

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 113 January 2003

Delivered free to all
properties in the Parish

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

All your gardening needs plus
milk, eggs, biscuits, preserves,
newspapers, gifts and animal
supplies.

Telephone 01303 893351

CLARINGBOULD & WARD

Builders & decorators

All aspects of building, renovation,
alteration's, maintenance &
decorating work undertaken.

For personal service contact Barry on
Office 01304 826914
Mobile 07970539461
Fax 01304 829880

A Happy New Year

REFUSE COLLECTION

The Christmas Day and Boxing Day collections have been omitted with the collection returning as normal the following week. All other days are as normal.

SWEET SUCCESS? A slimming club meets once a week in the Village Hall and is run by someone called Susannah, who lives on the Isle of Thanet. She also runs slimming classes at other villages in the area and thought it would be a good idea that if members of the slimming clubs who got chocolates for Christmas should donate them to a good cause. On behalf of the people who do the Soup Kitchen run from Alkham, I volunteered to collect all the chocolates and then distribute them to the other teams who man the poriakabin nightly at Dover. However, like Topsy it grewed, and Susannah wants to hand over the goodies in the New Year at a venue in Dover where the media will be present. Steph Perron, who is the driving force behind the soup kitchen, has agreed to be there and hopefully speak on behalf of the soup kitchen and also to thank Susannah and the slimmed ladies (sic). As a matter of interest the soup kitchen is manned daily by the churches in the region but some of the helpers are not church goers. Donations for the Alkham team would be gratefully accepted so please leave anything appropriate in the box behind my property. Blankets would be especially welcome as seven have been given out recently. (editor)

VANDALISM – The back door of the village hall was badly damaged recently by an act of vandalism. It is thought that the perpetrators were trying to gain access to the hall to do further damage. The police were informed but are taking no action and it is possible that the vandalism is carried out because this fact is known. However the Village Hall Committee will bring a private prosecution against anyone found damaging the hall or surroundings. They will also pursue the matter through the small claims court to recoup any expenditure caused by vandalism. This means that if vandalism is carried out by minors, the parents will be liable for any resultant costs and also if the matter goes to court and the Village Hall wins the culprits will be treated as if the prosecution had been brought by the police. (Village Hall Committee)

BATTLE OF BRITAIN at Hawkinge. One of the few remaining items linked with the RAF presence at the old Hawkinge Aerodrome is the Battle of Britain Museum on Aerodrome Road. It is manned by a group of volunteers who are currently trying to stop the roof leaking. There was an

article in the Adscene recently about the museum and its attempt to raise money. Sue Lees read the article and thought it would be a good idea if the profits from the Annual Quiz on January the 25th in the village hall could go to this fund. This seems an excellent idea as they are finding money hard to come by. With regard to the quiz, if you haven't booked your table yet, please ring Sue Lees on 822661 or me on 824969. The more tables we get means more money for this local worthwhile cause. (editor)

DID YOU VISIT the Village Hall on Saturday the 14th of December? There you would have met the ladies of Alkham busy serving coffee and mince pies, tables of handicrafts, home made pies, cakes etc, bric-a-brac, cards and Christmas tree decorations. These were soon snapped up by eager visitors. In a festive dressed hall everyone joined in the singing of carols with the children having a solo spot. Santa Claus and Oliver the donkey were kept busy giving excited children rides up and down Hogbrook Lane. This enjoyable event raised £255 for Cancer Research UK. Happy Christmas to you all (one of the Alkham Ladies)

GWEN BAKER – Our sympathy goes to Ted Baker whose wife, Gwen, died recently at the age of 92. They moved to Devon some time ago from Alkham and called their house Wolverton. Ted's mother was a Collard, a well known name in days gone by, and Gwen's father was the local policeman, Bert Jenkins. He can be seen on page 128 of the Capel book by Susan Lees being lowered down the Warren in 1915 to inspect a house, which had slipped down the cliff. I understand that she lived in one of the Church Cottages and she married in 1936. Ted has now moved to a Nursing Home but will continue to receive and read the monthly Newsletter as he has done since its inception. (editor)

KEEP FIT will resume on Wednesday the 8th of January from 9.30 to 10.30 am in the village hall. The session consists of a gentle warm up, some yoga style and balance exercises and some pulse raisers (suitable for a bypass surgery patient!) followed by a few minutes relaxation. So do come and join us for fun and attempted fitness. Fee usually 50p. (Susannah Tapsell)

Stilwell & Harby

Solicitors

110 Maison Dieu Road, Dover
Tel: (01304) 206850 Fax: (01304) 206950
E-mail: SandHDOVER@aol.com

Providing help, advice and
Representation in the following matters

Criminal Matrimonial
Conveyancing
Wills and Probate

Wheel Chair Access

MARSHALL & CLARKE

PROPERTY AGENTS AND VALUERS



112 London Road, Kearsney
Dover, CT16 3AB
Telephone 01304 827770

and at

1 Cliffe Road, Kingsdown, Deal
Tel. 01304 381622
High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover
Tel. 01304 852960

TRAFFIC – In the October edition of the Newsletter I wrote about the actions being taken by some residents at Bushey Ruff regarding traffic calming along the Alkham Valley Road and suggested that readers might like to write to Steve Henson of DDC in their support. An e-mail was received from a Bushey Ruff campaigner who says that Steve Henson remains very supportive. He has continued to work on traffic calming proposals outside the cottages at Bushey Ruff and in the vicinity. Unfortunately, because of the cost, and the way in which the funding process works, it is unlikely that any work will be carried out before 2004. He was pleased to say that a significant number of valley residents have written to Steve Henson as a result of the Alkham parish newsletter and leaflets distributed in Temple Ewell. These letters are now on file and will be used to support the funding bid. I have been asked to thank all those who wrote in and encourage you to keep a record of any accidents or incidents, which will be of use in supporting the case. The council are informed only of accidents where injury occurs, so a lot of the incidents in the valley may go unreported unless records are kept. On the 10th of January 2003 a site meeting is to be held with the Parish Council, Steve Henson, the police and probably the representative from Bushey Ruff to look at the problems on the Alkham Valley Road. I understand that they will start at the Lower Standen crossroads, where the slab makers are, and then progress by car to Bushey Ruff looking at sites on the way. (editor)

CONGRATULATIONS to the Parish Council and the contractors who cleared all the undergrowth on the dyke over the green and around the outside.

FIREWORKS – In last month's Newsletter there was an article from Jackie Lee at South Alkham about the distress caused by letting off exploding fireworks. Several people have commented on this article and have said that no mention was made about fireworks continuing on evenings after the 5th of November. The reason for this is that her e-mail was received on the 6th and had it been written later, I'm sure there would have been further comments. It's not for me to put personal opinions in the Newsletter but I think that the people who do let off the exploding fireworks probably don't have pets or livestock. My dog shook almost uncontrollably, but before I got her I was quite happy to sit through the outdoor concert at Rochester Castle where fireworks were let off and gave no thought to the enormous bangs during the 1812 overture. Now of course I would. (editor)

NEWSLETTER (see page 1)

If you count the box adverts you can see there are 6, which at £3 a month generates £18. There are 16 line adverts on the back page at £1 each taking the total to £34. It costs £30.08 to print (1280 photostats at 2.35p each), £4 in petrol to go to Canterbury plus take out to the 14 deliverers around the parish, £2.80 to post 11 copies and £1 for ink in my printer. The total is £37.88 and most of the shortfall is made up by generous small donations from Newsletter readers. Even Mr Micawber would have been happy. (editor)

BENJI – Most of the dog walkers in Alkham would have seen Benji, a delightful Springer Spaniel, running all over the place with his tail wagging, on the set-aside land round the village. His owners, Bill and Andrea emigrated to Greece and took Benji with them. There was some concern about the heat but Bill made a flying visit to Alkham recently and told me that Benji is thriving. Bill said that there was some concern on the island that some kittens and a couple of other small animals had gone missing. After an intensive hunt they were eventually found nicely snuggled up and very content in Benji's kennel. (editor)

HOGBROOK – Oakley New Homes are building five traditionally styled country cottages each with three bedrooms on the site of Hogbrook Farm in the middle of Alkham. Each home has been designed to a very high standard with features such as an integral conservatory at the rear of the property and use of a traditional oak-framed barn for covered parking. Alkham is the perfect backdrop for these superbly crafted homes and is ideally placed for all major routes both in the UK and Europe. Prices start at £198,000 and for a brochure please call Stephen Murphy on 01732 368545 and visit our website www.oakleynewhomes.com. (Oakley New Homes)

THE PRECEPT or the amount claimed by the Parish Council in the local rate was discussed recently and the Parish Councillors decided to leave the precept as it is. Although they appreciate costs are going up on nearly every front, the council will try and keep expenses down and live within its income. You will perhaps appreciate this fact when next year's Council Tax demands are announced – the increase will not be the fault of your Parish Council despite the purchase of Vicarage Meadow. (Parish Clerk) ... matters have moved on with regard to the purchase of Vicarage Meadow and this will be announced in next month's Newsletter.... also at the meeting some councillors said I didn't charge enough for adverts. They may be right but I just about break even (see left). (editor)

THE DYKE – The Parish Council have asked me to include an item to remind people they are responsible for clearing the dyke, which runs past their property. Within the village it looks quite good especially past Poems in Short Lane. The grass is growing up again outside Valley Cottages and perhaps DDC should have a look at it. As most people know, the main problem is where the two pipes go under the end of Short Lane but it is thought very doubtful that DDC will do anything about this. If it is any consolation to new residents, it is the road that gets flooded in this area.

Bradford & Bingley

Geering & Colyer

KEARSNEY (01304) 823714 DOVER (01304)207099

YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENT
offering **DOUBLE EXPOSURE**

For your property

From our offices at both

12 KEARSNEY AVENUE, RIVER, DOVER
AND 5 KING STREET, DOVER

Discover for yourselves why Geering and Colyer
deserve their reputation for customer care

SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

FREDERIC

HALL

Solicitors

York House, Folkestone

01303 851185

& Clyde House, Dover 202411

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONYS

Following interviews with the three candidates for the appointment of the new vicar, we were able to make a clear evaluation of the merits of each candidate for the needs of the benefice. We now have to wait for the relevant organisations that deal with clergy appointment to make their formal decision. Once again we would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Church Bazaar such a success with more than £200 raised for church funds. (Richard Tapsell & Ken Hammond)

W I NEWS - Disappointingly for us, our speaker failed to turn up or leave any message as to her absence. Mention was made by a member that her daughter was quite poorly in hospital, so I hope she is now on the mend. However, nothing keeps us down, so we had the refreshments earlier than usual and then much chatter and gossip ensued. We are all looking forward to our annual Christmas Meal in Sandwich which will round off the year nicely. The New Year sees us inviting Patrick Smalley, retired vet, to give us a talk on his funniest moments.

See you all on 14th January 2003. Anyone out there thinking of joining us, please do, we will make you very welcome so don't be shy. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Alkham W I. (Devina Bartlett)

SUPERMAN & Co IN

ALKHAM - Imagine the thrill!!! An early winter afternoon, darkness already threatening to close in early, curtains as yet undrawn, a steady fire burning where it should be, and the TV licence earning its keep by showing Superman. In a flash - Superman resplendent in blue and red hurtles

OZ on 'MESSIAH' - Twenty-one years ago, after celebrating New Year's Eve with blackberry wine, we awoke wondering what we'd promised friends. Singing in Bach's *St Matthew Passion* at Easter, that's what, after which we never looked back. In November 1982 we sang Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and that Christmas found us with the 1000-strong Kent Choir, in the Royal Albert Hall, singing Handel's *Messiah*. Georg Friederich Händel, born in Germany in 1685, came to England in 1710 and was naturalized in 1726, becoming George Frideric Handel. In 1727 he wrote four anthems for George II's coronation, including *Zadok the Priest*, which has been sung at every subsequent British coronation. In 1737, broken by bankruptcy and overwork after 30 years of composing operas, Handel suffered a stroke and was temporarily paralyzed. After recovery, he turned to *oratorio*, the setting of religious texts, inexpensive and already popular in Britain. On 12 September 1741 he completed *Messiah* after three weeks of continuous toil. For Handel it had been a visionary experience. He said of the *Hallelujah Chorus*, "I did see all Heaven before me and the great God himself." A year later *Messiah* was first performed in Dublin, ironically for a charity that assisted bankrupt prisoners. In London in 1743, George II stood for the *Hallelujah Chorus*, followed by the audience, and established a permanent tradition. This is typical of the ongoing hold of *Messiah*. Arthur Jacobs said, "It has made reputations for choirs, soloists and conductors; fortunes for editors and publishers." *Messiah's* popularity in 19th century Britain was boosted by the spread of universal education and access to cheap printed music. Additionally, temperance societies approved of choral music's role in keeping working men out of taverns, but perhaps they wouldn't have objected too much to the use of blackberry wine as a recruiting agent. (Steve Osborn)

past the window. What is THIS? Virtual reality near Dover? Must see! A dash to the back door in time to catch a glimpse of Superman. Christopher Reeves. Whatever YESSSS! Not disappointing at all, hardly. A despairing and breathless Editor of this Newsletter, clad in red and blue jacket (no blue tights) with a cheerful brown dog attached to lead cries out 'So sorry to invade your garden (Space?) - Tiny is lost' (small and sometimes intrepid brown and white dog). At the same moment adding to the sense of occasion, a haggard-looking Ken appears at the top of the steps "too old for this sort of thing", he pants (Superman and his companions NEVER grow old. Ken). In a minute all is well and Superman finds Tiny inspecting a bleak vegetable patch, looking extremely pleased with himself indeed. NOT every dog has Superman and his cohorts just where he wants them. Yes, well, just for a moment Superman did visit Alkham, before quickly disguising himself as Brian and co. (Jo and Max Walker) **ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY** AGM was held on 19th November. The Chairman reported that representations had been made to DDC regarding several planning applications, including Hogbrook Barn and Greenwood Farm. The planning application for five cottages on the site of Hogbrook Farm Barn was granted. A decision had not yet been made on the application

regarding alterations to Greenwood Farm. The farmer on the land either side of Pimlico Way, which leads from Slip Lane to South Alkham had complained that horses and riders were walking on his land, as well as four wheeled vehicles, as there was not a sufficient gap between the hedge and the trees on the other side. John Garlinge, with helpers, had done some excellent work laying part of this hedge, and the best solution was to cut the sides and then the top could be laid next year. However, the Chairman did not consider the Society should be responsible for its future maintenance. An enjoyable outing had been made to Sissinghurst Castle Gardens, but numbers had been down and a loss of £63 resulted. The Treasurer was unable to be at the meeting, but sent a detailed account for the year ended 31st October, showing the Club was in a very healthy position. After the meeting two very interesting old films, taken in the thirties in Kent, were shown by Brian Wimsett on Farming during this decade. It was fascinating to compare the difference in manpower to the efficient machinery used today, and to emphasise this, he also showed slides of old farm machinery housed in the museum at Brook. Thank you Brian, they brought back many nostalgic memories. A reminder that the A.V.S. walk will take place as usual on the 27th December (Friday), meeting at the Village Hall Car Park at 10.30 a.m. A very Happy Christmas and New Year. (Pamela Sayers)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am 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)

Monday	6	Parish Council meeting 7.30 pm everyone welcome
Tuesday	14	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	25	Beekeepers in village hall during the day
Saturday	25	Annual Quiz in village hall starting 7.30 pm
Monday	27	Village Hall Committee meeting 8.00 pm in VH

On the 31st of December there is the New Year's Eve party in the Village Hall. Check with the Poldens and Lotts on 824876 to see if any tickets are left

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
January 5th	Evensong 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
January 12th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
January 19th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
January 26th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Radigund, 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

GARDEN TALK – A lovely Christmas party evening was enjoyed at 'The Vicarage' by the garden gurus of the village! Very many thanks to Lucy and Ian. The winning team showed high levels of skill and intellect and gross lack of modesty, whilst the losing team, mine, showed dignity in defeat. A super evening. The next meeting will be on Friday the 21st of February 7.30pm at 'Brook House' Meggett Lane. (Susannah Tapsell)

BETTY NEELY would like to thank everybody who helped and came to the carols and coffee morning held by the ladies of the village on the 14th of December. £255.90 was raised for Cancer Research including the £19 Helen and Oliver the donkey took giving children rides.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Alkham Valley Society secretary
Pamela Sayers 822397

Vicar please ring Church Wardens

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 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
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

No. 114 February 2003

Delivered free to all
properties in the Parish

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

All your gardening needs plus
milk, eggs, biscuits, preserves,
newspapers, gifts and animal
supplies.

Telephone 01303 893351

CLARINGBOULD & WARD

Builders & decorators

All aspects of building, renovation,
alteration's, maintenance &
decorating work undertaken.

For personal service contact Barry on
Office 01304 826914
Mobile 07970539461
Fax 01304 829880

FLOODS – The Alkham Bourne flowed again from the spring rising at Drellingore. The sterling work carried out by DDC, land and home owners on the dyke paid off and there was no flooding of properties. It is clear that the bottleneck is at the bottom of Short Lane where two pipes go under the road. These cause the water to back up and flood the road. DDC will look at the situation but it's not thought likely that any work will be done. The waters, which rose on the village green and formed a large lake, provided great fun for children and dogs when it froze over. I understand a tummy sliding child did go through the ice but no harm was done. (editor)

BURGLARY – A shed behind a property on Slip Lane was broken into recently and a petrol lawnmower, chainsaw, drill and circular saw were stolen.

THANKS – Brian has given me a little space to express my thanks to everyone who sent me Christmas cards conveying their good wishes. They were all greatly appreciated and heart warming. Thank you very much indeed. (Olive Harvey)

THE VILLAGE GREEN now belongs to the Parish. The correct name up until recently, for the large expanse of grass opposite the Village Hall, was Vicarage Meadow as it was owned by the church and those of a certain age in the parish will remember cows grazing there. The Parish Council has agreed there should be some kind of ceremony to mark the occasion and Betty Neely has taken on the task. I'm sure she would welcome any suggestions so please phone her on 01303 251475 if you have any ideas. (editor)

NEWLYNS MEADOW – DDC have been trying to contact the owners of the road in Newlyn Meadow such that the Highway Authority can adopt it. Four companies have owned the site since the original planning application was lodged and finally Wimpey have acknowledged ownership. The DDC Legal Department are discussing the matter with the bondsman such that an appropriate amount of money is lodged to cover any problems during the adoption period. It was stressed that the residents of Newlyn Meadow will not have to pay any further costs.

WATER SUPPLY – The terrace of houses on the site of the barn off Hogbrook Lane requires a new water supply. This will come from the Alkham Valley Road and part of the pipe run will be through the village green before continuing up Hogbrook Lane. It is not possible to extend the supply from Newlyn Meadow as there is not sufficient water pressure and Hogbrook Farm House and the Equestrian Centre have their own supply.

TONY INGLE – I'm pleased to report that Tony Ingle has been in contact and both he and his wife are healthy and living in Canterbury (Tony Ingle started the Newsletter in 1993 and continued until 1997).

AMERICAN SUPPER - The Alkham Art Workshop is holding an American Supper in the village hall on the 8th of March starting at 7.30pm. There will be live music by Toucan and proceeds will be split between the Village Hall and the Art Therapy Group, New Romney. The cost is £5 per person and for further information or tickets please ring Rosemary Polden on 824876.

QUIZ NIGHT – Capel School PFA are holding a quiz at the school on Saturday 8th of February, 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm start. Tables are for up to eight people and the cost is £2 per adult and accompanied child. There will be a raffle and you should take your own food and drink. Please ring 01303 251353 to book a table.

ALKHAM IN BLOOM
Is anyone interested in entering the village in the above competition? There are twelve categories and prizes are based on the Royal Horticultural Society Gold, Silver Gilt, Silver and Bronze medals. Immediate entry required so please ring 822661 for details.



Free to collector, small cottage style 2 seater settee with two armchairs. Please ring Rosemary on 01303 892438

Alkham Fete Committee

AGM -The adjourned AGM will take place on 5th February 2003 in the Village Hall at 8 p.m. when we will be discussing last year's Fete (can anyone remember it?) and making arrangements for this year's one – Saturday 12th July 2003 at 2 p.m. Everyone will be welcome to the meeting and hopefully we can have a lively discussion and lots of new ideas! (Paul Tapsell)

THE POLICE and members of the Parish Council drove and walked the Alkham Valley Road from Lower Standen to Chilton (i.e. most of road) to look at the traffic problems. There will be a report next month. (editor)

FOUND near St. Anthony's Church just before Christmas, a single ear-pierced earring with opalescent stone and silver (coloured?) surround. Also a grey cashmere scarf found in the adjacent meadow. Please ring me on 824969 to collect. (editor)

Stilwell & Harby

Solicitors

110 Maison Dieu Road, Dover
Tel: (01304) 206850 Fax: (01304) 206950
E-mail: SandHDOVER@aol.com

Providing help, advice and
Representation in the following matters

Criminal Matrimonial
Conveyancing
Wills and Probate

Wheel Chair Access

MARSHALL & CLARKE

PROPERTY AGENTS AND VALUERS



112 London Road, Kearsney
Dover, CT16 3AB
Telephone 01304 827770
and at

1 Cliffe Road, Kingsdown, Deal
Tel. 01304 381622

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

PLANNING – Greenwood Farm on Chalksole Green Lane was discussed at the Parish Council meeting. The pretty mock Elizabethan house, once owned by Mrs Southall, is known as Greenwood Farm south and the farmhouse on the other side of the road, Greenwood Farm north. The planning application for the latter, to demolish the farm house and build another house, was turned down by the Planning Authority. The reason given was that it would make the area suburban and give the appearance of millionaire's row. The Parish Council were amazed that they were now saying this as that was exactly what they, and various other bodies, had been saying with regard to Chalksole Green farmhouse. The latter was bought by a developer who got permission to knock down the old farmhouse, dating from the 16th century, and build a new house in its place. A revised planning application is going to be submitted. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

What a lovely muddy day it was for our Christmas Walk, which was attended by over thirty people walking in a long procession. We all thoroughly enjoyed it, as the after effects of too much Christmas food gradually wore off, (not to mention the wine). A big thank you to Christopher Tapsell for leading us up hill and down dale, and well done those who completed the walk to South Alkham and didn't 'slip' down Slip Lane. A happy New Year to you all. (Pamela Sayers)

IT WAS QUITE encouraging to get some response from last month's Newsletter. Everybody seemed to enjoy Jo and Max Walker's story about Superman, and it was nice to find that other people found Benji, the Springer Spaniel, delightful as well. The five houses at the site of the barn on Hogbrook Lane are taking shape but some people think them more imposing than the barn. Of the old Hogbrook Farm (which was split up) there is probably only one part of the farm on which the last owner can now grow houses. There was also comment about the article on fireworks as printed below. (editor)

TOLERANCE - There is of course a famous saying that one man's meat is another man's poison. For example: Some people like dogs and don't like the fact that fireworks may upset them. Or some people like fireworks and don't like the fact that dogs barking, urinating and defecating is an unacceptable infliction. Some people adore cats and the affection gained from them. Other people hate cats and the damage to gardens and wildlife caused by them. Some people like cars and hate the intimidation caused by the speed of motorcycles. Other people like the freedom gained on motorbikes and don't like having to regularly avoid myopic car drivers. Some people like the regimental appearance of a close-cropped patch of grass outside their house. Others like their environment to be a more natural provider to native flora and fauna. I could go on of course, but who is right and who is wrong? It seems sad in a time when it appears the world is heading for another major war that we can't be more tolerant of our nearest neighbours, who for 99% of the time are unthreatening. I agree that extremes of behaviour are unacceptable if they interfere to a major extent in other peoples' lives. But remember that we are all unique, and that by your very existence you too are probably annoying someone, somewhere. (Darren Mowat, Valley Cottages)

ARE YOU OPEN-MINDED

and a good listener? If your answer is yes, would you consider becoming a volunteer for the Samaritans? We are ordinary people, from all walks of life, selected and then thoroughly prepared to support people in crisis. We do not counsel, we aim to listen without judging and so help people to see things differently and more hopefully. Our local centre, where we answer phones and see callers face-to-face is in Folkestone, at 9 Cambridge Gardens, CT20 1DB. Our next Selection Day (your chance to find out more) is on February 2nd 2003 at a venue in Folkestone. The preparation course will follow in Feb/Mar and consists of 6 sessions, some during the evening and some at weekends. If you are interested please call 01303 255000 or write to 9 Cambridge Gardens, Folkestone CT20 1DB. We will reply with details of our commitment, etc and you can then decide if you wish to go forward to the Selection Day.

SWEET SUCCESS – In last month's Newsletter it should have said Sharon and Whitfield rather than Susannah and Alkham, with regard to the slimming club chocolates! (nearly got it right). However, I'm pleased to report, that there's a sack full of chocolates to be picked up at their next meeting. (editor)

DART BUSES

I have been asked to repeat this information – all details as of April

last year). This is a Dial-a-Ride service for people who live more than 500 metres from a bus service or those with mobility impairment irrespective of where they live. It is £5 to join the scheme and then £2.20 return fare no matter where you live around Alkham. The service is on Friday and goes to Dover and Whitfield Tesco's. Please phone 209660 for more information..

THANKS to Maurice and Pam Sayers for their kind donation to the Newsletter. (editor)

GARDEN TALK – The next meeting will be held on Friday 21st February at 7.30pm at John and Rosemary Crothall's Brook House in Meggett Lane. I hope we will all be able to peer into the well, in their conservatory, to check the level of the water table. (Susannah Tapsell)
CONGRATULATIONS to Ray Ashman of Green Lane Ewell Minnis on his promotion. He is now Lt. Colonel R Ashman MBE O St.J



Bradford & Bingley

Geering & Colyer

KEARSNEY (01304) 823714 DOVER (01304)207099

YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENT
offering **DOUBLE EXPOSURE**

For your property

From our offices at both

12 KEARSNEY AVENUE, RIVER, DOVER
AND 5 KING STREET, DOVER

Discover for yourselves why Geering and Colyer
deserve their reputation for customer care

SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

FREDERIC

HALL

Solicitors

York House, Folkestone

01303 851185

& Clyde House, Dover 202411

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONYS

We are pleased to announce that Kevin Mepham has been appointed as the new vicar for our benefice. Kevin is currently Priest-in-Charge at All Souls Church in Hastings. His Induction service, which the Bishop of Maidstone will lead, is to be held at St Radigunds Church Chapel on 20th March 2003. We would like to thank our Ministry Team namely, Ken, Tony and Pam for all the hard work they have done in the parish and benefice during the Interregnum, and also for the loyal support of the parishioners in maintaining the activities within the Church and the Parish of St Anthony's during the past 7 months. Christmas seems a long time ago now, but the Carol service and the Blessing of the Crib service saw the Church full to capacity on both occasions. The children holding their candles aloft is always a wonderful if not nerve racking delight.

(Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond)

WI NEWS - Unfortunately, disaster! I managed to get the speakers mixed up on the wrong dates and hence we ended up with no one. Apologies to everyone; I put it down to old age!! Susan, as usual, stepped into the breach magnificently and showed us some of her slides of the village dating back to the early sixties. There was much oohing and aahing and "hey isn't that Christine"? Pam had some difficulty recognising which one of her offspring was dressed as scarecrow...was it John or Jenny? Maybe we will never know! Next meeting is on 11th Feb at 7.30 and is entitled "wild women", and before you ask, it is not a talk about any of our activities!

(Devina Bartlett)

OZ on PHENOLOGY – Among the Christmas post on our doormat was *Nature's Calendar 2003*, the recording form of the UK Phenology Network. Phenology is the study of organisms as affected by climate, using the dates of seasonal phenomena such as opening of flowers or arrival of migrant birds, and has a long history. In 570, the Abbot of Iona reported that Columba, the Celtic saint, knew the migration dates of birds so well that he detected a missing crane and nursed the exhausted bird for three days, after which "it returned across the sea to Ireland in a straight line of flight." In China and Japan festival dates were fixed by reference to the blossoming of cherry and peach trees, giving valuable data from the 8th century onwards. Throughout Europe in the Middle Ages observers concentrated on naming and classifying species, but by the 18th century, with the rise of scientific method, attention returned to observing phenomena. Individual records included the *Redditch Weather Diary* (1703), Robert Marsham's *Indications of Spring* (1736) and, later in the century, the diaries of Gilbert White and Daines Barrington. In 1875 the Royal Meteorological Society established a national network of recorders who published annual reports until 1948. In 1998, Tim Sparks, a research biologist, revived the network and, in 2000, joined forces with the Woodland Trust to form the UK Phenology Network. Over the last four years the number of recorders has grown from 74 to 18,600 and is still growing. Members record their observations either in *Nature's Calendar* or online at www.phenology.org.uk for subsequent computer analysis. The network may also be contacted at The Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL. Our first entry this year was the solitary daffodil that appeared briefly after Christmas only to succumb to slugs on 1st January. (Steve Osborn)

NORMALLY at the Blessing of the Crib service children are given sweets from a tin as they leave the church. This year, much to their amazement, they were given a large tube containing 16 mini Cadbury bars comprising Crunchy, Whisper, Caramel and Dairy Milk. The tubes were piled high by the church door and each of the 75 children who came to the service got one. Huge thanks go to Eileen and Bill West, who used to live in Newlyn's Meadow, for providing them through the Salvation Army for whom they work. Eileen has kept in touch via the Newsletter and has provided blankets and soup for the Alkham Soup kitchen team. She phoned to say that that the Salvation Army had been given the chocolates and would we like some for the Soup Kitchen? This led on to the Blessing of the Crib and Eileen and Bill's children very kindly delivered 10 boxes of 12 tubes on the 23rd of December. Ten tubes were given out at the Soup Kitchen on Christmas Eve and all the recipients seemed quite moved by the gesture.

(editor)

OBITUARIES

Sad to report four people with strong connections with Alkham have died recently. Our sympathy goes to all their families.

Evelyn, wife of Stan Beamish of Chilton Farm, died unexpectedly 20th December 2002. Born in Ireland,

Evelyn and Stan, moved first to farm in Wales, and then in the early 1980's to Alkham. Evelyn retained her ability to handle the stock side of the farm until they gave up farming. She left 2 daughters and three sons, each son paying a loving tribute to their mother at her funeral.

Asta, Norwegian wife of Gerry Snape, lived at Cauldham but formerly of Hockley Sole, died after a long illness 5th January 2003, three days before her 76th birthday. Asta met her husband to be by chance when each was holidaying in "Champagne Country". Gerry's mother had a fall and Asta, as a newly trained physiotherapist offered her help, and thus met Gerry, and so their friendship started. Asta's daughter Karin read Norwegian poems, and son Nigel and the five grandchildren extracts reflecting a life well lead and bravely fought.

Evelyn, wife of the late Wing-Commander Harold Cadman They lived for sixteen years at Little Garth, Alkham. After "Caddy" died in 1981 Evelyn moved to Deal where she lived to the grand age of 93 dying at the end of December 2002, leaving a son and daughter and four grandchildren.

Pat, wife of the late Harry Gittus, lived a relatively solitary life by choice. Her health had begun to deteriorate recently and she died at her home in Alkham in her sleep in the early hours 16th January. She and Harry moved to Alkham over forty years ago.

(written by Susan Lees)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am 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	1	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Wednesday	5	Fete committee meeting – see page 1
Tuesday	11	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	15	SEKAS in VH afternoon
Saturday	15	W.I. jumble sale in the village hall 11.00am
Monday	17	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	22	Beekeepers in village hall during the day

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
February 2nd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist for Candlemas St. Mary's Church, Capel 4.00pm		
February 9th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
February 16th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
February 23rd	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

NEW YEAR'S EVE - In keeping with tradition Susan Lees and Milly Woodrow rang out the old year and Richard Tapsell, Paul Tapsell, Ken Hammond, Stephen Comfort and Brian Wimsett rang in the New Year at St. Anthony's Church at midnight on the 31st of December.

QUIZ – On the 29th of March there will be a quiz in the village hall run by Mike Stevens of Thanet Radio. For more information or to book a table please ring 824876.

JUMBLE SALE – The W.I. are holding a jumble sale in the village hall on the 15th of February starting at 11.00am. The hall is open for jumble from 10.30am.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Alkham Valley Society secretary

Pamela Sayers 822397

Vicar please ring Church Wardens

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207
2193704

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com

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 01303 251475

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
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

No. 115 March 2003

Delivered free to all
properties in the Parish

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

All your gardening needs plus
milk, eggs, biscuits, preserves,
newspapers, gifts and animal
supplies.

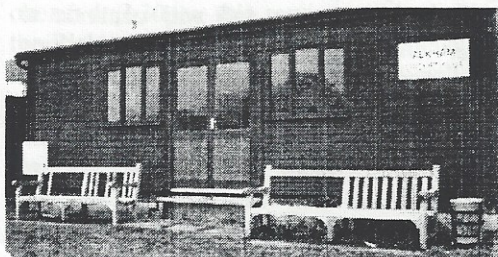
Telephone 01303 893351

CLARINGBOULD & WARD

Builders & decorators

All aspects of building,
renovation, alteration's,
maintenance & decorating work
undertaken.

For personal service contact Barry on
Office 01304 826914
Mobile 07970539461



REWARD – Criminal damage was carried out to the benches in front of the cricket pavilion on Vicarage Meadow. The majority of the vertical slats on one bench were broken and on the other, about half. The slats were hit with such force that the tenon on the rear of the seats is broken making repair almost impossible. One of the benches had been donated and the replacement cost of each is probably about £500. The Parish Council is offering a reward of £100 to anyone who is willing to give evidence in the Small Claims Court against the person or persons who carried out this criminal damage. This will take courage but it is hoped that someone will come forward as the Small Claims Court is not as intimidating as a criminal court. Please phone 824969. (editor)

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS (and Town) take place on the 1st of May. If you want to stand as a Parish Councillor you should get the Nomination Pack from Sue Lees (Forstal Cottage by the Marquis, 822661) as soon as possible as candidates are advised to return their nomination papers as near as possible to the 14th of March (Statutory deadline 1st April). Candidates will be elected automatically if there is no contest, otherwise it will be put to the vote on May the 1st. (editor)

THE STORY OF THE SHEEP on Ararat Common On Sunday the 4th of February the white ball on the hill was finally realised to be an apparently lifeless sheep. The farmer was contacted and the situation reported to his wife. Time ticked by and the sheep remained unattended so Grace Stacey and Debbie Saunders took matters into their own hands and deployed Bethany Saunders, Ashley Hughes and Carla Saltmar with secateurs, because Grace was now positive the sheep was tangled in a bramble bush. The children soon reached the sheep and did what they could but the sheep, no doubt exhausted from struggling, was unable to help herself. A mobile call to Debbie explaining the situation enabled her to contact the farmer yet again and very soon the stockman arrived. Once free the sheep rolled down the hill and was taken back to the farm to recover. Thank you Bethany, Ashley and Carla. (Sue Lees)

CONGESTION CHARGING

If the Ken Livingstone charging could be applied to the Alkham Valley Road for non-essential drivers at £2 a trip, about £2.5 million could be raised each year. Now there's a thought. (editor)

CIVIC CEREMONY

On Saturday the 22nd of March at 11.00am opposite the village hall, there will be a ceremony on Vicarage Meadow to celebrate the fact that the Parish now owns the meadow, having purchased it from the Church. Please come along and help celebrate this momentous occasion. There will be light refreshments in the village hall afterwards. (Sue Lees)

RUBBISH – Susannah Tapsell was so fed up with the litter in and around Alkham that she organised a W.I. working party on Tuesday the 18th of February. Eight W.I. members turned up and cleared the rubbish from Vicarage Meadow, the football field, Short Lane, Glebelands and the two approaches to the village. Eight dustbin bags were filled, which were collected the following day. Congratulations all round. (editor)

A JUMBLE SALE in aid of Village Hall funds will be held in the hall on 15th March, starting at 11.00am.

THE NEW VICAR for Alkham, Kevin Mephram, will conduct his first service at St. Anthony's on the 23rd of March at 10.00am. Please do come and give Kevin a very warm welcome on this special occasion. (Church Wardens)

FLOOD - The flooding of the bottom of Short Lane was not helped by some - one putting two dustbin lids over the pipes which go under the road. (editor)

CURTAINS AND BLINDS

There is a new line advert on the back page from Marie Hewitt, who has just moved into Chart House, regarding the making of curtains and blinds.

CHITTENDEN'S FUNERAL SERVICES

FOLKESTONE 1 Ingoldsby Road (01303) 851456 Manager Mr. Chris Daughters	HYTHE Windmill Street (01303) 262762 Manager Mr. Mike Hands
---	--

Personal Service Always
Private Chapels of Rest
Memorial Masonry

FUNERAL PRE-PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE
UNDER THE PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF

Stilwell & Harby

Solicitors

110 Maison Dieu Road, Dover

Tel: (01304) 206850 Fax: (01304) 206950

E-mail: SandHDOVER@aol.com

Providing help, advice and
Representation in the following matters

Criminal Matrimonial

Conveyancing

Wills and Probate

Wheel Chair Access

MARSHALL & CLARKE

PROPERTY AGENTS AND VALUERS



112 London Road, Kearsney

Dover, CT16 3AB

Telephone 01304 827770

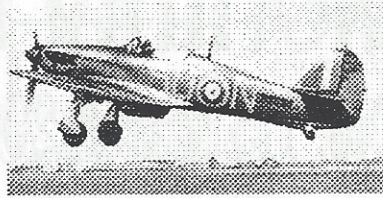
and at

1 Cliffe Road, Kingsdown, Deal

Tel. 01304 381622

High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover

Tel. 01304 852960



QUIZ – The January Quiz was a great success and a big thank you goes to the 82 competitors who supported this annual event. The quiz is always run for the benefit of local charities and this year the Battle of Britain RAF Museum at Hawkinge was the choice. The Chairman of the Museum, Dave Brocklehurst, joined in with the quiz, sitting on the end of one of the tables. Brian compiled the questions and was master of ceremonies for the evening. Susan Lees coordinated the event, Devina Bartlett was the scorer, Betty Neely ran the raffle and Doreen Lott, Doreen and Rosemary Polden provided the supper. A profit of £316.50 was made. It was great to see so many local people with friends and family. The winners were Darren and Joanna's table and there was a tie for the last place, the members of the latter teams receiving a ribbon medallion with an appropriate attachment. Make sure you join us next year and help us support some worthy local charity. (Sue Lees) – *The following letter was received from the museum*

Thank you very much for donating the proceeds from your Quiz Night to the Hangar Roof Appeal. The £316.50 you raised will certainly buy quite a lot of replacement sheets for the repairs to the Museum's roofs. It was very nice to see and witness such a friendly atmosphere and community spirit last Saturday, something that is rarely seen in villages and towns today! Could you also pass on my thanks to the ladies on the table I joined for the second-half. I hope I didn't hinder them too much with some of my answers! I hope you have many more successful Quiz Nights in the future and raise lots of money for Charity. Thank you once again and I hope you are able to visit the Museum this summer to see for yourselves the results of the generosity of so many local people. Kindest regards, Dave Brocklehurst. (Chairman/historian)

THANK YOU to Rosemary and John Crothall for their kind financial donation to the Newsletter. (editor)

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR GREENWOOD FARM

NORTH – Having spoken to DDC on comments made referring to our planning application (*in the Newsletter*), Tim Fisher Planning Officer from DDC, says it is not a comment made from one of his officers. So it appears the comment (Millionaire's row) has come from the Parish Council. We are not sure what Alkham wants, obviously not Millionaire's Row joining Snob Alley. (Mrs A Huggins)

In reporting the story about planning in last month's Newsletter, there was no intention of upsetting anybody or to infer a bias against the above part of the Parish. I go to the Parish Council meetings to report what happens and the article was based on notes taken at that meeting. (editor)

CHALKSOLE GREEN

LANE - I would like to protest about the preoccupation with planning matters in Chalksole Green Lane. This lane, 3/4 mile from the village centre is neither suburban nor a "millionaires row". The accessibility to country views has improved immensely with recent developments and will continue to improve in the future. Nothing critical seems to be written so often about other planning matters, for example, the obvious 'suburban' houses being built near the village green. Why is there an apparent obsession with one lane, which hardly anybody (besides equestrians and dog walkers) uses? A more balanced approach would be appreciated in the future! (Mrs. R B Hickman, Chalksole Green Farm)

With regard to the 'suburban' houses at Hogbrook, these have been extensively commented on in the Newsletter the first in November 2000, then February, April, June and November 2001. The well attended open meeting in February 2002 was extensively reported and included the parishioners objections regarding height, noise, traffic, cars, TV aerials etc. There is no preoccupation with Chalksole Green Lane, I just report what is going on in the Parish and at the moment the Chalksole Green Lane area is a matter of public debate. (editor)

CROP is an acronym which stands for 'Citizen's Rights for Older People'. They are a free advocacy service operating from Canterbury and visit older people in their own home to resolve a number of problems such as claims for attendance allowance, income support, council tax rebates etc., appeals, help with sorting out financial problems arising from decreased mobility or from loss of partner. They also help older people suffering from physical, mental or verbal abuse and neighbour disputes. They present options to those considering entering sheltered accommodation or a residential home and help when returning from nursing home or hospital plus a host of other items. For more details either phone or write to Watling Chambers, 18-19 Watling Street, Canterbury CT1 2UA (01227 789777).

ALSO CAN YOU HELP?

Have you an empathy with older people, if so you are just the person we are looking for. Citizens' Rights for Older People known as CROP are looking for volunteers to join our team of advocates, in East Kent. If you can honour absolute confidentiality, and have the time to spare, we would like to hear from you. We can offer a friendly, welcoming atmosphere with the opportunity for achievement, satisfaction in helping the older person to maintain their rights. Life skills are important; support and training is available on a continuing basis. Authorised expenses and travel costs are reimbursed. Apply to Mrs Julie Older, CROP Canterbury Office 01227 789777

Bradford & Bingley Geering & Colyer

KEARSNEY (01304) 823714 DOVER (01304)207099
YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENT
offering **DOUBLE EXPOSURE**
For your property
From our offices at both
12 KEARSNEY AVENUE, RIVER, DOVER
AND 5 KING STREET, DOVER
Discover for yourselves why Geering and Colyer
deserve their reputation for customer care
SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

FREDERIC HALL Solicitors

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

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONYS

There will be no service (4pm) at Alkham on 2nd March, as there is to be a Diocesan Eucharist service at 3.00pm in the Cathedral for the new Archbishop Dr. Rowan Williams on that day. On Thursday 20th March the Induction and Institution service for our new vicar, Kevin Mephram will be held in Capel church at 7.30pm; this service will be led by the Bishop of Maidstone. The Joint Benefice service at Alkham on 23rd March will be Kevin's first service in the benefice, so please do come and give Kevin a very warm welcome on this special occasion. On March 30th we will be celebrating Mothering Sunday at 3.00pm and look forward to greeting all the children and their families at the traditional service, with flowers and cards followed by tea in the village hall.

(Richard Tapsell & Ken Hammond)

TEASPOONS – there seemed to be general acceptance of the answers given at the Annual Quiz except for 'How many teaspoons in a tablespoon'. I said the answer was three but this was disputed and some other tables agreed that it should be four. The correct answer is either. My brother-in-law, tongue in cheek, checked up and sent me the following. 'My first step was to research the subject and I consulted a number of learned texts on the matter. The older texts (for texts read Cook Books) gave a conversion of 2 teaspoons equals one dessertspoon and two dessertspoons equals one tablespoon. That leads to the answer of 4. However the more modern texts give the teaspoon as being equal to 5 millilitres and the table spoon as being 15 ml leading to an answer of 3. (editor)

OZ on JAZZ – A bleak Wednesday evening in January found us settling down in the Marlowe Theatre at Canterbury for the *Kings of Jazz* concert. This music of "exuberant melancholy" as once described has, amongst other musical forms, been a lifelong passion, but we hadn't actually attended a jazz concert since Duke Ellington at the Hammersmith Odeon some 40 years ago. Audiences for opera at the Marlowe include people of all ages, from the teens to the nineties. Jazz, by its informal and transient nature, attracts followers from roughly the same generation as its performers. This audience consisted almost entirely of couples aged from fifty to eighty years, many of the men grey-bearded and leather-jacketed, the women well-preserved and lively in trousers, tapping their feet and snapping their fingers on the off-beat, and occasionally exuding the sweet and unfashionable scent of tobacco. First up was Humphrey Lyttelton, the grand old man of British jazz. At 82 he remains a tall and impressive figure, ex-Etonian and ex-Guardsman, who, with trumpet dangling from fingertips, prowls constantly around the stage like a caged tiger. It was pleasing to rediscover that Humph is an equally proficient clarinettist and raconteur. Next came the Digby Fairweather band, featuring George Melly, outrageous in a flamboyant Ascot-style hat, now almost chairbound, but as boisterous a blues-shouter as ever. The final set, from Kenny Ball and His Jazzmen, concluded with an arrangement of the Beatles' *All You Need is Love*, that had the audience on its feet, delightfully taking part in choreographed clapping and hand-dancing. On the way home, we recollected that jazz instrumentation was originally dictated by the availability, in pawnshops at the end of the 19th century, of surplus marching band instruments from the American Civil War, a fine example of recycling, another lifelong passion. (Steve Osborn)

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Having expressed dismay to our editor that the name "Village Green" appeared to be insidiously usurping the original of "The Vicarage Meadow", he very kindly suggested that my thoughts may be of interest to a wider audience. I do hope that the change of ownership of "The Vicarage Meadow" from Church to Parish does not necessitate a change of name. The history of a village is daily expressed through place names and it is that history which makes a village unique. We are so fortunate to live in Alkham and be part of its history and to be caretakers for future generations as best we can. So let's grieve at the loss of lovely road names like "Greenwood Slip" to the less interesting "Slip Lane, wince at the bureaucracy of "Hogbrook Hill Lane" when "Hogbrook Hill" sufficiently described and cringe at the lack of the apostrophe "s" that would correctly describe the original ownership of "Newlyn's Meadow", but go into the future delighting in and caring about village by maintaining the old names. Names such as "Priest's Walk", "School Cottages", "The Old Post Office". "Glebelands", "Old Rectory", "The Vicarage", "Coachman's Cottage" "Carpenters Arms", "Newcastle House" and "Forge House". Let's hope that "Church Cottages" and "Church Hill House" are never

added to this list of memories and take pride in connecting with the past and in Alkham's originality in having "The Vicarage Meadow" and not merely the ubiquitous village green.

(Susannah Tapsell)

It was for people new to the village that I used 'village green'. However it is wrong so from now on it will be Vicarage Meadow in the Newsletter. (editor)

W.I. NEWS - I have always assumed that the art of storytelling belonged in the past. That it was a craft no longer in existence and even if there were such people, they were old and wizened and were persuaded to tell their tales over a pint of something in a smoky pub somewhere in the depths of Ireland maybe. Well, I am glad to say that I was mistaken when Mr Cooper graced us with his presence, his hat set at a jaunty angle and his waist coat dotted with tiny mirrors. He regaled us with tales of fishermen and mermaids, pick pocketing babies and explained the mystery of why we sneeze when we go out into strong sunlight! It is all Queen Goldentree's fault apparently, (or was it Queen Silvertree)? Anyway, he made us laugh and feel sad and that is what it is all about I suppose. Next meeting is on 11th March and is entitled Magic Lanterns. (Devina Bartlett)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am 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	1	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Monday	3	Parish Council meeting in the village hall 7.30pm all welcome
Saturday	8	American Supper in the village hall 7.30 pm – live music
Tuesday	11	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	15	SEKAS in VH afternoon
Saturday	15	Jumble sale in the village hall 11.00am for VH funds
Monday	17	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	22	Ceremony see page 1
Saturday	29	Quiz in village hall 824876
Saturday	29	Beekeepers in village hall

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
March 2nd	No service	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
Wednesday March 5th Ash Wednesday	Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes St. Radigund, Capel 7.30 pm		
March 9th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
March 16th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
March 23rd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Anthony's, Alkham 10.00 am		
March 30th Mothering Sunday	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Radigund, Capel 10.00 am (Bishop of Dover presides)		
	Mothering Sunday Service St. Anthony's, Alkham 3.00 pm followed by tea in hall		

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

LOST YEW FOREVER

What a sad sight to see, Mount Ararat without its old yew tree standing proud in the front garden, a landmark for all around. The new owners of Mount Ararat obviously did not feel proud and privileged to become the custodians of such a beautiful and ancient tree. The yew was home to all kinds of wildlife and originally planted to bring luck to all around. What a great shame some people cannot commune with nature instead of destroying it. (Anon)

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 brianwimsett@hotmail.com	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	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475 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 501396
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
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley 01303 891806
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
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

No. 116 April 2003

Delivered free to all
properties in the Parish

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

All your gardening needs plus
milk, eggs, biscuits, preserves,
newspapers, gifts and animal
supplies.

Telephone 01303 893351

CLARINGBOULD & WARD

Builders & decorators

All aspects of building,
renovation, alteration's,
maintenance & decorating work
undertaken.

For personal service contact Barry on
Office 01304 826914
Mobile 07970539461

Flymo 400 electric lawnmower.
As new, still in box. £150 in the
shops, offers considered. Mark
and Debbie Robson, 8a, Newlyn's
Meadow. Tel.820459.

PARISH COUNCIL - There have been a number of people requesting the application form to become a Parish Councillor and it is therefore likely that the May election will be contested.

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR - I have entered Alkham in the Village of the Year in the Community Life category. (editor)

PETROL - Someone has been siphoning petrol from a vehicle parked by the side of the Alkham Valley Road on the west of the village. The first time none was left and a villager drove to Sainsbury's to get a can of petrol. If you live in this area please keep a lookout for anything suspicious.

FOOTBALL - To the parents of the children who play football in the car park in Glebelands and who use my garden fence as a goal post; could they please replace the broken strut of the said fence.

(Eve Hartwell)

VICARAGE MEADOW



There was a great turn out on the 22nd of March when a ceremony was held to celebrate the ownership of Vicarage Meadow by the Parish. About 60 people turned up in the warm sunshine to hear the Parish Council chairman give a speech in which he thanked all the people who had helped over the years. At the count of three the helium filled balloons were released to excited cries from the children. Refreshments, paid for by Norman Knowles and prepared by the Lott and Polden families, were then enjoyed in the village hall. It was great fun and a day that will be remembered by old and young alike. (editor)

CHURCHYARD - The PCC are going to decide at their AGM in April if they are willing to purchase a sickle mower. Last year it was hard work cutting the churchyard and using brush cutters is not the answer. One way or another we will get the self propelled front cutting mower with large rubber tyres and, as usual, there will be an appeal for volunteers to help cut the grass. The mower, made by Victa Shanks, costs £700. (editor)

SUNFLOWERS - There will be a competition in Alkham this year for the largest sunflower. Entry is free and a cup will be awarded to the person who grows the tallest sunflower. Please contact me if you'd like to enter but hope over experience tells me that there will have to be the direct approach. (editor)

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING is on the 14th of April at 7.30pm in the village hall. Please do come along and have your say.

HELP THE AGED - Many thanks to the people in Newlyn's Meadow, where a collection for Help the Aged raised £23.

(Larry Lambourne)

COFFEE MORNING - In aid of Meningitis Charity was held in the Village Hall on Saturday 3rd March. A total profit of £173 was made with the tombola and cake stalls proving extremely popular. Many people commented on how nice it was to see 'new' faces coming along and joining in (even though some of the 'regulars' were not present). Thank you to all who attended and gave to this very worthy cause. The money has already been forwarded on and will, I'm sure, be put to good use. (Karen Mears)

WE OFFER our sympathy to Eileen Townsend and family on the death her husband Philip at the grand age of almost 91, a truly "gentle" gentleman.

ALKHAM ROAD - Various points were discussed when the Parish Council, Police and Highway Authority walked and drove along the Valley Road. Apart from other things it is probable that hard standings for buses will be put at the eastern end of the village and at Wolverton Hill.

HOME GUARD - A researcher is looking for photographs with names of Kent Home Guard Units and individuals from 1940 - 41 to copy and use in a forthcoming book on X11 Corps Observation Unit. Please contact Adrian Westwood on 01233 750563.

Alkham Court

Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast

Meggett Lane, South Alkham
ETC: 4 diamonds

*Peaceful location overlooking the
Alkham Valley*

*Excellent facilities for family or business
stays, short breaks, overnight and weddings.*

Web: www.alkhamcourt.co.uk
Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

Stilwell & Harby

Solicitors

110 Maison Dieu Road, Dover
Tel: (01304) 206850 Fax: (01304) 206950
E-mail: SandHDOVER@aol.com

Providing help, advice and
Representation in the following matters

Criminal Matrimonial
Conveyancing
Wills and Probate
Wheel Chair Access

MARSHALL & CLARKE

PROPERTY AGENTS AND VALUERS



112 London Road, Kearsney
Dover, CT16 3AB
Telephone 01304 827770
and at

1 Cliffe Road, Kingsdown, Deal
Tel. 01304 381622
High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover
Tel. 01304 852960

BT BROADBAND for internet

users Anyone interested in having broadband connection to the internet for this area (numbers beginning 82), may register their interests with BT at their website www.bt.com/broadband. BT requires a target of 250 customers within each exchange area, before they will install the necessary equipment and update the lines for high speed connection. Registering your interest for broadband doesn't mean that you are committing yourself, It is merely to find out how many customers may require it in the future. (Vince Holness - webmaster www.alkham.info)

MATTHEW HULYER - At the recently held Kent Indoor Championships Matthew (*who lives in the centre of the village*) set an all time Kent best, jumping 6.83 metres in the Junior Men's (under 20's) Long Jump event to win Gold. Later in the day Matthew competed in the 60 metres sprint, beating the current Kent champion to take gold with a winning time of 7.3 seconds. Matthew holds silver for Long Jump in the South of England championships and again won silver at the Welsh indoor championships held in Cardiff last month. Matthew holds several Long Jump records for his club Ashford AC and set a personal outdoor best last year with a jump of 7.26 metres. This distance places Matthew 6th in the UK under 20 rankings and 20th in the UK overall. Matthew is 18 years old and is trained by a qualified England coach who considers Matthew destined for major national and international honours.

BRIC A BRAC STALL

We feel as though Christmas was only yesterday and yet here we are thinking and planning the summer Fete again. It has proved to be an enormous pleasure since taking over this stall a few years ago. It takes a lot of preparation and we spend a lot of time cleaning and pricing and realize that our home resembles a warehouse for the two weeks before. It has been a learning curve too and have learnt how to handle the difficult customers, those who haggle over an eighteen piece tea-set and only want to give a pound, the children who take something to 'show my mum' and never return and in particular the obnoxious dealers who persist in harassing us before the start by continually lifting and moving items about in hope we will relent and allow them priority. We even had a bruised foot and grazed elbow in our first year. Not to be put off we have continued on and each year now becomes a challenge. This is where you all come in to help, can you please 'look out' any spare items. We are not fussy at all and will take any unwanted old Spode, Wedgewood or Coalport and will even collect your unwanted family heirlooms. Just kidding, we take practically anything saleable as long as it is not broken or suffering decay. Thanks for your help. (Irene Barnard)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY

will present a concert, in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 12th April, featuring two very different Requiems by Fauré and Brahms. At first sight, a double bill of Requiems would seem the recipe for a gloomy evening. However the singers know, from their success with the same programme in 1994, that these works are remarkably exuberant, expressing feelings of consolation and hope rather than death, damnation and judgment. Soloists, chorus and The Connaught Orchestra (leader George Simpson) will be conducted by Dover Choral Society's Musical Director, Michael Foad. Tickets £8 (Schoolchildren £4) are available from Dover Town Hall, The Music Box in Maison Dieu Road, and from members of Dover Choral Society; and, if there are any left, at the door on the night. For further information ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

VIEWFINDER - English Heritage have put 20,000 photos from England's history on their web www.englishheritage.org.uk/viewfinder. St Mary's church at Capel is pictured. (editor)

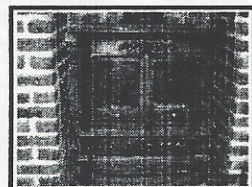
EAST KENT - Paul Tapsell reported that it looks likely that East Kent will become a unitary authority in the next three or four years. This is good news as Medway appear to have made a success of it.

THE ALKHAM PRODUCE SHOW held in the Village Hall on the day of the Fete July 12th will have a slightly different format this year in that there will be less classes but more varied. We would like to make a wonderful, colourful display of fruits, vegetables and flowers that can all be grown in our village. Accolades will, of course, be given but the greatest emphasis will be in displaying to our visitors that we can still put on a bit of a show and that good food and beautiful flowers can be produced in our gardens. So, please, can you get your little patch producing something to put in the show. perhaps just 3 radishes, 3 courgettes, peas, beans or a lettuce and some sweet peas. A full list of all the classes is available from me and I hope to be delivering forms around the village in early June. Thank you. (Susannah Tapsell)

GARDENTALK - A most enjoyable evening was spent at John and Rosemary Crothall's home at the end of February. They had devised a pretty stiff quiz for us, which meant that we learnt a considerable amount. John had also prepared a number of different types of wood for us to identify which proved very interesting. We also, as always, thoroughly enjoyed our ample refreshments to which we all contribute. Thank you, John and Rosemary. The next meeting will be held at "Bramhall" Alkham Valley Road on Tuesday, 15th April. (Susannah Tapsell)

FOR SALE £500

Solid fuel stove with back boiler for heating water and radiators



Cost £1500 new. Please phone 823720

CHITTENDEN'S FUNERAL SERVICES

FOLKESTONE **Hythe**
1 Ingoldsby Road Windmill Street
(01303) 851456 (01303) 262762
Manager Manager
Mr. Chris Daughters Mr. Mike Hands

Personal Service Always
Private Chapels of Rest
Memorial Masonry

FUNERAL PRE-PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE
UNDER THE PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF

FREDERIC HALL Solicitors

York House, Folkestone
01303 851185

& Clyde House, Dover 202411

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONYS

Our Church Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This is an open meeting and your support of the Church in Alkham will be very welcome, so please do come along. Also any parishioner whose name is already on the Church Electoral Roll is entitled to vote in the election of the parochial representatives from the laity, so come and use your vote. To the donors of the beautiful gifts given to the Church on Sunday March 16th we give a very big thank you. We thank, also, everybody who has helped and supported us during the Interregnum. There will be a Jumble Sale in aid of the Church Fund in the Village Hall on Sat. 12th April. (Richard Tapsell)

27TH FEBRUARY ARCHBISHOP ROWAN WILLIAMS'S enthronement. One of those truly memorable days. I do not know how my name came to be drawn out of the hat, but I will be eternally grateful to those who put my name forward. The sun shone, and the City seemed to be full of people Cathedral bound: clergy of all

Bradford & Bingley Geering & Colyer

KEARSNEY (01304) 823714 DOVER (01304) 207099
YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENT
offering DOUBLE EXPOSURE

For your property
From our offices at both

12 KEARSNEY AVENUE, RIVER, DOVER
AND 5 KING STREET, DOVER

Discover for yourselves why Geering and Colyer
deserve their reputation for customer care

SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

OZ on FISH'N'CHIPS – One of our winter Wine and Wisdom fixtures has, as centre-piece, a fish and chip supper. After this year's contest I decided to research the origins of the great British meal and discovered two historical strands. The technique of deep-frying fish in batter seems to have arrived in the 16th century with Marreno refugees, Jews who adopted Christianity and eventually fled from Portugal to avoid persecution. The pre-presidential American, Thomas Jefferson, visiting Britain in the late 18th century, described eating "fried fish in the Jewish fashion." At the same time, the eating of fried chipped potatoes spread from Ireland to Lancashire and on through the expanding industrial cities to London. The two strands fused in 1860, when Joseph Malin, a Jewish immigrant from Eastern Europe, opened a shop in London's East End selling deep-fried fish and chipped potatoes. As with many social changes the trade took off with the continuing growth of the Industrial Revolution. Professor John Walton, author of *Fish and Chips and the British Working Classes 1870-1940*, explained how the arrival of steamships and the development of refrigeration produced a massive expansion in supplies of sea fish. This coincided with a general growth in working people's incomes that allowed some luxuries including the fish and chip supper. The number of 'chippies' peaked at 35,000 in 1927, falling to about 8,600 today. The meal has always been valued as a morale-booster by governments, who succeeded in keeping supplies available throughout both World Wars. It remains well-regarded as a good supply of protein, vitamins, carbohydrates, and the fatty acids considered "good for the brain" and hence of value to quiz contestants. The ultimate tribute to the meal is its continuing incorporation into the menus of new generations of ethnic restaurants from India, China and elsewhere. (Steve Osborn)

nationalities, clutching cases full of robes to be donned later; smartly dressed ladies, clutching their hats, which the February breeze was trying so hard to separate from their heads; young, and not so young, men and women carrying their "Anti-War" placards, and finally, what appeared to be hundreds of fluorescent decked police, guarding every possible access to the Cathedral. Finally the time came to brave the crowds and edge my way around the police. I don't know why, but the police seemed to take one look at me and decide that I was not a national threat, because they barely looked at my invitation! Once in the Cathedral I was again surprised to find that I was in the row of seats facing and adjoining the main aisle. I had been fully prepared to be seated behind one of the cathedral's huge pillars. I thus had a very close up view of all the people arriving many bedecked in weighty chains of office. The procession of other dignitaries seemed to go on for hours, too many to be named here. But suffice it to say I could have put my hand out to touch Archbishop Rowan Williams or Prince Charles. There is no need for me to describe the Service, but there were many parts never to be forgotten. The three raps made by the archbishop on the main cathedral door before

entering, echoed eerily around the old walls giving one a spine chilling feeling. The audio system and monitors discretely placed around the walls meant that the entire service could be seen and heard by everyone. However, when the choir sang alone, the audio system seemed to be switched off and the singing came from afar, beautiful but so distant and so mediaeval, taking one back to times long forgotten, and bringing home to just how marvellous it is that this ceremony can still be conducted in these ancient surroundings but in these modern times of brashness and uncaringness. (Susan Lees)

W.I. NEWS - Mr Crook gave us an interesting talk along with slides using a "magic Lantern" which was over 100 years old. Most of the slides were hand painted and he showed us many humorous ones to start with. For many, this was their only form of entertainment and huge groups used to gather in halls to watch them. Our next meeting is entitled, "it shouldn't happen to a vet" by Mr Patrick Smalley. To be held on April 8th at 7.30 pm (Devina Bartlett)

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 14th of April, to decide the best way forward.

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am 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	5	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Tuesday	8	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Wednesday	9	PCC AGM 7.30 pm in VH
Saturday	12	SEKAS in VH afternoon
Saturday	12	Jumble sale in the village hall 11.00am for Church funds
Monday	14	Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm – see page 1
Saturday	19	Coffee morning – see opposite
Monday	21	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	22	Village Hall AGM 8.00 pm
Saturday	27	Cricket on Vicarage Meadow at 2.00pm versus River

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
April 6th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
April 13th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
Thursday 17th Maundy Thursday	Sung Eucharist St. Anthony's, Alkham 7.30 pm		
Friday 18th Good Friday	The Hour Before the Cross St. Radigunds, Capel 2.00 – 3.00 pm		
April 20th Easter Sunday	Sung Eucharist 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am
April 27th	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

COFFEE MORNING and Easter Egg Raffle in the Village Hall on the 19th April at 10.30 am with all profits going to Kent Air Ambulance.

SOUP KITCHEN – The rota for Soup Kitchen has been completed and the Alkham team will be doing ten evenings this year. There are some generous people in the village who have, at their own expense, been making sandwiches, cakes or soup. Donations would be gratefully received and these can be left in the box on the end of the brick outhouse behind the Old Post Office. Alternatively, if you would like to make a loaf of sandwiches for the night please give me a ring. There are people who take advantage of the Soup Kitchen but on any night there is always several who are really down on their luck and need food and soup. (editor)

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 brianwimsett@hotmail.com	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	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police – all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
		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 & 07889310479
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley 01303 891806
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malma's Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
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
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

No. 117 May 2003

Delivered free to all
properties in the Parish

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

All your gardening needs plus
milk, eggs, biscuits, preserves,
newspapers, gifts and animal
supplies.

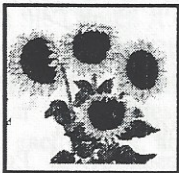
Telephone 01303 893351

CLARINGBOULD & WARD

Builders & decorators

All aspects of building,
renovation, alteration's,
maintenance & decorating work
undertaken.

For personal service contact Barry on
Office 01304 826914
Mobile 07970539461



SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

There has been a good
response to the sunflower
competition. About 30
people have entered,

several of whom are children and they will
be awarded a separate cup. It's supposed to
be a bit of fun and the entrants should
contact me when they think their flower has
reached full height. The closing date is
flexible but the Vicar is fairly keen to have a
display at the Harvest Festival in September
should you wish to show your bloom (editor)

PARISH COUNCIL - As there were
seven applicants for seven vacancies in this
year's election the applicants have
automatically been elected. The Parish
Councillors will therefore be Devina
Bartlett, Helen Scopes, Caroline Ward, Edith
Wash (Neve), Neil Burrows, Richard
Holdron, Vince Holness and Paul Tapsell. It
is good to see two representatives from
Ewell Minnis joining the council plus two
other new members. The next Parish Council
meeting will be on the 12th of May in the
Village Hall at 7.30pm should you wish to
welcome the new councillors and thank the
retiring members. (editor)



This is a great idea
by Neighbourhood
Watch. You are
given a pack in
which there is a
piece of paper to write down your
personal details including allergies,
medicines taken, illnesses, doctor's
details and next of kin. The details
are put in a film container and a
sticker attached. It is then placed in
the fridge with a sticker on the
fridge and a third sticker placed
near the front door. Should the
emergency services have to enter
your property they will see the
stickers and know where your
essential details are. These packs
are free and Dover NW has given
me some. If you'd like one please
give me a ring on 824969. (editor)

25 SCHEME - For £1 you
can get a pack which has a couple
of tamper proof stickers. These are
stuck to the windows of your car
and tell police that there should not
be anyone under 25 driving your
car. This scheme has been quite
effective in cutting down joy
riding. Please contact Pat Martin
on 827174.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

- At the next Parish
Council meeting Neighbourhood
Watch is going to be discussed. As
I understand it there will be a new
co-ordinator and volunteers will be
sought to be representatives for
various areas. I've volunteered,
together with Ken Hammond, to be
the representative for Slip Lane.
This entails receiving information
via Email and alerting people
should there be anything relevant.
If someone in an area sees
something suspicious (or of
concern) they should phone the
numbers as given on page 2 and
not the representative. Vince
Holness has been given all the
information with regard to
Neighbourhood Watch and has
posted it on the Alkham website
(www.alkham.info). Keep in touch
by logging on. (editor)

BURGLARY - On Saturday 19th
April a property in Alkham and another
at South Alkham was burgled. Burglars
may be in the area so please report
anything suspicious to the police (see
next page). (editor)

E.T. - On April the 15th just after
midnight strange lights were seen over
South Alkham. They hovered then
moved from side to side before the craft
finally landed behind a bungalow by the
Valley Road. Fortunately it was not
alien life but the Air Sea Rescue
helicopter. Evidently an ocean going
yacht distress signal had gone off in the
vicinity and they, plus the police, had
come to investigate. I don't think any
further words are necessary. (editor)

MARATHON MAN - against
his wishes I think it is fair to report that
Stephen Comfort, who lives in
Hogbrook Farm, completed the Paris
Marathon in 3 hours 35 minutes on
Sunday 13th April. He came about 9300
in an entry of 32,000 and averaged just
over an 8 minute mile pace. Eighteen
years ago he finished it in 2 hours 59
minutes. Congratulations are in order.

HOUGHAM VILLAGE FAYRE
is being held on the 26th of May starting
at 1.30pm and there will be the usual
attractions. It is well signposted when
you reach Hougham and those of a
sensitive nature will be pleased to hear
that my neighbour and I will not be
Morris Dancing this year. (editor)

VIRGIN VIE - This is a cosmetics
party to be held in the Village Hall on May
22nd from 7.30pm. Evidently you should take
a washing up bowl and a hand towel.
Refreshments will be available and there will
also be a raffle. For further information please
ring 824876.

Alkham Court

Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast

Meggett Lane, South Alkham
ETC: 4 diamonds

Peaceful location overlooking the
Alkham Valley

Excellent facilities for family or business
stays, short breaks, overnight and weddings.

Web: www.alkhamcourt.co.uk
Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

Stilwell & Harby

Solicitors

110 Maison Dieu Road, Dover
Tel: (01304) 206850 Fax: (01304) 206950
E-mail: SandHDOVER@aol.com

Providing help, advice and
Representation in the following matters

Criminal Matrimonial
Conveyancing
Wills and Probate

Wheel Chair Access

MARSHALL & CLARKE

PROPERTY AGENTS AND VALUERS



112 London Road, Kearsney
Dover, CT16 3AB
Telephone 01304 827770
and at

1 Cliffe Road, Kingsdown, Deal
Tel. 01304 381622

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

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

was held in the Village Hall on the 14th of April and 24 villagers turned up. It was George Tyler's last official duty as Chairman of the Parish Council and thanks must go to him for the great job he has done over the last 14 years. The Local Councillors from River were present and if re-elected will represent us in the new ward. Fred Scales has been working hard to get main drainage approval for Drellingore and there should be good news in a couple of months. Paul Tapsell gave a report on behalf of the Alkham Valley Society and said it had been a quiet year. Den Barnard gave a stirring report about Alkham Cricket Club reinforcing the point that playing with a good spirit and sportsmanship was more important than winning. He said there was new blood in the team and Matthew Hyland of Little Garth was singled out for praise. Thanks went to Barbara and Bob Palmer for their renowned teas and Richard Tapsell for getting the crease back in fine order. Pat Martin from Dover Neighbourhood Watch was the guest speaker and talked a lot of sense, some of which is on the front page. At question time one parishioner disputed that the Speed Signs had been a success and that the cleaning of the dyke would have done little to alleviate future flood problems. The Chairman disagreed. (Ed)

EVENING RECYCLING

The KCC household waste recycling facility at Whitfield is now open till 8pm on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer until 24th September. Bang goes another excuse for not recycling. (Steve Osborn)

VILLAGE VIDEOS

I've transferred edited copies of the celebration marking the passing of Vicarage Meadow to the Parish last month, the raising of the Millennium Cross in December 1999 and the W.I. Christmas pantomime in 1997 to CD, which can be viewed on a DVD player (each is about 6 minutes). If anyone would like a copy they cost £1.50 and can be purchased by phoning me on 824969. Profits go towards the Sunflower cups. (editor)

GUIDED WALKS

White Cliffs Countryside Project organize walks and these are some in this area: **White Cliffs Country Trail 4th May** meet 2 pm Martin Mill Railway station, Dover: distance 6 miles, 3 hrs. **A New Park for Dover 5th May 2pm** meet outside the Ark Centre, Noah's Ark Road, Dover : 1.5 miles, 1.5 hrs. **Convicts, Coastguards and Coast Defences 10th May 2pm**, meet NT Visitor Centre, Langdon Cliffs: 2 miles, 2hrs.

Downland Spring 11th May 2pm meet Crete Road West: 3 miles, 3 hrs.

Discover the French Canals (book) 15th May phone 01797 367934. Distance 25 miles, 8 hours.

Forgotten Fortress 25th May meet St Martin's Battery Car Park, Western Heights: 3 miles, 3 hrs.

The above are just a few and for more information please phone 241806. Donations may be required.

KISSING GATES - The new kissing gates to replace the existing ones between the churchyard and set-aside behind the Old Rectory are going to be installed shortly. They are of a modern type with one hinging from the top so you can easily walk through. (editor)

EASTER EGG RAFFLE

The winners in prize order were:
3 School Cottages, D Turner, 2 School Cottages, Mrs F Hall, Janet Baron, Vanessa, Sarah Milroy, 10 Newlyn's Meadow, Liam Milroy, Nana Scopes, Debbie Saunders, R Luckhurst, Margaret Tobey, John the Builder, Ted the Builder,, Vanessa's Mum, Carol Dryden, Vanessa, 11 Newlyn's Meadow, Chris P, Knowles, H Preston, 6 Newlyn's Meadow (c/o Larry), Vicar, Greta Cook, Duncan, "Sunnybank", Val Kingston, 2 School Cottages, Pam Sayers, Richard Lott, Vanessa, Building Site. Over £200 was raised for Kent Air Ambulance. Congratulations to all concerned.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NUMBERS

WHEN SHOULD I RING THE POLICE on 999?

- When Life is threatened
- When a Crime is in progress
- When there is a road accident and there is Serious injury

01303 850055/01304 240055

- To report a suspicious incident
- To report a car that is abandoned or untaxed
- To report a problem that YOU cannot resolve and YOU think involves the Police
- To report a Community Issue (Nuisance kids, motorbikes etc.)

01622 690690

To Report a Crime that has happened to you and the offenders have gone (If the offenders have just been disturbed and are still in the area dial 999)

0800 192 192

SCOOT.com (Talking Pages)

If you are locked out, have a problem with Seagulls or want a chemist or anything else they will put you in touch with who you want

01304 218151 Watch Office

and 01304 218130

PC Ian Foster Rural Police Officer (until further notice) Open Mon-Fri generally between 08.30 & 1600 hrs. An answerphone is in use when the office is unmanned owing to meetings etc. Use this number to discuss Neighbourhood Watch issues or a matter that does not require Police attendance straight away.

This number should not be used to request urgent police attendance.

You may like to cut this out and keep it for future reference. Some people are sceptical about the effectiveness of Neighbourhood Watch. However, if it is organised properly, there are hundreds of people watching out for anything suspicious and an organization to back it up. Police response may not be immediate (except 999) but all details are logged and passed on.

CHITTENDEN'S FUNERAL SERVICES

FOLKESTONE **HYTHE**
1 Ingoldsby Road Windmill Street
(01303) 851456 (01303) 262762
Manager Manager
Mr. Chris Daughters Mr. Mike Hands

Personal Service Always
Private Chapels of Rest
Memorial Masonry

FUNERAL PRE-PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE
UNDER THE PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF

FREDERIC HALL Solicitors

York House, Folkestone

01303 851185

& Clyde House, Dover 202411

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONYS

A bishop began a sermon by asking, "The Dinosaur? The Dinosaur? What happened to him? What destroyed him? His answer: "What destroyed the dinosaur? Nothing! The climate around him changed. He didn't. He died!" "Change" is something we either yearn for, or fear. Our response to change depends on our hopes for things to improve. At the Church A.G.M. I drew attention to the priorities that Church members saw as the tasks that face us in all three parishes in the near future. These priorities will be different in each Parish, and each Church Council has been asked to set two objectives for the coming year that we will try to achieve. St Anthony's Church has been at the heart of the village for centuries, while villagers, whether church goers or not, have come and gone. What do you see as the challenges that face village life today and what would you like the 'Church' to be doing? I believe in miracles, but the miracles I tend to see happening today are those that come about through ordinary people working together for a purpose. I look forward to hearing from you.

(Kevin Mepham).

Bradford & Bingley Geering & Colyer

KEARSNEY (01304) 823714 DOVER (01304) 207099
YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENT
offering DOUBLE EXPOSURE

For your property

From our offices at both

12 KEARSNEY AVENUE, RIVER, DOVER
AND 5 KING STREET, DOVER

Discover for yourselves why Geering and Colyer
deserve their reputation for customer care

SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

OZ on HAZLITT – The bell of St Anne's, Soho, which tolled at the burial of the great essayist William Hazlitt in 1830, rang again last month to celebrate his 225th birthday and the restoration of his grave. Born in Maidstone, the youngest son of a Dissenting minister, Hazlitt soon inherited his father's radical views and passion for truth, qualities which often alienated fellow citizens. After years of travelling from one disgruntled congregation to another the Hazlitts finally settled at Wem in Shropshire, where young William enjoyed his happiest years. In 1794, to his father's great disappointment, he abandoned his ministry training at New College, Hackney, and commenced a life of portrait-painting interspersed with idling and reading. "For many years", he wrote, "I did nothing but think. I had nothing else to do but dip in some abstruse author, or look at the sky, or wander by the pebbled sea-side. I cared for nothing. I wanted nothing." At last, under the influence of another great essayist, Charles Lamb, Hazlitt began a long and productive career as journalist, critic and essayist, meeting literary contemporaries at Lamb's weekly gatherings. Eventually he quarrelled with them all. This prickly temperament, combined with his support of Napoleon and the French Revolution, caused further hostility, even accusations of treason. Finally, worn down by marital breakdown, debt and scandal, he succumbed to a malignancy and died in a cheap Soho lodging-house. His last words were "Well, I have had a happy life!". It is not a surprising comment, as this enthusiasm is part of what was celebrated at St Anne's last month. It is the appetite for life of the man who wrote, of his 20th birthday: "It was on the 10th of April, 1798, that I sat down to a volume of the New Eloise, at the inn at Llangollen, over a bottle of sherry and a cold chicken." (Steve Osborn)

SICKLE MOWER – I'm very pleased to report that the PCC agreed to the purchase of a sickle mower to annually cut the grass in the churchyard. The cost has come out of church funds and the PCC would like to replace the money by donations. Grateful thanks go to Ted Baker who lives in Devon for his very generous donation. Should anyone else like to give some money to cover the £700 cost please contact either of the Church Wardens, Richard Tapsell 822295 or Ken Hammond 823720.

OBITUARIES

Tony Ingall, the founder of the Newsletter, died peacefully at the age of 82 during an afternoon nap last month. He was a terrific man with a great sense of humour and the funeral, to mark his association with the church and religion, was held in the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral.

Ted Capon of Minnis Farm died recently aged 82. A Surrey lad, he moved to Kearsney with his parents over 70 years ago. He served in the Army in North Africa and later had a coal round at Temple Ewell. He and his wife came to live at Alkham first at Hillview, Short Lane, and finally to Ewell Minnis in the early sixties.

Jean Mary Childs died aged 83, widow of Fred Childs whose roots were in Alkham, his father being head gardener at the Old Rectory. Jean and daughter Rosemary, both keen family historians, have always appreciated their connection with Alkham and particularly its attractive churchyard.

W.I. NEWS - We had a most enjoyable and amusing talk about Mr Smalley's life as a country vet.

His tales of a donkey drinking whisky and eating Mars bars, and a small child's curiosity about the birth of a lamb had us in fits of laughter. The next meeting is our yearly Resolutions one, where we vote on current issues that affect all our lives, in the hope that the Government will take notice and make changes or not as the case may be. See you all on Tuesday 13th May at 7.30 pm. (Devina Bartlett)

GARDENTALK

A very pleasant time was spent at "Bramhall", walking round the garden and enjoying the spring evening. We then went indoors to see some slides of Alkham gardens, many taken over 30 years ago. whilst we enjoyed our usual drink, nibbles and natter. For our next GARDENTALK, we will be meeting at Elwin End's nursery at Temple Ewell on Tuesday 20th May at 7.30pm when Mr. End will be talking to us and showing us around. Afterwards we will be visiting "The Fox", so if you would like to join us you will be sure of a warm welcome. (Susannah Tapsell)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am 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 and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Thursday	1	Local elections in Village Hall 8.00am to 9.00pm
Saturday	3	Bingo 7.30pm in VH - ring Beverley on 824765
Sunday	4	Cricket v Courtstairs 2pm VM
Saturday	10	Christian Aid Walk. Ring Church Wardens as below
Sunday	11	Cricket v Shepherdswell 2pm VM
Monday	12	Parish Council meeting 7.30 in Village Hall - all welcome
Tuesday	13	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Sunday	18	Cricket v Old Hartsdonians 2pm
Tuesday	20	Garden Talk - see page 3
Monday	19	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Thursday	22	Virgin Vie - see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
May 4th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
May 11th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Ecumenical Service at St. Radigund 11am	Evensong 6.30 pm
May 18th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
May 25th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Radigund's, Capel 10.00 am		
May 29th Ascension Day	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Anthony's, Alkham 7.30 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

COUNTRY FILE - Now that the warm weather is just around the corner, there is no better time to get out and take advantage of the many public rights of way to be found in our area. However, it is a sad fact that our public footpaths are often spoiled by a minority who use these paths to exercise horses, drive motor vehicles or motor cycles along them and make walking a hazardous task. I sometimes wonder whether people know where they can go, or could it be they are a law unto themselves! A way-marker with 'footpath' on it is just for walkers. If you use a bridleway you would expect to be rough going because horses have every right to use it. The definition of a byroad or byway means it can be used by vehicles as well as walkers and horse riders. **(Keith Leppard)**

VILLAGE HALL - Planning permission has been granted to place a large sign on the hall saying 'Alkham Village Hall'. It has also been decided to increase hire charges by about 15% from June 2003.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Kevin Mepham 01303 244119
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	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 - 999 phone and 01303 850055	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
	Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 82420
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
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley 01303 891806
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malma's Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
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
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

No. 118 June 2003

Delivered free to all
properties in the Parish

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

All your gardening needs plus
milk, eggs, biscuits, preserves,
newspapers, gifts and animal
supplies.

Telephone 01303 893351

B WARD

Builders & decorators
All aspects of building,
renovation, alteration's,
maintenance & decorating work
undertaken.

For personal service contact Barry on
Office 01304 826914
Mobile 07812834013

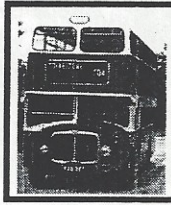
MARQUIS REOPENS - The Marquis of Granby opened for business again on the 23rd of May after being closed for a couple of weeks for a complete refurbishment. The Marquis is owned by Hugh Oxborough but the tenancy has been bought by Paul and Alison Hood who used to be at the Park Inn in Dover. They would like to welcome all villagers back to the pub including families and children. There will be a revamped menu and a number of real ales. A pint of Adnams will cost about £1.80 and future guest ales may be cheaper. The bar nearest the road will eventually be a non-smoking lounge bar with comfortable seating. The dartboard has been replaced in the other bar and seating will be put outside in front of the pub. There will be an official opening in late June. (editor)



SUNFLOWER COMPETTITION

I'm pleased to say that there have been some more entries in the children's section. Keran and Keeley

Jones who live off Hogbrook Lane have entered as well four year old Molly and one year old Ellie Laflin. The Laflin family have recently moved into the village and we wish them a warm welcome. (editor)



EAST KENT HERITAGE

have started a service on Sundays with the old cream and red buses. They

pick up in Alkham and go to Dover or Folkestone. For further information please look on the village notice board or give me a ring on 824969. (editor)

MANY THANKS to Ted Baker, who used to live in the Alkham, for his very generous donation to the village. Ted now lives in a nursing home in Devon and the donation is in memory of his late wife and also himself.

FARMER'S MARKET

Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall
each Tuesday 10am to 1pm.

Local produce - vegetables,
fruit, meat, bread, fish,
preserves, eggs, cakes, crafts,
refreshments etc
Phone 01303 245399

THE PARISH COUNCILLORS

are Neil Burrows (Chairman), Paul Tapsell (Vice Chairman), Vince Holness, Helen Scopes, Geoffrey Lymer, Edith Wash-Neve and Devina Bartlett. The outgoing Chairman since 1989, George Tyler, was warmly thanked at the Parish Council meeting for all his work over the years and was given a framed picture of Alkham, painted by Margaret Knowles.

FETE COMMITTEE

A meeting will be held in the Village Hall on the 4th June at 8.00pm to finalise arrangements for this year's fete. Everybody is welcome so please come along and give support.

TENNIS COACH - David Whitehouse, who lives in the parish, gives tennis coaching for groups and individuals both adults and juniors. To find out more please ring him on 07810261834.

FOOTBALL PRACTICE

There will be football practice every Tuesday evening from 6.00 pm until 7.15 pm on the Vicarage Meadow football pitch. Children of all ages are welcome, both girls and boys. Anyone who has football skills will, if interested, be introduced to either Dover or Folkestone Youth football clubs. We need your support so come and along and see. Mums and Dads are welcome to take part if they can stand the pace. It's rough, it's tough, it's great fun. Anyone can contact me on 823720 (Ken Hammond known by the lads as Tiger, a very old tiger) *At the Parish Council meeting it was agreed that, subject to cost, new nets would be bought and stored to be put up and then taken down at the end of each practice session.*

RURAL COMMUNITY

WARDEN - The Parish Council is going to express an interest in having a Rural Community Warden. As I understand it, they are paid civilians who patrol rural areas and report back to the police. There have been some items on the Teletext pages praising their contribution so it looks as though it would be a good idea. (editor)

For sale: 'Multiyork' mahogany table lamp, excellent condition, no offers please. If interested please contact Irene, Halton Court, tel. 824845

BOB & BARBARA PALMER

would like to thank everyone who came to the coffee morning on Saturday 17th. It was a great success and a total of £210 was raised. Your support and generosity was much appreciated. Thank you.

Alkham Court

Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast

Meggett Lane, South Alkham
ETC: 4 diamonds

*Peaceful location overlooking the
Alkham Valley*

*Excellent facilities for family or business
stays, short breaks, overnight and weddings.*

Web: www.alkhamcourt.co.uk
Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

Stilwell & Harby

Solicitors

110 Maison Dieu Road, Dover
Tel: (01304) 206850 Fax: (01304) 206950
E-mail: SandHDOVER@aol.com

Providing help, advice and
Representation in the following matters

Criminal Matrimonial
Conveyancing
Wills and Probate

Wheel Chair Access

MARSHALL & CLARKE

PROPERTY AGENTS AND VALUERS



112 London Road, Kearsney
Dover, CT16 3AB
Telephone 01304 827770

and at

1 Cliffe Road, Kingsdown, Deal
Tel. 01304 381622

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

Alkham Valley Meadows recently purchased the field, which is a touring caravan site, adjoining the Alkham Valley Garden Centre. You may have seen the improvements made to the site, which include a safe run-off from the Valley Road, various signs to do with safety and a new water pipe. There was a Caravan Club meeting over the May Bank Holiday and on the Sunday someone turned the water off, which resulted in a few irate caravanners. The owners would particularly like to thank Clive Banks, who lives at Sheriden, for supplying a water source and Sue Lees for helping out. The owners hope to attract a small number of tourists to the site and this should help support the Farm Shop, Tea Rooms and the Marquis of Granby. They should also be able to take advantage of all the lovely walks round Alkham and get a flavour of village life. (editor)

Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park
Alkham Village
Telephone 01304
206344



WOLVERTON – The post box at the bottom of Wolverton Hill will probably be moved to make way for a hard standing for the bus stop. There is also talk of changing the old telephone box at the top of the hill for a new one. This is opposed by some residents and also the Parish Council because it is a well-loved feature at Ewell Minnis.



14th June 11-3pm at Lydden
behind the Bell Inn

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH is gradually getting off the ground again with Pat Martin from Dover as the overall co-ordinator. Area representatives have volunteered and these are: Larry Lambourne, Newlyn's Meadow; Vince Holness, Short Lane and Glebelands; Two at Ewell Minnis: Sue Lees, main road within the 30mph limit; Brian Wimsett, Slip Lane, Chalksole and Ellinge. In the near future all the representatives will meet to discuss the best way forward. I did have an e-mail from the owner of the house, which was burgled at South Alkham. He said that burglars are definitely in the area rather than as reported 'may be in the area'. The burglar had broken into one of his outbuildings and then smashed through a double glazed window using his garden spade. He also quite rightly comments that not everybody has access to the Internet to keep informed. However, the representatives for the area will be able to inform people by phone or in person. I asked the co-ordinator what common sense precautions could be taken to avoid such a burglary and she suggests a shed alarm or a DIY house alarm. She also says that with an active N.W. scheme some burglaries are prevented by vigilance and reporting of possible suspects using the telephone numbers printed in last month's Newsletter.....

REPRESENTATIVES are still required for South Alkham, Drellingore/Lower Standen, Chilton and the area towards Hougham, so if you'd like to volunteer please give me a ring on 824969. (editor)

RUBBISH has accumulated on White Hill, particularly at the Slip Lane end. DDC is going to clear it.

CARNIVAL PROMS

Dover Carnival Association, supported by local musicians, will again stage a festive "Last Night of the Proms" concert at 7.30 pm on the Friday of Dover Carnival Week, in Dover Town Hall. Being 4th July, the programme will include Gershwin and *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, but will also have a strong 'humanitarian' theme, and will still end with the traditional Proms Finale: *Jerusalem, Rule Britannia* and *Land of Hope and Glory*. All singers are welcome, but must attend at least 4 rehearsals, the first of which is at 7.30 pm on Thursday 5 June in River Methodist Church. For further details ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

A FOOTWAY has appeared behind the new 5 house development on Hogbrook Lane causing concern to the adjoining homeowners. This was not in the planning application and the Parish Council is writing to the developers about it. (editor)

GARDEN TALK - Members had a very pleasant time at Mr. End's nursery in Temple Ewell getting in supplies for summer bedding and the hanging baskets and also looking around. We then repaired to 'The Fox' for drinks, chips and chatter much enjoyed by all. Our next meeting will be at John and Sue Garlinge's home, 18 Newlyn's Meadow, on Tuesday 17th June. If you are new to the village and would like to come, be assured of a warm welcome. Garden wise we are very laid back. Speaking of which, forgive the pun, I think John may be talking about Hedge Laying. (Susannah Tapsell)

RUBBISH - I have had an e-mail asking if I'd print the following. There is a problem in Dover town whereby people put out their rubbish bags the night before collection for some reason or other. The result is that seagulls, foxes and other things break into the bags and scatter rubbish about. The situation is made worse when there is high wind and the mess is never properly cleaned up. I am noticing that this habit is creeping into our village with similar results and as our collection is not early morning we are being littered unnecessarily. If it is possible, please would parishioners give some thought to putting the rubbish out on collection day.

CHITTENDEN'S FUNERAL SERVICES

FOLKESTONE

HYTHE

1 Ingoldsby Road

Windmill Street

(01303) 851456

(01303) 262762

Manager

Manager

Mr. Chris Daughters Mr. Mike Hands

Personal Service Always

Private Chapels of Rest

Memorial Masonry

FUNERAL PRE-PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE
UNDER THE PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF

FREDERIC HALL

Solicitors

York House, Folkestone

01303 851185

& Clyde House, Dover 202411

ALKHAM PRODUCE SHOW

on July 12th. Here is a list of classes so that everyone will be well prepared to support the show in the Village Hall on Fete day! Seriously though, please do try to support us in our efforts. **PRODUCE** (Judge Keith Turner). **Section A.** Vegetables, 12 Classes-3 potatoes, any variety. 3 radishes with tops. 3 carrots with tops. 3 courgettes. 5 French beans. 5 pods of peas. 5 pods of broad beans. 1 lettuce any variety. 3 tomatoes. 3 onions, any other vegetable. **Section B.** Soft fruit, 4 Classes-6 raspberries. 6 gooseberries. 6 strigs of currents any colour. 6 strawberries. **Section C.** Cut flowers, 4 Classes-1 vase of sweet peas. 1 vase of dahlias. 1 vase of roses. 1 vase of flowers, any variety. **Section D.** Pot Plants. 4 Classes-1 geranium. 1 begonia, 1 fuchsia. 1 planted hanging basket. **COOKERY CLASSES** (Judge Maureen Hever)-5 Classes-1 decorated Madeira cake(to be judged overall). 1 Summer fruit flan. 6 Fruit Scones. 1 jar homemade Jam(soft or hard). 1 jar homemade Chutney. **CHILDREN'S CLASS.** A Gingerbread family. **YOUNG ART.** 11 years and under-

Bradford & Bingley

Geering & Colyer

KEARSNEY (01304) 823714 DOVER (01304)207099

YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENT

offering DOUBLE EXPOSURE

For your property

From our offices at both

**12 KEARSNEY AVENUE, RIVER, DOVER
AND 5 KING STREET, DOVER**

Discover for yourselves why Geering and Colyer
deserve their reputation for customer care

SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

OZ on TEASPOONS – The January quiz generated some hoo-ha over the number of teaspoons in a tablespoon. After publishing his brother-in-law's researches in the March newsletter, the editor challenged me to write on the matter in the usual 300 words. The information proved elusive, to be found largely, as the March article suggested, in old cookery books. In Britain, the tablespoon was traditionally defined as 2 dessertspoons, each holding 2 teaspoons, so that 1 tablespoon = 4 teaspoons, whereas the USA tablespoon was defined simply as 3 teaspoons. However, cooks and apothecaries used these measures in various ways when dealing with both dry and liquid goods, leading to confusion over the volumes of the spoons. An English pharmacopoeia of 1618 defined the tablespoon as "the volume of distilled water weighing 3 drachms", (about 12 millilitres), giving 3 millilitres for a teaspoon. Later the Imperial tablespoon was defined as ½ Imperial fluid ounce, giving 14.21 millilitres for a tablespoon and 3.55 millilitres for a teaspoon. In the mid-19th century the influential English cook, Mrs Beeton, taught that "a spoonful of dry material means rounded spoonful, with as much heaped above the spoon edge as lies within it", giving a volume for the teaspoon of 7.10 millilitres. Some years later, the USA's Fannie Farmer, at the Boston Cooking School, declared that "spoonful always means level spoonful". Confusion continued as differences between the two countries over definitions of "tea/tablespoon" and "fluid ounce" gave a USA teaspoon of 4.93 millilitres against the UK teaspoon of 3.55 millilitres. The problem vanished, as was often the case, with metrication, when the UK and its Commonwealth nearly aligned with the USA by making the teaspoon 5 millilitres and the tablespoon 15 millilitres, so that today the correct answer to the quiz question is undoubtedly "3". (Steve Osborn)

"A Day at the Seaside". 12 years and over-

"A SURREALIST GARDEN". So you see, there is something for everyone, we do hope you enjoy taking part. If you are the proud holder of any of the cups from past times, please could you return them to me in the next couple of weeks in order to keep costs down. Entry forms for the produce classes are available from Grace & Beattie, Glebelands, Susan Lees, Christine Tapsell, Sue Garlinge, 18 Newlyn's Meadow, Shirley Tapsell, 2 Valley Cotts. Rosemary Crothall, South Alkham, myself or in the hall on the day. If anyone from Ewell Minnis would like to have some to distribute, please let me know. Entry forms are not needed for the cookery and art classes. (Susannah Tapsell)

W.I. NEWS - We had our resolutions meeting when all of the motions were agreed, as they always are. We then proceeded to have our programme meeting. Many things were discussed and so hopefully next year's events should be as interesting as all those that have gone before. Next meeting is on June 10th and the speaker is Mrs Lambert on House Sitting. See you all there. (Devina)

CYCLING – A couple of mature parishioners have started cycling on a regular basis and average 20 to 40 miles most days (the latter with a tub of cockles at Deal). If anyone is interested in joining please ring 823720 (Tiger) for further details.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TAX MAN!

There are envelopes on the pews in church, with a note inside explaining how we can claim back the tax on these donations or other gifts. If you have signed a Declaration form please put the money into the envelope with your name then seal and put it into the collection bag. We can then claim the tax on the amount given. If you have not yet given us a Declaration and you and/or your spouse are tax payers maybe you would consider completing the slip inside the envelope and enclosing it with your collection. You do not need to specify any amount, or regular payment, but when you have signed a form we can claim tax on anything given at a future date from the Inland Revenue getting an extra 28p for every £1 donated. At the end of the year 2002 we had an excess of expenditure over income of more than £3,000. This is almost entirely due to the expiry of some old covenants, people leaving the village and, sadly, the demise of some of our supporters. Obviously, we now have to find ways of rectifying this worrying situation and reclaiming as much money as possible from the tax man is one way. Even if you are no longer a tax payer, if you pay tax on investments or savings and provided you pay enough tax in the year to cover your donation, we can claim some of it. I don't think there are many of us who would not like to "be one up on" the tax man and this is one way. If you need further details my phone number is 01304 820701. (Marion Banks-Nash – Church Treasurer)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am 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 and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Sunday	1	Cricket v The George Brown Invitation XI 2pm VM
Wednesday	4	Fete meeting 8.00pm in Village Hall – all welcome
Saturday	7	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Sunday	8	Cricket v Betteshangar 2pm VM
Tuesday	10	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Monday	16	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	17	Garden Talk – see page 2
Sunday	29	Cricket v Westbourne 2pm VM

RIVER – Alkham is now in the District of River and the local Councillors are as below. Sue Nicholas said at the Parish Council meeting that they hoped to change the name to 'Alkham and River'.

CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
June 1st	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00a.m.
June 8th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.	Dover Deanery Service, Canterbury Cathedral 6.30 p.m.
June 15th	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.	Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
June 22nd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony's Alkham, 10.00 a.m.		
June 29th	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.	Benefice picnic tea 5.30 p.m. followed by Evensong at St Mary's at 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.

Weekday Services: Morning Prayer at St Radigund. Capel - Monday-Saturday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays); Evening Prayer at St Laurence, Hougham - Wednesday at 5.00 p.m. Eucharist at St Radigund, Capel - Thurs at 9.15 a.m. followed by refreshments

ELDERFLOWER WINE 1 (generous) pint elderflowers, 1 tspn grape tannin, 3 ½lb sugar [nutrient], 1 crushed Camden tablet, 8 oz raisins, juice 3 lemons, or any 3 citrus fruits, 1 gallon water, yeast. **Recipe** : - Collect the flowers on a sunny day when they are fully open. If the flowers don't fall off easily, cut them from the stems with a pair of scissors. Put them in a plastic bucket, with the sugar and raisins and pour over the boiling water. When cool, add (tannin, nutrient, Camden tablet if available), lemon juice and yeast. Put in a warm place, well covered for 4-5 days to ferment, then strain into the fermentation jar or plastic container. Top up to a gallon with cooled boiled water and cover the top allowing gasses to escape but preventing any minute inquisitive insects to enter! Strain off of the sediment after 2 months. This wine should be ready after about 6 months. (Sue Lees)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P.	0207 2193704
County Councillor, Bryan Cope	207976 and work number 01795532547
District Councillors Sue Nicholas	823956
Andrew Richardson	211835

Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett	824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk, Susan Lees	822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk
Police	– 999 phone and 01303 850055
Neighbourhood Watch	218151/218130

Vicar	Kevin Mepham 01303 244119
Church Wardens	Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
Village Hall booking	Rosemary Polden 824876
W.I. Betty Neely	01303 251475
Alkham web site	alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyns Meadow	824201
ALKHAM MEADOWS	Touring Caravan Park – Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road	206344
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
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley	01303 891806
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
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
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

No. 119 July 2003

Delivered free to all
properties in the Parish

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

All your gardening needs plus
milk, eggs, biscuits, preserves,
newspapers, gifts and animal
supplies.

Telephone 01303 893351

B WARD

Builders & decorators
All aspects of building,
renovation, alteration's,
maintenance & decorating work
undertaken.

For personal service contact Barry on
Office 01304 826914
Mobile 07812834013

ALKHAM VILLAGE FETE will
be held on Vicarage Meadow on the 12th
July. For full details, please see page 2.

OOPS - In last month's Newsletter I
included an advert for Irene Barnard and
somehow managed to get everything wrong.
I thought that the advert was for a table lamp
but it was actually for a lamp table. I also
lost the price somehow, so the advert is:

For sale: 'Multiyork' mahogany
side table 20" square. £60. If
interested please contact Irene,
Halton Court, on 824845

CROP CIRCLES - There was an
article and picture in the 12th of June edition
of the Dover Express about crop circles,
which had appeared in the field opposite
Sladden Farm. Dover Express had phoned
me and I said that it was almost certainly due
to the farmer cutting thistles down with a
mower. In true journalistic fashion, they had
no wish for facts to come into the story and
printed it anyway. I later went to the field
and spoke to a small green man with an
aerial on his head who did in fact confirm
that they were crop circles. (editor)

TWO more people have entered
the Sunflower competition
bringing the entries to about 40.
All children entered will be given a
certificate and the winner, a cup.

THE GOOD NEWS is that
the sickle mower works well and
Ken Hammond and I will cut the
majority of the churchyard with it.
Volunteers will be sought to turn
the hay and also do some
strimming round the more difficult
graves. If anybody would like to
volunteer, please give me a ring on
824969. (editor)

THANKS go to Peter Frater for
his generous donation to the sickle
mower appeal. Church finances
have nothing to do with me but I
do know that the church runs at a
loss and this is one reason for
safeguarding any capital that the
PCC hold. (editor)

FARMER'S MARKET

Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall
each Tuesday 10am to 1pm.

Local produce - vegetables,
fruit, meat, bread, fish,
preserves, eggs, cakes, crafts,
refreshments etc
Phone 01303 245399

CHURCH WINDOW

Some moron broke the stained
glass window on the left hand side
of the porch to St. Anthony's
church. A couple of children have
said who was responsible and I'd
like to print the name but without
categoric proof, I can't. However,
his name has been noted and a
careful watch will be kept, such
that if any further incidents occur it
is hoped that some adult will give
evidence in court. (editor)

THE VILLAGE HALL has
its new sign on the front wall,
thanks to Ernie Cook who
persuaded two chippies from the
new development to put it up. It
certainly stands out and thanks
must go to the Jubilee Committee
for donating it.

LOCAL PRODUCE - Alkham
Valley Nursery, which is accessed
through the Garden Centre, has 'pick
your own' strawberries, runner beans
and other local produce sourced from a
20 mile radius of Alkham for sale.

**ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN
CENTRE** has been sold and bought by
Bill and Caroline, who have 15 years
experience in the business. Their aim is
to get it back to being a proper garden
centre and they are currently restocking
with a full range of plants. They will
continue with the terracotta pots, a better
range of stoneware (existing is reduced
by 50%) plus garden furniture and create
something the village can be proud of.
They will carry on selling milk, eggs and
newspapers and the restaurant will
continue as normal. (editor)

A COFFEE MORNING at Box
Tree Cottage, Slip Lane, will be held on
Saturday 5th July from 10.30 to 12 noon.
The proceeds will be split between the
Church Fabric Fund and the Village
Hall, so please do come along and
support it. There will be the usual Bring
and Buy stall and raffle, and if you fancy
a swim (the water should be warm), dive
in. All welcome, and this certainly
includes the gents. (Pamela Sayers)

MEADOW HILL COTTAGES
which stand on the site of the old barn on
Hogbrook Lane are now complete. Oakley
New Homes are to be congratulated on the
high standard of workmanship and finish,
which includes fencing, landscaping and
shrubs. At present, all but one of the
houses is sold. (editor)

COFFEE MORNING to be held
at Forstal Cottage, home of Rob and
Susan Lees on Saturday 26th July.
Everyone welcome. Proceeds to St.
Anthony's Alkham. (Sue Lees)

Alkham Court

Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast

Meggett Lane, South Alkham
ETC: 4 diamonds

**Peaceful location overlooking the
Alkham Valley**

*Excellent facilities for family or business
stays, short breaks, overnight and weddings.*

Web: www.alkhamcourt.co.uk
Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

Stilwell & Harby

Solicitors

110 Maison Dieu Road, Dover

Tel: (01304) 206850 Fax: (01304) 206950

E-mail: SandHDOVER@aol.com

Providing help, advice and
Representation in the following matters

Criminal Matrimonial
Conveyancing
Wills and Probate

Wheel Chair Access

MARSHALL & CLARKE

PROPERTY AGENTS AND VALUERS



112 London Road, Kearsney

Dover, CT16 3AB

Telephone 01304 827770

and at

1 Cliffe Road, Kingsdown, Deal

Tel. 01304 381622

High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover

Tel. 01304 852960

ALKHAM VILLAGE FETE

The Fete this year will take place on the Vicarage Meadow at 2 pm on Saturday the 12th July 2003 to be opened by our Vicar Kevin Mephram. 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. Please can we have lots of hearty souls (including at least one from each stall) to help put up the tents on Saturday morning (9 o'clock) and to take them down afterwards - and the more helpers we have the easier everything becomes (last year was wonderful, please let's do the same, or better, again!). Please note - We will need to clear the village hall car park by 1 p.m. to allow for parking for the disabled; in addition for safety reasons all stallholder's cars must be removed from the Meadow before 1.30. We will have all the usual attractions and features (classic vehicles, brass 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

Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park
Alkham Village
Telephone
01304 206344



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 "A Day at the Seaside", for the "under 11's" and "A Surrealist Garden" for those "12 and over" and entries can be paintings, drawings, or models. (Shirley Tapsell 822638) and the Produce show classes as follows - Section A, Vegetables Class (1) 3 potatoes (2) 3 radishes (with tops), (3) 3 carrots (with tops), (4) 3 courgettes (5) 5 french beans, (6) 5 pods of peas, (7) 5 pods of Broad Beans, (8) 1 lettuce, (9) 3 Tomatoes, (10) 3 onions, (11) Any kind of vegetable not listed above. Section B, Soft Fruit. Class (1) 6 Raspberries, (2) 6 Gooseberries, (3) 6 strigs of currants (red, black or white) and (4) 6 Strawberries. Section C Cut Flowers (1) 1 vase of sweet peas, (2) 1 vase of dahlias (£0 1 vase of roses, (4) 1 vase of flowers (any variety) Section D Pot Plants (1) 1 geranium, (2) 1 begonia, (3) 1 fuchsia (4) 1 Hanging basket. Cookery Competition (1) decorated Madeira cake, (2) 1 Summer fruit flan, (3) 6 fruit scones, (4) 1 jar homemade Jam (5) 1 jar homemade chutney. Children's Cookery A Gingerbread family. There should also be a large scale model of "the Alkham that might have been" and a display of Fuchsias 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 myself by Wednesday July 9th. (Paul Tapsell)

GARDEN TALK - A delightful evening was spent at the home of John and Sue Garlinge. Slurping our wine we wandered round the garden, all of us able to appreciate the hard work and clever design that had developed it from building site to the lovely garden that it is today. John then gave us an informative and sometimes hilarious talk on hedge laying. The work that he and his fellow helpers do can be seen if you take a walk along the Pimlico byway. We then assaulted our senses finding out about herbs through touch and smell, by way of an exercise prepared by Sue. Thank you both very much. The next meeting will be on Friday 18th July 7.30pm at Brook House, Meggett Lane when we will not only be visiting John and Rosemary's

garden but also John and Hilary's, who live next door and have to cope with major floods every time the Alkham Bourne flows.

"ANYONE WHO HAS A HEART" problem, and there are sadly very many of us in Alkham who have experienced first hand the sterling work that The British Heart Foundation does and will want, I'm sure, along with many others, to support and sponsor our editor, Brian together with Ken Hammond and Billy Hollis when they take part in one of The British Heart Foundation's major annual fund raising events, "The London to Southend Cycle Ride" on Sunday 13th July. I do hope you can support them by contacting Brian (824969) with your pledge. (Susannah Tapsell)

FOOTBALL - Since last month, we have had a good response. On one Tuesday evening, we had as many as 25 young people playing football on the pitch by Vicarage Meadow. We had a great game but the best part of these football sessions is the building of friendship and that can only be good for young people and our village. There are six lads, all about 9 years old, who are interested in joining Dover Rangers Football Club. I think they have got what it takes as long as they get full support from their parents. We also have three lads who will be fifteen by August, who have a fairly good session with Folkestone Invicta. They want to play for Dover Athletic next season and they are, Robert Allen, Paul Price and Lee Martin. All three have a lot to offer football. Last but not least, we have two ladies, Tasha and Haley who have both regularly attended our Tuesday football, both giving 100%. They are keen, skilful and very popular with the lads. Oh, and of course, there is young Ben, a very skilful player and great in goal who could go a long way but shows no real interest in joining a club. Maybe one day? - watch this space. The Parish Council has given us some money for new nets, which have arrived. That's all for now except with the talent and skills we have, one day it could be watch out Manchester United. (Ken Hammond alias Tiger) 15 yellow tops have also been purchased recently, 5 each of boy's, youth's and men's sizes.

MANY THANKS to Betty Neely for her kind financial donation to the Newsletter. (editor)

CHITTENDEN'S FUNERAL SERVICES

FOLKESTONE

1 Ingoldsby Road
(01303) 851456

Manager

Mr. Chris Daughters

HYTHE

Windmill Street
(01303) 262762

Manager

Mr. Mike Hands

Personal Service Always

Private Chapels of Rest

Memorial Masonry

FUNERAL PRE-PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE
UNDER THE PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF

FREDERIC HALL Solicitors

York House, Folkestone

01303 851185

& Clyde House, Dover 202411

OBITUARIES

KEVIN SMITH died recently in the Pilgrim's Hospice at Canterbury. On a lovely June evening his coffin, decorated with wild flowers, was carried on the back of a tractor from the car park at Sladden Farm, which he owned with wife Di, up to the edge of the wood. 100 mourners followed behind and stood round the grave with 'Maggie' (Rev. Margaretta Bundy) conducting the service, which consisted of hymns and a lovely solo by Maggie accompanied by her son on the guitar. Deepest sympathy goes to Diana Smith (Di) who organised a ceremony, which was a definite celebration of a life well lived.

RONALD PRESCOTT - Ron was the youngest son of the Prescott family who farmed at South Alkham Farm until the 1980's. Ron (born 1925) and his wife Tessa, who predeceased him, lived at Chalksole Green. They left daughters Christine and Linda and grandchildren, Matt, Lee, Abby and Hannah.

GERALD SNAPE - Gerry (born 1919) farmed Hockley Sole from 1954, taking over the estate on his father's death. A much respected farmer in the district. Gerry was not long to survive his wife Asta, who died January this year. They left daughter Karin and son Nigel and grandchildren Hugo, Toby, Catherine, Jamie and Flora.

PHYLLIS AUSTIN - Phyllis moved to Alkham from Dumfries with her two sons in 1970 and bought the bungalow 'Cherrybank'. She lived in Alkham until 2000 when she moved to Sholden Hall residential home in Deal where she lived until she passed away peacefully on the 13th June 2003, aged 89 years. Phyllis qualified in poultry farming at Writtle College of Agriculture before the Second War.

OZ on BORROW - July 5th is the 200th birthday of perhaps the most athletic of Victorian eccentrics. George Borrow was born in East Dereham, Norfolk, the younger son of a Cornish army captain and a local farmer's daughter. The family continued moving with the regiment, being stationed at Hythe in 1806 and Canterbury in 1807. While completing his education at Norwich, Borrow distinguished himself by saving a lad from drowning in the river. Working as solicitor's clerk, he became fluent in over twenty languages, including Romany, and spent his spare time with gypsies, who admirably named him Lavengro, meaning "Word Master". In 1833 Borrow applied to work with the Bible Society. The interview was in London, a distance of 112 miles, which he walked in 27½ hours at a cost of fivepence halfpenny for a bread roll, two apples, a pint of ale and a glass of milk. He got the job and spent seven happy years travelling the world as the society's agent. In 1840 Borrow married a wealthy officer's widow and retired to Oulton Broad, where he wrote the books on autobiographical and gypsy themes that made him famous. In 1853, he performed another life-saving exploit, single-handedly rescuing the crew of a boat foundering in thirty-foot waves off Yarmouth. Borrow was an unusual man, arousing mixed feelings in others; he was physically strong and active, but morbidly shy, and suffered intermittently from "the horrors", his name for recurring depression. For one who loved the outdoors, he was remarkably ignorant of wildlife, his consciousness revolving around mood and atmosphere. This sensitivity is beautifully expressed by Gypsy Petulengro's lyrical outburst in *Lavengro*: "There's night and day, brother, both sweet things; sun, moon, and stars, brother, all sweet things; there's likewise a wind on the heath. Life is very sweet, brother; who would wish to die?" (Steve Osborn)

After various jobs working with poultry in and around Essex, she became a labour officer for the Women's Land Army during the War in South-West Scotland covering Dumfries and Galloway. She had a little Austin 7 car to get about. She had many 'memorable' experiences sorting out the problems of the Army of mainly young Glaswegian girls sent to work on the isolated farms. On one farm in Galloway that she visited, she found that they would cook porridge and then pour it into the sideboard drawer to set. It was then sliced and eaten when required! She met her future husband, Will, whilst she was working for the Land Army in Scotland after the War. She married in 1950 and settled in Dumfries, but after only seven years of marriage, Will died in 1957 after a long period of ill health. Phyllis was now left a widow with two young sons aged 6 and 4 years old, and no immediate plans for the future. The Duke of Norfolk, to whom Will had been a tenant farmer, then offered her the opportunity of continuing in the farm until such a time as the boys became of age and could decide for themselves if farming was to become their career. After much deliberation, she accepted. The challenge would have tested even the strongest of men, let alone a woman with two young children to care for. She was fortunate to find a good foreman and

his wife who became loyal friends throughout her time as a farmer. She successfully ran the mixed farm for 13 years producing wheat, barley, oats, potatoes and rearing beef cattle and sheep which were much sought after. When her sons decided not to make farming their careers Phyllis moved down to Alkham. Retirement never entered her mind. Initially she became a business partner in a small hotel at Kearsney for a couple of years. Phyllis then worked for several years as a voluntarily escort driver for the blind taking them out on daytrips and making more good friends. In Alkham, she had the friendship of many over the years including Betty and Gordon Preston, Elaine Crothall, Adsey Cowans and Dorothy and Steve Norris. In later years her neighbours at Cherrybank, Bert and Barbara, as well as John and Diane, gave her help and support. Bert was always on hand to help her during the many winter power cuts! Her friendship with Will and Kath Goldfinch, in particular, was a continual feature over the years. She was a compulsive knitter throughout her life producing many fine pieces including intricate Christening shawls of Shetland wool, as well as making many kneelers for Alkham Church. Phyllis enjoyed her 30 years at Cherrybank and was always very grateful for the many friends who featured in her life there and who helped her to continue to live independently in her bungalow for so many years. (Ian Austin)

Apologies to Bradford and Bingley for the omission of their advert - an extra one will be placed at the end of the year.

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am 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 and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	5	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Saturday	5	Coffee Morning – see page 1
Sunday	6	Cricket v Coldred 2.30pm VM
Tuesday	8	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	12	FETE see page 2
Sunday	13	Cricket v Bossingham 2.30pm on Vicarage Meadow
Monday	14	Village Hall Committee meeting in VH 8pm
Thursday	17	Neighbourhood Watch
Friday	18	Garden Talk – see page 2
Monday	21	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	26	Coffee Morning – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
July 6th	Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping together 11.00am
July 13th	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping together 11.00am	Songs of Praise in village hall 6.30pm
July 20th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Sung Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
July 27th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Laurence, Hougham 10.00 a.m.		

Weekday Services: Morning Prayer at St Radigund, Capel - Monday-Saturday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays); Evening Prayer at St Laurence, Hougham - Wednesday at 5.00pm Eucharist at St Radigund, Capel - Thurs at 9.15 a.m. followed by refreshments

W.I. NEWS - We had a wonderful evening's entertainment from the very feisty Mrs Lambert. She regaled us with her many experiences as a house sitter, from being instructed by a vicar to keep his daughter and her boyfriend out of the bedroom!, apprehending a stranger on the landing, only to find out he was a family friend! Then there was the spider who set off the alarms of the mansion she was staying at and frightening her and a young policeman to death. Her obvious love of animals came through as well from the gun dog with the "bad leg" to the snake that everyone said was in her imagination. We laughed all the way through. Next meeting is on July 8th and is entitled Joyce Grenfell. **(Devina Bartlett)**

LIGHTNING – It's odd to report myself, but on June 1st, both Ken Hammond and I were struck by lightning in the field opposite Valley Cottages. I went elsewhere for a few seconds and Ken fell to the ground unconscious. We both survived but in the interest of science, I bought a Lottery ticket on the next Wednesday and got two numbers. **(editor)**

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Kevin Mepham 01303 244119
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police – 999 phone and 01303 850055	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
	Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow	824201
ALKHAM MEADOWS	Touring Caravan Park – Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road	206344
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
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley	01303 891806
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
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
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

No. 120 August 2003

Delivered free to all
properties in the Parish

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

All your gardening needs plus
milk, eggs, biscuits, preserves,
newspapers, gifts and animal
supplies.

Telephone 01303 893351

B W A R D

Builders & decorators
All aspects of building,
renovation, alteration's,
maintenance & decorating work
undertaken.

For personal service contact Barry on
Office 01304 826914
Mobile 07812834013

THE FETE - Vicarage Meadow was once again transformed on the 12th of July as a small band of volunteers erected tents, marquis and the coconut shy. The weather was superb and this may have been the reason that the takings were up on last year with £3659 being raised. After expenses the net profit was £2672, which will be split in a similar fashion to last year with the exact amounts being decided on the 27th August.

WHAT A GREAT DAY for the fete. To you who worked so hard before, during and after; the poor tired few who create and then stay behind to leave the Meadow as it was! Such organisation in anything is wonderful and hard work, but you who care for our village were superb - excellent. Thank you all. We are proud of you. (Beattie Jeapes)

FETE RAFFLE - The first prize of £200 was won by S Ryder. Richard Lott won a case of beer, The Old Rectory a bottle of port and Julie Horne won an M & S gift voucher. There were 18 other prize winners all of whom have been contacted.

SUNFLOWER ENTRIES - Most sunflowers must now be flowering so it's probably time to measure them. Please ring me on 824969 or get an independent person to measure it and send the details. (editor)

CAL & HELEN would like to thank everyone who supported the Charity Pig Roast & Disco recently. The weather was wonderful and we had lots of fun. The music was great, thanks to Dave Chapman and his wife who gave their services free. A special thanks go to our friend Brian who worked so hard for days before and after plus Richard Tapsell who gave his time making the garden look so nice. We raised £625 of which £400 will go to the Pilgrim's Hospice and £225 to our local RSPCA. (Helen Scopes)

SEATS - The two wooden seats, which were vandalised in front of the cricket pavilion, are to be replaced and sited at locations that are more visible. One will be placed near the large tree by the bus shelter and the other on the car park side of the dyke mirroring the Millennium seat by the wooden bridge across the dyke. The undergrowth round the seat on the bank on the Dover side of Vicarage Meadow will be cut back by a working party later in the month. Bob Palmer has kindly offered to mend the two vandalised benches, which will be reinstated at new locations. (editor)

FARMER'S MARKET

Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall
each Tuesday 10am to 1pm.
Local produce
Phone 01303 245399

YOUNGSTERS - At Capel-le-Ferne and at the bottom of Dover Hill there is a meeting point for youngsters. The first is a shelter arrangement and the second three tubular steel seats in a circle with a roof over. It has been suggested that a similar arrangement should be provided at Alkham but the Parish Council cannot afford the cost, which would run into thousands of pounds. Bryan Cope, the County Councillor for this region, said that

MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Wednesday

MOULES NIGHT £7.95

Thursday

STEAK NIGHT £7.95

(16oz rib-eye)

the third highest priority for the Council was the provision of sports facilities for teenagers and the shelter may come under that category. Parish Councillor Vince Holness is going to investigate the matter. (editor)

SHORT LANE - A request had been made to the Highway Authority to install road humps on Short Lane because of the number of children who play in the road and the danger from speeding traffic. Dover District Council say that humps cannot be justified because there have been no recorded accidents. The Parish Council advised that the best course of action was to report all near misses and other incidents to the police or Parish Council such that pressure will be put on DDC to respond.

DESECRATION - Action has been taken with regard to the smashing of the stained glass window in the porch of St. Anthony's and the desecration of a tablet on the memorial wall. Proceedings are continuing and it is hoped that further details can be published when the enquiries are complete. (editor)

PAST TIMES - I recently showed Brook Junior School round the Agricultural Museum where I'm the curator. We got to the point where the bellows and anvil are situated and I asked the class if they knew what a blacksmith was. An innocent looking lad at the back put his hand up and said "Yes, it's a pub". (editor)

Alkham Court

Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast

Meggett Lane, South Alkham

ETC: 4 diamonds

**Peaceful location overlooking the
Alkham Valley**

*Excellent facilities for family or business
stays, short breaks, overnight and weddings.*

Web: www.alkhamcourt.co.uk
Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

Stilwell & Harby

Solicitors

110 Maison Dieu Road, Dover
Tel: (01304) 206850 Fax: (01304) 206950
E-mail: SandHDOVER@aol.com

Providing help, advice and
Representation in the following matters

Criminal Matrimonial
Conveyancing
Wills and Probate

Wheel Chair Access

MARSHALL & CLARKE

PROPERTY AGENTS AND VALUERS



112 London Road, Kearsney
Dover, CT16 3AB
Telephone 01304 827770

and at

1 Cliffe Road, Kingsdown, Deal
Tel. 01304 381622
High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover
Tel. 01304 852960

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A meeting was held in the village hall to kick start the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. At present, the representatives are: Larry Lambourne, Newlyn Meadow; Ken Hammond, Alkham Valley Road from Slip Lane to the village limit westwards; Brian Wimsett, Slip Lane to White Hill and up to Chalksole; Helen Scopes, upper Slip Lane; Vince Holness, Short Lane and Glebelands. Various names have been suggested for the remaining areas of the parish and these people will be contacted to see if they are willing to join. Representatives should have a computer or access to one and I've been checked and currently receive e-mails from the 'ringmaster'. Should there be anything of concern then the representatives will produce copies of the information and distribute it to the people in their area. The system works in the opposite direction with information going back to the 'ringmaster'. Of the e-mails I've had so far, there are details of burglaries which have taken place when people have left windows open when going out or going to bed and the advice is to make sure they are closed. There will be another meeting at the end of August to finalise arrangements. (editor)

Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park
Alkham Village
Telephone
01304 206344



BIKE RIDE - The bike ride from London to Southend in aid of the British Heart Foundation on the 13th of July went well and grateful thanks go to the people in Alkham who sponsored the four riders to a sum in excess of £500. Ken Hammond and I completed the 60 mile course in about four hours but this achievement was nothing compared to the families who cycled in groups and the individuals who only rode occasionally through the year. Whilst taking a drink break by the side of the road a lady, not dissimilar to the Vicar of Dibley, rode serenely by as did a fellow on a chopper bike who is still probably walking like John Wayne. It was a terrific day and greatly enjoyed by the locals who took part and this was only possible because of the generosity of Billy Hollis (Hollis Motors) who provided the two vehicles and drivers to take us from Alkham to London and then home from Southend. (editor)

THE LETTER BOX at the bottom of Wolverton Hill has been removed. It was generally thought that it was at a dangerous location but the Parish Council considered that it would have been better if the parish had been consulted first. If anybody does object to its removal would they please ring the Parish Clerk on 822661.

PRODUCE SHOW. May I thank all those people who supported the show with their many exhibits. The judge was very complimentary about the standard of entries. Certificates were awarded to very many exhibitors and the display of their produce was much appreciated by the many visitors. The Best Exhibit in the Vegetable Section was won by John Norris with his magnificent onions, the Fruit Section by Richard Tapsell with his blackcurrants, Barbara Palmer won the Floral trophy for her lovely vase of flowers and Bob Palmer won not only Best in Section with his begonia, but also Best Exhibit in Show. Winners in the Cookery competition were Sue Garlinge and Paris Bates and in the Art, Gemma Tapsell and Sarah Ryder. Thank you to everyone, especially John and Simon Norris and Shirley Tapsell for their help. (Susannah Tapsell)

BOOK STALL - What a day (steaming hot sun), what a site (facing the steaming hot sun) and something like a thousand books marked up and ready to sell! 2pm and away we go hands waving with piles of books to buy - two hours later £234 taken, and still there are books for sale; interested? Then go to the Village Hall and take your pick, donations to Village Hall. (Sue Lees)

THANKS - May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to this year's Fete. It is invidious to name individuals because there were so many people whose efforts made the whole so much greater than the sum of the parts, but I must thank the unsung backroom boys and girls, particularly the tent erectors (and movers), the car parkers, the tea ladies, the veggie hot dog sellers, the very generous donators of raffle prizes, the competition organisers, judges and competitors and everyone who helped clear the site. The Fete AGM will be at 8 p.m. on the 27th August 2003 in the Village Hall so, if you enjoyed the day and want to help next year, or didn't and can give us a hand to improve it please come along. (Paul Tapsell)

Without Paul there would be no fete to organise - so many thanks to Paul. (editor)

CHALKSOLE GREEN at the top of White Hill, which is officially the village green, is going to have the undergrowth cut down. Mick Wingfield, who is the pond warden for Alkham is still considering options for the pond on the green. If you've got any opinions as to what should be done to the area please contact the Parish Clerk on 822661. Chalksole Green is seldom used and it would seem like a good idea to have some paths defined and perhaps a few clearings where a seat could be put perhaps overlooking a refurbished pond? We own it so we may as well make use of it.

CHITTENDEN'S FUNERAL SERVICES

FOLKESTONE

1 Ingoldby Road
(01303) 851456

Manager

Mr. Chris Daughters

HYTHE

Windmill Street
(01303) 262762

Manager

Mr. Mike Hands

Personal Service Always

Private Chapels of Rest

Memorial Masonry

FUNERAL PRE-PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE
UNDER THE PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF

FREDERIC HALL Solicitors

York House, Folkestone

01303 851185

& Clyde House, Dover 202411

OZ on BEWICK - This summer has been abrim with anniversaries, including the 250th birthday of the engraver Thomas Bewick. Born on 14th August 1753, at Cherryburn House near Eltringham in Northumberland, to a tenant farmer and collier, Bewick was the oldest of eight children. He was apprenticed at the age of fourteen to the engraver Ralph Beilby, a prolific producer of everything from door-plates and clock-faces to banknotes and gold seals. After serving his seven years, Bewick worked at home for local publishers, but soon became restless. In the summer of 1776 he walked 500 miles from Newcastle through the Scottish Highlands, later explaining "I felt just as a bird would feel on escaping from its cage." After a brief and unhappy spell in London, Bewick returned to Newcastle, married, and rejoined Beilby in a partnership that lasted 20 years. During this time many of his exquisitely detailed wood-engravings were published in the *General History of Quadrupeds* and the *History of British Birds*, bringing immediate fame. These publications were reprinted many times from the original blocks well into the 19th century, one particular block producing over 900,000 prints without wear. The reason was that Bewick worked in hardwoods, across, instead of along, the grain, so that the blocks were small but robust. This method also allowed him to use natural cross-grain in his designs rather than adding hatching. Another technique was to lower parts of the blocks' surfaces to suggest distance. Bewick remained busy in old age with engraving, teaching, and writing his memoirs. Dr Blakey remembered him from this period as "a man of portly size... spending the evenings sipping his favourite beverage to the tune of five or six pints." Bewick died in November 1828 and is buried in Ovingham churchyard, just across the river from Cherryburn. (Steve Osborn)

W.I. NEWS - Mrs Woolf gave us an insight into the life of Joyce Grenfell. She quoted her favourite pieces from some of her many books and sang to us with the most beautifully clear voice. It was very brave of her to just up and do all of this in front of an audience, but then that is exactly what Ms Grenfell herself would have done in her day. A thoroughly entertaining evening. Next meeting will be Member's Night on August 12th. (Devina Bartlett)

GREEN GANG - White Cliffs Countryside Project has organised some family activities for the summer holiday. On the 9th of August there is a Samphire Hoe Weekend when there will be displays about its wildlife, competitions and hints on sea angling. On the 23rd of August, there is National Bat Night with a walk round the Western Heights with bat detectors. On the 25th of August, there is Kings, Castles and Cutthroats at Deal. There is something arranged for every day during August so if you want to know more please ring me to see the brochure (824969) or the contact the organisers on 241806. (editor)

GARDENTALK - This month we visited the gardens of next door neighbours, John and Rosemary Crothall and John and Hilary Mitchell in Meggett Lane. and we enjoyed a lovely evening. The gardens were absolutely delightful and after we had enjoyed them to the full, we then teased our brains with a most interesting famous gardens quiz. Thank you for your hospitality. The next meeting will be held at "The Vicarage" on Tuesday 19th August at 7.30pm when you are most welcome to join us. (Susannah Tapsell)

COFFEE MORNING at Box Tree Cottage. A big thank you to all who so generously supported the coffee morning held on the 5th July in aid of the Church Fabric Fund and the Village Hall, and this includes all those who were unable to come but who thoughtfully gave donations beforehand. £234 was raised. Where did it all come from? This has been divided as above. It was good to see children and a few mums and dads in the pool, taking advantage of the warm weather. The weight of the cake was won by Susanna Tapsell and guessing the secret of Beattie's brown envelope - a thong - was won by a most embarrassed gentleman - Mike Sharp. The help given by many friends on the day was also particularly appreciated. The morning certainly couldn't have happened without their efficient help and assistance. A very sincere thank you. (Pamela Sayers)

VALLEY SOCIETY - To mark the Society's twenty fifth birthday we are planning to have a walk and picnic on Saturday the 23rd August meeting at the Village Hall about 10.30 and making our way to St Radigan's Abbey Farm for a spot of lunch. We propose to arrange things as an American Supper-type Bring and Share event with food being transported up to the Abbey by car while the majority of us

with dogs, children and all will enjoy a leisurely amble. The Society will even dip into its funds and stump up for a few bottles to mark the occasion. If you are interested in coming please call me on 01303 892082 so that we can arrange a variety of foodstuffs (otherwise it'll be scotch eggs all round). (Paul Tapsell)

COFFEE MORNING - Betty Neely is hosting a coffee morning in the Village Hall on the 23rd of August starting at 10.30 am. The reason for the coffee morning is to raise some funds for the Alkham Soup Kitchen. A couple of teams man the soup kitchen on about 12 evenings in the year and it is estimated that the cost of providing sandwiches, soup, coffee and tea is between £7 and £10 per night. Some people think that the soup kitchen is abused by people who are not homeless and just want a free meal. In part, this is right but there are also people there who are in desperate need who would not get anything to eat or drink without the soup kitchen.

Bradford & Bingley Geering & Colyer

KEARSNEY (01304) 823714 DOVER (01304)207099
YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENT
offering **DOUBLE EXPOSURE**
For your property
From our offices at both
12 KEARSNEY AVENUE, RIVER, DOVER
AND 5 KING STREET, DOVER
Discover for yourselves why Geering and Colyer
deserve their reputation for customer care
SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am 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 and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	2	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Sunday	3	Cricket v Tilmanstone 2pm VM
Tuesday	12	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Monday	18	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	19	Garden Talk at 7.30 pm in the Old Vicarage
Saturday	23	Coffee morning – see page 3
Sunday	24	Cricket v Harrington Hackers 12 pm on Vicarage Meadow
Wednesday	27	Fete meeting in Village Hall at 8.00 pm
Saturday	30	Jumble Sale in the Village Hall 11.00 am – see opposite

CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.
Sunday 10th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
Sunday 17th	Worshipping together 11.00a.m.	Sung evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 24th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund. Capel 10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 31st	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.

Weekday Services: Morning Prayer at St Radigund, Capel - Monday-Saturday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays); Evening Prayer at St Laurence, Hougham - Wednesday at 5.00pm Eucharist at St Radigund, Capel - Thurs at 9.15 a.m. followed by refreshments

JUMBLE SALE – There is a jumble sale in the Village Hall on the 30th of August in aid of W.I. funds starting at 11.00 am.

OPEN DAY – An Open Day is being held at New Church Farm, Church Hougham on the 2nd of August from 10 am to 5.00 pm. There will be games, stalls and refreshments with proceeds going to Hougham Church.

FASHION SHOW – A fashion show is being held in the Village Hall on Thursday the 11th of September starting at 7.30 pm. On show will be well-known surplus High Street brands of women and men's clothing at reduced prices. Entry is £2 and further details can be obtained from Doreen Lott on 824876.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Kevin Mepham 01303 244119
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freeseve.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police – 999 phone and 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475 Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow	824201
ALKHAM MEADOWS	Touring Caravan Park – Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road	206344
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
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley	01303 891806
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
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
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

No. 121 September 2003

Delivered free to all
properties in the Parish

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

All your gardening needs plus
milk, eggs, biscuits, preserves,
newspapers, gifts and animal
supplies.

Telephone 01303 893351

B WARD

Builders & decorators
All aspects of building,
renovation, alteration's,
maintenance & decorating work
undertaken.

For personal service contact Barry on
Office 01304 826914
Mobile 07812834013

WINDOW DAMAGE – In previous issues, mention has been made of the breaking of the stained glass window to the porch of St. Anthony's and the desecration of a plaque on the Memorial Wall. Because of the seriousness of the matter, the police were contacted and an officer from Dover came to the village and saw the damage. He then interviewed the young witness and later the police went to the house of the youth who allegedly caused the damage. He was interviewed with his parents with the result that the police wrote to the vicar, Kevin Mephram. They said that the young person had been given a reprimand and will therefore not be appearing in court but the action had been recorded and it may be brought to the attention of the court following any future conviction. The reaction and action of the police in this case is to be applauded. (editor)

CAR STOLEN – A car was stolen from the drive of a house in South Alkham shortly after the family returned home and fortunately, the baby had just been lifted out of the back and taken into the garden. There was no sound of the car being driven off so they must have pushed it into the road. The car was later found undamaged with the handbag inside in Millfield, Hawkinge.

FOUND – A watch was found on Vicarage Meadow on the 27th July. Please phone Vince on 827530 to claim. Also a distinctive Teddy Bear was found on Sladden Farm. Please ring Di on 825188.

ANNIVERSARY - TIN

It sometimes feels like an association by marriage as the Newsletter is ten years old this month. The first edition, produced by Tony Ingall, was in September 1993 and I took over in June 1997 with issue No. 46. Please see page 2 as well. (editor)

FARMER'S MARKET

Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall
each Tuesday 10am to 1pm.

Local produce

Phone 01303 245399

VANDALISED SEATS

Bob Palmer has asked me to print a correction to last month's Newsletter in which I said he was going to repair the seats in front of the cricket pavilion and they were going to be replaced at a different location. A condition of Bob repairing the benches is that they are put back where they are and not as reported. (editor)

A QUILT, FLOWER and Craft weekend is being held on the 13th and 14th of September in St. Lawrence Church, Hougham. The church will be filled with patchwork quilts and other crafts plus demonstrations and stalls. It will be open from 10am to 5pm and coffee, tea and lunches will be available. On Saturday there is a fish and chip supper and concert. For further details please ring Mr & Mrs Finnis on 01304 214891.

PETER CHAMBERS

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go to Peter Chambers, who lives in the village and has suffered a stroke. (editor)

MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Wednesday

MOULES NIGHT £7.95

Thursday

STEAK NIGHT £7.95

(16oz rib-eye)

COFFEE MORNING – I'm very pleased to report that a coffee morning, arranged by Betty Neely, in aid of the Alkham Soup Kitchen run made a profit of £162. Many thanks to all the people who helped and to those who came along to support. In addition, the Alkham PCC gave a cheque for £50. A detailed breakdown of costs show that one evening at the Soup Kitchen costs between £10 and £15 so the funds raised should provide enough money for the next 18 months. (editor)

A QUIZ NIGHT will be held in the village hall on Saturday the 18th of October commencing at 7.30pm. To book a table please ring Doreen Lott on 824876.

TRAVELLING TRENDS

Bargain price High Street clothes and other items will be on sale in the village hall on Thursday 11th September. Entry is by ticket only (£2) and these can be obtained from Doreen Lott on 824876.

ALKHAM VALLEY Society walk from the village hall to St. Radigunds Farm on the 23rd of August was cancelled because of a poor response. (*I understand that some people couldn't go because of holiday and other commitments*). (editor)

A COFFEE MORNING will be held in the Village Hall on September 6th at 10.30am in aid of Alkham PCC.

Alkham Court

Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast

Meggett Lane, South Alkham

ETC: 4 diamonds

Peaceful location overlooking the
Alkham Valley

Excellent facilities for family or business
stays, short breaks, overnight and weddings.

Web: www.alkhamcourt.co.uk
Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

MARSHALL & CLARKE

PROPERTY AGENTS AND VALUERS



112 London Road, Kearsney

Dover, CT16 3AB

Telephone 01304 827770

and at

1 Cliffe Road, Kingsdown, Deal

Tel. 01304 381622

High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover

Tel. 01304 852960

Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park

Alkham Village

Telephone

01304 206344



and this sunflower came second in the competition

The photo may not print too well but it is Ken Hammond plus plant, which was 3.63metres high. The winner in the adults section was Shirley Tapsell who lives at 2 Valley Cottages and was 4.14 metres (13 foot 7 inches) high and she will hold the Sunflower Cup for a year. In third place was John and Shelley Jackson (3.47m) followed by Helen Scopes (3.1m), Derek Banks-Nash (2.7m), Diane Crockford (2.54m), John Watts (2.4m), Barbara Palmer (2.34m), Jo and Max Walker (2.3m), Krys Latham 1.92 and me (1.9m but feel the quality). There were several others entrants but their plants died or withered. The winner in the children's section will be announced next month as there are still some plants growing. (editor)

PLEASE RESPOND to the Questionnaire distributed round the village regarding a teen shelter and return them to 4 Short Lane. If you haven't received one, a copy can be obtained at the same address. Vince Holness has been recently elected as a Parish Councillor for the village and has been asked to look into facilities for the young people in Alkham. Vince has suggested that a "Teen Shelter" be erected (probably at the bottom of Vicarage Meadow) where teenagers can congregate. Even if you are not a parent but have a view on the subject please write to Vince at 4 Short Lane, Alkham or access him through the web site alkham.info. (editor)

NEWSLETTER TEN

years old. The non-profit making Newsletter continues to be free to all houses in the Parish. There are 14 people who deliver 284 Newsletters and Grace Stacey, Kathleen and Will Goldfinch, Roy and Gail Dyche, Alan Woodgett, Shirley Tapsell, and Christine Tapsell have delivered them from the outset. The other deliverers are Peter Mercer, Heather Dodd, Derek Banks-Nash, Larry Lambourne, Valerie Banks, Sue Lees, Ken and Dot Hammond and the Hyland family. Of the rest, I deliver 24 and post 11 outside the village. Grateful thanks go to all the people who deliver the Newsletter and also to advertisers and contributors, particularly Oz who has managed to write 43 original stories since starting in February 2000. (editor)

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH - Volunteers are still being sought and apologies go to Edith Neve (Wash) for omitting her name from the list of representatives. Edith will look after the Ewell Minnis area. (editor)

THE GREEN GANG

have three organised events in September. On the 6th between 2.00 and 5.00 pm there is an Expressive Feat Workshop led by Shepway District Council (01303 852322) at the Amphitheatre, Lower Sandgate Road, Folkestone. On the 12th between 6.00 and 8.00 pm there is a Children's Craft Workshop, with qualified Nursery staff on hand, at Crabble Corn Mill, Dover (823292). On the 27th between 10.00am and 4.30pm, children can make and decorate a Roman style pot at Dover Museum on the Market Square. There are small charges for the events and further information on the above and other events can be obtained by ringing the White Cliffs Countryside Project on 241806 or, for further afield, the Romney Marsh Countryside Project on 01797 367934.

DAGGINGS - An 80 year old friend of mine has told me about daggings, and with the Sunflower competition in mind, I thought I'd pass the information onto anyone who may be interested in a strong fertiliser. The word 'dag' refers to the wool around the behind of a sheep, which becomes matted with dirt etc. and has to be removed before the sheep is sheared. If the dags are collected and put in a large porous sack (like an onion sack) and placed in a barrel of water a very potent fertiliser is produced. It can be used straight away but is better left to ferment and then mixed in the ratio of ½ pint of daggings to 2 gallons of water. It's very high in nitrogen and is a truly organic fertiliser so if you're interested contact your nearest sheep farmer to find out if he's got any dags. (editor)

VEHICLE DAMAGE - A vehicle which is parked on the road in Alkham near Newlyn Meadow has been systematically damaged over the last few months. Attempts were made to access the vehicle and damage has been caused to it, including the siphoning of petrol. The damage is thought to be caused by one individual, so if anyone has any information please ring me on 824969 and I will pass the information on. (editor)

GARDENTALK - Another highly enjoyable evening; this time spent at "The Vicarage". Very many thanks to Ian and Lucy, where, apart from the usual pleasures of the garden and the vibrant and ever increasing vivacious conversation we were entertained by a most amusing and clever garden quiz devised by Devina. We were very much of the opinion that she should copyright this gem. The next meeting will be on Friday September 12th 7.30pm at "Bramhall." (Susannah Tapsell)

CHITTENDEN'S FUNERAL SERVICES

FOLKESTONE **HYTHE**
1 Ingoldsby Road Windmill Street
(01303) 851456 (01303) 262762
Manager Manager
Mr. Chris Daughters Mr. Mike Hands

Personal Service Always
Private Chapels of Rest
Memorial Masonry

FUNERAL PRE-PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE
UNDER THE PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF

FREDERIC HALL Solicitors

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

Would you like to know more about
the Christian Faith?

Would you like a refresher course
in a friendly environment?

Are you just curious about what
Church means?

An Emmaus group will be starting in
September to encourage us all on our
journey of faith. For further
information, please contact the Vicar
on 01303 244119

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

There will be a Confirmation Service in
November in Canterbury cathedral. If you
would like to be confirmed, or just to find
out more about Confirmation, please contact
Kevin Mephram (Vicar) on 01303 244119.

Bradford & Bingley Geering & Colyer

KEARSNEY (01304) 823714 DOVER (01304) 207099
YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENT
offering DOUBLE EXPOSURE

For your property

From our offices at both

12 KEARSNEY AVENUE, RIVER, DOVER
AND 5 KING STREET, DOVER

Discover for yourselves why Geering and Colyer
deserve their reputation for customer care
SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

OZ on HEATWAVE – Alistair Cooke once recalled, in his radio programme *Letter from America*, the headline in a British newspaper “74° tomorrow - no end in sight”. As temperatures rocketed and physical activity plummeted this summer I found myself increasingly preoccupied with the derivation and usage of the term “heat wave”. Of the larger dictionaries, *Chambers* has it hyphenated, while *Oxford* gives two separate words, but they agree that it describes excessive heat, especially when regarded as moving from one place to another. That was certainly the case when American reporters first used the term in describing the Great Heat Wave of 1892. The *Democratic Watchman* of July 28 1892 declared that “True to predictions the great heat wave came rolling in from the West last week”. Sir Robert Ball, the Victorian astronomer and science populariser, soon became the first English writer to use ‘heat-wave’ in a book. In his *In the High Heavens* (1893), under the heading “The ‘Heat-Wave’ of 1892” he gently poked fun at the new term, describing it as the “somewhat absurdly designated ‘great heat-wave’”, and later “The so-called heat-wave then seems to have travelled eastward”. Despite Ball’s doubts, the term is obviously powerful and attractive, and was soon taken up by society, not least the entertainment and advertising industries. Over the years, countries have devised many local definitions of “heat wave” for various administrative reasons. Meteorologists are now attempting to agree a formal universal definition reflecting not only widely varying temperature ranges but also degrees of humidity, resulting from excessive evaporation, which adds to human distress during heat waves. It will be quite a formula when resolved, needing to interpret record high temperatures varying from 134°F at Death Valley, California, on July 10 1913, down to 59°F at Vanda Station, Antarctica, on January 5 1974. (Steve Osborn)

Church News - On Sunday 7th

September during the Evensong service [6.30pm] Ken Pilgrim will be presented with a farewell card from Alkham parishioners. Ken, who works for the Immigration service, is taking up a new post in Norwich. He has served the Benefice for a number of years and is very involved in the work of the Parish and together with Tony Elcombe was very supportive during the Interregnum. Please join us at the service to say farewell and wish Ken and Wendy every happiness in the future. On Sunday 20th September at 11am we will be celebrating Harvest Festival when it would be lovely to welcome all those who will be gracing the tables at the Harvest Supper the following day. As, unfortunately, we cannot decorate the Church on Saturday, due to the wedding arrangements of that day, we are asking that perhaps you would very kindly bring your Harvest gifts to Church before the service, between 10.30am and 10.45am and we will all work together to decorate the Church. Failing that, perhaps you would take your Harvest gift for the traditional auction to the Supper. After the service the "Millennium Yew", which is now large enough to survive the Churchyard environment, will be ceremoniously planted out. (Richard and Ken, Churchwardens)

VICTORIA SMITH

The untimely death of Victoria has hit us all. It has left a mark on everyone as she was such a nice person. I have known Vicky since I was a young lad and we have always been close friends. Vicky seemed to get on with everyone and those of you that knew her would know what a wonderful person she was. There will always be a place in our hearts for Vicky. She will be sorely missed. (Luke Baber)

It is very sad to report that Victoria died in a traffic accident on the Alkham Valley Road near Chilton recently. She was 17 years old and from Newcastle House at Ewell Minnis. Deepest sympathy goes to her family and everyone who knew her.

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am 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 and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	6	Bingo 7.30pm in VH - ring Beverley on 824765
Saturday	6	Coffee morning for PCC 10.30am
Monday	8	Parish Council meeting in the village hall 7.30pm - all welcome
Tuesday	9	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	11	Fashion show see page 1
Friday	12	Garden Talk at 7.30 pm at Bramhall
Monday	15	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	22	Harvest Supper in the Village Hall

CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00a.m.
Sunday 14th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of praise 5.00 p.m.
Sunday 21st	Harvest Festival 11.00 a.m.	Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 28th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Laurence, Hougham 10.00 a.m.		

Weekday Services: Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays); Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday at 5 pm Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am Benefice Prayer Group - Saturday 10.00 am - Capel

W.I. NEWS - August saw our Members Night slowly develop into total chaos. It was to be a Beetle Drive, simple you would think, nothing to it! Not so, as we gathered around our respective tables, dices paused at the ready the air crackling with tension, and we were off! The only thing was that we were all playing to a completely different set of rules!! It was all down hill from there as we descended into chaos. Never mind, it was such a good evening and I think everyone enjoyed themselves. I myself was the lucky winner of a rather fetching plastic stag horn beetle, 6 inches long and bright pink, can't decide whether to put it with the Royal Albert or the Ming!! Many thanks to Mandy and Debbie for such a memorable evening. Next meeting Sept 9th with Miss Yeo discussing antiques. **(Devina Bartlett)**

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Kevin Mepham 01303 244119
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police - 999 phone and 01303 850055	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
	Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 824201
ALKHAM MEADOWS	Touring Caravan Park - Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road 206344
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
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley 01303 891806
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malma's Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
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
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
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

No. 122 October 2003

Delivered free to all
properties in the Parish

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

All your gardening needs and
animal supplies.

Telephone 01303 893351

B WARD

Builders & decorators
All aspects of building,
renovation, alteration's,
maintenance & decorating work
undertaken.

For personal service contact Barry on
Office 01304 826914
Mobile 07812834013

VINCE HOLNESS – it is extremely sad to report that Vince died on Sunday the 21st of September from a massive heart attack at the young age of 43. For those to whom the name is unfamiliar, Vince set up and ran the Alkham Web site and he recently became a Parish Councillor for Alkham. He was keen and eager to see right was done for the people in the parish and was in the process of looking at options for a meeting point for teenagers in the village. He will be sorely missed and our sympathy goes to Debbie and Bethany, his parents and all friends and relatives.

PARKING IN DOVER

As you are probably aware, the district council took over the responsibility for parking in Dover and that's why there are few free-to-park spaces left. If you have any suggestions with regard to parking in Dover please pass your comments onto the Parish Clerk, Sue Lees, on 822661.

FARMER'S MARKET

Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall each
Tuesday 10am to 1pm.
Local produce
Phone 01303 245399

SUNDAY CLEAN UP

Please come along to Vicarage Meadow on Sunday morning 5th October about 10am and help to clear unwanted branches, bushes, rubbish or whatever isn't wanted around the playing field. It would be great if some of the teenagers join in and put their ideas and strength into the project. Everyone of any age welcome. **(Parish Clerk)**

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

When I entered Alkham in the above competition, I didn't really think that we would get commended as we had no specific projects. This has proved to be the case but the letter from the organisers said that the judges thought Alkham was a nice place to live, self contained and had a strong community spirit. They were particularly impressed by how tidy and well maintained the village was. For those who walk across the football pitch you may find this hard to believe but as a whole the village is well maintained thanks to the Parish Council and people who cut grass and keep verges tidy. **(editor)**

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD -

There was a considerable amount of discussion about the safety of the Alkham Valley Road at the Parish Council meeting, particularly in the light of the recent fatal accident at Chilton. In April of this year, members of the Parish Council walked and drove the length of the valley with the police and the Highway Authority and none of the issues raised have been acted upon. People at the Parish Council meeting thought that a speed limit should be imposed along the road but this is thought to be unlikely mainly because of enforcement by the police. It was also thought that it was only a matter of time before a fatal accident occurred at the bottom of Wolverton Hill. It is hoped that the local paper, the Dover Express, will get involved and also the CPRE with a public meeting eventually being called. **(editor)**

MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Wednesday

MOULES NIGHT £7.95

Thursday

STEAK NIGHT £7.95

(16oz rib-eye)

RIVER SURGERY – There are no plans to close this surgery but they feel that they are under some pressure as the Health Authority would like them to move into Dover. The surgery is used by a lot of people at Ewell Minnis and therefore the Parish Council is writing a letter of support to the Health Authority requesting that it remain at its present location or in the River area.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A meeting is to take place in the Village Hall on Wednesday 8th October at 7.30pm. This will be the first meeting of a new scheme being set up in the parish. It is hoped that all those who have been asked to help will be able to attend. However, anyone who would like to help in any way is welcome to come along. The more people who can help the better. It would be great to be able to cover all areas, whether it is Alkham village, Ewell Minnis or smaller groups of houses such as Everden, Chalksole and Ellinge. **(Parish clerk)**

A JUMBLE SALE in aid of Village Hall funds is being held in the village hall on Saturday the 4th of October at 11.00am. There is also a Jumble Sale on the 1st of November in the village hall for Alkham PCC.

A LADIES WATCH has been found at the top of Slip Lane. Please ring me on 824969 **(editor)**.

Alkham Court

Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast

Meggett Lane, South Alkham
ETC: 4 diamonds

**Peaceful location overlooking the
Alkham Valley**

*Excellent facilities for family or business
stays, short breaks, overnight and weddings.*

Web: www.alkhamcourt.co.uk
Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

MARSHALL & CLARKE
PROPERTY AGENTS AND VALUERS



112 London Road, Kearsney
 Dover, CT16 3AB

Telephone 01304 827770
 and at

1 Cliffe Road, Kingsdown, Deal
 Tel. 01304 381622
 High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover
 Tel. 01304 852960

Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park
 Alkham Village
 Telephone
 01304 206344



GATE FOR MEADOW – Because some people drive their cars onto Vicarage Meadow from Hogbrook Hill Lane, it was thought that it may be a good idea to put a gate in the gap opposite Martinvale. This however would make it impossible for emergency vehicles to enter Vicarage Meadow quickly, as required a couple of years ago when the cricket pavilion was set alight. A large moveable object like the roller was suggested but because this is already moved at random round the green by some youngsters, this was thought impracticable. The matter will however be pursued by the Parish Council. **(editor)** *The reason the roller was painted with three white stripes by some children in the village was to simulate a wicket.*

NEWSLETTER – In the financial year for 2002, the Newsletter made a profit of £16. Thanks to people who gave individual donations in the 2003 financial year ending in August, the Newsletter made a profit of just under £100, some of which has been spent on the cups for the Sunflower competition. It is probable that a couple of advertisers will not renew for this year so the profit made will cover any deficit. The expenditure on the year was £365 for photostats, £51 for petrol going to Staples, Canterbury, plus delivering to deliverers, £38 for postage to those outside the village and £12 for printer ink giving a total of £466. If anyone would like to see the accounts for the last financial year please give me a ring on 824969. **(editor)**

MANY THANKS to Margaret Hancock for her financial donation to the Newsletter and also to the Parish Council for the bottle of whiskey they gave me for the tenth birthday of the Newsletter. **(editor)**



SUNFLOWER CUPS were awarded to Shirley Tapsell in the adult class and Benjamin Norris in the junior class. I decided that the winners could keep the cups so there will be a new one each year. The cup is inscribed on the front with 'Alkham Sunflower Competition Senior (or junior) and on the back with the name of the winner. Because of summer holidays quite a few of the flowers in the junior section died through lack of water but Benjamin Norris, the grandson of Kath and John Norris, had a winning entry at 3.28 metres. Recent arrivals in the village, Molly and Elly Lafin were second and fourth with 3.03m and 2.75m. Third was Sarah Ryder, grandchild of David and Christine Tapsell, at 2.8m (David had a late entry at 2.4m). James Tapsell's sunflower was 2.67m high, Henry Burrows 2.21 and Ellis Milroy 1.9m. Many congratulations to all the children who entered who apart from the cup winner have been given a colour certificate showing a sunflower and the height that there flower reached. **(editor)**

BIKE RIDE – All the money pledged to Ken Hammond and Brian Wimsett for the London to Southend Bike Ride has been collected and sent in. The final sum was £403, which goes to the British Heart Foundation. Many thanks to all those who supported the ride and also to Sue Lees for helping to get a lot of the sponsorship. **(editor)**

and continuing

THE CYCLE RIDE organised by the Friends of Kent Churches took place on the 13th of September with Ken Hammond and Billy Hollis cycling for Alkham. They raised over £230 half of which will go to St. Anthony's. The latter was manned all day and it was disappointing that the only cyclists who came to the church were Ken and Billy. They visited 61 churches and covered a distance of 54 miles.

"A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE?" From Eastry Union Workhouse, guardians minutes: *At meeting on 17.5.1853. It was decided that one sheet of paper per week be supplied to each inmate to stop the use of rag etc. in the water closets and later: The Clerk said as it had been decided that waste paper should be provided for the use of the workhouse inmates in the water closets, he had procured half a ream from Mr BAYLEY of Eastry at 4 shillings. The Clerk suggested that the Goods Tickets issued by the Relieving Officers, of which there is a great quantity in his possession, may be used for the purpose required, first removing the pins, which he considers could be done by the girls, this would effect not only the saving in the purchase of paper but of pins also, which could be made use of again. This suggestion was adopted. Dated 24.5.1853 noted by Kathleen (Sue Lees, Parish Clerk) Because of financial constraints the resolution is to be discussed by the Alkham Village Hall Committee at their next meeting. (Hon. Sec. 20.9.2003)*

VICARAGE MEADOW The Parish Council has paid for the extensive weed growth either side of the dyke on Vicarage Meadow to be cut down. It certainly looks better and the weed areas will be sprayed with chemicals, at the appropriate time, to inhibit future growth. I also think my dog Sally, should be congratulated for sniffing out 6 cricket balls from the side of the Meadow. **(editor)**

CHITTENDEN'S FUNERAL SERVICES

FOLKESTONE

1 Ingoldsby Road
(01303) 851456

Manager

Mr. Chris Daughters

HYTHE

Windmill Street
(01303) 262762

Manager

Mr. Mike Hands

Personal Service Always

Private Chapels of Rest

Memorial Masonry

FUNERAL PRE-PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE
UNDER THE PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF

FREDERIC HALL Solicitors

York House, Folkestone

01303 851185

& Clyde House, Dover 202411

THE MILLENNIUM YEW

After the Harvest Festival service at St. Anthony's on the 21st of September the yew tree, which had been given to the church at the millennium, was planted in the churchyard. The reason for the delay was so the tree could grow to a reasonable height before planting outdoors and have a good chance of surviving. At the service Kevin Mepham, our vicar, read out the names of the children who had entered the sunflower competition and also the winners of the adult section, two of whom were in the congregation.

CONGRATULATIONS to Chris Tapsell and Jane Hixon (nee Taylor) who got married at St. Anthony's on the 20th of September. Before the ceremony, Chris led his brothers David, Richard and Alan on the bells and then after the service, as is the custom, four other ringers rang a peal of celebration. Chris and Jane have gone on a cruise for their honeymoon. The theme music from the film Titanic was played on the organ whilst the register was being signed at the end of the service.

Bradford & Bingley Geering & Colyer

KEARSNEY (01304) 823714 DOVER (01304) 207099

**YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENT
offering DOUBLE EXPOSURE**

For your property

From our offices at both

12 KEARSNEY AVENUE, RIVER, DOVER
AND 5 KING STREET, DOVER

Discover for yourselves why Geering and Colyer
deserve their reputation for customer care

SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

OZ on STUMPS – We've finally removed the last Leylandii stump in the border by the back lawn. *Cupressocyparis Leylandii* first appeared in Wales in 1888, an accidental cross between Monterey Cypress and Alaskan Cedar, and a rare example of conifers interbreeding. The hardy fast-growing tree soon became popular for windbreaks and boundaries, and then unpopular, being blamed for plunging gardens into shadow, depleting soil, and causing neighbours to quarrel. Our stump was created by an itinerant "tree-feller" who, instructed to leave enough trunk for rocking the roots out, left it six inches above ground level. After years of poking and prodding at the stump, we turned to friends and the Internet for advice. The first method is, of course, to avoid stumps, by ensuring their clearance as part of tree-felling operations. Failing that, three of the most macho solutions are stump-grinders, backhoes and explosives, all expensive and, in many ways, unsuitable for our situation. Interestingly there are small businesses devoted entirely to stump removal, often for a fixed fee. Among other methods there are burning, by lighting a fire over the stump, and rotting, sometimes with chemicals or manure poured into holes drilled in the stump. One idea that we particularly liked was that of building a compost heap over the stump, the drawback being that it would take a year or two to decompose. Eventually we settled for the time-honoured back-breaking method of digging a trench around the stump, exposing the roots and attacking them with an axe and a pruning saw. The stump, when freed, was an 18-inch cube. After an inconclusive debate over which waste skip to use at Whitfield we simply placed it in a dark corner of the garden, where it will eventually erode, providing meanwhile a home for tiny flora and fauna. (Steve Osborn)

NOWS YOUR CHANCE TO BE A COMPOST

ADVISER - Assuming you are still reading, BTCV the UK's leading practical conservation charity is looking for a volunteer to promote, educate and provide support on composting queries and encourage people to take up composting. BTCV will provide free training, a compost bin, reference book and back-up support. If you'd like to apply please ring me on 824969 and I'll give you the form. (editor) and

PLASTIC COMPOST BINS

are still available at the discounted price of £10 from Kent County Council. Please ring 0870 844 3001 to order and free delivery will be within 28 days.

W.I. NEWS - Josie Yeo gave us a very interesting and informative talk on antiques and collectables. She had a very impressive collection of things to show us and certainly knew her stuff. Not so when she was younger when, she explained, she took apart a chandelier made up of hundreds of pieces of crystal to clean, and had no idea how to put it back together again. To this day, she still has some of the pieces that she was unable to fit back on!! Next meeting will be October 14th speaker Mrs Tammy Stewart Jones. (Devina Bartlett)

HARVEST SUPPER

The produce which was displayed in St. Anthony's for the Harvest Festival service was taken to the village hall to be auctioned at the Harvest Supper. This took place on the 22nd of September and thanks must go to Betty Neely for organising it, Doreen Lott and helpers for the superb spread and to all the ladies who made apple pies. There were about 80 people at the supper who contributed to the raffle and auction, which raised between £350 and £400. The money will be split between the Kent Air Ambulance and the hospital in Africa, which Gill Calver supported.

VILLAGE HALL – We have received information that the hall should have an Occasional Licence to sell alcohol. This is because that even a bottle of wine in a raffle is being bought by the sale of tickets. Similarly for instance, if a Cheese and Wine evening is held, in paying for the ticket you are effectively buying alcohol. If the wine supplied at such an event is bought in France then the organiser is breaking the law as alcohol purchased abroad is for private consumption only. An Occasional Licence costs £10 a year and covers 12 events the only problem being is that you have to know all the dates in advance. I've sent for the form. (Hon. Sec. Village Hall)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am 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 and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	4	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Saturday	4	Jumble Sale – see page 1
Wednesday	8	Neighbourhood Watch meeting in the village hall – see page 1
Tuesday	14	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	18	Quiz in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	20	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	1/ 11	Jumble Sale – see page 1

plants: Cinderella Farm, cut flowers (returns in spring): Just a Fold, hand made cards: Just a Bead, hand -made jewellery: Sheer Bliss, hand made soaps (monthly): Heathmore, decorated T shirts: D Turner, painted glass: S Lees, wood turning & crafts: V A Cunningham, wood turning & crafts. We also provide refreshments, so many of our customers come along to do their shopping and meet their friends, have a coffee and chat. For further information, please contact Mrs Jenny Barraclough 01303 245399 or e mail barraclough@jenny-frank.fsnet.co.uk

CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Harvest Festival 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00a.m.
Sunday 12th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of praise in village hall 6.30 p.m.
Sunday 19th	Worshipping Together 11 am	Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 26th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony's, Alkham 10.00 a.m.		

Weekday Services: Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays); Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday at 5 pm Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am Benefice Prayer Group – Saturday 10.00 am – Capel

CAPEL-LE-FERNE FARMERS' MARKET is held every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Village Hall. Started in April 2003 the market was an idea put forward by the Village Hall Management Committee, to provide a service for the community and every penny we raise goes back into the maintenance of our village hall. Stallholders regularly attending are:- G Palmer Farms, meat supplier: The Fish Tank, fresh fish: P Davis, free range eggs: Syndale Valley, cheese (fortnightly): W Foster, vegetables & fruit: Buss Farms, vegetables & fruit: Perry Court Farm, organic vegetables: Goodchild, cakes & pastries: Marshmellow Bakeries, bread & rolls: Classic Preserves, jams, honey, chutneys, etc.: Kari Mix, curry pastes & chutneys (occasionally): Core Juices, apple & pear juice (fortnightly): B Marshall,

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Kevin Mephram 01303 244119
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	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 Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Police – 999 phone and 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475 Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn Meadow 824201
ALKHAM MEADOWS	Touring Caravan Park – Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road 206344
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
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley 01303 891806
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 horse supplies	South Alkham 01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
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

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 123 November 2003

Delivered free to all
properties in the Parish

Alkham Valley Garden Centre

All your gardening needs and
animal supplies.

Telephone 01303 893351

B WARD

Builders & Decorators
All aspects of building,
renovation, alteration's,
maintenance & decorating work
undertaken.

For personal service contact Barry on
Office 01304 826914
Mobile 07812834013

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD

If you receive the Newsletter before the 27th of October, you will be interested to know that Shepway District Council is closing the Alkham Valley Road between Lower Standen (where the paving slab place is) to the roundabout connecting to the M20, for three days. Resurfacing work will start at 9am on the 27th and is scheduled to finish on the 29th at 7pm. (editor)

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - The annual Christmas Bazaar and Coffee Morning, which raises funds for St. Anthony's Church, will be held in Alkham Village Hall on Saturday 29th November, 10.30am to 12 noon. The Bring and Buy table, Home Made Goodies and Raffle will have a distinct Christmas flavour. Please come along and give your support.

WOODEN BENCH - Bob Palmer is to be congratulated on the splendid job he has done repairing the first bench in front of the cricket pavilion. It looks brand new.

FARMER'S MARKET

Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall each
Tuesday 10am to 1pm.

Local produce
Phone 01303 245399

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH - Another meeting has been held with regard to setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and a number of people have come forward to act as 'Link persons'. The latter have agreed to take on an area within the Parish of Alkham and will be contacting you shortly to see if you would like to become a member. Usually there is a cost involved in becoming a member but because there is sufficient funds in the NW account, membership will be free. The Link person will explain what is involved in being a member and you will receive a sticker, which you can put in your window. (editor)

VICARAGE MEADOW - Two bikes, two skate boards, one tent, two lengths of rainwater drain pipe and two lengths of 4 x 2 timber were found in the dyke when it was cleaned out on the 5th of October. There was also four bags of sundry rubbish mainly containing alcoholic drink bottles and cans. The side of Vicarage Meadow adjacent to the Old Vicarage was also given a thorough tidy up with a number of public spirited volunteers cutting down the undergrowth and brambles. It is hoped that this can now be ganged-mowed to increase the size of the meadow. Several youngsters came along, mainly to claim one of the six cricket balls that my dog had sniffed out in the previous month. These had been passed on to Den Barnard and he offered to let them have all six if they would help for half an hour and this, with a little encouragement, they did. (editor)

FOR SALE a pair of good quality pine single beds, in good condition complete with mattresses. The cost is £60 each or £100 for the pair. If interested please ring 826202.

FOUND in St. Anthony's church, a small bag containing money and lipstick. To claim please phone one of the churchwardens (see back page).

MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Wednesday

MOULES NIGHT £7.95

Thursday

STEAK NIGHT £7.95

(16oz rib-eye)

PIANO LESSONS

Is there anybody in the parish who could teach two young children to play the piano? If there is, would you please phone Patsy on 822619.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

The AGM will be held on the 13th November, 2003 (Thursday) in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. It is hoped as many members as possible will come and anyone else who is interested is very welcome. To attend an AGM is not the most popular pastime, but to attract people Mr. Martin Newcombe, who is well known as a speaker, has agreed to come and give us a talk on The Natural History of Kent, accompanied by slides. So please do come and put up with forty minutes of the AGM before you listen to what, I am sure, will be an interesting talk. (Pamela Sayers (Secretary))

ALKHAM WEB SITE

Following the tragic and unexpected death of Vince Holness, who set up the Alkham web site, I have taken over the running of the site. (editor)

POPPY APPEAL - A door to door collection will be taking place in the village in the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday on the 9th of November when the service will conclude with 2 minutes silence at 11.00am by the War Memorial in St. Anthony's churchyard.

Alkham Court

Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast

Meggett Lane, South Alkham
ETC: 4 diamonds

*Peaceful location overlooking the
Alkham Valley*

*Excellent facilities for family or business
stays, short breaks, overnight and weddings.*

Web: www.alkhamcourt.co.uk
Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

MARSHALL & CLARKE

PROPERTY AGENTS AND VALUERS



112 London Road, Kearsney
Dover, CT16 3AB
Telephone 01304 827770

and at

1 Cliffe Road, Kingsdown, Deal
Tel. 01304 381622
High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover
Tel. 01304 852960

Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park
Alkham Village
Telephone
01304 206344



YELLOW CARD - A scheme has just been launched in which vulnerable people have a nominated neighbour. Those who are at risk will display a yellow card to unrecognised and unexpected visitors that will ask the visitor to call at the home of their nominated neighbour (the card displays this address). The neighbour will verify the caller and if everything is in order escort the caller back to the vulnerable neighbour. Packs will be available from various sources including Dover Police Station. If you think you know of someone who would benefit from a card please contact your NW Link person or give me a ring on 824969. (editor)

SLADDEN WOOD - New signs have been put up on either side of Sladden Wood, which is managed by the Kent Wildlife Trust. On the signs, it says that dogs are not allowed apart from guide dogs but as there is a footpath going through the wood, this is not strictly true. It's probable that the sign is a standard one for Wildlife Trust wooded areas who quite reasonably don't want dogs running about all over the place but it should say that dogs are permitted on the footpath. I checked and they agree that this is the case. (editor)

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL - Thanks go to the Polden and Lott families plus helpers for organising three events in aid of the hall, which raised over £500. On the 11th of September the Fashion Show, which was very well supported, made a profit of £149 plus a further £23 in commission from the fashion company. The Jumble Sale on the 4th of October raised £115 and the Quiz on the 18th, which was highly enjoyable, made a profit of £220.

HANDYVAN SCHEME

The Help the Aged HandyVan Scheme protects vulnerable older people against loss through burglary by securing their homes. The scheme is primarily aimed at people over the age of 60 and there is no charge for labour or for the products that are installed. The kits comprises a smoke alarm, door chain, five lever mortice lock (deadlock) for the front door and mortice bolts for the back, spy hole and window locks for downstairs and vulnerable upstairs windows. The HandyVan Scheme was launched in the South East Kent Policing area in November 2001 and the NHW Office is one of the referral points and holds the application forms. Requests can be made over the phone by calling 01304 218151 and arrangements will be made to complete an application form. They will then advise the Client in writing that the application form has been received and processed and receiving attention. (editor - précis NW Link Persons have full details)

ALKHAM figured twice in the Autumn/Winter edition of 'The Orchid', which is the newspaper of the Kent Downs AONB, within which Alkham falls. The first picture is of a flint house in the Kent Downs, this being Martinvale, which is the house opposite the swings on Vicarage Meadow. The second is a superb photo of the grave stones and yew tree in St. Anthony's churchyard near the kissing gate leading to the back of the Old Rectory. The latter is included because the churchyard is a Site of Nature Conservation Interest as the grass is only cut once a year. It is an oasis for native wild flowers, grasses and invertebrates. This year the churchyard was cut by three people, who disposed of most of the arisings. A letter has been sent to the PCC to say that because of the enormous amount of work involved the three people are not willing to do it again without considerable help. It is hoped that the church will be able to come up with a solution as it would be a pity if the churchyard lost its wildlife status. (editor)

DOVER CHORAL

SOCIETY will present their autumn concert at 7.30 pm on Saturday 22nd November 2003 in Dover Town Hall. *Music's Jubilee* was written by Andrew Carter for Otley Choral Society in Yorkshire in 1992 and was performed by Dover Choral Society in November 1998. Although modern, it is full of both tender and lively tunes, and even the most staid members of the choir admit to enjoying it. This is followed by Peter Cork's *A Man of Kent Suite*, premiered to great applause in last year's Dover Carnival Proms Concert. The concert concludes with Part 1 of Handel's *Messiah*, which is the Christmas part, but ending with the mighty *Hallelujah* chorus. The soloists are Elizabeth Weaver and Jean Pearson (sopranos), June Woodland (contralto), Martin Rendle (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)

HOUSEHOLD BULK WASTE

- A special collection service is available for the removal of small quantities of bulky domestic household items. It costs £18.80 and can be booked through the local council by phoning 872410. There are weekend Bulky Waste Collection Services at various locations the most relevant being on the first Saturday of each month at St. Radigunds Road Dover (8 to 9am), St Patricks Road, Aycliffe (9.30 to 10am) and the Village Hall Car Park at Capel-le-Ferne (11 to 12).

CHITTENDEN'S FUNERAL SERVICES

FOLKESTONE

1 Ingoldsby Road
(01303) 851456

Manager

Mr. Chris Daughters

HYTHE

Windmill Street
(01303) 262762

Manager

Mr. Mike Hands

Personal Service Always

Private Chapels of Rest

Memorial Masonry

FUNERAL PRE-PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE
UNDER THE PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF

FREDERIC HALL Solicitors

York House, Folkestone

01303 851185

& Clyde House, Dover 202411

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S.

The Remembrance Day Service will be held on Sunday 9th November at 10.15am and will conclude at the War Memorial at 11am to share in the two minutes silence with the rest of the country, to hear those wonderful words spoken so movingly and to lay a wreath for those of our village and for all the others who lost their lives in service for their country. Do come and take part in this tribute. (Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond. Churchwardens).

MEETING POINT is held every Thursday at 10.00 a.m. in St Radigund's Church, Capel. You are warmly invited to come along for a cup of coffee or tea and a chat with other villagers to keep in touch and make new friends. All are most welcome, friendly and informal, no strings. (Vicar)

YOUTH CLUB - A number of youngsters in the village have asked if a Youth Club could be set up again? The last attempt had to be abandoned because there was a minority who spoilt it for the others. As the minority has moved on there is a possibility that one will be set up shortly subject to finding an authorised person.

Bradford & Bingley Geering & Colyer

KEARSNEY (01304) 823714 DOVER (01304)207099

**YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENT
offering DOUBLE EXPOSURE**

For your property

From our offices at both

**12 KEARSNEY AVENUE, RIVER, DOVER
AND 5 KING STREET, DOVER**

Discover for yourselves why Geering and Colyer
deserve their reputation for customer care

SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

OZ on EPHEMERA - "Winter draws on" goes the phrase, banned by the BBC in its 1947 *Green Book*, along with jazzing the classics and swipes at solicitors. One of the pleasures of winter drawing on is the enforced move from outdoor to indoor pursuits, including collecting various 'ephemera'. The word, from Greek *epi* (for) and *hemera* (a day), was first recorded in English in 1398, meaning 'one-day fever', and later it named the mayfly that lives for only a few hours. Samuel Johnson coined its modern sense, of 'transient paperwork', in 1751, describing "these papers of a day, the Ephemerae of learning." Maurice Rickards, founder of The Ephemera Society in 1980, echoed this with his "minor transient documents of everyday life". Ephemera includes stamps, postcards, tickets, labels and much else and is attractive because of the delusion that it doesn't take up too much room. Be warned by the example of John Johnson. During his time as Oxford University printer between 1925 and 1946 he collected over two million separate items related to the University Press, describing much of it as "everything which would ordinarily go into the waste paper basket after use." The collection was transferred to Oxford's Bodleian Library in 1968. Collecting ephemera can be justified from various viewpoints, of the genealogist, librarian, archivist, museum curator, researcher, hobbyist and dealer. There are now many ephemera societies and university departments dealing with what are rich primary resources, and the whole business is aided by the enormous archiving possibilities of personal computers. One of my favourite pieces of ephemera is a reference to a copy of *A Woman's Guide To Practical Knitting*, probably published around 1950, whose headline was the invitation to "Knit A Little Dutch Cap for Windy Days!" The old BBC guidelines would certainly have rejected that. (Steve Osborn)

GARDENTALK - At our last meeting in September, held at "Bramhall"; we took the subject of harvesting the products of our labours in the garden, as our topic. Being completely sexist, we divided the discussion, with the men presenting the information about harvesting and storing vegetables and the ladies talking about storing, preserving and jam making, the fruits of the garden. Needless to say, recipes for wine making were also included. A good time was had by all. The next meeting is on Friday 7th November 7.30pm at "The Willows". Slip Lane. All welcome. (Susannah Tapsell)

GUIDED WALKS including wildlife conservation events and cycle rides are included in a pamphlet issued by the White Cliffs Countryside project. If you'd like a copy, ring me or contact Sue Lees as there are a wide variety of things to do in November. Examples are a Pumpkin Parade on Samphire Hoe on the 1st. A walk to South Foreland Lighthouse on the 5th. A visit to Shepherds Well (I know this is pedantic but at the latter they have Shepherds Well, which is equally incorrect as it should probably have an inverted comma) and East Kent light railway on the 8th. Baked potatoes and scrub clearing at Whinless Down on the 11th. Deal's vanished pubs on the 15th. Creteaway Down Ramble on the 16th and on the 29th a ramble round River. (editor)

OBITUARY Marjorie Tutt, who died recently, was better known to friends and family as Marj. Despite her bluntness, she had a great sense of humour. She was born at Box Cottage, Slip Lane, in 1918 to Charles and Eva Goodchild. Marj's mother was of the long established Harvey family in Alkham, the family being local builders and carpenters. Marj was in the Land Army during WWII and in June 1940 married William Harvey, who by coincidence was also a builder. He was to build Hillview, Short Lane, Alkham. They were to have one son, Bill, who was to become one of Alkham's well known cricketers. Marj's second marriage was to Maurice Tutt who died in 1980. Marj was a keen supporter of all things Alkham, in particular its Whist Drives and W.I.

SALT BINS - I've been asked to print the following: Salt in roadside bins is for highway and footway use only; some members of the public still believe that salt is provided for private roads and driveways, which is not the case. Salt bins are provided for spot salting to make roads and footways safer at specific locations where local Parishes know there are problems in prolonged spells of snow and freezing temperatures.

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am 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 and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	1	Bingo 7.30pm in VH - ring Beverley on 824765
Monday	3	Parish Council meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm
Friday	7	Garden Talk, Willows 7.30pm
Tuesday	11	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	13	AVS AGM 8pm - see page 1
Monday	17	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	24	Village Hall Committee meeting in VH at 8pm
Saturday	29	Christmas bazaar - see page 1
Saturday	29	Beekeepers honey show in village hall from 2 to 7pm

CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Memorial Service 4.00pm	Said Eucharist 8.00am Memorial Service 9.30am	Memorial Service 11.00am
Sunday 9th	Remembrance Service 10.15am	Remembrance Service 10.15am	Remembrance Service 10.15am
Sunday 16th	Worshipping Together 11am	Sung Evensong 4.00pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 23rd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund's, Capel 10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 30th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Thanksgiving Service 4.00pm	Worshipping Together 11.00am

If you or anyone you know in the village would like to make contact with someone in the church please telephone the Vicar, the Revd Kevin Mepham on 01303 244119. Weekday Services: Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays); Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday at 5 pm Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am Benefice Prayer Group - Saturday 9.00 am - Capel

EXHIBITION - Incorporated with the Farmers' Market, which is held every Tuesday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Village Hall, Lancaster Avenue, Capel-le-Ferne there will be exhibitions by local artists, photographers, clubs, societies, history etc If interested in exhibiting your work contact Village Hall Secretary 01303 245399 or e-mail barraclough@jenny-frank.fsnet.co.uk

ALKHAM - I'm in danger of becoming an anorak but did you know that in 1835 there was over 20 acres of hop gardens in the parish of Alkham? Hop gardens used to be a lovely feature of the Kent countryside but apart from areas like Paddock Wood, they have all disappeared. Apparently a lot of the hops, which give beer its flavour, comes from America in paste form. That's progress for you. (editor)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Kevin Mepham 01303 244119
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	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 Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Police - 999 phone and 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475 Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

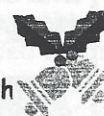
ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 824201
ALKHAM MEADOWS	Touring Caravan Park - Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road 206344
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & 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
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley 01303 891806
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 horse supplies	South Alkham 01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
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

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 124 December 2003

Delivered free to all
properties in the Parish



Alkham Valley Garden Centre

Xmas trees from 27th Nov.
Christmas decorations
Gifts for all the family
Candles, fairy lights
Father Christmas at weekends in
December
Telephone 01303 893351

B WARD

Builders & decorators
All aspects of building,
renovation, alteration's,
maintenance & decorating work
undertaken.

For personal service contact Barry on
Office 01304 826914
Mobile 07812834013

PARISH COUNCIL

VACANCY – As you will no doubt be aware from the posters displayed around the Parish, a vacancy has occurred on the Parish Council due to the untimely death of Vince Holness. An election to fill this vacancy will take place if at least ten people request one. If DDC has heard nothing by December the 2nd, nominations to fill the vacancy can be given in writing to the Parish Clerk, Susan Lees, Forstal Cottage, to be received not later than December 31st 2003. (Clerk)

ANNUAL QUIZ – The quiz, which is held every winter, will take place in the Village Hall on the 31st of January starting at 7.30pm. As usual, there will be tables of eight and food will be provided. The cost per person is £3.50 and if you would like to book a table please either ring me (Brian 824969) or Sue Lees on 822661.

SLIP LANE – At the Parish Council meeting, it was suggested that repeater 30mph signs be put in Slip Lane. The latter are the small signs, which you see at intervals in 40mph and 50mph areas. It was accepted that these are not applicable to 30mph areas but it was considered that some drivers thought that Slip Lane is derestricted when they turn off the Valley Road. It was proposed that back to back signs go on the telegraph pole by Appletree Cottage.

ALKHAM ROAD - An application has been sent to DDC for money to be made available to resurface the Alkham Valley Road between Wolverton and Kearsney. There have been a number of fatal accidents along this stretch of road and as a result DDC have placed it number three on the list of projects should money become available.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Wednesday

MOULES NIGHT £7.95

Thursday

STEAK NIGHT £7.95

(16oz rib-eye)

FOOTBALL – Ken Hammond has been doing a great job organising football practice during British Summer Time. Now that winter is here, the football has had to stop because of the early nights. A generator was considered but a better option, put forward at the Parish Council meeting, was to extend the Parish Council lighting to the electricity pole one third of the way along the pitch. It was accepted that it wouldn't give a lot of light but it's not first division football. It would also light the footpath across the Meadow.

TED & SANDRA DRAY

It is very sad to report that Ted and Sandra Dray died recently within three hours of each other. Sandra was in the Pilgrim's Hospice and Ted died on returning home to their bungalow in Glebelands. Sympathy goes to family and friends (their lovely dog, Sunny, has been found a good home).

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE

would like to thank all those people who supported the open evening on Thursday 20th November (they have very kindly donated a Christmas tree to Alkham - see also advert at top).

Merry Christmas

If you want to walk off the Christmas lunch and Boxing Day bubble and squeak there is the annual Alkham Valley Society walk on the 27th of December. It starts at 10.30am from the car park opposite the Village Hall and finishes at about mid-day at the Marquis of Granby. Everybody is welcome to come along and if you've got a dog please bring it as well.

CHANGE OF FONT -I've changed the font to Arial from Times New Roman. If you think the old style was better than the new one then please let me know. I'm also omitting 'editor' from the end of articles, which I write, so if there is no acknowledgement it was written by me (i.e. the name at the top of this page).

FARMER'S MARKET

Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall each
Tuesday 10am to 1pm.
Local produce
Phone 01303 245399

Alkham Court

Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast

Meggett Lane, South Alkham
ETC: 4 diamonds

*Peaceful location overlooking the
Alkham Valley*

*Excellent facilities for family or business
stays, short breaks, overnight and weddings.*

Web: www.alkhamcourt.co.uk
Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

MARSHALL & CLARKE

PROPERTY AGENTS AND VALUERS



112 London Road, Kearsney
Dover, CT16 3AB
Telephone 01304 827770
and at

1 Cliffe Road, Kingsdown, Deal
Tel. 01304 381622
High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover
Tel. 01304 852960

Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park
Alkham Village
Telephone
01304 206344



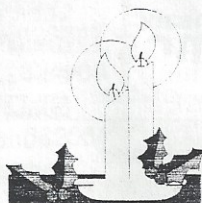
ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The 26th AGM was held on the 13th of November and was reasonably well attended, although several members were at a confirmation in Canterbury Cathedral. After 9 years in office, Paul Tapsell announced his retirement as Chairman. However, as there were no nominations for this office, he kindly offered to continue as Vice Chairman for a period of three months. John Garlinge will continue as treasurer and Joanna Walker has taken over as secretary from Pamela Sayer's who wished to retire from this office. Members of the committee elected were Mary Abbott, Marion Banks-Nash, Kenneth Hammond, Shelley Jackson, Bill Rolfe, Christopher Tapsell and Pamela Sayers. The Chairman thanked the officers and committee for their work during the year which had been very useful and constructive, and he was sincerely thanked for the time he had given the Society during his term of office. The Treasurer's Report revealed the Society's assets were up to approximately £2,060. The good work John Garlinge and his assistants were doing laying the hedge on By-way No. 25 (Pimlico) was particularly mentioned. The sides of the hedge had been cut by contractors this year but the top left in order that John could continue his work. Several local matters were mentioned. Patsy Sayers asked if the Society could possibly help with the cost of hiring contractors to mow the Churchyard, which this year had been nobly tackled by Ken Hammond and Brian Wimsett. This will need to be discussed by the committee as the cost would be approximately £1,000. The cost of hiring a coach for the annual

outing was mentioned as this was prohibitive making the cost per person expensive. Norman Knowles said it was important to have an annual outing so that members could meet, and suggested that a block booking could be made on one of the many coach trips operating locally. The meeting finished with an interesting talk given by Martin Newcombe, accompanied by slides, on the Natural History of Kent, and coffee was then served. My very best wishes to you for Christmas and the New Year. (Pamela Sayers)

See local photos on
the Alkham Web site
alkham.info

REPLACEMENT SEATS

Bob Palmer said that it was not possible to restore the second vandalised seat, which had been outside the cricket pavilion. It was therefore decided to put one of the new replacement seats in its place. The other seat will be put under the tree by the swings. Clive Hyland and his sons have kindly offered to install them.



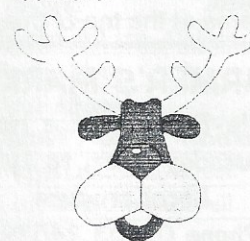
GARDENTALK Our last meeting was an enjoyable evening spent at "The Willows" thanks to Helen's hospitality and one of Devina's mind stretchers. Our Christmas party will be on Friday 19th December 7.30pm at 'The Vicarage'. Please remember to bring along your goodies for the spread and your contribution to the entertainment. (Susannah Tapsell)

SHORT LANE - with regard to the sad loss of Vince Holness, Paul Tapsell has volunteered to continue the monitoring of traffic in Short Lane in the hope of having traffic calming at some point in the future.

CHAT ROOM - There was quite a good response to the questionnaire regarding a meeting place for teenagers in the village. Vince Holness had proposed the project and a minutes silence was held in his memory at the Parish Council meeting. Some of the people who filled in the form were against the project and felt the money should be spent on something else. However, there is no pot of money and grants will be have to be obtained for such a specific project. The Parish Council, as a whole, is going to look into the feasibility of the proposal.

CHALKSOLE GREEN

has recently had the undergrowth removed so that it is again possible to walk the dog through it. Chalksole Green is about an acre in size and is at the top of the hill leading off Slip Lane by Malmains Manor. It was awarded to Alkham church wardens and overseers of the poor before it was eventually taken over by the Parish Council. There were two ponds and the 1846 Commissioner declared that the ponds 'shall be for ever hereafter left open with free access thereto for the purpose of watering cattle of such persons as have hereto been accustomed to use the same...'. In 1972 when the main drainage was laid, a lot of spoil was unfortunately dumped on Chalksole Green virtually filling one of the ponds. The last time it was used by the Parish was in 1977 when a walk, organised for the Queen's Silver Jubilee, ended at the green where a grand bonfire was lit and refreshments dispensed to all comers.



1034-0-0-501

CHITTENDEN'S FUNERAL SERVICES

FOLKESTONE

1 Ingoldsby Road
(01303) 851456

Manager

Mr. Chris Daughters

HYTHE

Windmill Street
(01303) 262762

Manager

Mr. Mike Hands

Personal Service Always

Private Chapels of Rest

Memorial Masonry

FUNERAL PRE-PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE
UNDER THE PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF

FREDERIC HALL

Solicitors

York House, Folkestone

01303 851185

& Clyde House, Dover 202411

Bradford & Bingley

Geering & Colyer

KEARSNEY (01304) 823714 DOVER (01304)207099

YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENT
offering DOUBLE EXPOSURE

For your property

From our offices at both

12 KEARSNEY AVENUE, RIVER, DOVER
AND 5 KING STREET, DOVER

Discover for yourselves why Geering and Colyer
deserve their reputation for customer care

SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

W.I.

The annual general meeting was held on Tuesday 11th November. The committee was voted back on with Iris leaving and Grace and Susannah coming on. Rosemary Crothall was voted President again; she makes such a good job we would not let her go! Secretary is Betty Neely and Treasurer Christine Tapsell who are also excellent. The two vice presidents are Susan Lees and Susannah Tapsell. As it was the A.G.M., we did not have a speaker but some members brought some antiques and spoke about them. There will not be a meeting in December at the hall as we are having our Christmas dinner and combined 75th birthday at the Lighthouse Inn at Capel. The Carols at the village hall with Helen's Donkey is Saturday 20th December at 10am. Teas coffees and mince pies will be available, also stalls. Everyone welcome. Our next outing is to Brugge Christmas Market on Saturday 6th December. The coach will pick us up in Alkham for a ferry crossing, we pray for a calm day! (Cherry)

OZ on CONKERS

– Two popular outdoor activities for British fathers and children are kicking footballs and, in autumn, lobbing missiles into horse chestnut trees to release conkers. We all do so and, equally inevitably, complain of mindless vandalism when succeeding generations follow suit. This year in Kearsney Abbey, Bushey Ruff and elsewhere, the kicking season was extended by the long hot summer but conkers have been disappointing; soft due to lack of early summer water, and small because of being premature September windfalls. Before the introduction to England of the horse chestnut from Eastern Europe in the 16th century, the game of conkers was played with snail-shells, sometimes "not tenantless", as ominously recorded by Edward Dowden. The game was itself an earlier import from France, hence the French dialect word 'conker' from 'conche' for 'shell'. The word 'conkers' for the English game was especially attractive because of its similarity to both 'conquers' and 'conk' (to hit on the head). Eventually 'conkers' came to mean the fruit of the horse chestnut, as when John Clare wrote "An' near blue sloos an' conkers red" in his Victorian dialect poem *Meaple Leaves be Yellow*. The Australian game "bullies" is played with the stones of 'bullies', the bright red fruit of the quandong tree. The bully stone is round and dimpled like a golf ball, about 20 millimetres in diameter and as hard as iron. Many generations of British players have tried making their conkers this hard by baking, pickling, storing, varnishing or, as reported recently, vacuum impregnating with epoxy resin. The organisers of the World Conkers Championships at Ashton, Northamptonshire, tolerate none of it. At this year's championships, held on the village green on October 12th, they handed out over 1,500 perfect conkers as usual, collected in spite of the season's problems, so as to ensure fair play. (Steve Osborn)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will lead the singing in 'Come Carolling', the Christians Together in Dover carol concert, in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 15th December. Accompaniment will be provided by the St Edmund's School Wind Band, and the concert will also feature a production by the children of Shatterlocks Infants School. This year's appeal will be on behalf of Pallisa Children's Concern Project, a charity that helps children, orphaned for various reasons, in Uganda. Tickets at £1 are available from local churches and the Town Hall. (Steve Osborn)

News from

St. Anthony's

A Baptism and Confirmation



service was held in the Cathedral in November when two of our congregation, together with around 50 other candidates from the Diocese, were confirmed by the Bishop of Dover. They will be receiving communion in St. Anthony's on 30th Nov. 9.30am and as this is a special occasion, we do hope you will be able to come and share it with us. The Christmas Carol service on 21st. Dec. at 6.30pm is always a joyful and happy way to start the week and the Blessing of the Crib at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve, a wonderful way to let the children share in the Christmas story. Christmas Day Communion will be at 11am. Do come and join in the Christmas celebrations. (Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond, Church Wardens)

FOUND IN SLIP LANE

a walking stick. It is of the usual kind and if you'd like to claim it please phone Devina on 827548.

TABLE FAIR – On Saturday the 13th of December between 2.00pm and 6.00pm there will be a table fair in the Village Hall with all profits going to Cancer Research. All tables are sold and there will a variety of items for sale, such as crafts, cakes and board games. There will also be a raffle.

THE W.I.

is holding their annual carols and coffee morning in the Village



Hall on Saturday the 20th of December starting at 10.00am. Oliver the Donkey will be there to give rides to children who come along and all profits will be going to Cancer Research.

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am 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 and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Monday	1	W.I. Carol Service in St. Anthony's 10.00am and then mince pies in the hall
Saturday	6	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Tuesday	9	W.I. out to dinner
Saturday	13	Christmas Fair in Village Hall from 2 to 6pm – see page 3
Monday	15	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Friday	19	Garden Talk at The Old Vicarage 7.30pm
Saturday	20	W.I. Coffee Morning in the Village Hall – see page 3

CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Evensong 4.00pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping Together 11.00am
Sunday 14th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Family Carol Service 11.00 a.m.	West Hougham V.H. carols 4.00pm
Sunday 21st	Carol Service 6.30 p.m.	Carol Service in Capel Village Hall 3.00pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Wednesday 24th	Crib Service 4.30 p.m.	Midnight Mass 11.30 p.m.	NO SERVICE
Thursday 25th	Sung Eucharist 11.00 a.m.	NO SERVICE	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 28th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Laurence, Hougham 10.00 a.m.		

If you or anyone you know in the village would like to make contact with someone in the church please telephone the Vicar, the Revd Kevin Mepham on 01303 244119.
Weekday Services: Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays); Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday at 5 pm Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am Benefice Prayer Group – Saturday 9.00 am – Capel

WORLD CUP FEVER HITS ALKHAM – I don't think she was sitting with Union Jack wrapped round her and drinking pints of lager but evidently Olive Harvey was jumping up and down in her wheel chair when England won the Rugby World Cup. Beattie Jeapes goes round to see Olive, who is in her 80's, on Saturdays and she suggested that they watch the rugby and they saw the whole game and the triumphant finish.

SUNNY the Golden Retriever, whose owners tragically died recently, has settled down very well at his new home in Canterbury. There have been frequent e-mails to Helen Scopes, who was instrumental in getting Sunny re-homed, about what a character the dog is. When he was with Beattie Jeapes, he'd walk in with his food bowl or slippers in his mouth.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704

County Councillor, Bryan Cope
207976, work number 01795532547

District Councillors Sue Nicholas
823956 Andrew Richardson 211835

Alkham Valley Society secretary

Pamela Sayers 822397

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661
susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk

Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055

Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130

Vicar Kevin Mepham 01303 244119

Church Wardens Richard Tapsell
822295 and Ken Hammond 823720

Village Hall booking
Rosemary Polden 824876

W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475

Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyns Meadow	824201
ALKHAM MEADOWS	Touring Caravan Park – Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road	206344
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
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley	01303 891806
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 horse supplies	South Alkham	01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton	822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham	01303 892056
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