise from what Cowper described as “the rottenness which Time is charged to inflict.” (Steve Osborn)

Barbara with her chest amply padded as a washerwoman and Iris with a lampshade on her head!!! Next meeting is on Tuesday June 11th at 7.30 pm when Sue Chitty will give us a demonstration on Rug Making. (Devina Bartlett)

ANNUAL PARISH

MEETING – An audience of 16 people turned up for the Annual Meeting to hear reports from the Parish Council Chairman and other representatives in the village. George Tyler's speech included reference to the fact that all Parish Councillors would now have to sign up to a Code of Conduct. He also mentioned the ongoing purchase of Vicarage Meadow, pressure for implementation of phase 2 traffic calming and the speeding motorcycles problem. Bryan Cope, our County Councillor gave a short speech as did Paul Tapsell for the Alkham Valley Society. Den Barnard said the Alkham Cricket Club was well known for its hill and sportsmanship and now had 7 players who lived in the village with all others having a historical connection. John Garlinge reported on hedge laying and Betty Neely spoke about the Jubilee celebrations. The audience remarked on sheep worrying by dogs at Ewell Minnis, Neighbourhood Watch (or lack of it) and speeding on the Alkham Valley Road. (editor)

PARISH COUNCIL

– The officers of the Parish Council came up for re-election at the meeting on the 13th of May. George Tyler was unanimously voted in as Chairman again

as was Neil Burrows as Vice Chairman. The other Parish Councillors retain their duties, these being: Parish Emergencies – George Tyler, Neil Burrows and Susan Lees: Highways – Paul Tapsell: Footpaths – Colin Griggs: KAPC – Paul Tapsell and Stephen Comfort: Environment – Rosemary Crothall, Betty Neely and Stephen Comfort: Tree Warden – Colin Griggs: Pond Warden – Mike Wingfield. Whatever the sentiments of some people to the Parish Council, they should be congratulated for giving up their time to present the Parish on various committees, planning applications and other matters such that at least the voice of the local people is heard. (editor)

JUBILEE – It really is impressive that some people in the village get together when there is a notable event and raise money for various celebrations. The Golden Jubilee Committee have worked tirelessly, holding numerous events to raise money and whether you agree with the celebration or not, their efforts are to be congratulated. To date £2225 has been raised and this will be spent on the items listed in the flyer included with last month's Newsletter. Whatever your thoughts on the monarchy it is a good occasion to have a celebration, so do come along to the events and have a good time. The committee are also keen to hear from anyone who has any other ideas as to how the Jubilee can be remembered. Please phone Betty Neely on 822688 if you have any ideas. (editor)

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 | 1 | Jubilee Celebrations as detailed in enclosed flyer |
| Monday | 3 | As above |
| Tuesday | 4 | As above |
| Saturday | 8 | Age 60 plus buffet in the village hall at 7.30 pm |
| Tuesday | 11 | W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 15 | Open Garden at Hillview – see front page |
| Monday | 20 | Dover & District Bird Club in village hall 7.30 pm |

There should be a flyer with this Newsletter describing all the Jubilee celebrations, which are taking place. If there isn't and you want to know more please phone Betty Neely on 822688.

CHURCH SERVICES

| Day | Alkham | Capel | Hougham |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| June 2 nd | Jubilee Service 11.00 am | Jubilee Service 9.30 am | Jubilee Eucharist 6.30 pm |
| June 9 th | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am | No service |
| June 16 th | Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund's, Capel 10.00 am | | |
| June 23 rd | Evensong 6.30 pm | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am |
| June 30 th | Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund's, Capel 10.00 am (welcoming back Ken Pilgrim after his ordination to the priesthood in Canterbury Cathedral the previous day) | | |

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday at 5.00 pm and there is Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am

HOGBROOK – As local residents can see, the barns adjacent to Hogbrook Farmhouse have been demolished. It is understood that the current proposal is to build a terrace of five houses on the site. (editor)

BINGO is cancelled in June because of all the Jubilee celebrations.

COFFEE MORNING - Lou and Steve Matcham had their first coffee morning on the 4th of May and raised £261 for the Jubilee celebrations. They would like to thank everybody who helped and came along.

FIELD ACCESS – DDC have said that the new field access off Chalksole Green Lane adjacent to Slip Lane is an acceptable alternative to the existing. The latter can be removed, including the curved hedge entrance and the gap filled in with new hedge plants.

| 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@alkham50.freeserve.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.freeserve.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 |

Alkham web site alkham.info

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 |
| EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES | Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider | South Alkham 01303 891996 |
| 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, 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 |
| 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 |
| SLADDEN FARM | | Phone 825188 |
| VEHICLES | Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone | 53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212 |

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VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

The judges for the Environmental Section of the Village of the Year visited Alkham on the 12th of June. They were shown photographs of the hedge laying, the footpath map and walks which were put on the Alkham web site, a plan of the churchyard showing the areas for the 11 man volunteer cutters, an excellent report by Mick Wingfield of the pond at Chalksole and various extracts from the Newsletter. The feeling that Sue Lees and I got was that they had already formed an opinion and we're still unsure whether it was good or bad. One thing that was certain was that they were unimpressed by the taps and the long flush in the toilets of the village hall. They were keen to see the churchyard and again it was difficult to determine their reaction. (editor)

Alkham Village Fete

The Fete this year will take place on Saturday the 13th July 2002 and our celebrity opener will be Alan Minter, former boxing champion of the world. On a more mundane level 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. All stall holders are reminded that they should send someone along to help put up the tents on Saturday morning (9 o'clock) – and to take them down afterwards. The more helpers we have the easier everything becomes; any other volunteers will be gratefully received. Please note - We will need to clear the village hall car park by 1 p.m. to allow for disabled parking: in addition for safety reasons all stallholder's cars must be removed from the Meadow before 1.30. We should have all the usual attractions and features (band, dancing, tug of war, children's races, etc) as well as all your favourite stalls (and a couple of new ones!): If you can help the following by donating goods/prizes, please liaise directly with the relevant smallholders. Bric-a Brac - Den & Irene Barnard (824845); Tombola and/or Raffle Prizes- The Poldens (824876); Needlework- Margaret Knowles (822220), Produce - Richard Tapsell (822295); Plants-Sue Tapsell (822295); Books- Sue Lees (822661), Baskets and/or Hoopla prizes- Christine Tapsell (822282); Jewellery and/or Cakes Barbara Palmer (824973). In addition we have the Children's Art competition The theme is "Alkham in the Jubilee", with two age ranges "under 7" and "8 to 12" and entries can be paintings, drawings, or models (Shirley Tapsell 822638). The Produce show classes are as follows - Section A, Vegetables: Class (1) 3 potatoes (white), (2) 3 potatoes (coloured), (3) 3 carrots (with tops), (4) 3 turnips (white with tops), (5) 3 beetroots (with tops), (6) 9 pods of peas, (7) 5 pods of Broad Beans, (8) 2 lettuces (tall variety), (9) 2 lettuces (cabbage variety), (10) 3 Tomatoes, (11) 1 Cucumber, (12) 3 onions, (13) 3 shallots and (14) Any kind of vegetable not listed above. Section B, Soft Fruit: Class (1) 12 Raspberries, (2) 12 Gooseberries, (3) 6 strigs of currants (red, black or white) and (4) 9 Strawberries. It is not possible to have the Cookery or Flower competitions this year. There will also be a large scale model of "the Alkham that might have been" and a display of Fuchsia in the village hall. 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!). Finally **please ensure all unsold raffle tickets are returned** to Dot Polden or me by Wednesday July 10th. (Paul Tapsell).

RARE ORCHID?

Continuing the theme of the environment, Sue Lees came across an orchid in St Anthony's churchyard, which couldn't be identified from the reference books. I took a couple of photos with my digital camera and e-mailed them to Kew Gardens. There has been no reply and swarms of botanist and press have not descended on Alkham so I assume it wasn't quite as rare as we thought. (editor)

CRICKET has started again this year and on the 7th of July they will be at home to the Coldred XI, starting at 2.30 pm and then again on the 28th of July playing the Bekesbourne XI. Please do come along and support them as they bat to hopeful victory on the newly restored pitch.

GOLDEN JUBILEE

There is an extra page in the middle of this Newsletter with articles and letters about the Jubilee celebrations, which were a great success. There is an amount of money left over from the fund raising and ideas from the committee were sought as to the best way to spend it. One suggestion was a sign on the village hall saying 'Alkham Village Hall' and another was for a wooden flower trough around the foot of the Millennium badger sign. Some of the committee thought that kissing gates should be purchased to replace a couple of difficult stiles in the village but this was not supported by some members. I understand the Parish Council is going consider the matter. (editor)

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GOTHS AND RUDE BOYS - In last month's Newsletter I made comment about a letter that had been published in the Dover Express from a youth in Alkham who had been subject to bullying. I had two phone calls and I now understand that Goths wear dark clothing and the Rude Boys, apart from other things, have their trousers tucked into their socks. In the 1950's there were the Beatniks and the Teddy Boys and in the 1960's and 70's the Mods and Rockers. Skinheads and Greasers. I'm sure there was similar in the next two decades but what it does show is that things never change. Beatniks were picked on by Teddy Boys and Mods by Rockers but in most cases this was just posturing. As was said in the letter, tolerance and respect for the other person's point of view is what is needed (as a matter of interest I rode a 500cc Matchless in the 1960's and Steve Osborn (Oz) was a Beatnik. Please write in if you have any similar stories to tell of your youth). (editor)

TRAFFIC - Whilst the Jubilee cricket match was going on a car overtook another going through the village forcing a motorcyclist to clip the pavement. Unfortunately he also hit a young girl's foot and leg causing bruising and distress. The motorcyclist did not stop but in fairness the rider may not have been aware of the incident. The little girl after some comforting was bruised but otherwise all right.

BELL RINGING - Does anyone fancy having a go at learning how to bell ring? I used to class it with Morris Dancing but since I've learnt to ring I've found it most enjoyable and good company. If you'd like a go please ring Richard Tapsell on 822295. (editor)

DONATION - Many thanks to the anonymous donor, who lives at Campus near Drellingore, for the generous donation of £20 to the Newsletter, which he passed to Sue Lees at the Golden Jubilee dance. (editor)

GARDEN TALK -

On Tuesday 2nd of July at 7.30pm, we will be visiting Hockley Sole to enjoy the gardens at the kind invitation of Angie Snape. All contributions to the Plant Stall for the fete will be gratefully welcomed.

(Susannah Tapsell)

GREENWOOD,

which is the mock Elizabethan house at Chalksole, previously owned by the late Mrs Southall, is being extended and improved. There are plans for a swimming pool between the house and adjacent bridleway and the detached brick property, which used to house chickens, is to be converted into holiday lets. There are various improvements to the property but it is understood that the façade will remain unaltered. It is thought that the owner is also involved with the old paper mill in Dover. (editor)

FOOTBALL - Football practice is being held on the pitch by the village green every Tuesday evening from 6 pm to 7.30pm. Ken Hammond is currently running it and would like another adult to help, so please give him a ring on 823720 if you are willing to help. Ken took eight year old Jamie Reid to Dover Rangers, which is an affiliated FA youth club, for them to assess his football skills. Jamie was accepted and will play in the football tournament.

Congratulations to Jamie.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

trip to Sissinghurst Castle Garden. Will anyone interested in this trip to these famous gardens please note it is now on the 6th July (Saturday) and NOT the 29th June as published in the May Newsletter. As there are still some spaces on the coach, if anyone is interested in going please do contact me. The cost will be £13.50 for Adults, £10.50 for children 5-16 years inclusive, and the under fives can go free into the gardens, but there will be a charge for a seat on the coach. Unfortunately there is no reduction for senior citizens at

these gardens. However, for members of the National Trust entry is free, so please do tell me when you book if this is so. The coach will leave Alkham at 9 a.m. and depart from Sissinghurst at 4.30 p.m. Food is not included in the cost, but I understand there is a good restaurant there, not too expensive or take a picnic. Sissinghurst is probably one of the most famous gardens in England, so if you are interested, please contact me. (Pamela Sayers 822397)

POND - The survey of the pond at Chalksole found no evidence of animal or plant life in the pond. This is not surprising as it fills and then empties dependent upon the weather. Mick Wingfield, the pond warden, is looking into ways of getting grants such that the pond can be lined to retain the water.

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THE GOLDEN JUBILEE IN ALKHAM

The ten months leading up to it

- The first committee meeting held in August 2001 started the ball rolling. The second meeting in November saw the committee really getting stuck in and coming up with ideas of ways in which to celebrate the Jubilee, and even more importantly dreaming up new ways to raise funds. The fund raising started in earnest with a Quiz in January, a Slave Auction in February, a second quiz in March, coffee mornings, a Jumble Sale, a Table Fair, a Ploughman's Lunch, £100 from Help The Aged and individual donations, all of which brought in a grand total of just over £2600. Now all that was needed was fine weather. The days and hours leading up to the 1st June were extremely busy with volunteers decorating the Village Hall on the Thursday and collecting together tables, chairs and all the other paraphernalia needed for the Jubilee week. Saturday dawned, the weather could not have been better, the Marquee arrived on time, Roger Lott raised the Union Flag on the pole by the pavilion, balloons were blown up, children ran hither and thither putting up bunting and helping in all sorts of other ways. The Meadow, the Hall and the Marquee all looked the part displaying red white and blue bunting, balloons, tablecloths and serviettes. Roy Adams and Brian Wimsett sorted the electrics for lighting and all was nearly ready. Evening dawned and Ian Shawcross and his band arrived, soon to be followed by some 250 guests. There were people from all corners of the parish, and from all age groups, babies and ninety year olds included. One party from Ewell Minnis even brought a beautifully embroidered tablecloth, made at the time of the Coronation, to put on their table

but soon realized that more people would enjoy it by displaying it on the wall. It was a great evening and a very successful start to a week of celebrations. (Susan Lees)

The Jubilee Committee

who should be thanked are:

Grace Stacey, Lou Matcham, Doreen Polden, Rosemary Polden, Doreen Lott, Tricia Wright, Devina Bartlett, Betty Neely, Maureen Hever, Helen Scopes, Sue Lees and Roy Adams

THE DECORATED

HOUSE competition was judged by Michelle and Ian Briggs-Smith. The 1st prize was awarded to Tim and Vanessa for decorating 9 Glebelands with such originality, joint 2nd prize winners were, Cal & Helen at The Willows, Slip Lane and Mark & Debbie at 8a Newlyn Meadow, and the 3rd prize went to Maureen at 1 Standen Terrace.

PHOTOS – did you take any interesting or funny pictures? Please let us know – remember the exhibition of flood photos? Perhaps we could do something similar with Jubilee photos.

(Sue Lees 822661)

TREASURE HUNT

Whilst the cricket match was being played, children and adults joined in a treasure hunt. Nineteen items had been photographed between the village hall and Short Lane and a letter and number put on each item. The photos were put on an A4 sheet with numbered boxes to write the letters in, giving the message 'Write date of the W.I. bin'. A separate box was provided for this and a team of children won. They were Polly and Rosie Comfort with Hannah Foreman: Second was young Sue Garlinge with Olivio, Antonio and Dino Conte: Third was Jan: 4th Natasha and Katie: 5th Chris and Luke Hyland: 6th Jack and Matthew Bryant: 7th Fiona and Natalie: 8th Bronwen and Tom Robson: 9th Daniel Stephen and Alex Smith:

10th Katharina Conte: 11th Jade Trent: 12th Ashley and Natalie Hughes and 13th the Bundy family. Others took part but didn't complete the hunt. Some people said the letters and numbers had been rubbed off but when I looked next day they were all still there. (Brian Wimsett)

Golden Jubilee Challenge Cricket

Match After two years, and to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee, Alkham Cricket Club took to the newly reinstated wicket to restore their honour after their last home match when they suffered defeat at the hands of the W.I. whilst playing waist deep in flood water. Budding county players prepared to dazzle as Brian Luckhurst bowled the first ball. That was all it took to assess the assembled talent and then, due to pressing decorating demands, Brian left 'to watch paint dry'. He missed the Villagers storm to a magnificent victory that they will be able to tell their grandchildren of and mention should go to Den Barnard of Alkham C.C. and Stuart Milroy for the Village who both scored 66 runs for their teams. 9 year old Liam Milroy looked like batting the Cricket Club towards an undefeatable number of runs before Paul Tapsell ran him out! Paul is now considering moving from the village. It is hoped that some of the villagers will be available to play for the club. Knowing how to hold a bat is usually requirement enough but knowing how to play with one could lead to legend status on the Vicarage Meadow. Special thanks must go to the ladies for the traditional, excellent, Alkham tea. (Mark Robson)

LETTERS

TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC

Unfortunately due to the persistent rain the picnic, bouncy castle and fancy dress competition had to be squeezed into the village hall. It was because of this squeezing that the event was a little chaotic, especially when the judge pushed to carry out her duties as quickly as possible because she had to go on to do a report at another village. The judging of the fancy dress was over a little too quick and three families arrived after the event much to their understandable annoyance.

However, the rain did eventually ease up sufficiently for the races to take place. (Susan Lees)

See also Pam Sayer's letter

JUBILEE SERVICE

The Jubilee Service in St Anthony's was quite well attended considering the competition from the World Cup match and there was double peal of bells to mark the celebration. Susan Lees took a copy of her Alkham book to the altar as a token of the village and the two church wardens, Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond, also took appropriate tokens. Gill Calver based the service and sermon on the Jubilee and Frank Connelly, the organist completed the service by playing Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance on the organ.

PIG ROAST -

The Jubilee Bank Holiday celebrations culminated in a free pig roast on the village green, which was dispensed in bread rolls to parishioners. The pig weighed about 120 pounds and was roasted whole on a covered spit. Doyles the butcher of London Road, Dover donated 50 beef burgers and 50 sausages which were also cooked and handed out. Helen and Cal Scopes plus helpers did all the hard work for which the village and parishioners are very grateful.

Wasn't it a splendid four days in Alkham due to the Jubilee Committee's magnificent efforts to provide entertainment and activities for us all. It commenced with the American Supper, so well organised with the advantages of the marquee and the band to add to the gaiety of the evening. Everyone was made to feel welcome, and it was lovely also to see the children joining in and enjoying themselves. How delightful the Teddy Bears' Picnic was too. It was really touching to see all the teddy bears dressed up. What a varied assortment there was sitting around their little tablecloths with a variety of dainty cakes and sandwiches laid out in front of them, and to add to the colourful scene their owners were in fancy dress. There was the cricket match, which was enjoyed particularly by the players, as well as the onlookers; the Treasure Hunt, my goodness what a lot of cheating went on; the pig roast, which was delicious and so ably catered for by Cal and Helen, and the races enjoyed, I rather think, as much by the grown-ups as by the children. However, it didn't finish on Tuesday, at least not for the over 60s. There was a delicious buffet laid out for the senior citizens of Alkham the following Saturday, very capably organised by Doreen and Rosemary Polden and helpers, and what an enjoyable chatty evening that was for us all. Not only were all these events efficiently organised but no one had to pay for them due to all the fund raising activities. A big thank you to all concerned. Besides the national celebrations, the events held in Alkham to commemorate the Jubilee will not be forgotten for a very long time. (Pamela Sayers)

VILLAGE HALL

Chairman writes - After a weekend of much celebration for the Golden Jubilee I felt I had to put onto paper how wonderful it was to see everyone participating - the young and the not so young alike! Susan Lees (Jubilee Committee Chairman) is to be congratulated on all the work she and her committee

put in to making this such a success. The celebrations on the Saturday (1 June) - much enjoyed by all who were there: the Church Service giving a different perspective on the event; the Cricket Match - how satisfying it was to see a game played with such good sportsmanship all round (the Pig Roast going down particularly well!); the Fancy Dress and Teddy's Picnic - shame about the weather but the children still enjoyed themselves; and, finally, the Senior Residents Buffet - another evening of entertainment and great to see people obviously enjoying themselves. Throughout all the celebrations the Village Hall played a central role - much bedecked in Jubilee attire - how different it looked only 18 months ago when it was under some 6 inches of water! While I am on the subject of the Village Hall, I would like to extend a big "thank you" to all those who so generously give their support to its upkeep, either by supporting events held to raise funds or in the time given to "keep it in order". Work has been done in the last few years to improve the facilities and replace older systems (the new gas central heating and double-glazed windows being two very good examples). Having stood the test of time for some 70-odd years now, it is looking in remarkably good condition. In order to keep it that way, the Village Hall Committee hold various events throughout the year to raise funds (Jumble Sales, Ploughman's Lunches, Quiz Nights, Table Fairs, etc. etc) - many of you already support them and to those I extend the Committee's grateful appreciation - to those who haven't in the past, please come along to some of these events and help us to ensure that Alkham Village Hall is still standing in another 70 years!!

(Doreen Lott)

On behalf of our family, we would like to thank you all very much for providing such a lovely Jubilee weekend. We all enjoyed the dance, especially the grandchildren, a real family evening. Although we didn't partake in every event, we know that it was all a great success. Once again many thanks. (Rosemary and John Crothall)

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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

By now I am sure most of you will know that I shall be leaving this benefice at the beginning of August to take up a new position. Rector of Staplehurst in West Kent. This means that for a while (hopefully only a few months) you will have no Vicar and your church wardens will be arranging for different ministers to take the church services and meet any pastoral needs. We are particularly fortunate in Alkham to have a lay reader, Tony and an assistant curate, Ken, to help out where they can. We need to remember of course, that Ken has a full time job as an Immigration Officer, as well as serving the church as a priest. The wardens will also be closely involved in the selection of your new vicar so bend the ears of Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond if you want *your* views to be taken on board! Some of you have spoken to me about why I am leaving and I have tried to explain. Firstly, it is rare for my generation of priests to stay in one place for more than about 7-10 years. Many of us believe it is good for us and for church people if we move on. It prevents all of us free wheeling and getting stale and there are always new challenges which benefit from new vision and a new approach. The church is a body of people... not just the Vicar. Secondly, we clergy are still guided by our Bishop, about where we might best serve God and we often explore a new position when we are

nudged, as I was. Our Bishops know us well and they see the broader picture of the church and its needs. So it is not just about making an application at our own whim. And thirdly I am leaving because I believe it is the right thing for me to do and I look forward to a new challenge. That does not mean that I shall not miss the many people here, with whom I have shared so much. We have been through some good times, such as the renovation of our church and the dawn of a new millennium, marked by the new cross on our tower. We have also weathered some difficult times together, both in my life and in many of your personal lives. So thank you for your friendship and support and for the privilege of being alongside you. I trust that very soon you will have a new Vicar with whom the life of your church can go from strength to strength. Meanwhile if any of you are able to come to my last service for all three villages on August 4th at 10am at Capel, it would be great to say a proper goodbye to you there. (Gill Calver)

W.I. NEWS - The June meeting was a demonstration of rug making by Sue Chitty. It was interesting to note how many different ways and mediums there are for making them up. Plastic carrier bags from the supermarket were one of the more unusual ones. It could be argued that it is easier to buy one from the shops, but there is something to be said about a homemade project. Several ladies have expressed an interest

OZ on JUBILEE PROMS - There's a pleasing symmetry to the way that the late Queen Mother's life spanned the century between Victoria's death and Elizabeth's golden jubilee. In this year's Dover Carnival Proms Concert the choir sings music from coronation services, commencing with Parry's monumental *I was Glad* from the 1902 coronation of Edward VII. SS Wesley's 1853 anthem *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace*, sung at the 1937 and 1953 coronations, is followed by Stanford's *Te Deum* from the 1902 service, and two settings by Vaughan Williams for Elizabeth's coronation. This half concludes with Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, so successful at George II's coronation in 1727 that it has been performed at every coronation since. The second half features the première of a newly commissioned work, *A Man of Kent*, described by its composer, Peter Cork, as an "instrumental evocation of the Kentish countryside south of the Medway." The three movements comprise Romney Marsh, Alkham Valley, and The White Cliffs. The Romney Marsh movement has a folk-song quality suggesting a lonely and clear marshland day, complete with the bleating of sheep. Cork remembers Alkham Valley as "in the Fifties a quiet and remote area" and so the second movement uses the ballad *The Lark in the Still Air* together with the tolling of Alkham's church bell. The final White Cliffs movement includes squawking seagulls, a sea-shanty, and a heroic second tune that, in Cork's words, "could embody the spirit of Dover citizens in the hell-fire corner days of the Second War." After this, patriotic Dovorians will again hear the 1908 pageant song *Dauntless Dover* before joining in the traditional finale of *Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory*. So make sure your tickets, hats and flags are ready for 7.30pm on Friday 5 July in Dover Town Hall. (Steve Osborn)

in making up the Storysacks for local school children and it has been decided to do something after the fete. We have also welcomed some new ladies recently and hope to see Julia back next month as the next in a long line. Snacks were as scrumptious as ever!! Next meeting July 9th at 7.30 pm and the speaker will be Mrs Ault with her talk "Through the looking glass". (Devina Bartlett)

COUNTRY FILE

I know we have all said it, but doesn't time fly. Already we have got the longest days of the year. The weather, as always, has been the main talking point. Up until now its been mostly disappointing, with low pressure often not too far away, giving us the unsettled weather, indeed by the time of writing we have had 2.5ins. (62mm) which is more than we should expect for the first three weeks of June, also this changeable weather does not help the pollen count, which is at its highest just now, much to the discomfort of hay fever sufferers amongst us. There is, of course, another side of this unsettled weather, one only has to look in the garden or out in the fields to see just how plants and crops have progressed over recent weeks, everything appears very forward. The ingredients are there for an early harvest and hopefully lots of summery weather for everyone to enjoy. (Keith)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

| | |
|------------------|--|
| TUESDAY | Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details |
| WEDNESDAY | Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am |
| 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 | 1 | Parish Council meeting 7.30pm all welcome. |
| Tuesday | 2 | Garden Talk – see page 2 |
| Saturday | 6 | Bingo 7.30 pm in VH – ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776 |
| Sunday | 7 | Cricket 2.30 pm on Green |
| Tuesday | 9 | W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 13 | FETE see page 1 |
| Saturday | 20 | Craft Fair in aid of Cancer Research in VH 10 am to 4 pm |
| Monday | 22 | Village Hall committee meeting in VH at 8.00pm |
| Sunday | 28 | Cricket at 2.30pm on Green |

CHURCH SERVICES

| Day | Alkham | Capel | Hougham |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| July 7th | Evensong 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am |
| July 14th | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Evensong 6.30 pm |
| July 21st | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Evensong 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am |
| June 28th | Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 10.00 am | | |

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5.00 pm and Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15 am

SOUP KITCHEN – A team from Alkham did the Soup Kitchen in Dover twice in June. There have been a few donations of cheese, sugar and tins containing sandwich fillers but more would be appreciated, especially soup. On the 12th of June two 1.8 litres flasks of soup were consumed by the men who came into the soup kitchen. If you would like to donate anything it is probably easiest to leave it in the box at the rear of property, The Old Post Office. Blankets and sleeping bags would be appreciated as quite a few people end up living in tents on the cliffs above Dover. (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@alkham50.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 | Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876 |
| Police – all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055 | Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688 |

Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| ACCOUNTANCY | John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services | 18 Newlyns Meadow 824222 |
| 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 |
| EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES | Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider | South Alkham 01303 891996 |
| 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, 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 |
| 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 |
| SLADDEN FARM | | Phone 825188 |
| VEHICLES | Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone | 53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212 |

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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PRIZE WINNERS at the fete in the children's art competition 'Alkham in the Jubilee' were: 7 and under Paris Bates: 8 to 12, 1st Troy Bates, 2nd Jay Bates.

CHURCHYARD – What a great crowd of people volunteered to cut the churchyard. It was quite hard work but there were few complaints and everybody just got on with it. Thanks go to Gerry Newitt, Derek and Marion Banks-Nash, Ken Hammond, Den Barnard, Rob Lees, Clive Batcheldor, Larry Lambourne, Brian Wimsett, Roger Lott and Mick Wingfield. It was decided not to bale the hay but to leave it on the ground as it will soon rot away.

FETE – Someone driving through Alkham at 8.00 am and returning at 6.30pm would have thought that nothing had happened as Vicarage Meadow was empty at both times. However by 9.00 am tents and marquees had started to spring up around the green being put up by a group of amiable villagers. There was a pretty good turn out of volunteers this year and a similar number stayed at the end to take the tents down and return them to Hogbrook barn. Soon the stalls were in place and made ready for the grand opening by Alan Minter the World Middleweight boxing champion in 1980. This year there seemed to me more people at the fete but takings were slightly down on last year at £3200, which after expenses left a clear profit of £2100. The Maypole dancing by Capel School was most impressive and the children managed to win one of the tug-of-war contests, which was the culmination of the children's races. Billy Hollis eventually ran out of petrol on his mini Volkswagen, which carried delighted children round and round the green. It was a terrific day and thanks go to all those who helped with the fete and particularly to Paul Tapsell who organised the whole event. **(editor)** **May I add my own thanks** to all those who helped at this year's Fete and made my job so much easier: There are too many people involved to thank individually but I have to mention, in addition to the stallholders and other attractions or entertainments, the backroom boys and girls who get so much done behind the scenes, from the people who do the monthly bingo evenings, the shopping, distribute the raffle tickets, collect the prizes, put out the bunting, organise the car parking, put up the tents and set out the meadow. I was particularly pleased to see the large number of people who stayed behind to help clear the meadow afterwards – everything was away by 6:30 which was fantastic. Anyone who enjoyed mucking in should come along to the AGM or Fete committee meetings and we'll find you a bigger job for next year. Thank you all. **(Paul Tapsell)**

COFFEE MORNING

You are invited to a coffee morning on Saturday August the 10th between 10.30 am and noon at the home of Rosemary and John Crothall, Brook House, Meggett Lane, South Alkham. The money raised will go to their granddaughter's play group.

HOG ROAST – Helen and Cal Scopes are holding a Hog Roast and dancing to a Line Band, in aid of Air Ambulance on the 17th of August from 7.00 pm. Tickets will be £5 per head in advance and can be obtained by phoning 822899. Pork will be served with salads, coleslaw, French bread and cheese. Please bring your own chair, glass and drink. There will be a raffle and donations of prizes would be gratefully received.

DOGS – Would the owners who are allowing their dogs to foul the football pitch please clear the mess up as the area is used extensively by children playing football. Also would the people letting off fire crackers please stop as they are terrifying some dogs in the village.

FETE – There will be a meeting in the Village Hall on the 28th of August at 8.00 pm to discuss this year's fete and ideas for the next. I know quite a few people have made suggestions about the fete, so please do come along and have your say.

KENT'S SECRET ARMY

In a previous issue of the Newsletter there was an article on a resistance organisation set up in 1940 to counter the expected German invasion. Parishioners were asked to write if they had any information on the above. The researcher has now uncovered more details of people involved and they are: G Marsh, Drellingore Rise; L Osborne, Drellingore Farm; G Richards, Upton College. If any of these people are still alive or if their families are still in the district would they please contact Adrian Westwood, Hawksdene, The Street, Hastingleigh, Kent TN25 5HU (01233 750563). He would also like to hear from anyone who has photos of local Kent Home Guard Units, ideally with names and addresses of the members.

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BINGO - Kathleen Goldfinch would like to thank everyone who has supported and helped during the last eleven years and would like to wish Beverley Tapsell, who will be taking over from me the best of luck.

THANKS go to Ted Baker for sending his annual donation to the Newsletter. For those to whom the name is unfamiliar, Ted used to live in Alkham Parish and now lives in Devon with his wife where they called their house 'Wolverton'. They are both in their 90's and despite recent setbacks are keeping reasonably well and hoping for a good summer. (editor)

MANY THANKS to the kind people who have donated soup and other items to the Alkham Soup Kitchen run.

DOGS - I would just like to say that stories related across the bar at the Marquis of Granby are not always accurate or true.

(Brian Wimsett)

RECYCLING - In the Dover Mercury there was a picture and article about the doorstep recycling scheme which has been a great success, recycling 22 tonnes during the first week. It's being trialled in Sandwich, Ash, Eastry, Worth, Preston and Wingham. The next phase is Deal in October and the rest of us next year. (Steve Osborn)

FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES - There are various events organised during the summer for children and families to join in. On Saturday the 10th of August there is an Open Weekend at Samphire Hoe. As you probably know, Samphire Hoe is accessed from the new A20 on the hill leading from the roundabout by Shakespeare Cliff, just outside Dover. There will be a children's colouring competition with prizes, angling experts on site to give advice and local divers will have displays, quizzes and games. At 1.00 pm there is a guided tour round Samphire Hoe and at 3.00 pm a lantern making workshop. At 8.30 pm there is a spooky ghost walk around the Hoe, so bring your lantern or torch. On the following day there will a mini beast safari, pebble art and then a Samphire Sun downer with a gentle stroll round the Hoe followed by a fruit cocktail. All this is organised by the Green Gang and further information on the above and other activities through the holiday can be obtained by phoning 241806. (editor)

HIGHWAYS - Frustration was expressed at the Parish Council meeting regarding the filling of pot holes. The men on site are only allowed to fill holes with white lines round so it is both frustrating for them and local residents when there is clearly a hole that needs filling in but as it hasn't been marked nothing can be done. The Parish Council are going to contact DDC.

FOOTBALL NETS - There was a request from the youngsters in the village for the nets on the goal posts on the football pitch adjacent to Vicarage Meadow to be replaced. The Parish Council commented that they had previously replaced the nets which had then been quickly vandalised, so it was suggested that an appeal be put in the Newsletter for any person who has suitable netting to contact Sue Lees on 822661. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

outing to Sissinghurst Castle Garden. To the relief of members and their friends, the sun actually shone and it was warm, although umbrellas were up before we boarded the coach to Sissinghurst. The gardens were lovely with a tremendous variety of plants which were labelled so you could take note for future use of those you fancied in your own garden, although finding a nursery which sold them might present a little problem. Some of us had aching feet at the end of the day, but I think we all agreed it was a very interesting and pleasant day out. (Pamela Sayers, Secretary)

SKY COMET Congratulations to Sandie Tapsell and Sky Comet, her 18 year old Arab Stallion, who from six outings to National-level Horse Shows this year has been 1st and Reserve Champion Pure Bred Arab Stallion/Colt at The Royal Show, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire; 1st and Supreme Arab Champion (for the third time) at the Kent County Show (hence her late arrival at the Fete!); 2nd in the Ridden Arab Stallion and Reserve Ridden Champion of Show at the Arab Horse Society Spring Show at Ardingly, Sussex; and 1st in the Ridden Arab at the National Pony Society Show at Towerlands, Essex. Comet has also

qualified for the British Arab Championships at Hartpur in September.

GARDEN CLUB. A big thank you to Nigel and Angie Snape, for once again allowing us to see and enjoy their lovely garden. The weather was absolutely foul, starting to rain about two seconds after we all arrived, but their kind hospitality more than made up for it.

(Devina Bartlett)

JUBILEE PROJECTS - There is some money left from the fund raising carried out for the Jubilee and also the Parish Council are going to consider proposals to further commemorate the Golden Jubilee. The suggestions are for two stiles to be replaced by kissing gates through the Old Rectory land, the words 'Alkham Village Hall' put on the hall and a seat on Vicarage Meadow. By the first bend of the Valley road adjacent to Vicarage Meadow there was a stile as the meadow used to be grazed by cows and was fenced off. The stile disappeared a few years back and it was thought that it would be a good idea to reinstate it in part as it did look attractive and featured in drawings by Margaret Knowles. The Parish Council are currently considering the options. (editor)

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OZ on MINSMERE – One of life's more intriguing discoveries is that with age one increasingly resembles one's parents. As Robert Lowell, in his poem *Middle Age*, said, "At forty-five, what next, what next? At every corner / I meet my father / my age, still alive." At sixty-plus, my wife's parents began to disappear regularly to watch birds at the RSPB reserve at Minsmere in Suffolk. It seemed inevitable therefore that this spring found us driving up the A14 to Saxmundham, our base for exploring Minsmere and its surroundings. The reserve originated in the early days of World War II, when, responding to invasion threats, the government flooded the Minsmere saltings. By the end of the war the area had reverted to nature and the RSPB acquired it in 1947. Minsmere is now the most famous and heavily visited (by both birds and humans) of the RSPB reserves. Over 300 bird species have been recorded there, 200 of them annually, with about 100 species breeding regularly. We saw a modest 23 of these on our first visit, and 58 during the week. On the third day, we celebrated my birthday (at sixty-two, what next, what next?) with a rare sighting of a bittern after a wait of only 20 minutes in the Bittern Hide. During the next few days we found East Suffolk to be a green and gentle place, the roads bordered by hedges and oak standards rather than fences, much like East Kent was 50 years ago, and so, like the parents before us, we've booked to return in the autumn. Lowell's poem ends "You never climbed Mount Sion / yet left dinosaur death-steps / on the crust / where I must walk." We'll have to go some to match the parents' "dinosaur steps". In between trips to Minsmere, they visited Norway, Yugoslavia and Morocco. (Steve Osborn)

OBITUARY - The Revd. John David King, Vicar of St. Anthony's, Alkham, 1976 – 1982, and Vicar of St. Andrew's, Deal 1982 – 2002. Born in a tiny village in Carmarthen, South Wales 1937 he sadly died while still in office in June. He arrived in Alkham with his Welsh wife Lyn and their two boys Andrew and David to live at Alkham Vicarage but shortly after they were to be moved to the new Vicarage at Capelle-Ferne. John worked hard to bring the three parishes of Alkham, Capel and Hougham together and make them a true Benefice. Lyn, a lay reader, was always very supportive of John and worked hard in the parishes in particular with the Sunday school at Capel. John's especial quality was in his pastoral work he was a true friend to those in sorrow and sickness whatever religion or creed they followed. The numbers of people at his memorial service reflect the esteem in which he was held. (Susan Lees)

W.I. NEWS - Dresses in period costume, Lee Ault gave us a moving and evocative talk on the lives of Victorian Seamstresses. They lived in abject poverty, worked 18 hours a day and all for a few pennies. The work they turned out was exquisite and was sold on for a vast profit, so not much change there really! A sad and moving account of the harshness of life in Victorian times if you were poor. Next meeting is members night on 13th August at 7.30 pm. (Devina Bartlett)

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS -Clive Batchelor is interested in ancestry and as a bell ringer gave me this article from one of his magazines. A lady called Sybil Bellis wrote about some of her ancestors dying at an early age but was puzzled as to why a relative, Edward had died at the age of 34. The death certificate stated that he had been accidentally killed by being drawn by the weight of the bell against a beam in the belfry in the church. The newspaper account of the accident, in the Maidstone Journal, Kentish Advertiser and South Eastern Intelligence of September 24 1844, explained what happened: "SANDGATE. - FATAL ACCIDENT On Thursday night last, about 8 o'clock, while a party of persons were engaged ringing the bells at Newington church, next Sandgate, the bell of one of them, Edward Maycock, canted (*to* suddenly) and pulled him up to the ceiling of the bellfry, against which his head struck with such violence that he immediately fell to the floor, and melancholy to relate, expired in the course of half an hour. The man who has been thus awfully and suddenly called into eternity, was a labourer in the employ of the Rev. Win. Brockman of Beachborough, and has unhappily left a pregnant wife and three children to mourn their loss."

COUNTRY FILE

If you were asked what your favourite wild flower was, it would not be an easy answer, as there are so many to choose from. You don't have far to go to see an array of them, be it along the roadside or footpaths. There could be dandelions, clover, daisy, cow parsley, poppy, dog rose or maybe even honeysuckle. They all have their own attraction. Wild flowers in summer also attract a range of insects, moths and butterflies, the more common and colourful being the Peacock or Red Admiral, these are seen in our gardens dodging among the flowers.

Weather-wise, having had almost 2.5ins (62mm) of rain during the first 10 days of July, what a change there has been since then, with several settled warm and sunny days. The temperatures were in the 70's with winds often coming from a cool northerly direction, which is unusual for July. (Keith)

There is no News from St Anthony's this month as Gill Calver is leaving the Parish to take up ministry at Staplehurst. An article will be included in next month's addition and I'm sure we all wish her the very best of luck in her new Parish.

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

| | |
|------------------|--|
| TUESDAY | Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details |
| WEDNESDAY | Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am |
| 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 7.30 pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765 |
| Saturday | 10 | Coffee morning see page 1 |
| Tuesday | 13 | W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 17 | Hog Roast see page 1 |
| Sunday | 18 | Cricket versus George Brown XI 2.30pm on green |
| Monday | 19 | Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Sunday | 25 | Cricket versus Harrington Hackers XI noon on green |
| Wednesday | 28 | Fete meeting see page 1 |

CHURCH SERVICES

| Day | Alkham | Capel | Hougham |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| August 4th | Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund, Capel-le-Ferne 10.00 am | | |
| August 11th | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Evensong 6.30 pm |
| August 18th | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Evensong 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am |
| August 25th | Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 10.00 am | | |

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5.00 pm and Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15 am

WANTED old unused musical instruments, music books, stands and instrument cases to be refurbished and given to schools across Kent. Please phone 01622 605977 for more details.

BEWARE of a female who comes to your door and says that her car has broken down and can she use your phone to call her husband. In some cases she enters a number on your phone that then allows her to charge all the calls from another phone to your account. You have no option but to pay the amount, which could run to hundreds of pounds. Fairly obviously say yes and ask for the husband's number so you can ring it yourself.

(Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin from Sue Lees)

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS At the Parish Council meeting thanks were extended to all those who were involved in arranging the Jubilee events in the village.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 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@alkham50.freemove.co.uk | 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 |
| Alkham web site alkham.info | 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, Malmains Farm | Alkham 202004 or 822888 |
| EQUESTRIAN | Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking | Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644 |
| EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES | Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider | South Alkham 01303 891996 |
| 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, 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 |
| 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 |
| SLADDEN FARM | | Phone 825188 |
| VEHICLES | Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone | 53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212 |

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FOR SALE – Ladies bike in good condition and recently overhauled. It has Sturmey Archer gears, a dynamo with lights and a carrier on the back. The cost is £20 and the money will go to some worthy cause. Please phone 823720 for more

CONGRATULATIONS to Charlie Preston on his 80th birthday.

HARVEST SUPPER

will be in the village hall on the 30th September at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £4.00 and available from Betty Neely, phone number 822688. There is a chance (see above) that Meridian Television will be there filming.

QUIZ NIGHT – There will be a quiz in the village hall on the 21st of September at 7.30pm in aid of Cancer Research. Mike Stevens from Thanet Radio will be running it and bookings for tables of up to eight can be made by phoning the Polden and Lott families on 824876.

MERIDIAN TV. – Through the excellent Alkham Web Site (alkham.info), Vince Holness was contacted by Meridian Television about the possibility of filming in the village, probably around Harvest Supper time. The matter is being discussed at the moment and should Meridian decide to go ahead a number of people in the village will be interviewed for the programme. **(editor)**

NEWSLETTER – September is the beginning of the financial year for the Newsletter. In the last financial year to August 2002 the income was £430 from adverts, £56 from donations plus an additional income of £27 for items included as the Village correspondent in the Dover Express (I also do the Mercury but claiming money is tricky and fairly poor so I don't bother). The cost of photostating the Newsletter over the year is about £400, petrol to go to Staples at Canterbury plus distribution to deliverers is about £50, stamps to send the 11 copies per month by post is £28 and ink for the printer is £12. The net result of this is that there was a profit of about £40 over the year, which is taken forward in the Building Society account. If anyone would like to see a copy of the accounts please give me a ring. **(editor)**

PLANT – Olive Harvey has a large plant growing in her conservatory, which had arrived via birds or imported soil. It had pretty flowers on and the overall appearance was striking but nobody had the slightest idea what it was. I took some photos with a digital camera on a Wednesday and e-mailed them to Radio Kent for their gardening programme. On the Friday, although we didn't hear the broadcast, the question was raised in the show. Radio Kent e-mailed me the information and said that it had been identified as a nightshade and the advice was to get rid of it. Olive would still like more details though. **(editor)**

FOOTBALL – Ken Hammond is running a football practice night on the green when a group of about 12 girls and boys come along. Ken took Jamie Reed and Eliot Avery, who both live in the village, to Crabble for them to be assessed by Dover Rangers Youth team. Both of them were accepted and have been taken by Dover Rangers to see Manchester United play a friendly match and also went to Pontin's holiday camp as part of the club activities. Paul Reed and Robert Alan who also play on Tuesdays are involved with Folkestone Invicta football club. Congratulations to them all and if you fancy going along and having some fun the football practice is at 6.00 pm on Tuesdays but this may change to Thursday. Ring Ken on 823720 for further details. **(editor)**

DOG FOULING – I have been asked to include an item regarding the fouling of Vicarage Meadow and walkways by dogs. Would owners please pick up and remove droppings.

PIG ROAST – Helen and Cal Scopes wish to thank everyone for their support in raising £520 for The Air Ambulance at the Pig Roast and disco night held at the 'Willows' on the 17th of August.

CONGRATULATIONS to Catherine Bates of Smithfield Farm, Ewell Minnis on her marriage to Steve Smith on the 10th of August at St. Anthony's church

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

Sue Lees and I are going to attend the Kent Village of the Year prize giving at St Margarets at Cliffe on the 17th of September. We don't expect to win but it's usually a good evening and there will be a report next month. **(editor)**

CONGRATULATIONS to Lucy Mears who got 5 A stars, 2 A's and 4 B stars in her GCSE exams.

A JUMBLE SALE in aid of W.I. funds will be held in the village hall on Saturday the 14th of September, with the doors opening at 11.00 am.

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KENT FAMILY HISTORY

magazine has a photo from a person in Australia of two ladies holding sheep. She is researching the names of Bean from Folkestone, Eythorne and Ewell Minnis, especially with the name Valentine. She also has a Mount line traced back to Thomas Mount born in 1846 in Alkham. If you think you can help please phone Sue Lees on 822661. (The photo won't photostat)

EGYPT WITH A DIFFERENCE

- A month ago my daughter and I spent a week in Egypt. No ... we didn't go to Cairo, Luxor, mummies' tombs or pyramids. We went to Dahab which is on the edge of the Sinai Peninsular on the shores of the Red Sea and looks out towards Saudi Arabia, which is but a few miles away on the other side of the water. Dahab is not a great tourist centre although a few modern hotels have appeared in recent years but it is really a Bedouin settlement that has not changed in centuries. A short distance from the Hilton Hotel where we stayed is the original Bedouin village where traditions, culture and the way of life have fortunately, not yet moved to the 21st century. The main purpose of our visit was scuba diving. The Red Sea is quite wonderful with many coral reefs, fascinating fish and other creatures, breath-taking underwater rock formations and plant life and above all, completely clear visibility. One morning we were collected at 5.15 by our driver, Ahmed, dressed in his usual Bedouin attire and driving the most battered-looking and dilapidated jeep type vehicle that you have ever seen. We went to the dive centre and collected some other divers and then took off along the beach and drove for 3 or 4 miles until we came to the famous "Blue Hole". This dive site was discovered many years ago by Jacques Cousteau and is one of the few such sites in the world. We dived to 35 metres and saw the most amazing marine life and coral formations that I have ever encountered and the water was bluer than a midsummer sky! It was truly breath taking. On another day we took a car and went inland across the vast expanse of the Sinai desert. This is a real wilderness but its rugged charm and varying landscapes of sand, rock formations, mountain ranges including some very inhospitable terrain. were most impressive. We came to the foot of Mt Sinai. Here we visited the monastery of St Katherine where the body of this 3rd century saint still rests. After some serious negotiations, (as only a used car salesman can do!) prices were agreed and we jumped aboard two camels and began the ascent to the top of Mt Sinai. It took two hours to get near the summit but a fascinating ride with really stunning views. We left our camels and walked up 700 steep and precarious steps that were roughly cut out of the rock and shale and eventually we were on the top of the mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments about 3500 years ago. What a place and what an experience!! Each direction we looked, the scenery was different: large barren mountains with no vegetation, vast areas of sandy desert, smaller desolate areas of shale and rock. With the temperature about 45 C, this was not a trip for the faint-hearted! There is a small church built next to the place where Moses is said to have sheltered and by the church is a Muslim mosque! I thought how wonderful it was that two of the worlds religions which so often are seen as being at odds with each other were represented in such harmony at this Holy and Spiritual place. The descent was in some ways harder than the ascent! Finding good footholds on the steps back to where our camels were waiting patiently was not easy and the return journey on the back of a camel was far from comfortable! Have you ever looked at a camel saddle and imagined the problems it can cause the male gender when facing downhill?! However, it was all a truly great and memorable experience and if any readers were contemplating a week away with a difference, then do get in touch and I will show you many photographs and be happy to tell you more. (Billy Hollis)

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH - The following was received by Susan Lees from the Police Community Support Officer: An elderly resident of Wingham was approached by a man at her door enquiring as to whether she required any garden work doing. She told him he could remove a 4ft conifer tree which he did. He charged the lady £200 for the work. There is no crime here as the lady instructed him to do the work and was pleased with it and agreed to the price. However, please be advised that these people do charge very high prices for the work they carry out and we would advise people to get 3 quotes for work being carried out by reputable companies. 2 shed breaks were reported recently at Milner Crescent, Aylesham. Lock hasp unscrewed. Items to the value of £480 were stolen including a lawnmower, 2 strimmers, mountain bike, and golf clubs. Alison Crescent, Whitfield. Padlock to shed removed. Items stolen to the value of £1050 include 2 mountain bikes and golf clubs. Shed/Personal Attack Alarms are available at £5 each from the Community Support Police Officer, Caroline Barnett on 01304 218151.

AS some people may know, I had an accident prone week first puncturing my gas pipe then the water pipe and finally cutting the top of my big toe off with the rotary mower and spending three days in hospital. Quite a week really. I'd like to thank all the people who sent best wishes and cards and particularly thank my neighbour Ken Hammond who cut my grass, moved earth and regularly walked my dog, Sally. (editor)

VILLAGE HALL - The Village Hall committee have decided to replace the curtains in the hall. The new ones are ivory with russet decoration. They also decided to buy ten new tables with ivory coloured tops to replace the dilapidated old card tables.

SOUP KITCHEN - Thank you to the people who have donated soup and other items for the Alkham Village soup run. Also thanks to the anonymous person (probably Eileen West) who has donated blankets. We have 12 at the moment and these will come in very handy when the winter weather comes along.

THE RESTING BAR adjacent to the Alkham Valley Road at the top of Vicarage Meadow has been replaced by good old Rob Lees.

THE JUBILEE SEAT forming a semi-circle round the Millennium Badger sign should shortly be in place.

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FAREWELL TO GILL

CALVER - As a comparative newcomer to Alkham, I have only enjoyed the benefit of Gill's wonderful ministry for about 2½ years, but many of you have known her for a lot longer and are well aware of all her many attributes. Gill was not exclusively "our property" but somehow she managed to give so much time and care to the people of Alkham, always taking a keen and active interest in village life and always available to anyone in the village be they a churchgoer or not. I know these sentiments are echoed by those who live in Capel and Hougham and it is quite remarkable that she was able to give so much time and attention to the three villages. Her ministry was refreshing. She brought to the parish enthusiasm, concern and love in such huge quantities that she is going to be a very hard act to follow. She will be remembered for her quick wit and a sense of humour which never offended anyone and brought much laughter and happiness to so many. Gill was a very trusting lady she even trusted me to sell her two motor cars although I would say that I owe a vote of thanks to her son Richard who kindly wrote off the first one thus enabling a second deal to be done!! I remember Gill at the village Millennium party which, for some strange reason, took place in May 2000!! I think she talked to everyone in the barn on that joyous occasion and certainly showed us all how to boogie with such energy - it was exhausting just watching her! I have listened to many sermons delivered from the pulpit of St Anthony and each one was

original, thought-provoking and usually quite challenging. Whilst Gill would identify with ordinary people, there was nothing ordinary about her preaching and although her Christian faith was central to her life, the way she communicated this was refreshing, humorous and pitched at a level that was appreciated by all. She will be sadly missed but the work she has done will never be forgotten and as a tribute to her work we must continue to support our new incumbent who will be very fortunate to start work in a parish with strong Christian and community values and so much of this is contributable to Gill. So, goodbye Gill and thank you very much indeed. We will miss you terribly and we hope you will come back and visit us. Don't forget to bring with you that wonderful smile which has meant so much to us all, and may God bless you in your new parish.
(Billy Hollis)

W.I. NOTES

Members Night saw a return darts match between ourselves and the ladies of Temple Ewell. Having won the first round, we clinched the final by 2 games to 1. Congratulations to Doreen and the team. A small group of us have made a start on the storybook bags for local school children. A menagerie of animals is being proposed for our fist book, including bats, lions and an octopus. If any one could donate craft

OZ on McGonagall

- Driving near St Mary's Loch, in the Borders, one Sunday in August 1984, we braked hard on seeing second-hand books displayed on a low dry-stone wall at the side of the road. "There's more in here", cried the elderly owner as she opened the double doors of a barn, stacked high with thousands of volumes. Among our purchases that afternoon was *Poetic Gems* by William Topaz McGonagall, the self-styled "poet and tragedian of Dundee". This memory resurfaced when I read that 29th September is the centenary of McGonagall's death. Born in either 1825 or 1830 into an Irish weaving family, he declared himself a poet in 1877 and embarked on a 25 year career as a working poet and actor, "delighting and appalling audiences across Scotland", according to *The Scotsman*. He was soon regarded as the country's favourite bad poet, although the great Scottish poet, Hugh MacDiarmid, decided that "William McGonagall was not a bad poet; still less a good bad poet - he was not a poet at all." McGonagall wrote extensively on the Empire, his beloved Queen Victoria, disasters, and, most famously, on the construction and subsequent collapse of the Tay Bridge. It's difficult to understand why he persisted, in the face of rotten fruit and ridicule, even being turned away from Balmoral. My view is that, as a handloom weaver with a large family to support, he felt obliged from economic necessity to suffer these supposed humiliations. After all he was paid fees of 5 or 10 shillings per performance. His only venture into the world of commercial advertising produced the following poem, for which he was paid two guineas by Sunlight Soap: "You can use it with great pleasure and ease / Without wasting any elbow grease / And when washing the most dirty clothes / The sweat won't be dripping from your nose." (Steve Osborn)

materials it would be much appreciated. Please give me a ring. The next meeting is a surprise! (By that I mean that we haven't yet got a speaker). Tuesday September 10th at 7.30 pm.

(Devina Bartlett)

COUNTRY FILE

- In farming circles when August is mentioned, you automatically think of harvest. It's the biggest project undertaken in the farming year by most arable farms, although harvest is not the long drawn out affair it used to be, with modern efficient methods in use today. However one thing which does and always will play a vital part is our weather conditions. Whatever job is being done, be it harvesting or baling straw, it needs to be done at the right time, to achieve the best results. Machinery too always works better and easier when conditions are right. Speed to which jobs are done can be born out when looking about the countryside. Fields change colour virtually overnight where cultivators quickly follow harvest. Weather wise, contrary to weather forecasts some days have left a lot to be desired. We have been most fortunate to have missed all the heavy downpours which covered most of the county recently. (I know the gardens and water butts need some rain.) August, as if you need reminding, has been mostly dry, hot and sunny so far with temperatures touching 80 F or 27C on several days. Consequently only 0.5 inches (12mm) of rain fell, mostly on the 9th. (Keith)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

| | |
|------------------|---|
| TUESDAY | Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details |
| WEDNESDAY | Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am |
| 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)

| | | |
|----------|----|---|
| Sunday | 1 | Cricket versus Hythe on Village Green 2.00 pm |
| Monday | 2 | Parish Council meeting in the village hall 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 7 | Bingo 7.30 pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765 |
| Tuesday | 10 | W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 14 | Jumble Sale – see page 1 |
| Sunday | 15 | Cricket versus New Romney 2.00pm on green |
| Monday | 16 | Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 21 | Quiz – see page 1 |
| Monday | 30 | Harvest Supper – see page 1 |

CHURCH SERVICES

| Day | Alkham | Capel | Hougham |
|----------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| September 1st | Evensong 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am |
| September 8th | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Evensong 6.30 pm |
| September 15th | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Evensong 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am |
| September 22nd | Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony's Alkham 10.00 am | | |
| September 29th | Harvest Festival Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Harvest Festival Worshipping together 11.00 am St Radigund's | |

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5.00 pm and Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15 am

LITTER – The football pitch recently looked like a large litter bin with paper and bottles all over the place. Before football practice on a Tuesday evening Ken Hammond took some carrier bags to the pitch and the assembled children, much to their credit, picked up all the rubbish.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 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@alkham50.freemove.co.uk | 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 – all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055 | Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688 |

Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 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 |
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| SLADDEN FARM | | Phone 825188 |
| VEHICLES | Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone | 53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212 |

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especially welcome. Fun and friendly
classes! To book a place or for further
details please call 01303 891649

See 'What's on' - back page

PELLETS? A local resident whilst
driving along the Alkham Valley Road
near South Alkham had the side window
of the car smashed. On later investigation
they came to the conclusion it was
caused by an air gun pellet or similar. If
something like this has happened to you
would you please ring the Parish Clerk
on 822661.

THE ANNUAL tidy up of the
churchyard will take place on Saturday
the 12th of October between 10 am and
0.30 pm. If you can spare the time please
come along and help.

THE QUIZ in the village hall on
the 21st of September made a profit of
£130, which will go to Cancer Research.
A good time was had by all and thanks
go to the Polden and Lott families.

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD - A fatal car crash occurred on the 7th
of September on the Alkham Valley Road near Chilton Farm. As a result of this,
the residents of Bushy Ruff Cottages on the Alkham Road have approached
Dover District Council requesting that urgent consideration be given to traffic
calming in the valley. They had a sympathetic hearing from a member of DDC's
Highways Department, Steve Henson, who has suggested that residents should
write to him expressing their concerns. As you are aware the Parish Council has
campaigning for many years to get traffic calming measures along the valley with
limited success. They have recently been told that there is no chance of phase 2 of
the traffic calming through the village being implemented (narrowing just past the
Marquis) but it would still be worthwhile writing to Steve Henson of DDC at the
White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ. The more letters the better. (editor)

WOLVERTON HILL - At the Parish Council meeting, justified
concern was expressed about the junction of Wolverton Hill with the Alkham
Valley Road. It is the main access to Ewell Minnis and is dangerous because of
very limited visibility. When I was in the west country I came across a dangerous
junction in the middle of nowhere which had a 40 mph speed limit around it. I
have therefore written to the Parish Council suggesting that they approach the
Highway Authority and ask whether a 40 mph speed limit could be implemented
say 100 metres either side of the junction. Over such a short distance it would be
easy to implement a speed check and also prosecute drivers as a result of an
accident caused by excessive speed. (editor)

FETE - My brother in law took a lot of photos at this year's fete in Alkham
and has put them on the web under www.backwater.clara.net. (editor)

HOGBROOK LANE

The construction of the terrace of five
houses on the site of the old barn has
commenced. It is understood that they
will go on the market starting from
about £200,000 or maybe a bit less.

MATTHEW HYLAND

got nine A stars, one A and one B in
his GCSE exams. Well done.

THE FUN RUN organised by
Anne Huggins on the 7th of July raised
£2754.29 for Meningitis Research
with 71 runners taking part.

PARISH COUNCIL

ELECTIONS - next May there
will be an election in Alkham for
Parish Councillors. This has been
included now so that you can have a
think about it to see if you would like
to stand. It is a good Parish Council
doing a lot of worthwhile things.

THE MINISTRY OF

DEFENCE is looking to buy
land in other rural areas one of which
could be Alkham. This was tried
before in 1986 but defeated by the
Parish Council and locals. The
Chairman said they'd fight again.

EWELL MINNIS

- The
representative for Ewell Minnis was
present at the recent Parish Council
meeting. I was asked to include an item
about a sandy coloured lurcher, which
has been seen worrying sheep and
another lurcher which howls all night.
Would the owner please try to control
the dogs. Also, off road motorcycles
have been speeding through Ewell
Minnis particularly along Newcastle
Lane. Will they please stop.

NEWLYNS MEADOW

To some surprise a letter was read out
at the Parish Council meeting saying
that the roads in Newlyn Meadow
have not yet been adopted by the
Highway Authority. The Parish
Council will write to DDC.

STILES

- As mentioned in last
month's Newsletter the intention is to
replace the two stiles on the path
leading from the churchyard with
kissing gates. The family of Betty and
Gordon Preston have kindly offered to
pay for them in memory of their
parents who spent most of their lives in
the village. The new ones will have to
cater for handicapped people.

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ATLANTIC ELECTRIC AND

GAS – Recently a very plausible young man came knocking on doors saying that they had taken over the billing for SEEboard and British Gas. This turns out to be a lie and therefore the other promises made could be untrue as well.

CORRECTION – In the last edition of the Newsletter I said that Rob Lees had replaced the resting bar by Vicarage Meadow. Some people interpreted this as Rob being put there in place of the resting bar. I can confirm that this is not the case and that he repaired it and that its proper title is a stile.

ALSO Rob Lees is to be congratulated on the splendid job he has done in replacing the small grass patch at the bottom of the Forstal, by the Alkham Valley Road, with flint cobbles and brick circles. Although he will not take any praise it does look very good and is a big improvement. (editor)

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR – Alkham was highly commended in the Environmental Action section of the Village of the Year competition. It was held in the village hall at St Margarets at Cliffe and was very well organised with Radio Kent being the master of ceremonies. An amusing touch was the award of a 2 metre high tree to the winners from the Kent Men of Trees. As was said, it was like an excerpt from Dad's Army as people walked surreptitiously across the stage behind a tree. The organisers have written to us with regard to the entry and said: "They have certainly read the supplementary notes - more than many! - which helped us in the short-listing and visit. Their churchyard is very impressive; they have a well established management plan, wildlife area with a small cleared area. Very ordered. We also liked what they had done, so far, for the village hall, e.g. timer for the heating, insulating the roof, new more efficient central heating but they now need to consider water issues such as spray (push button) taps in the toilets, and perhaps dual flush loos. They seem to know and understand water, i.e. their flooding issues and when groundwater flooding might occur. However, they need to be more active over transport issues. They understand that the competition is not about pretty-pretty villages, i.e. Best Kept Villages, and the need to look after the environment.' Unfortunately no mention was made of the hedge laying, the footpath map on alkham.info or the excellent pond report by Mick Wingfield. The winning large village was Wye, which has a thing called Wye Cycle. A very public spirited group go round in a van powered by recycled cooking oil picking up the usual things plus items which might be suitable for resale. Anyone fancy doing that in Alkham?"

BILL and ANDREA SMITH have sold their house in Alkham and are going to live in a house which is being built in Kefalonia, Greece. Their delightful Springer Spaniel, Benji has gone with them passport and all. Bill's father was Greek so they do know some people on the island. I'm sure we all wish them good luck in their new life. If you want their address please contact me. (editor)

KENT'S SECRET ARMY – In the August edition of the Newsletter there was an article about Kent's Secret Army, which was set up in WWII to fight against a possible German Invasion. Melvyn Kirby of Chalksole Farm tells me that his father, George, was a member of the Army and even after the war he had to keep his membership a secret in case of further invasion (presumably the Russians). Evidently there were trees with aials running up inside the bark. It would be great to know more and hopefully Melvyn will write something for the Newsletter. (editor)

UPTON FARM HOUSE –

The full story is on the Alkham web site alkham.info if you'd like to see it. The farmhouse was built in 1703 and is a Grade II listed Georgian building. The owners wanted to renovate a room in period details and contacted various make-over shows. In the end Sky agreed to do it and the results can be seen on Uk-style with the programme called 'get the look'. For exact details of when it is going to be transmitted log on to the Alkham web site. (editor)

VICARAGE MEADOW

The purchase of the above from the church has got to the Conveyancing stage. They however want a clause in the contract which says that if in future years the Meadow was sold for development the church will benefit from any such sale. The motion was carried on the vote and hopefully it is very unlikely that the Meadow will ever be developed.

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ST. ANTHONY'S is still without a vicar (interregnum) so if there are any queries regarding the church please contact one of the church wardens listed on the back page.

WITH REGARD to the above, because there is no 'News from St. Anthony's' plus other affected items, I'd be very grateful for articles about anything to be put in the Newsletter. You can put them in the box behind my house, through the letter box or send me an e-mail.

CHURCHYARD - The Benefice has given me a cheque for £50 to cover the costs of cutting the churchyard. The costs were only £25 and since they insist I keep the money I've put the other £25 in a contingency fund together with the £20 for the bike advertised last month. The lady who bought it took it for a test ride and returned some two hours later. Evidently she had been chatting. (editor)

ALKHAM PARISH MAGAZINE 1937

Monday's washing - To prevent socks or stockings shrinking cut pieces of 3 ply wood the shape of the foot and put in the socks while drying: when nearly dry, take out. For cloth or woollen berets cut a circle the size required, then cut in half as it is easier to put in and out when in two pieces. (Miss E Borrett)

OZ on GWYER - In last month's article I didn't mention that we had our own "English McGonagall" at one time. Joseph Gwyer, "The Penge Poet", was born at Redlynch, in Wiltshire, on 17th November 1835, into a large family of Wesleyan Methodists. His mother died when he was eight years old, after which he and his eight siblings were raised by their grandmother on their uncle's farm. At the age of 17, he left home for Bermondsey to find work, and experienced a vivid religious experience that converted him to Baptism. Later he moved to Croydon, where he was married in 1864. Gwyer was a potato salesman, but in connection with his work for the Penge Tabernacle and the temperance movement he published an "almanack" containing amongst other things his own poems. It sounded much like our newsletter "with local and popular events ... getting from £30 to £40 per year for advertisements." Gwyer travelled extensively in the south-east, selling both potatoes and poems, and penning poetic sketches that included Folkestone, Sandgate, Herne Bay and Margate (...the Fort Arcade we see / High up above the rolling sea"). Like McGonagall, he found disasters, shipwrecks and royalty irresistible; he was equally rejected by Queen Victoria, and much of his verse was pure doggerel. Where he differed was in his greater underlying earnestness, what Nicholas T Parsons called "a seriousness of tone befitting the grandeur of his themes." Gwyer and McGonagall shared with certain "naïve" writers in 19th century America this combination of solemnity and humour that reflected the spirit of the age. However, Gwyer's sense of fun was never far below the surface, and always erupted when he advertised his beloved potatoes: "Many lasses know home duties well, choose your wife from such / Can cook and roast a joint, POTATOES, or anything they touch." (Steve Osborn)

RECYCLING UPDATE

I'm looking forward to hearing details of the second stage of Dover District Council's kerbside recycling service, due to start in Deal this month. As reported in August, the first stage, in villages north and west of Deal, was a great success, and the scheme will be extended next year to the rest of the district. Recyclable materials are collected fortnightly, using special black plastic boxes supplied by the council. The boxes, made from 100 per cent recycled plastic, are supplied free of charge. The new kerbside scheme builds on the council's existing recycling centres that remain in use. It's difficult to overestimate the importance of recycling in terms of land use, energy conservation and care of non-renewable resources. Currently, within the Dover district, around 39,000 tonnes of household waste are collected each year and disposed of to landfill. Over the whole country, the amount threatens to double by 2020 to over 40 million tonnes a year. There's a long way to go - the recycling rate in the UK is 9%, compared with 35 - 46% in Europe, 59% in Canberra and a massive 70% in Edmonton, Canada. Recycling is often spoken of as if it were a novelty, but it's waste that's new - the throw-away society came about with increased affluence. Indeed, recycling was,

before the 1950s, a natural part of manufacturing processes that included the activities of rag-and-bone men, the re-use of milk, beer and soda bottles, and the salvage of materials from demolished buildings. *Good Housekeeping* magazine, in 1885, advised readers that "No fragments of linen sheets or of damask table-cloths ... should ever be thrown away". The government has now set recycling targets of 16% by 2003 and 25% by 2005 - a tall order but achievable with a little of our co-operation. (Steve Osborn)

W.I. NOTES - Angela

Twydall very kindly stepped into the breach with her talk on the history of yoga. At first glance it appears to be an ancient form of torture to the body.

I was amazed at the positions the human body can get into! One book in particular was written by a man who is now 82. I didn't know that anyone could get their legs as high as that, and at his age it defies belief!

There then followed the most wonderful 10 minutes of my life for a long while, when she showed us just how to slow down and RELAX. I for one thought it was wonderful stuff and I believe she may be looking to start some classes in Alkham so watch the Newsletter if you are interested. Next meeting is October 8th at 7.30 pm the subject being Christmas Decorations. (Devina Bartlett)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

| | |
|------------------|---|
| TUESDAY | Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details |
| WEDNESDAY | Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am |
| THURSDAY | Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am |
| FRIDAY | Yoga 9.30 to 11.00 am |
| FRIDAY | Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765 |

Other events (VH= village hall)

| | | |
|----------|----|--|
| Saturday | 5 | Bingo 7.30 pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765 |
| Tuesday | 8 | W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 12 | PCC Jumble Sale – see article opposite |
| Saturday | 19 | Art exhibition – see article opposite |
| Monday | 21 | Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Saturday | 26 | Beekeeper's Honey Show from 9am to 5 pm in the village hall |

CHURCH SERVICES

| Day | Alkham | Capel | Hougham |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| October 6th | Evensong 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am |
| October 13th | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Evensong 6.30 pm |
| October 20th | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Evensong 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am |
| October 27th | Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am | | |
| | Christians Together in Dover Ecumenical Service St Radigund's Capel 6.00 pm | | |

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5.00 pm and Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15 am

JUMBLE SALE – There will be a Jumble Sale in the village hall on Saturday the 12th from 11.00 am in aid of PCC funds.
AN EXHIBITION of the works of the members of the Alkham Art Workshop will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday the 19th of October between 5.30 pm and 9.30 pm. The admission charge is £2.00 but refreshments are free.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704 | Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397 | Vicar please ring Church Wardens |
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AN OLD WIFE said to me recently, that because there are so many berries on the trees this year we are going to have a very hard winter. It will be interesting to see whether her tale is true or not, but what is for certain is that bread is being left on bird tables and nut-feeders untouched. (editor)

SUNFLOWER – They have a competition at Goodnestone for the tallest sunflower grown in the village. Evidently it is quite competitive and generates a fair amount of amusement. I thought it would be a good idea to have the same competition in the Parish of Alkham. If you'd like to take part please let me know. Hope over experience has shown me that asking people to contact the Newsletter is something which rarely happens, so there will also be the direct approach (Charlie, Jane, Derek, Barbara, Christine, Susannah, Paul, Shirley, Ken, Rob, George, Doreen, Den, Maurice, Devina, John, Clive, Mark, Mick, John, Larry to name but a few). It's all the parish so please let's hear from the areas outside the village. A cup will be awarded to the winner. I'm going to try and find a fire-proof variety. (editor)

WELCOME to Alan and Krys Latham, plus dog Pie, who have just moved into Church View, Slip Lane.

BABE – I would imagine there are a lot of people who have seen the delightful film Babe, in which a pig thinks he's a sheepdog. In Derek Banks-Nash's garden recently there was a pheasant who thought he was Rotweiler. Evidently he had the large brown dog next door penned in a corner and had to be shooed away with a broom. It also bit Derek's feet and attacked Marion. My dog Sally stood in bewilderment when the pheasant approached her. It then attacked, which wasn't the smartest move it had ever made. I managed to drag Sally off and the pheasant was last seen walking briskly up the hedge line, no doubt a wiser old bird. (editor)

A MICROPHONE and a pre-amp have been bought for the Village Hall. It is there for anyone to use and it's just a matter of turning the hi-fi on and selecting 'auxiliary'. The speakers are near the ceiling on the top of the screen and are quite effective. There is also a switch on the mike.

SARAH GOODWIN AND BILL PEPPER

It is sad to report that Sarah Goodwin and Bill Pepper died recently. Obituaries have been written for both of them and they are on page two. Sarah bravely fought an illness over a long period of time and our thoughts go to relatives and friends who suffered with her. Bill Pepper was a remarkable man who still carried on working round the house and garden in his 9th decade and regularly walked up the steep path to St Anthony's. (editor)

ROUND HILL TUNNEL – Mention was made that the tunnel through Round Hill on the A20 as it emerges into the Alkham Valley seemed to be closed every couple of weeks for maintenance. This is not so but I remembered that when I worked for KCC someone had remarked that they had written 'a nice little earner' with regard to maintenance, so I sent an e-mail to the Department of Transport. To my surprise I got a reply and they are insistent that the maintenance work is carried out to the Department of Transport Specification and I'd be sent further details. Without reading the specification I'd guess that it covered tunnels in general with no differentiation with regard to distance. Conversely it could be said that with the tunnel being regularly closed some drivers might be reluctant to use the Alkham Valley Road and use the A20 instead. (editor)

A CHRISTMAS FAIR will be held in the village hall on the 1st of December from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm in aid of Cancer Relief.

NEW YEAR'S EVE - It is now time to book for the New Year's Eve party in the village hall. For further details please ring 824876.

Read Oz on page 3 to see where your 11 days went.

Kent's Mobile Library Service visits nearly every village and hamlet in the county, making over 700 stops, the length of stop depending on how many people use the service. Most carry over 2000 books and audio items. Once you have joined the library, you can borrow up to 12 items and keep them for up to one month. In Alkham the bus comes every Thursday to the Village Hall at 9.25 am and stays for 25 minutes.

PIMLICO WAY runs from South Alkham to Slip Lane. The adjacent farmer quite reasonably complained about four wheel drive vehicles detouring onto his land where they could not pass the overgrown hedge. The Alkham Valley Society accepted responsibility and will get the hedge cut. I suppose 4 wheel drive vehicles are no larger than the horse drawn wagons of old but the latter didn't cause mayhem by climbing near vertical slopes for fun. (editor)

Flymo 400 electric lawnmower, unused, still in box, selling for about £138 in shops; reasonable offers will be considered. Contact Mark & Debbie, 8a, Newlyn Meadow 820459.

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Harvest Celebrations

Once again we have had a splendid Harvest celebration. The Church looked beautiful with both wild and cultivated fruits, flowers, vegetables and greenery, including "Old Man's Beard". Thank you Carol, Betty, Pam, Patsy and Grace. Sadly most of this had to be dismantled on the Monday when Ken and Brian had the task of transporting the goodies to the village hall in their wheelbarrows for the annual auction, which follows the Harvest Supper. Doreen, Susan, Betty Barbara Esther, Grace and Christine organised the attractive and wholesome array of food which was laid out as a buffet. The hall was full to capacity with 80 seats taken. One extra celebration this year was Olive Harvey's birthday for which Doreen Lott had made a special cake The Tapsell "lads" as always do a splendid job serving the drinks and running the auction of produce. The Auction always seems a prolonged affair but Paul rarely paused for breath. In fact he must have had difficulty talking the next day. Marion Banks-Nash, treasurer, was pleased to announce that £368 had been raised, half of which would go to the Kent Air Ambulance Service and the remainder to the USPG's work in Africa. The Jumble Sale for Church Funds on 12th October made £160 profit. (Susan Lees)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday, 19th November 2002 Another year has gone, and it is hoped to welcome members and anyone else who is interested to the A.G.M. to be held in the Village Hall, Alkham, at 7.30 p.m. After the meeting Mr. Brian Wimsett has kindly agreed to show us three old films in his possession. One is on the Women's Land Army, taken in the 1940s and the other two are Farming in the 1930s. These will, I feel sure, bring back memories to some people, combined with feelings of nostalgia. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible. (Pamela Sayers)

GARDENTALK-Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 7th November 7.30pm at the home of Pam Sayers, Box Tree Cottage, Slip Lane and Pam will be introducing the topic. Please bring usual nibbles etc and perhaps something for the Swap table. All welcome. (Susannah Tapsell)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present another varied and lively programme in their autumn

BILL PEPPER - Alkham has lost one of its most elderly senior citizens Bill Pepper, from 1 Old School Cottages. He died at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital in the presence of his daughter Rosemary Crothall, on the 11th of October 2002 at the age of 92. Originally from Canterbury, Bill and his wife Nell moved to Capel where they lived for three years and eventually came to Alkham in 1975. Following the loss of his wife, Bill continued to live alone at the above address for a further seven years, with frequent visits from Rosemary. Born in Harbledown, Bill was the eldest of six children. He attended the local village school and was the first boy from that school to win a scholarship to go to Simon Langton Grammar school until leaving at age 16. Career wise it was to be the RAF, which he joined as an apprentice engineer, serving for 30 years. Overseas duties took him to Iraq and the Indian north west frontier. Ensuring the fitness of aircraft for freight and being in charge of a secret weapons factory figured largely in his responsibilities. In the Second World War he managed to escape from France in 1940. After retiring from the RAF, Bill joined the Social Services Department and finally retired in 1977. (Olive Harvey)

SARAH GOODWIN - Sarah was born in May 1972 and lived at Low Slip Lane in Hougham with her brother and parents. Her grandparents ran the nearby Chequers Pub. Sarah later went on to be a member of the choir at St. Laurence church and before she left school she had made up her mind to go into catering. After the family had moved to the bungalow at the bottom of Short Lane, Sarah got a part time job in the kitchens at the Marquis of Granby. Here she gained experience and went on to study to be a chef, which she eventually became. Sarah married Kevin Goodwin in 1994 and joined him in his love of boats and rowing, resulting in having a boat named after them. About three years ago it was discovered that Sarah had cancer. Sarah was a strong willed and happy person who wasn't going to let the illness get the better of her. She fought bravely, with amazing courage and drew a lot of comfort from her faith and the support of the vicar, Gill Calver. (Beattie Jeapes)

concert at 7.30 pm on Saturday 23rd November 2002 in Dover Town Hall. Paul Patterson's *Millennium Mass*, first performed at Southwall Minster on 2nd January 2000 and already sung worldwide, is followed by Vivaldi's *Concerto for Two Trumpets*. Both of these works will feature exciting trumpet duets from Kevin Kay-Bradley and Andrew Deacon. The concert concludes with *The Reluctant Dragon*, by John Rutter, a setting of Kenneth Grahame's 1898 story of Christmas and reconciliation. The narrator is George Ruck, and the soloists are Emily Renshaw (soprano), Ian Kennedy (tenor), and Philip Spendley (bass). The chorus and The Connaught Orchestra (leader George Simpson) will be conducted by Dover Choral Society's Musical Director, Michael Foad. 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 about the concert please ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

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OZ on CALENDARS – This September saw the 250th anniversary of the adoption, by the British government and King George II, of the Gregorian calendar. Lord Chesterfield's Calendar Act of 1751 took effect in 1752, when September 2nd was immediately followed by September 14th. Reaction was instant and dramatic, with nation-wide riots based on the slogan "Give us back our eleven days!" The uproar soon settled as people realised that they wouldn't lose 11 days life or income, and that Chesterfield's act specifically prohibited the charging of a month's rent for 19 days lodgings. Change was necessary because the Julian calendar, introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 BC, had become inaccurate in an age of increasing precision in astronomy, navigation and chronometry. The problem arises because, due to the continually changing egg-shaped orbit of the earth around the sun, the year varies in length from 365.2416 to 365.2427 days, averaging just less than 365.2422 days. The Julian calendar had tried resolving this by adding a day every four years, making the year 365.25 days long. The Gregorian calendar, introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in October 1582, made only one in four century years a leap year (eg 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not, but 2000 was, a leap year). This caused the year length to be 365.2425 days, very close to the true figure. The Gregorian calendar was resisted in Protestant northern Europe as a "Popish plot" for nearly 200 years, until astronomers convinced governments of the severity of the computational problems. By the time the Gregorian calendar was accepted in Britain, accumulated errors made it necessary to delete 11 days. Occasionally, after dates in old documents and on tombstones, you will see the letters "OS", short for "Old Style", signifying that the date quoted was according to the Julian Calendar. (Steve Osborn)

NEWS FROM ST.

ANTHONY'S -In the absence of a Parish Priest, the Church Wardens and the P.C.C. would like to thank everyone who helped with the Harvest Festival Service and the Harvest Supper. The Church was beautifully decorated with all the traditional fruit, vegetables, greenery and flowers. The Harvest Supper buffet was very much appreciated by everyone and was followed by the Auction and Raffle which raised £368. This has been divided between The Kent Air Ambulance and the U.S.P.G. hospital in Africa. Thank you also to those who arranged and supported the Church Jumble sale. £160 was raised. On Sunday 3rd November we will be commemorating All Souls Day, when we will be remembering our Parishioners and all loved ones, who have passed away in this last year. The service will be at 4pm. The Remembrance Day service will be at 10am on Sunday November 10th with the laying of the wreath at the War Memorial and the two minutes silence at 11 am. Please support these services if you can. Finally, we all send our sympathy to Rosemary and John Crothall following the death of Bill Pepper. He will be sadly missed both in the Church and by everyone who knew him in the Village. (Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond)

SOME CHILDREN in the village are looking into the possibility of setting up a project. More next month. (editor)

W.I. NOTES

Caroline Austin delighted us all with her home made Christmas decorations. There was such a variety of designs from printed patterns sewn together, through to cross stitch, paper craft and good old cereal packets cut into shapes, glued together and decorated with beads etc. Each item had a story behind it and evoked memories of Christmases past for her and her family. I imagine that her tree must be the most wonderful sight, and I for one would love to see it all set up in readiness. Here was a lady who obviously enjoys Christmas and gains much pleasure from her craft. Truly inspirational, and I imagine a good few of the ideas will be scribbled down and we will all be very busy for the next few weeks making things for the Bazaar as well as for our family and friends. I would love to spend Christmas with her!! Next meeting is our AGM on 12th November and we have a competition for this meeting - appropriately a Christmas tree decoration in any medium. So come on everyone there are no excuses! (Devina Bartlett)

THANK YOU to the lady from Glebelands, who wishes to remain anonymous, who gave me £20 for the Newsletter. (editor)

COUNTRY FILE - In times past, one of the most popular trades amongst the rural communities was the local Blacksmith and his forge. Whether it was shoeing horses, or mending farm machinery you would always visit the forge. In fact, give the blacksmith a piece of metal and by using his skill, the help from his fire and anvil he can practically do anything. But as times move on smithy's are now few and far between, mainly because of the decline of working horses and the increased mechanisation on our farms. Although today, horses are as popular as ever, mainly as one's hobby, the demise of the blacksmith, means nearly all shoeing is done by farriers using mobile units. Some of us who are old enough to remember the forge, will have memories of perhaps going inside on a cold winters day, having a warm by the fire, and catching up on all the local gossip, after all if the smithy didn't know any news, it usually wasn't worth knowing!! Weather-wise having had mostly favourable weather to end our summer and part of autumn. It didn't come as any surprise when rain and gales arrived on the 12th October, to herald a very unsettled spell. Looking back over the last 9 months, the rainfall total so far stands at 21.80 ins. (545mm) which is close to average. (Keith)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

| | |
|------------------|---|
| TUESDAY | Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details |
| WEDNESDAY | Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am |
| THURSDAY | Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am |
| FRIDAY | Yoga 9.30 to 11.00 am |
| FRIDAY | Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765 |

Other events (VH= village hall)

| | | |
|----------|----|---|
| Saturday | 2 | Bingo 7.30 pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765 |
| Monday | 4 | Parish Council meeting 7.30 pm in village hall – all welcome |
| Tuesday | 12 | W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Monday | 18 | Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30 pm |
| Tuesday | 19 | Alkham Valley Society AGM see page 2 |
| Saturday | 23 | Church bazaar – see opposite |
| Saturday | 23 | SEKAS in village hall - pm |
| Monday | 18 | Village Hall Committee meeting at 8.00 pm in the VH |
| Saturday | 30 | Beekeeper's in the village hall |

CHURCH SERVICES

| Day | Alkham | Capel | Hougham |
|--|--|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| November 3rd All Souls | Evensong 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am | Worshipping together 11.00 am |
| November 10th | Remembrance Service 10.00 am at all three churches | | |
| November 17th | Worshipping together 11.00 am | Evensong 6.30 pm | Sung Eucharist 9.30 am |
| November 24th | Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Radigund's Capel 10.00 am | | |

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5.00 pm and Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15 am

A PLANNING application has been received by the Parish Council for a new property at Greenwood Farm, on Chalksole Green Lane. I understand that it is in the style of the beautiful (my opinion) Vernacular Home built adjacent to Chalksole Green at the top of White Hill. (editor) **CHURCH BAZAAR** – There is a bazaar and coffee morning in the village hall on the 23rd of November from 10.30 am to mid-day in aid of church funds. Everyone welcome.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704 | Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397 | Vicar please ring Church Wardens |
| County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547 | Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@alkham50.freesevice.co.uk | 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.freesevice.co.uk | Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876 |
| | Police – all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055 | Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688 |

Alkham web site alkham.info

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 & 07889310479 |
| 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 |
| EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES | Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider | South Alkham 01303 891996 |
| 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, 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 |
| 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 |
| SLADDEN FARM | | Phone 825188 |
| VEHICLES | Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone | 53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212 |