

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 125 January 2004

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**ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD** – After yet another car overturning on the Valley Road and the report in the last month's Newsletter that repairs to the road were not top priority, the family and relatives of Victoria Smith, who was tragically killed in an accident in August, have spearheaded a campaign for immediate improvements to the road. The Dover Mercury carried a front page story about Victoria and the state of the road and concluded with the comment from DDC saying that there was no order of priority as far as the council was concerned and it was now a matter for KCC. Alkham Parish Council is co-ordinating the campaign for action, assisted by the Mercury, and supported by local people. If you know of any accidents on the Valley Road (non-injury are not recorded), please contact the Parish Clerk, Susan Lees, on 822661.

### THE ANNUAL QUIZ

Several tables have been booked for the quiz in the village hall on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January and if you'd like to take part please phone either Sue on 822661 or Brian on 824969. Food will be served in the interval but you should bring your own drinks.

**PARISH COUNCIL** – As there are now two places to be filled on the Parish Council, the period inviting residents to put their names forward to fill these posts has been extended to 12th January 2004. Anyone wishing to apply should do so in writing to the clerk - Mrs. S. Lees. Forstal Cottage, Alkham Valley Road, Alkham.

Happy New Year

**FOLKESTONE & District Water Company** - The Water Company expects by March 2004 to start work laying two water pipes from Bushey Ruff, where

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water will be extracted from a bore-hole, in order to pump water up the valley to their pumping station at Drellingore. The exact route has yet to be determined, but is expected to go through agricultural and equestrian land. This will be a huge project but is necessary to overcome drought conditions and modern demands for water. (Parish Clerk)

**LOST** – A gold chain necklace with a cross attached was lost in the village recently. It is of great sentimental value and if you happen to find one please ring me on 824969. (editor)

**HOLLY** - Sad to report the holly trees and bushes in the churchyard, particularly glorious this year with an abundance of berries, have been stripped by persons unknown.

## MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Wednesday

MOULES NIGHT £7.95

Thursday

STEAK NIGHT £7.95

(16oz rib-eye)

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Church bazaar in the village hall on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November was a great success and made a profit of £326. Thanks must go to all those involved particularly the people who made the jams, preserves, puddings, cakes and decorations.

**PLASTIC BOTTLES** - The Kent Recycling Project is a charity based just beside the Battle of Britain Museum at Hawkinge and they are the only locally known organisation who recycles plastic drinks bottles, including milk containers. They will also take any paper, tins and cardboard for which they will pay and an account can be set up which will be credited each time items are brought in for recycling, with payment as either cash or a tree. It would be great if a scheme could be set up for Alkham, so if there is anybody in the Parish who would like to help please give me a ring on 824969. (editor – many thanks to Mark Robson for the information)

**PETER CHAMBERS** - I'm pleased to report that Peter is now at home and receiving physiotherapy following his recent heart problems.

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## Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park  
Alkham Village  
Telephone  
01304 206344



### ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Recently a couple of lads in the village have been causing a nuisance, mainly by harassing a family in the village and carrying out some acts of mindless vandalism. I would like to print their names to shame them into stopping but for legal reasons I can't; however the Police have been informed and are looking into the matter with the possibility of prosecution. If the boys are prosecuted and found guilty, I will be able to print their names but I'm hoping that before this they will have seen how upsetting and stupid their recent actions have been such that it will not come to this. (editor)

**KARATE LESSONS** - Trading Standards have been made aware of a male cold calling consumers selling a course of Karate lessons for a special price of £22 rather than the usual price of £80. The so called company offering this goes by the name of GKR Karate and they say they are based in Sale, Manchester. These lessons do not actually take place and the venues where the lessons are so called booked have never heard about the company nor has the venue been booked for any lessons. Trading standards are advising consumers to be wary if they hear from GKR Karate and to double check the venue before handing over any monies in respect of payment. If anyone has any information regarding this matter Trading Standards would be pleased to hear from them on 08457 585497. (via Neighbourhood Watch)

### TOO MUCH TRAFFIC

In the 1920's, a Ministry of Transport Inquiry was set up as a result of KCC's request to restrict or prohibit the use of certain roads by heavy vehicular traffic, and there was spirited opposition to the closing of the Alkham Valley Road. The Surveyor for the Dover part of the road said that there was considerable traffic on the road, and a census showed that 30 vehicles an hour passed along it. The road was of no importance for through traffic and in the opinion of his Council was wholly unsuitable for heavy traffic. On cross examination the Surveyor said the road served no useful purpose but conceded that because of the large volume of traffic they had asked the Ministry to classify it as a 'B' road so as to get a contribution towards its upkeep. A Mr May of Mongeham said he had known the road for forty years and it was unsuitable and dangerous and its use by heavy traffic was detrimental to legitimate traffic (laughter). He admitted however, to his sorrow, that he did use the road with his trotting pony. The East Kent Road Car Company said that they used the road to avoid serious congestion in Dover and this with other contributions concluded the evidence. *Seventy five years later, we have about 5600 vehicles per day going through the village of which about 90% is through traffic. (thanks go to Sue Lees for finding this story in The Dover and East Kent News circa 1920's).*

**BURGLARY** - Forced entry was made to a property in the village recently and items of some value were stolen. The police were called after the alarm sounded but the burglars had fled before they arrived.

**THE W.I. CAROL** and coffee morning in the village hall on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December was a great success despite the appalling weather.

**RAY ASHMAN** who lives in Green Lane, Ewell Minnis, celebrated his birthday on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December and this marks fifty years of being connected with the teaching and practice of first aid, mostly associated with the St. John's Ambulance Service. His wife would like to congratulate him on this achievement as I'm sure others will too.

**POPPY APPEAL** - I am pleased to tell you that the Alkham Poppy Appeal collection made a total of £227.30 and particular thanks go to Tricia Wright, Shirley Tapsell, Val Banks and Sue Lees who helped with the collections and also the Marquis and the Farm Shop for displaying collection boxes. Many thanks to the people of Alkham who once again, have been so generous with their donations. (Rachel Fountain)

**GARDENTALK** - Our Christmas party, held on 19<sup>th</sup> December was a really traditional affair, from the feast and mulled wine to the party games, charades and the singing of solos and rounds. All this held in the lovely rooms at "The Vicarage" which have such ambience and nostalgia for many of us. Thank you to Ian and Lucy and also to those whose entertaining ideas made the party - such a success.

(Susannah Tapsell)

**FONT** - Many thanks to the two people who commented on the change of font in last month's Newsletter. One thought it a great improvement and the other the opposite. Having looked on the web, the recommendation is to type in Times New Roman, CG Times or Arial. The font CG Times appears to be installed on HP printers and there are no free downloads so I've reverted to Times New Roman but increased the line spacing from 12 to 13 points which takes up the same space as Arial. Further comments appreciated.



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**OZ on LAPWINGS** – One bleak afternoon, after a bruising Christmas shopping expedition in Canterbury, we came home via the nature reserve opposite Richborough power station for some tranquillity and exercise. Wheeling high over the mudflats was an enormous cloud of several thousand lapwings, dipping and rolling in the distinctive flight that names them, from the Anglo-Saxon *hleapewince* meaning 'run and wink'. It was a gratifying sight as wildlife authorities have been concerned for many years now over the decline in lapwing numbers due to farming pressures. The lapwings belong to the plover family and comprise at least 24 species of which ours is the Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), also known as 'peewit' from its cry and 'green plover' from its iridescent back feathers. Lapwings, in fact, provided the "plovers' eggs" of London street markets. As a child I thought that lapwings and peewits were separate species, and my mother-in-law held this view to the end of her life. It's an understandable mistake due in part to the varied images that the bird presents. The haughty crest doesn't chime with the tumbling flight or the querulous 'pee-wit' song. These traits, combined with the lapwing's skill at diverting intruders from the nest, give the impression of deceit. John Gower, in 1390, wrote "A lappewinke has lost his faith / And is the bird falsest of all." Another mediaeval notion was that the newly hatched lapwing ran about with its head in the shell, so that Shakespeare's *Hamlet* has Horatio saying "This lapwing runs away with the shell on his head." On returning home I felt the need to check our estimate of the numbers of lapwings at Pegwell Bay, and logged on to local birding web-sites that confirmed flocks of more than 8,000 lapwings over the estuary in December. (Steve Osborn)

**WINDOW** glass was made by attaching a piece of molten glass to a pipe and blowing through the pipe to form a bubble. The bottom of the bubble was pierced and then swiftly rotated to form a circle of glass, which when cool was cut into small pieces and joined together by lead to form windows for rich people's houses. Where the glass was knocked off the blowpipe a bull's eye was formed and this was used by poor people. Through rolling and other methods, glass gradually became bigger and Georgian and sash windows arrived. Today it is possible to get enormous pieces of glass but double glaziers prefer to stick lead on, or pieces of plastic between the two sheets of glass, to try and give the appearance of yesteryear. That's progress for you. (editor)

# W.I.

On Tuesday 9th December, the W.I abandoned the village hall for the Lighthouse in Capel. It was our Christmas meal combined with Alkham W.I.'s 75th birthday. There were 30 members plus our invited guest Kevin Mephram our vicar, I must add the only man with 30 women, but he coped very well and thoroughly enjoyed it! We had a very nice meal, Kevin said a few words and proposed a toast and Doreen Lott cut the beautiful cake that she had made for us. It was a pleasant evening with friends, plenty of chat and laughter. Our next meeting is Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup> in the village hall when the speaker's subject is "Around the World in 50 Days". (Cherry Leppard)



## CAROL SERVICE

The nine carols and lessons service, which was held in St. Anthony's on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, was a great success. The church was decked with candles all round the pillars, walls and altar. Two peals of bells were rung to welcome the Christmas congregation with the choir then progressing from the vestry in full voice to start the service. There were about 100 people in the congregation and all the favourite carols were sung. Wine and mince pies were then served to complete the Christmas feeling.

## SARAH ROBERTS

The funeral of Sarah Roberts from Ewell Minnis took place at St. Anthony's on 8<sup>th</sup> December and was attended by many family and friends. Sarah and Bill met in the hop fields and were married 49 years ago at Goudhurst. They moved to "Hillcrest" 21 years ago. They had three sons, Jimmy, Bill and Henry, who married Pat, Julie and Tina, and six grandchildren. Known for her dry sense of humour, straight way of talking and independent spirit, as well as her pastry, she was always known as Aunt Sarah and a friend to all.



## WHAT'S ON

### Regular events

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

### Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Wednesday	7	Keep fit resumes at 9.30am
Saturday	10	SEKAS in the village hall in the afternoon
Monday	12	Parish Council meeting in the village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in the VH at 7.30pm
Thursday	22	Keep fit party in VH 7.30pm
Monday	26	Village Hall committee meeting 8.00pm
Saturday	31	Beekeepers in village hall from 2.00 to 5.00 pm
Saturday	31	Annual Quiz – see page 1

## CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9.15 a.m.		
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of Praise 4.00 p.m.
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Sung Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony, Alkham 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

**IF SANTA** has left presents with packaging that describes exactly what you have received please do not leave it out for the rubbish collection with the photographs displayed on the outside of the packaging as criminals may spot it. Also, remember that if you keep the presents under the tree don't advertise the fact by keeping your curtains open with the lights on. (**NW ringmaster**)  
**THE TABLE FAIR** held in the village hall on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December made a profit of £240, which has gone to Cancer Research. Jane, who organised the fair, would like to thank all those who supported the event.

## 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](http://alkham.info)

## LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

<b>ACCOUNTANCY</b>	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyns Meadow	824201
<b>ALKHAM MEADOWS</b>	Touring Caravan Park – Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road	206344
<b>ARBORICULTURE</b>	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton	824853 & 07973 501390
<b>BED &amp; BREAKFAST</b>	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road	826375
<b>BUILDING WORK</b>	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton	824991
<b>CAT &amp; DOG GROOMING</b>	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis	822902
<b>CLEANING SERVICES</b>	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis	828007 & 07889310479
<b>CURTAINS &amp; BLINDS</b>	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley	01303 891806
<b>ELECTRICAL</b>	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham	01303 252764
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham	202004 or 822888
<b>EQUESTRIAN</b>	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham	827644
<b>EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES</b>	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham	01303 891996
<b>GARDEN CENTRE</b>	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and horse supplies	South Alkham	01303 893351
<b>KENNELS</b>	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton	822420
<b>LIVERY</b>	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham	01303 892056
<b>POST OFFICE</b>	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell	827100
<b>SCHOOL</b>	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne	01303 251353



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## ALKHAM VALLEY

**ROAD** – Various groups involved in trying to get improvements to the Valley Road were at the Parish Council meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January. A spirited speech was made by one member pointing out the deficiencies of the road surface and alignment, the need for speed cameras, chevrons on some bends and the motorbike problem. A lady from Bushey Ruff cottages said about the high speeds past her house and another lady from Wolverton said that she had to leave home early as it was almost impossible to get out of her drive at peak hours. She also commented on the water which was thrown up onto her windows and the danger of entering and exiting her property. The various parties wanted to form an action group such that they all spoke with one voice and that was the reason they had come to Alkham to ask the Parish Council if they would join them. The Council chairman said they would discuss the proposal in depth and let them know their decision. It was reported that last year there were 20 accidents on the Valley Road, 13 with minor injuries, 5 with major injuries and 2 deaths. It was accepted that a lot of accidents, such as shunts are not recorded so the latter do not give a true picture. Please let the Parish Clerk on 822661 know about any accidents, which you see on the Valley Road. (editor)

**SPEED WATCH** – Following complaints from a number of Parish Councils with regard to excessive speed through their villages, the police have set up Speed Watch. For the scheme to go ahead funds have to be available and it is has to be shown that there is a problem in the Parish. Six people are required to volunteer, each providing their own yellow jacket and then training will be given in the use of GATSO Speed Equipment, which will be used to monitor vehicle speeds. Persistent offenders will be written to by the police. Some people have already expressed an interest and if you'd like to volunteer please contact the Parish Clerk on 822661. (editor)



**CHAT ROOM** – This was a project which was put forward by the late Vince Holness for the youngsters in the village. I'm pleased to report that the Parish Council has located an old aluminium bus shelter at Temple Ewell (see picture above), which the owners are willing to re-erect on site with appropriate footings. The Parish Council are going to hold a site meeting to discuss where to put the shelter and then contact the planning authority to see if permission is required. The shelter will be removed from Temple Ewell in February.

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**A FEMALE** was going round the village at the beginning of January knocking on people's doors and asking to use the phone, borrow a cigarette etc. This did cause concern to a number of people and the police were contacted but because she wasn't causing a threat, no action was taken. In a number of Neighbourhood Watch areas, an A6 flyer was put through people's letterbox warning them of this nuisance. It was also posted on the Alkham web site ([alkham.info](http://alkham.info)), which I will try and keep updated with the latest information. (editor)

...with regard to the above  
the **Rural Community  
Warden** for Capel, Paul James, said that he would be quite willing to come and help deal with such problems if you ring him on his mobile number 07977 981994.

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(16oz rib-eye)



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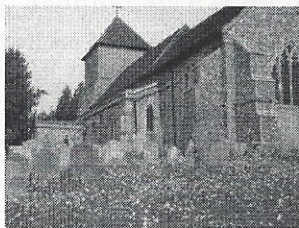
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### NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S



I was recently asked how I could find a way of speaking to a relative who appears to have let things

go. Like myself, he lives alone and has not developed a passion for housework; he has always managed to keep the place tidy and clean. He has cooked for himself too, and appeared to be happy and content with life. However, it has been noticed that when passing in the street, you can see that the curtains are hanging down, obviously needing some sort of maintenance. A friend, who has been in the house, says it is no longer spick and span, but there is dust everywhere, and the place is being filled with things that he has simply put down and not moved. Is this just a symptom of 'winter blues' where we cannot be bothered too much, apart from keeping ourselves warm and cosy? Or is it a sign that something is very much wrong, and needs attention? If you think about it, we can all let our standards slip a little, but people begin to notice, and can we say we have friends or family who care enough to tell us so? Do we take the time to even think how others see us? Lent is a time in the Church's year for reflection, but many find they are too busy, or disinterested, or feel too old, or too young, or too fat, or too

**OZ on COMMAS** – This Christmas's most successful literary stocking-filler was, surprisingly, a book on punctuation. I devoured *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*, by Lynne Truss, in one blissful sitting between Boxing Day dinner and tea, having been captivated by the dedication to "the memory of the Bolshevik printers of St Petersburg who, in 1905, demanded to be paid the same rate for punctuation marks as for letters, and thereby precipitated the Russian Revolution." The book is a hilarious onslaught on sloppy punctuation, a habit aggravated, in Truss's view, by the rise of the Internet and text-messaging. The commonest and most treacherous error is misplacing the comma, an example being the first part of the book's title, which explains the behaviour of a panda that read a badly punctuated definition of 'panda' and then went to the pub. Truss continues with accounts of the Jameson Raid, Sir Roger Casement's execution and Graham Greene's will as illustrations of how misplaced commas can change the course of history. It reminded me of the story that the great civil engineering arbitrator, Max Abrahamson, told of the parliamentary draftsman who reported "I inserted a comma before a particular word this morning, I took it off in the afternoon and, just as you were entering my room, I was thinking of putting it back." Closely related to the comma are the colon (:) and semicolon (;) and again Truss has many tales, more to do with style this time than misuse, my favourite being James Agate's "fastidious journalist" who "once telephoned a semicolon from Moscow." These last two marks have been given new leases of life in forming 'emoticons' at the end of text-messages, as in :-)) and the winking ;-). And apostrophes? I'll deal with them another day. (Steve Osborn)

thin (any excuse will do!). This Lent we will be looking at some of the 'hard' sayings of Jesus and trying to understand them more. It would be good to be well represented from Alkham. It is intended to meet on Monday evenings at 7.30, and the venue will really depend on who is interested in attending. So have you begun the slippery slope and let things go in your life? If so, determine to do something now, before too many people notice.

(Kevin Mepham)

**W.I.**

The first meeting of the year went well and everyone was pleased to meet up after Christmas and get back to normal! The ladies of Alkham raised £300 for Cancer Research with some going out in the village to sing, the coffee morning in the village hall and carol singing at the Garden Centre, one evening. The coffee and carol morning was very well attended and a nice sum raised. The only downside was the weather, heavy rain, poor Helen and Oliver, the donkey, got so wet they had to retire early. A one day school in April was

arranged on a Saturday. Miss Yeo will give talks and valuations on Antiques and Collectables, it is hoped to open this to the village; more details later. The next group meeting is 21<sup>st</sup> April at Whitfield village hall. Names to be taken next month. An outing to see "Oklahoma" at the Marlowe was decided upon on Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup>. We had an excellent speaker for our meeting, she entitled it "Around the World in Fifty Minutes" and it was just that, taking us all over with some spectacular slides of many countries. She was thanked by Susannah. (Cherry Leppard)

### TOMMY COOPER JOKE

Our ice cream man was found lying on the floor of his van covered with hundreds and thousands. Police say that he topped himself.

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## Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park  
Alkham Village  
Telephone  
01304 206344



**ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** – DDC are proposing to set up an Anti-social Behaviour Unit to help deal with such actions from children and adults alike and this proposal will be discussed by the full cabinet before inclusion in next (financial) year's budget. DDC stress that they hope to provide more things for children to do to stop idle hands making mischief.

**MOTORBIKES** – At the Parish Council meeting, it was reported that some motorcyclists allegedly congregate at Mac's Café by the A2 at Barham and then race to see who can do the fastest circuit using the A2, Alkham Valley Road, A260 through Hawkinge and A2 back to the cafe. This evidently happens on Wednesday nights and Sundays and if you become aware of it happening and wish to complain you should ring the police on 01622 690690.

**VICTIM SUPPORT** and the Witness Service are looking for volunteers to provide emotional and practical support to people in the local community either by visiting them at home following a crime or by supporting witnesses attending a local court. Volunteer office support and fundraisers also welcome. Full training given and expenses paid. For more details on this rewarding work please telephone 01233 647253.

## FARMER'S MARKET

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

**RECYCLING** – Further to the article in last month's Newsletter, Mark Robson has set up an account for Alkham with the Kent Recycling Project, which is by the Battle of Britain Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hawkinge. Any items recycled, especially plastic bottles, will have a monetary amount added to the Alkham account. Plans are underway to set up a scheme where recyclable items are picked up once a month around the village to take to Hawkinge. DDC have included an item in next year's budget for a collection scheme but this is subject to Cabinet approval.

## ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD

– A letter has been received from KCC with regard to possible improvements to the Valley Road should bids be successful. These include centre islands outside Bushey Ruff and a footpath on the north side, short sections of footway at the bottom of Wolverton Hill to make it safer for people waiting for buses and anti-skid surfacing in the village from Coachman's Cottage to Hogbrook Lane. It also said that the priority at the junction of the Valley Road with the old A2 at the Dover end may be changed such that the old A2 traffic would have to give way. This was thought not to be a good idea by one councillor as it could encourage more people to use the Valley Road. A routine survey has been carried out regarding the state of the Valley Road and nothing untoward was found. It was thought that the road surface was bad in parts and that in places the bitumen had come to the surface making a possible skid problem in the wet. The Highway Authority will decide in April if a road maintenance and safety package will go ahead. (editor)

**LIGHTING** – A request has been submitted by the Parish Council to DDC for a light on the electricity pole by the football pitch. The decision is awaited.

**THANKS** to Bill and Margaret Rolfe for their kind donation to the Newsletter.

**TREES** – Geoffrey Lymer who lives off Hogbrook Lane and is a new Parish Councillor very kindly planted seven new trees to replace those which had died or been vandalised on Vicarage Meadow. The trees comprise cherry, oak, ash and sycamore and he also did some infill hedge planting adjacent to Hogbrook Lane. He was warmly thanked by the Parish Council for all his efforts, which he carried out on his own initiative.

**30 mph SIGNS** – DDC have said that repeater 30mph signs are not applicable in a lit area. We are aware of this but if the Parish Council pay, see no reason why small signs can't be put up in Slip Lane. DDC are considering the matter again.

## GARDENTALK

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm at "The Vicarage", Mr Keith Turner will be speaking on the preparation of garden produce for showing. So if anyone would like to join us as a one off meeting, in preparation for making the Produce show in July even more impressive, then they are very welcome to do so. (Susannah Tapsell)

**THE NEWSLETTER** this month has been printed using a laser printer which churns out 20 pages per minute, so it is now possible to include photographs. I've reverted to Times New Roman with font size of 10.5. (editor)

**THE RACE CIRCUIT** in a field at Chilton was refused planning permission by DDC on the grounds that it was an incongruous element in the landscape and detrimental to both the countryside and local flora. It was also thought it would attract additional traffic.

**THE ELECTRICITY** supplier for this area have investigated the power cuts experienced by parts of the Parish and have found no underlying problem, the last power cut being caused by a tree falling on overhead lines.



## WHAT'S ON

### Regular events

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

### Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	7	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in the VH at 7.30pm
Monday	16	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	21	Jumble sale in village hall at 11.00 in aid of the PCC
Saturday	28	Beekeepers in village hall from 2.00 to 5.00 pm

**JUMBLE SALE** - A jumble sale in aid of the Alkham PCC is being held in the Village Hall on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February starting at 11.00am.

## CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.
Monday February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist for Candlemas St Mary's church, Capel 7.00 p.m.		
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of Praise 4.00 p.m.
February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Worshipping together 11.00a.m	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund, Capel 10.00 a.m.		
February 25 <sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday	Sung Eucharist and imposition of ashes 7.30 pm		
February 29 <sup>th</sup>	Worshipping together 11.00a.m	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 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

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

## LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

<b>ACCOUNTANCY</b>	<b>John Garlinge</b> Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyns Meadow <b>824201</b>
<b>ALKHAM MEADOWS</b>	<b>Touring Caravan Park</b> – Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road <b>206344</b>
<b>ARBORICULTURE</b>	<b>Alkham Valley Tree Surgery:</b> Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton <b>824853 &amp; 07973 501390</b>
<b>BED &amp; BREAKFAST</b>	<b>Owler Lodge</b> with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road <b>826375</b>
<b>BUILDING WORK</b>	<b>E R Woodruff</b> carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton <b>824991</b>
<b>CAT &amp; DOG GROOMING</b>	<b>Canine beauticians</b> , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis <b>822902</b>
<b>CLEANING SERVICES</b>	<b>John Hoy</b> domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis <b>828007 &amp; 07889310479</b>
<b>CURTAINS &amp; BLINDS</b>	<b>Curtains and blinds</b> made to your specification	Alkham Valley <b>01303 891806</b>
<b>ELECTRICAL</b>	<b>Simon Price</b> electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham <b>01303 252764</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>	<b>J H Ullmann</b> Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham <b>202004 or 822888</b>
<b>EQUESTRIAN</b>	<b>Hogbrook Equestrian Centre</b> Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham <b>827644</b>
<b>EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES</b>	<b>Alkham Valley Garden Centre</b> – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham <b>01303 891996</b>
<b>GARDEN CENTRE</b>	<b>Alkham Valley Garden Centre</b> with gift shop and horse supplies	South Alkham <b>01303 893351</b>
<b>KENNELS</b>	<b>Alkhamhurst Kennels</b> dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton <b>822420</b>
<b>LIVERY</b>	<b>Greenhill livery yard</b> Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham <b>01303 892056</b>
<b>POST OFFICE</b>	<b>Southdown Stores</b> general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell <b>827100</b>
<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>Capel-le-ferne school</b> Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne <b>01303 251353</b>



# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett: The Old Post Office  
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE  
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No. 127 March 2004

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**ANNUAL QUIZ** - There was a pleasant hubbub at the end of the quiz held in the village hall on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January, indicating that most people had a good time. Thirteen tables of up to eight players competed and the winners were Ken Hammond, Billy Hollis and friends, Clive and Margaret Batchelor and Kevin Mepham, the vicar. They were each awarded a small inscribed wooden plaque plus a bar of chocolate. The profit on the evening, which amounted to £285, is being used to set up and run the recycling project in Alkham (see separate article).

### MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Wednesday

MOULES NIGHT £8.95

Thursday

STEAK NIGHT £8.45



**OLIVE HARVEY** - Those of you who knew Olive Harvey will not mourn her loss but applaud her life and especially her contribution to Alkham. Born Olive Twist in 1919 she moved to Alkham when her parents took over the Marquis of Granby in 1931. Apart from going to the Girls' Grammar School and on to Teacher Training College, Olive soon learnt to join in all the village activities especially such local clubs as the Women's Institute and the Tennis Club. She was a keen supporter of the Alkham Cricket Club through which she was to meet 'Son' Harvey her future husband. Olive took up the profession of teaching and had many posts, the most memorable being the last Head teacher at Alkham School. Many of you who read this will have been taught by Olive either at Lydden, Alkham and Capel, or you may have become choristers or bell ringers under her tuition at Alkham Church. You will have read the Alkham news in the Dover Express, you will see her name in many a village societies minute book. In fact, Olive must have been a part of just about everything in the village. In latter years, she was applauded by all for the way she overcame a severe disability and continued to keep her garden, her favourite occupation, in splendid order. Olive will be missed.  
(Susan Lees)

**THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH** is the first collection day for **ALKHAM RECYCLING**. Over sixty households have joined the scheme and they have all been given a couple of sacks for plastics and cans. Please make sure the sacks are outside ready for collection by 9.00am on the day. The sacks will be replaced and the loaded van will go to Kent Community Recycling at Hawkinge where a small amount is paid for the recycled items. It is highly probable that this will not be enough to pay for the van and sacks but the profits from the quiz will start off the Alkham Recycling fund with any excess being used for projects or causes in the parish. (editor)

**GATSO** - Six people have volunteered to operate speed guns in the parish. The Parish Clerk is contacting the police and should funds be available and the police consider there is a problem in Alkham, then the necessary training will be given in the use of the guns. Repetitive offenders will be written to by the police.

**PIPELINE** - In view of the heavy rainfall we have had since November the decision to construct the pipeline between Drellingore Pumping Station and Bushey Ruff has been deferred until spring 2005 by F & D Water Services. A preferred route has been drawn up but will not be decided on until the owners and occupiers on the route have been consulted. The final route will be published next December with both ecologists and archaeologists being consulted.  
(Parish Clerk)

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

## Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park  
Alkham Village  
Telephone  
01304 206344



### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

After further discussion, Mike Chalkley has agreed to continue as co-ordinator for the Alkham Neighbourhood Watch. This does not affect the current arrangement in which people report to the Link Person for their area. At the moment Newlyn Meadow is covered by Larry Lambourne, Alkham Valley Road west of the Marquis to the 30mph limit by Ken Hammond, Slip Lane by Brian Wimsett, Common Hill and properties to the north east by Clive Hyland, Hogbrook Lane and the Forstal by Alison Spicer and part of Ewell Minnis by Edith Neave. Short Lane and Glebelands are not covered as well all the other areas outside the village centre. If you'd like to volunteer, please ring me on 824969. (editor)

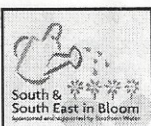
**SALT BINS** - If you have a salt/grit bin near to your property please would you check it regularly and if it is empty contact DDC Highways Department to get them to top it up.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS** in future will be delegated unless more than two letters are received contrary to an officer's recommendation. The Parish Council's observations count as only one letter but you can ask your local councillors to take it to committee. (Sue Nicholas District Councillor.)

**TOMMY COOPER JOKE** - 'Doc I can't stop singing The Green, Green Grass of Home' 'That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome'. Is it common?.....'It's not unusual.'

### FARMER'S MARKET

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



**WOULD** anyone like to enter Alkham in this competition? If you would please contact the Parish Clerk on 822661 immediately as the deadline was the 20<sup>th</sup> February but they may consider a late entry.

**ON THURSDAY** 22nd January, the keep-fit ladies and friends enjoyed a party in the Village Hall. We all arrived in black, - Emma Peel eat your heart out, but I think she kept the peel and we were left with the oranges hidden around our bodies, - and our trainers instead of party shoes. Despite protestations from some of our guests, nearly everyone 'enjoyed' a 20 minute keep fit routine led by Susannah Tapsell. The members then



demonstrated in 15 minutes, their usual hour long routine. Exhausted, we undid all the good work and tucked into a very nice Polden family buffet. This was washed down with copious wine, which enabled us to participate fully in the Barbara Wall line dancing. It was a very enjoyable evening and we keep-fit ladies thank Susannah for all her hard work throughout the year.

(Sue Garlinge)

**THE NEWSLETTER** has been printed in part with a laser printer. Because of the number of words on a page, the toner cartridge lasted about a quarter of what it said in the book. This makes the Newsletter more costly to produce but the finances are now quite healthy so I intend to continue. (editor)

*I am grateful to Alkham Valley Meadows caravan and campsite for their continued support of the Newsletter.*

**LOCAL LION CUB** - It is a well known fact that lions don't like water so imagine my reaction to the prospect of getting into a pool with one! It all started with a phone call from Port Lympne Wild Animal Park. Could I provide hydrotherapy for an injured lion cub? AquaSplash at Alkhamhurst Kennels opened its doors for hydrotherapy for dogs some 18 months ago. In that time I have done hydrotherapy for elderly, arthritic dogs, post-operative dogs, dogs who were over weight, and dogs who had been injured, but a lion cub was something else! Samira had been injured at four days of age by her mother, who trying to pick her up at the scruff of the neck, accidentally grabbed her shoulder instead. Her resulting inability to use her leg made it impossible for her to develop normal muscles and tendons and left her with a leg that appeared shorter than the other. She was unable to bear any weight on it so it knuckled under her when she stood or tried to walk. It was feared the leg would have to be amputated. Keeper Pete Thompson took Samira in to be hand reared and did some physio with her and she started to respond. To accelerate her rehabilitation hydrotherapy was suggested. She began her sessions with us at AquaSplash in December and after nearly 20 sessions, she is now able to bear some weight, her leg has started to build muscle, it is extending more and is more upright. Her hind quarters, which she was using to over compensate for her lameness in her foreleg, are now starting to be used correctly. As Samira is one of only 70 Barbary lions left in the world, all in captivity, it is vitally important for her to make the best recovery possible so she can become a mother herself and her descendants may one day be introduced back into the wild. She still doesn't like the water, but it is doing her a world of good. (Alkhamhurst Kennels) Many thanks for the story and the donation to the Newsletter (editor)



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### NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

Many of you were there for the funeral of Olive Harvey. The Church was packed, and Desmond Sampson gave the address and spoke of Olive's life and achievements. I think everyone there had their own memories of Olive and especially her friend from teacher training college all those years ago. What was very clear from Olive's life was that people were always important to her. She was blessed with a marvellous memory, and so many of her former pupils could be recalled with ease. It is amazing to think how much she gave to others too, firstly by her teaching profession which set many a young person on the path to knowledge. We are not grateful at the time we spend at school, but the fruits of a teacher's labour are shown in the life that child goes on to live, and the person they become. It must have been a source of pride for Olive when some of the 'little dears' proved her efforts were not in vain. Apart from her teaching, Olive's long association with Alkham meant that the village and its people were very much in her heart, as indeed Olive was also held in the hearts of those who knew her well. Her passing, though sad, was very much a time of thanksgiving for all she has achieved, and for the special person she was. It is not enough to simply say we are sorry for her passing. If we really feel a loss, then we should be thinking of how we can follow her example. Can we try to give more to the

**OZ on RUGGER** – As I write, England, the new World Rugby Champions, meet Italy in their first Six Nations Cup 2004 game; as you read, the series is half over. Games involving ball handling and possession by opposing mobs were first recorded in ancient China and Japan. The Greeks played a game called 'harpastum', later adopted by the Romans whose soldiers stationed in Britain taught it to locals under the name of the Romano-British word for 'football'. The game mentioned in Fitzstephen's *History of London* (1175) was typically between two villages, with up to 2,000 people, of any age and either sex participating, the aim being to manhandle the ball back to one's own village. There were no rules and so players were often injured or killed. Soon, 'foote balle' became a national obsession, with such disastrous effects on public order and the economy that it was banned, unsuccessfully, 31 times in 300 years by seven monarchs. The problem was eventually resolved by the Industrial Revolution. Urbanisation transformed 'football' into a 'catch-and-carry' street game which faded under the pressure of factory working hours. The game continued in three public schools as a deliberate attempt to channel male adolescent aggression, and an interesting division occurred. Charterhouse and Westminster had hard playgrounds, and so the game was confined to kicking, leading eventually to 'association football' or 'soccer'. At Rugby, with its spacious green fields, players were allowed to tackle and catch, but not run with, the ball. In 1823, during a match at Rugby, William Webb Ellis picked up the ball and ran, creating the game now known as 'rugby' or 'ruggie'. The words 'soccer' and 'ruggie' derive from 1880's Oxbridge student slang, which added '-er' to abbreviated words, as in 'brekkers' for breakfast, 'ruggie' for 'rugby rules' and 'soccer' for 'association rules'. (Steve Osborn)

local community through voluntary service, or support to local initiatives? Can we determine to care more for our neighbour, whoever that may be? Olive's life has a lot to teach us, if we are willing to learn. But will our end of life report say simply, Could do Better! (Kevin Mepham)

W.I.

At the W.I meeting members stood for a minutes silence in remembrance of Olive Harvey who died recently. Olive had been a member of the Alkham W.I for many, many years. Kath Goldfinch gave a little talk about her life, she will be sorely missed from the village. At the committee meeting it was decided to appoint a new members

hostess, so if anyone came on their own it would not be too daunting, Sue Lees volunteered for this. The one day school on Saturday April 24th was discussed, it will be open to anyone from the village. Cost is 3.50 for the day, bring a packed lunch but tea and coffee will be in the cost. There will be two sessions one morning and afternoon. The topics will

probably be antiques and collectables. An outing to Chartham Church will take place on Friday 14th May where a super lunch is served and after, a visit to a garden centre. The outing in July could be The Hop Farm at Paddock Wood or Groombridge Place. The speaker was Angela Twydale on Indian Head Massage, she explained this helps migraine and stress. She then demonstrated on our model Devina, I swear she dozed off!! We then paired up and practised on each other, swapping over. It really does make you feel good. The recent jumble sale profited by £70. Next meeting is March 9th and the speaker is Mrs C. Bosworth "My life of hats" Starts at 7.30. (Cherry Leppard)

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## WHAT'S ON

### Regular events

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

### Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Monday	1	Parish Council meeting in VH at 7.30pm all welcome
Saturday	6	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting in the VH at 7.30pm
Saturday	13	Coffee morning in VH in aid of village hall funds 11.00am
Monday	15	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Sunday	21	Mothering Sunday tea 3.00pm
Saturday	27	Beekeepers in village hall from 2.00 to 5.00 pm

**QUIZ** – On Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April there will be quiz in the village hall. For further details please ring Doreen Lott on 824876.

## CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of Praise 4.00 p.m.
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Mothering Sunday 3.00pm then tea in the village hall	Mothering Sunday Family Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	No Service
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, 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 Mephram 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

**ANTIQUES** - Many of you are intrigued by the popular antique show programmes on TV; well, your chance has arrived to learn more first hand. Miss Yeo is to enlighten us even more on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April in Alkham Village Hall. This will not be a valuation day but there will be two learning sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon. The topics, maybe on ceramics, metalwork, jewellery or whatever; the subjects have yet to be determined. Look for more details in next month's newsletter. The total cost will be £3.50. (Sue Lees)

**OLIVE HARVEY** - John Norris, his family and all of her relatives, would like to thank all of her neighbours and friends in the village who have helped in any way to help and care for her over the last few difficult years of her life. It has been much appreciated, especially by Olive herself.

## 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](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661  
[susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk)

Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055  
Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130

Vicar Kevin Mephram 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](http://alkham.info)

## LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

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ALKHAM MEADOWS	Touring Caravan Park – Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road 206344
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LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
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# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 128 April 2004

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## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 7.30PM

This is the meeting when parishioners can come along to the Village Hall and listen to how things are run in the parish. It is also the time to put your views to the council. Fortunately, people do attend the regular Parish Council meetings, which is encouraging, because so many councils have no interest at all shown from parishioners. It should be said that it is especially pleasing to see so people from Ewell Minnis, their numbers certainly outweigh those from other parts of the Parish. (Susan Lees – Clerk)

**PARISH COUNCIL** – The two vacancies on the Parish Council have now been filled and the new councillors are Tony Bennett, who lives at Ewell Minnis and Peter Frater who lives in Slip Lane.

## MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Wednesday

MOULES NIGHT £8.95

Thursday

STEAK NIGHT £8.45

## ALKHAM RECYCLING

The first collection on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March was a great success with just about everyone remembering to put the sacks out. Billy Hollis lent us a van, for which he will take no payment, and this was filled to capacity. We deposited approximately 281kg of paper, 44kg of cardboard, 52kg of plastic bottles, 40kg of steel cans, 6kg of aluminium cans and 0.7kg of foil for which the Alkham account was credited with about £15. The only cost involved was the plastic sacks at about £3.30. Hawkinge do take Tetra packs (breakfast orange juice etc) and these can be added to the cardboard, preferably squashed. Please do remember to use separate sacks for different items, take off and dispose of the plastic tops on milk bottles and drink bottles and don't include thicker plastic bottles such as those used for Comfort etc. Thanks to all of you who took part and the two replacement sacks will be collected on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**because** of the good response to the recycling I have entered Alkham in the Village of the Year competition under the Environmental Section. (editor)

## CLEANER REQUIRED

on Monday and Wednesday mornings at a property in the Alkham Valley. Please ring 892056 for more details.

**DOGS** – I am appalled at the total disregard of some owners who allow their dogs to foul on the pavement (right outside some properties) in Short Lane and the grass by the bungalows. It doesn't need a degree to identify the culprits and the Dog Warden would be delighted to impose a £1000 fine. Please clean up after your dogs. (Tricia Wright)

**TWINNING** – Another excellent idea from Parish Councillor Geoffrey Lymer is to twin Alkham with a town in Europe. A village in the Pas de Calais was suggested and Geoffrey is going to look into the funding and other implications before reporting back to the Parish Council.

**ALKHAM FETE** - There will be a Fete Committee meeting at 8 p.m. on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2004 at the Village Hall, to sort out arrangements for the Fete (Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July from 2 p.m. – put it in your diaries now). If you would like to help on a stall or with any of the other activities, or have any suggestions as to other things we could do please come along. Raffle tickets will be available for distribution, so if you have run out of tickets in previous years, let me know so I can arrange additional supplies. (Paul Tapsell 01303 892082).

**TRAINS** – The number of train services stopping at Kearsney Station is going to be substantially reduced; basically, it's use it or lose it. To have your say please contact the Parish Clerk on 822661.

**HIGHWAYS** – The proposed safety improvement works on the Alkham Valley Road are a gateway effect, centre islands and right turn lane into Kearsney Gardens and high skid resistant surfacing in Alkham from the Forstal (Marquis) around the bends to Coachman's Cottage. There will also be high skid resistant surfacing at the London Road junction.

## Alkham Court

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## 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



**CONGRATULATIONS** -Retired couple Jim and Barbara Frater, of Meadowhill Cottages, Alkham, had a memorable day on March 17 when they accompanied their son Michael on a trip to Buckingham Palace to see him receive the CBE from the Queen. Michael, who lives in Shropshire and is Chief Executive at Telford Council, was named in the New Year's Honours list for his services to local government - a career that started in East Kent in the 1960s. The proud couple described the ceremony at Buckingham Palace as "a wonderful occasion". However, this wasn't their first royal encounter, for they were presented to the Queen Mother several years ago. That occurred when Jim, a former carpenter, worked at Walmer Castle, where he often carried out tasks in the private apartment used by the Queen Mother on her visits in the role as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. Jim and Barbara moved to Alkham last summer after 57 years living in Walmer, in order to be near to their other son, Peter and daughter-in-law Denni, who moved to the village in 2001.

### ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

There will be an Extra-ordinary General Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall to discuss the vacant post of Chairman - all members, old and new, are welcome. Please consider whether you are or know someone who could contribute to the running of the Society which exists for the protection and improvement of the valley as whole, keeping an eye on planning and environmental matters (although we do have a social side too!). If you are interested or want more information please speak to me (Paul Tapsell 01303 892082).

**VILLAGE NEWS** - I am writing the column for Alkham in the village news. It appears in the K.M Dover Mercury and sometimes the Dover Express or Folkestone Herald and sometimes both. If anyone has any news they would like me to put in, can you ring Cherry on 01303 255114.

### Police and Shepway

District Council Officers served a Section 61 Notice on an illegal encampment at Marine Terrace, Folkestone and the Travellers will no doubt look for a new place to settle. Please be aware and check any vulnerable locations. If you have any sightings of new camps being set-up please contact the Police on 01303 850055 and inform them. It is believed that some of these Travellers offer tarmacking services. If you should be offered such a service and are not sure whether it is a reputable company ring your local Council and ask if the Company is on their recommended list (01304 872083). Please make sure you do this before you engage them for any work and be very careful who you employ and take time to check them out. If they could call remember you have a 'cooling off' period. Do not be pressurised into anything, and please look out for your vulnerable neighbours (*when going to Ashford I passed a convoy of police escorted caravans ed*). (**Neighbourhood Watch**)

**GARDENTALK**- We shared a very sociable and informative time at our last meeting. It was held at "The Vicarage"; very many thanks to Lucy for her warm welcome, when Keith Turner, the judge at our Produce Show came to talk to us about showing produce at its best. We hope everyone will be inspired to produce something at the summer fete produce show and I am planning to be printing schedules very soon. The next meeting will be on Thursday, 15th April 7.30pm at Pam and Maurice Sayers/'Box Tree Cottage" Slip Lane. (Susannah Tapsell)

**ALKHAM'S HISTORY** - As many of you may know, I am constantly collecting details of Alkham's history together. It is like an enormous jig-saw. I do intend writing and publishing another book about Alkham's past. By Alkham, I mean the whole parish and even beyond. But to do this I must have your help. Anyone who has anything, in whatever state e.g. photos, deeds, documents, old newspapers, parish magazines and ESPECIALLY stories from the past, I really would like to hear from you. It is so important to collect together as much as we possibly can for the future generations to read. (Sue Lees)

**LEARN more about your antiques & collectables.** You are invited to attend the talks to be given by Miss Josie Yeo in the Village Hall on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April. The talks with slide shows will cover many topics and will take place from 10.00 am to Midday, breaking for lunch and continuing at 1.00 pm to finish at 3.30 pm. The cost is £3.50. Teas and coffees will be available but please bring your lunch. (Sue Lees 822661)

**30mph SIGNS** - The Parish Council agreed to pay £22.86 for two 30mph repeater signs, which will be put up by Cal Scopes on the telegraph pole outside Appletree Cottage in Slip Lane.

**CHATROOM** - A planning application has been submitted for the erection of the old Temp' Ewell bus shelter (adjacent to Vicarage Meadow car park), to be used as a meeting point for youngsters in the village.

**LIGHTING** - The request for a light on the football pitch and some lighting at the Garden Centre entrance is currently being considered.

**LEARN** about the United Nations, how it works, affects your life and how you can influence it. All day drop-in on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April starting at 10.00 am in Dover Town Hall.

## FARMER'S MARKET

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

Three new members were welcomed by the President Rosemary at the March meeting. The outing to see "Oklahoma"

at the Marlowe was finalised; 14 members are going and are taking cars, not enough for a coach. A small coach, however, has been booked for the outing to Chartham Church on May 14th. The summer outing was discussed with the Hop Farm being the favourite at the moment. One Day School on Saturday 24th April in the village hall where Miss Yeo will come and talk and show antiques and probably jewellery. Cost £3.50 for the day. The group meeting is April 21st at Whitfield village hall, time 2pm to 4.30pm, and several members are to attend. The two new programme secretaries are Mandy Summers and Debbie Saunders and the programme meeting will be held after our resolution meeting in May. Can members bring ideas of who they would like to speak at our meetings. The speaker was

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**OZ on APRIL** – It has been a long hard winter, nearly half a year of bitter cold, rain, snow and the debilitating new 'flu virus. Thank heavens it's April at last, with daffodils out and the clocks moved forward. The name, from Latin 'Aprilis' and 'aperire', meaning 'to open', suggests, according to *Brewer's Dictionary*, "The opening month, when the trees unfold, and the womb of nature opens with young life." The month itself opens with the familiar but puzzling ritual of April Fools' Day. Brewer rejects the notion that the custom refers to the uncertainty of the weather or the mockery of Jesus, since similar pranks occur at the Hindu festival of Huli on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. He follows the consensus view that, as 25<sup>th</sup> March used to be New Year's Day, 1<sup>st</sup> April was the last day of the week-long New Year festivities. Over the years, male fears of marriage gave rise to jokey phrases such as "April morn" for "wedding day" and "April gentleman" for "newly married man". However, even if not the reason for April Fools' Day, the fickleness of April weather is well documented, not least in literature. The first line of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* refers to "April with his showres soote", acknowledged over 500 years later by T S Eliot in the first line of his *Waste Land*: "April is the cruellest month". Lines such as William Watson's "April, April, laugh thy girlish laughter" are distinctly unsettling, and when George Orwell set an ominous tone in the first line of his novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, it was, of course, "a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen." As usual William Shakespeare provides a fine example with this ringing phrase from *Two Gentlemen of Verona*: "The uncertain glory of an April day." (Steve Osborn)

Carol Boswell who brought a lot of hats and spoke of how and when she wore them through her life, she had a Brownie hat, a guide hat and lots of wedding and party hats; her talk was excellent and after that we got into six groups and had to make hats out of crepe paper, pins and a few accessories Carol had provided, one person in each group being the model who then had to parade their hat around. It was a real fun evening with lots of laughter over "our hats". She was thanked warmly by Margaret Knowles. Next meeting is Tuesday April 13th in the village hall at 7.30pm when the speaker is Mr. J. Pearce on "Flowers for Emma". The competition is a photo Animal, Vegetable or Mineral. New members will be warmly welcomed. (Cherry Leppard)

### Concessionary Fares

**Scheme** - The bus passes are available free to any resident of the district over sixty years of age. Restrictions on travel availability will be advised at time of issue.....

**Taxi Tokens** are now only available to residents on Housing Benefit, Disability Allowance and Attendance Allowance, with certain age restrictions. If you have received tokens in the past check your eligibility, I argued that any resident over sixty should be

eligible providing they have a doctor's certificate stating because of a medical condition they can no longer drive a car or use the bus. My arguments fell on deaf ears but I will not give up. The DART bus service runs through Alkham. I have provided the editor with copies of the time table. (Cllr Sue Nicholas)

### DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY

will present a performance of Handel's *Israel in Egypt* at 7.30 pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2004 in Dover Town Hall. Composed in 1738, the work is full of wonderfully dramatic choruses, and is often seen as Handel's own "Song of Thanksgiving" for his previous year's recovery from serious illness. The soloists are Elizabeth Weaver and Jean Pearson (sopranos), Peter Giles (counter-tenor), and Martin Rendle (tenor). 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 Visitor Information Centre (next to Town Hall), members of Dover Choral Society or by telephoning 01304 822042; 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)



## WHAT'S ON

### Regular events

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

### Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	3	Quiz in VH 7.30pm
Monday	5	Annual Parish Meeting see P1
Thursday	8	Fete meeting see page 1
Saturday	10	Coffee morning and Easter egg raffle in village hall 10.30am
Saturday	10	Bingo in VH - 7.30pm
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in the VH at 7.30pm
Monday	19	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	20	PCC AGM in VH 7.30pm
Wednesday	21	AVS meeting - see page 2
Saturday	24	W.I. workshop - see page 2
Monday	26	Village Hall AGM 8.00pm in VH

## CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00am
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>		Meditation 7.30 p.m.	
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>		Healing service 7.00 p.m.	
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Music for holy week 7.30 p.m.		
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 7.30 p.m.		
Good Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	The Hour Before the Cross St Radigund, Capel-le-Ferne 2.00 - 3.00 p.m.		
Easter Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 11.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Worshipping together 11.00am	Worshipping together 11.00am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	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 followed by refreshments			

**WEB SITE** - The Alkham web site, [alkham.info](http://alkham.info), is temporarily (hopefully) not on the Internet. The reason for this is that the company responsible for billing has put a hold on the site with possible deletion. As I took over the site unexpectedly, I'm trying to find out if we owe any money and also whether we still own the web site address. (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 <a href="mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com">brianwimsett@hotmail.com</a>	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976, work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 <a href="mailto:susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk">susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk</a>	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Police - 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475 Alkham web site <a href="http://alkham.info">alkham.info</a>

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## RECYCLING - MAY 6<sup>th</sup> is the next collection day.

The amount collected in April was about the same as in March with the money being credited to the Alkham account. Assuming that April yielded £15 then there is £30 in the account plus £280 from the Annual Quiz. The idea is that this money will be used for the benefit of the village so if anyone (young or older) wants money for a project or other worthwhile cause then please give me a ring on 824969, or pop a note through my letter box. A small committee comprising myself, Ken Hammond, Sue Lees and Mark Robson has been set up to consider any application for money.....

**DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL** say they are going to start kerbside recycling in Alkham later this year. They intend to collect paper, tins and glass bottles only and joining the scheme is optional. Ken and I intend to continue as we take plastics and also the village gets paid. (editor)

**CHRISTIAN AID** - Will someone take over responsibility for Christian Aid collections this year as I am unable to do it again? Please contact Irene Barnard on 824845.

## CHARLIE PRESTON

Esther and her family would like to extend a very sincere thank you for all the support received from their friends in Alkham following the sad loss of their much loved Charlie. The friendship, letters, cards, flowers and donation received have been very much appreciated, as was the support from all those attending his funeral to help celebrate Charlie's life (*see also the obituary on page 2*).

## TEEN SHELTER

Planning permission has been granted for the erection of the old Temple Ewell bus shelter, which will be used as a meeting point for youngsters in the village. It will be put somewhere between the football pitch and the car park on Vicarage Meadow. Well done to the Parish Council, especially Geoffrey Lymmer.

## HOUGHAM VILLAGE

**FAIR** will be held on Bank Holiday Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> of May starting at 1.00pm in West Hougham with all the traditional stalls, races, bouncy castle and lots more.

## MARQUIS OF GRANBY

**Wednesday Night Carvery £9.95**  
(eat as much as you like)

**Thursday Night Steak Night Special**  
16oz rib-eye **£8.45**

**Sunday Lunch Carvery £7.95**  
*Please book early 822945*

**WEB SITE** - Due to the untimely death of Vince Holness, who set up the Alkham web site, the name lapsed because it was not known that it had to be renewed in February. It went into a Redemption Grace Period but was impossible to renew and eventually it went back on the market when it was snatched by a domain sniping company a few seconds before our request. All is not lost as we have re-registered the site as [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org).

**TRAFFIC** - The campaign to improve safety on the Alkham Valley Road continues with the Dover Mercury having regular features and Neil Burrows, the Chairman of Alkham Parish Council, interviewed on Radio Kent. For a speed restriction to be considered there has to be four fatalities or eight serious accidents. Over the last year, there were two fatalities on the road but comment was made that speed was not necessarily the major factor. Additional money may be forthcoming if other projects are not taken up. (editor)

**GARDENER** - An experienced gardener is required for one day a week. Please phone 826551.

**WHITE HILL** was mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting. It was said that the sides of White Hill were subject to fly tipping or were impassable and as it is a well used road, the local councillor was urged to get DDC to check it once a month. In the Dover plan a few year ago Hogbrook Lane, Slip Lane, White Hill and Warren Lane were shown as a secondary distributor for Hougham/Lydden traffic so it should be kept clear. (editor)

## ALKHAM FETE bric-a-brac

Once again the time is here for us to ask all you lovely friends and neighbours of Alkham to sort out your cupboards and find us some bric-a-brac for our stall in July. Any useful and saleable item accepted but please not anything damaged or only fit for the tip. We are happy to assist by collecting from your home if necessary. Thank you in advance for your kindness. (Irene and Den Barnard)

## Alkham Court

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& Clyde House, Dover 202411

### NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

At a recent funeral a man came up to me and said that Alkham Church was in the wrong place. He said that knowing Alkham quite well, he had still driven past the entrance to the Church without noticing it. He asked why it had been built up on the hill and apparently out of sight. This surprised me as I would have said it stood out quite clearly. Another mourner arriving at the same funeral remarked, 'I bet you don't get many people on a Sunday having to climb this path'. Having worked in a parish where the Church Yard was subject to flooding in the winter, I can see the obvious reason why the Church is not at the bottom of the valley. Often Churches were sited so that the steeple was a clear statement to the surrounding area of the presence of a Christian community. If the Church had been sited on the top of one of the hills, few of the villagers would have ventured to it. Those who live in Alkham know where the Church is, and thankfully have supported its upkeep over the centuries. So it is that visitors are surprised how lovely St Anthony's Church is, and comment on how well it is being maintained. Those who only drive through Alkham as a short cut to, or from Dover, are simply intent on getting to their destination, they remain unaware of the things they pass by. Time taken to stop and reflect is rarely wasted. Life is just like the short cut from Folkestone to Dover along the Alkham Valley. It is such a beautiful valley in every season if you take the time to look at it. Life was meant to be a blessing to us all, but we tend to be so busy rushing to get somewhere

**OZ on COOKIE** - 8.45am on Sunday, cue for soft-boiled eggs with soldiers and Alistair Cooke's radio weekly *Letter from America*, has changed forever. On February 22, Cooke, having vowed never to retire, finally took medical advice and delivered the last and 2,869th edition. Five weeks later, on 30<sup>th</sup> March, he died aged 95 at his New York City home. Cooke was yet another talented character, like Eltham's Bob Hope or Battersea's George Shearing, who came from humble British origins and made good in the USA. Born in Salford on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1908, to Samuel, a metal-worker and lay pastor, and his wife Mary, Cooke was christened 'Alfred' after a favourite Methodist preacher. The family moved to Blackpool in 1917 and took in seven American soldiers who made a lasting impression on young Alfred. From Blackpool Grammar School, Alfred won a scholarship to Cambridge, where he studied English and changed his name to 'Alistair'. After further study at Yale and Harvard, Cooke became the BBC's film critic in the newly expanding Hollywood, married, and took American citizenship in 1941. During and after the war his career took off in many directions, most notably with America's NBC, our BBC and as the *Manchester Guardian's* correspondent in the newly-formed United Nations. On 24<sup>th</sup> March 1946, *Letter from America* started, and Cooke spent the rest of the century explaining America to the British, Britain to the Americans, and both to the rest of the world, acquiring in the process many degrees and awards, including a KBE in 1973. It is typical of the man's gentle modesty that the distinction he valued most was his adoption by the children's TV programme *Sesame Street*, as the character 'Monster Alistair Cookie, host of *Monsterpiece Theater*.' A little girl once approached him in an airport and asked if he was the real Alistair Cookie. "Fifty years from now," he replied, "when the names of all current television stars will have been forgotten, there will be some old lady saying, 'I once met Alistair Cookie ...' " (Steve Osborn)

else as soon as possible. The pace of life seems to increase as years pass until we are forced to a standstill by sudden loss. Only then do we question what life should really be like. We may determine to be more grateful for every day, until we find we are sucked in to the 'rat race' again. When did you last take time to stop and think about life, and where you are heading for? A car cannot keep being driven at high speed without a regular service to prevent it breaking down. We are the same. Why not drop in for a service at St Anthony's before you need to be carried in? (Kevin Mepham)

**W.I.**

At the last meeting of the W.I, the speaker came on before the business. John Pearce and his wife Sue gave a talk and slides entitled "Flowers for Emma". It was all about Sue's grandmother meeting a boy in the 1st world war, getting engaged and him going off to war and not returning. Grandmother never spoke about this, having married and bringing up a family, until nearly her death when she spoke to Sue about it. The talk

and slides were all about John and Sue tracking down the name and details of this soldier. A very moving story with beautiful slides. Summer outing is now on Tuesday 27th July. We will be having a coach to Tenterden Station and travelling by steam train to Bodiam, with coffee and pastries on the way, then on to Bodiam Castle and back home by coach. Leave Alkham 9.30am back home about 5ish. Haven't worked out cost yet but if anyone other than W.I members is interested on a day out ring Cherry 01303 255114. Top team quiz is May 21st at River village hall; we have a team of four to enter. Next meeting is Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup> which is the Resolution meeting followed by next years programme meeting. Bring your favourite piece of jewellery and tell us about it. Time 7.30pm. (Cherry Leppard)

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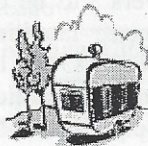


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## Alkham Valley Meadows

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**CHARLIE PRESTON** was a gentleman in every sense of the word. His funeral was held in St. Anthony's church on March 31<sup>st</sup> where a congregation of over 130 people heard a moving and amusing tribute by his son, Robert. Charlie spent most of his life in Alkham and was one of three brothers educated at the village school and also in the church choir as a photograph taken 70 years ago in the playground shows. Charlie was a prize winner at school as well as captain of the football team and at 14 he left to join the Army Technical School. In the Second World War, having survived being torpedoed on the way out, he entered the war in the North Africa Campaign later moving on to Italy and then through Austria to Germany. After the war Charlie became a shepherd at Everden Farm, which was just up the hill from Alkham, and over the next 25 years became highly respected in the local farming community. His children remembered lambs in the kitchen being fed bottled warm milk from the stove. When Everden farm closed, Charlie went on to work for KCC and retired at 65, although he continued to do part time work around the village. He enjoyed 50 years of happy marriage to wife Esther who originated from the village of Hougham. Charlie enjoyed a drink and Robert remembered the night when Wally Sharp had to be taken home in a wheel barrow. I'm sure Charlie wouldn't have minded me making mention of Wally, who unfortunately spent the last few years of his life in a rest home. He was a great bloke, a captain of the Alkham cricket team and with Charlie's brother Gordon made a terrific pair. I remember them arguing heatedly on the way back from the Old Rectory as to who was the worse for wear for drink; they both were of course. As Robert said, Charlie lived a life to be celebrated and he will be sorely missed by all his family, relatives and friends. (editor)

**PLANNING-** How is your planning application decided? The Government has set a target for local authorities to determine 90% of planning applications under delegated powers, or in other words, the Planning Officer decides. If the target is achieved, which DDC has, then the local authority gets a bonus of £500,000, which can be used by the planning authority to employ enforcement officers etc. If more than 3 people object, the application goes to the Planning Committee but it appears when this happens the committee generally backs up the planning officer's decision. If the Parish Council objects, it is treated as one objection. The dilemma is therefore does DDC go for the extra £500,000 to police breaches of planning or do they send more to committee and lose the money? Several people at the Parish Meeting thought that democracy was being undermined. (editor)

**SINGERS FROM MONHEIM** Choral Society, in Germany, will arrive in Dover on 20<sup>th</sup> May on the latest leg of exchange visits, staying with members of Dover Choral Society for a long weekend. After two days of rehearsals, singers from both choirs will combine to present excerpts from Handel's *Messiah* (in English) on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.00 pm (note early start time) in St Peter's Parish Church, Minnis Lane, River. Soloists are Elizabeth Weaver and Jean Pearson (sopranos), June Woodland (contralto), and Matthias Standfest (bass). Andrew Deacon will play the trumpet in *The Trumpet Shall Sound*, and the concert will end, of course, with the mighty *Hallelujah Chorus*. The performance will be accompanied by John Hurd (organ) and conducted by Dover Choral Society's Musical Director, Michael Foad. Tickets costing £5 (children £1) will be available on the door. For further details about the concert please ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

**ALKHAM PRODUCE SHOW July 10th.** - Here is a list of the adult classes so that everyone will be well prepared to support the show in the Village Hall on Fete day! Please do try to support us in our efforts. There will be separate classes for the **CHILDREN'S SHOW** and they will be listed in next month's newsletter. **ADULT PRODUCE.** [Judge Keith Turner]. **Section A.** Vegetables, 12 Classes-3 potatoes, any variety. 3 beetroot, 3 carrots, 3 courgettes. 5 runner 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 currants any colour. 3 sticks of rhubarb. **Section C.** Cut flowers, 4 Classes-1 vase of sweet peas. 1 vase of perennials, 1 vase of roses. 1 vase of annuals. **Section D.** Plants. 4 Classes-1 geranium. 1 pansy. 1 fuchsia. 1 any other plant. We do hope you enjoy tending your exhibits and helping us to produce a stunning display for all to enjoy. If you are the proud holder of any of the cups, please could you return them to me before July. Entry forms for the PRODUCE SHOW will be available from myself, Grace Stacey, Susan Lees. and Shirley Tapsell, or in the hall on the day. [Susannah Tapsell]

**GARDENTALK-** Our April meeting was held on a lovely evening, so we were able to walk around Maurice and Pam's beautiful spring garden, admire the new anniversary garden and generally enjoy the start of another season. We then went indoors to hone our skills of garden art, communication and generally having a good time! Very many thanks to our kind hosts. On May 20th at 7.30pm, we will be meeting at Elwin End's Nursery in Temple Ewell, after which we will visit "The Fox". (Susannah Tapsell)

## FARMER'S MARKET

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## WHAT'S ON

### Regular events

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

### Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Sunday	2	Cricket v Courtstairs at 2.00pm On Vicarage Meadow
Monday	10	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in the VH at 7.30pm
Saturday	15	Ploughman's Lunch in village hall 11am to 2pm for hall funds
Sunday	16	Cricket v Old Hartsdonians 2.30pm on Vicarage Meadow
Monday	17	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Thursday	20	Garden Talk Elwin End's Nursery Temple Ewell 7.30pm
Thursday	20	Cricket Club AGM 8pm in the village hall
Sunday	23	Cricket v River Woodpeckers 2.30pm on Vicarage Meadow

## CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00am	Songs of Praise West Hougham Village Hall 6.30pm
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Worshipping together 11.00am	Service at St Radigund's Abbey Farm 11.00am and picnic lunch. Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Said Eucharist St Radigund's Capel 9.15am Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony, Alkham 7.30pm		
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund, Capel, 10.00am		
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00am	Evensong 6.30pm
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 followed by refreshments			

**CHURCH WARDEN** - Grace Stacey is now a church warden for St. Anthony's having taken over from Ken Hammond. Ken was thanked warmly by the PCC at their annual AGM for the sterling work he has done over the last three years.

**GARAGE SALE** - Assuming you receive the Newsletter by the end of April a Garage Sale is being held at the Willows, which is up Slip Lane past Malmain, at 10.30am on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. There is room to park the car and tea and coffee will be available.

**THE EASTER EGG** raffle was a great success and a profit of £270 was made, which went to Kent Air Ambulance. Many thanks to all who participated and helped.

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

<b>Gwyn Prosser M.P.</b> 0207 2193704	<b>Alkham Valley Society secretary</b> Joanna Walker 821642	<b>Vicar</b> Kevin Mepham 01303 244119
<b>County Councillor, Bryan Cope</b> 207976, work number 01795532547	<b>Newsletter, Brian Wimsett</b> 824969 e mail <a href="mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com">brianwimsett@hotmail.com</a>	<b>Church Wardens</b> Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
<b>District Councillors</b> Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	<b>Parish Clerk, Susan Lees</b> 822661 <a href="mailto:susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk">susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk</a>	<b>Village Hall booking</b> Rosemary Polden 824876
	<b>Police</b> - 999 phone & 01303 850055 <b>Neighbourhood Watch</b> 218151/218130	<b>W.I. Betty Neely</b> 01303 251475 <b>Alkham web site</b> <a href="http://www.alkham.org">www.alkham.org</a>

## LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

<b>ACCOUNTANCY</b>	<b>John Garlinge</b> Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow	<b>824201</b>
<b>ALKHAM MEADOWS</b>	<b>Touring Caravan Park</b> - Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road	<b>206344</b>
<b>ARBORICULTURE</b>	<b>Alkham Valley Tree Surgery:</b> Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton	<b>824853 &amp; 07973 501390</b>
<b>BED &amp; BREAKFAST</b>	<b>Owler Lodge</b> with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road	<b>826375</b>
<b>BUILDING WORK</b>	<b>E R Woodruff</b> carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton	<b>824991</b>
<b>CAT &amp; DOG GROOMING</b>	<b>Canine beauticians</b> , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis	<b>822902</b>
<b>CLEANING SERVICES</b>	<b>John Hoy</b> domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis	<b>828007 &amp; 07889310479</b>
<b>CURTAINS &amp; BLINDS</b>	<b>Curtains and blinds</b> made to your specification	Alkham Valley	<b>01303 891806</b>
<b>ELECTRICAL</b>	<b>Simon Price</b> electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham	<b>01303 252764</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>	<b>J H Ullmann</b> Environmental contractors, Malmain Farm	Alkham	<b>202004 or 822888</b>
<b>EQUESTRIAN</b>	<b>Hogbrook Equestrian Centre</b> Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham	<b>827644</b>
<b>EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES</b>	<b>Alkham Valley Garden Centre</b> - everything for horse and rider	South Alkham	<b>01303 891996</b>
<b>GARDEN CENTRE</b>	<b>Alkham Valley Garden Centre</b> with gift shop and horse supplies	South Alkham	<b>01303 893351</b>
<b>KENNELS</b>	<b>Alkhamhurst Kennels</b> dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton	<b>822420</b>
<b>LIVERY</b>	<b>Greenhill livery yard</b> Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham	<b>01303 892056</b>
<b>POST OFFICE</b>	<b>Southdown Stores</b> general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell	<b>827100</b>
<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>Capel-le-ferne school</b> Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne	<b>01303 251353</b>



# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett: The Old Post Office  
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## No. 130 June 2004

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**INVITATION to a ragwort party!** On July 11<sup>th</sup> [the day after the fete] I am having a "Ragwort party" at Sladden Farm. I am having a real battle with the yellow peril and I need an army to help clear it! Sladden Farm has been chemical free for 17 years now and I would like to keep it that way, it is better for all of us. I receive a small grant from Defra to help with clearing the Ragwort and I intend to send the money to the East Kent Hospice, [they were tremendous with Kevin during his last days]. There will be a barbecue and a pig roast to feed the army. Please come and help, you will be raising money for the hospice and it won't cost you anything and we can have a fun day out. All you'll need will be a pair of gardening gloves and lots of enthusiasm! Start time about 11.00 a.m. (Di Smith)

### MARQUIS OF GRANBY

**Wednesday Night Carvery £9.95**  
(eat as much as you like)

**Thursday Night Steak Night Special**  
16oz rib-eye £8.45

**Sunday Lunch Carvery £7.95**  
Please book early 822945

**FETE STALLHOLDERS' meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2004.** We have to have some more volunteers to help with the car parking (otherwise we may have to cancel the Fete) so if anyone can spare an hour or two on the afternoon of the Fete, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2004 from 2 p.m. to point people in the right direction please tell either me on 01303 892082 or Simon Huggins IMMEDIATELY. There will be a stall holders' meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall so can anyone who is already helping on a stall or would like to assist in some way on Fete day please give me a call or come to the meeting, so that I know what's happening: There are all sorts of jobs that need doing throughout the day and the more people there are helping (even if it's only for an hour or so) the easier everything becomes for everyone. A Village Fete cannot happen without active support from the Village, so please make the effort - you may even enjoy yourself! (Paul Tapsell)

### ALKHAM FETE

#### Children's Show - 10<sup>th</sup> July

As promised last month here is a list of classes for the children's competition. There will be no entry fee for these classes but there will be small cash prizes and children's entries are to be in the village hall by 2pm.

#### Class 1 Cookery

- (a) 4 chocolate Cornflake Cakes
- (b) 4 decorated Fairy Cakes
- (c) A shortbread Face.

#### Class 2 Art & Craft

- (a) Vegetable Man (b) Vase of Flowers (painting) (c) A drawing or painting of your favourite Football Shirt.

**Class 2 Garden Fun** (a) A Miniature Garden (b) A small Table Decoration (c) A Cactus. (Shirley Tapsell)

**ALKHAM RECYCLING** - The next collection is on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. In May, we had two full van loads but after emptying the sacks, we took four sacks of refuse to the tip. Please only include plastics, which contained drinks with caps removed and keep all items separate.

**SEAT** - Many thanks go to Clive and Vanessa Hyland, sons Matthew, Luke and Christopher for installing a new seat on Vicarage Meadow. It's just behind the bus shelter and the family dug out the foundations, mixed and poured the concrete and then installed the bench.

**A COFFEE MORNING** will be held at Finsa, Slip Lane by Barbara and Bob Palmer on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> June in aid of the cricket club.

**THE OLD Temple Ewell bus shelter** destined to be the teen shelter at Alkham was vandalised before it could be removed. Parish Councillor, Geoffrey Lymer has designed a new one and submitted it to the planners and when it is approved, he's suggested that the children might like to help build it.

**YELLOW CROSSES** - Someone has been going along the Alkham Valley Road painting yellow crosses on the road where there has been an accident in the past in the hope that it will make the highway authority carry out safety improvements.

**TWINNING** - The village of Audreselles, just to the west of Calais has been suggested as a twin town for Alkham. Our Parish Council and their Mayor agree it's a good idea and Geoffrey Lymer is writing to them.

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## Alkham Valley Meadows

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**DDC** contacted the Parish Clerk with regard to Alkham Recycling and I thought I'd print the email that she received from them 'Yes, it is absolutely necessary to know more about these operations as this is something which we should have been told about, as it has legal implications and also impacts on our statistics. Alkham is also an area being looked at in relation to kerbside collection for later this year. I take it your collectors have the necessary waste carrier's license documents and have registered with the EA and KCC. Perhaps you could ask them to provide me with copies of these as soon as possible.' I contacted the Environment Agency and spoke to a very helpful person who said that they were keen to promote local recycling and I then received a letter to say that we were exempt from having to register as all profits were going to the local community. (editor)

**CONGRATULATIONS** To Devina Bartlett on achieving a place at Christchurch University College, Canterbury to train as a midwife. There were lots of applicants for limited spaces so the competition was stiff. Well done.

**GATSO GUNS**- The Parish Council insurance does not cover the use of the Gatso guns for speed detection and therefore the Parish Clerk is currently trying to get the necessary insurance.

**COUNCILLORS** Sue Nicholas and Andrew Richardson are going to hold a coffee morning at River Village Hall on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of June between 10.00am and noon. This will be an opportunity to meet with them and at the same time discuss any issues which maybe of concern to you. They intend to hold a similar event in Alkham later in the year.

## ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD

Because of the delays at the junction with the old A2 at Dover, a lot of traffic diverts down Lower Road to Crabble. To cut out this rat run the priority at the old A2 junction may be changed to allow traffic on the Alkham road to free flow; this of course would probably encourage more people to use the Alkham road. The traffic calming past Bushey Ruff has started with centre islands, footpaths and a gateway being installed. The Parish Council have also drawn up a list of problems with the Alkham Valley Road with possible solutions and are in favour of speed limits below the national average throughout its length. Double white lines are suggested in places plus other highway works including a footway, signing and verge clearance at Wolverton. In the village, pedestrian crossings have been suggested by the bus shelter and between the Marquis and Newlyn Meadow. Phase 2 of the traffic calming is being considered (single lane in the narrow bit by Slip Lane) but because of restricted visibility, this could be dangerous. Further centre islands are suggested and a parking zone with a single way stretch in front of the bungalows to the west of the Marquis. A centre island near the Garden Centre is proposed plus various engineering works to the west of South Alkham. A mini roundabout has been suggested at the junction with the A260. The cables presently in place across the Alkham Valley Road are recording the volume, speed and type of vehicles using the road. Ray Ball of the local highway department has said that now he has finished dealing with the A258 he can now give his full attention to the Alkham Valley Road and hopefully incorporate some of the above. With regard to speed limits along the road, the last two accidents have been in a 30mph area. (editor)

## THE ALKHAM VALLEY

**SOCIETY** - At the well attended Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society, held on 21 April, Paul Tapsell agreed to act as Vice Chairman of the Society for the rest of 2004. The safety of the Valley Road has been a concern of the Alkham Valley Society since its foundation in 1977 and continues, to be of great consequence to the Society, evident from the useful proposals put forward at this meeting. It is appreciated that Paul Tapsell is well placed within the fabric of the Alkham Valley to assist with the ongoing negotiations with the relevant authorities and keep the matter alive. The Society, open to the whole Valley and further afield, is grateful to Paul agreeing to continue since this smoothes the path of the Society's involvement in making Valley Road a safer place. And thank you Pam, for the welcome refreshments after the meeting. A reminder: the Society is not a limited membership, and enquiries are welcomed. (Joanna Walker, secretary)

**THE CRICKET CLUB A G M** was held on 20<sup>th</sup> May, followed by an excellent "steak out" at the Marquis. Please can members stump up their subs (£20 for players, £10 for associate members) to the Treasurer as soon as possible. Arrangements are underway for the Annual Tour in June and the Hackers match in August as well as the regular Sunday games. Fixture Cards are available from Paul Tapsell or the Marquis, and details of forthcoming games appear in the newsletter and results in the Express and/or Mercury. (Paul Tapsell)

## TOMMY COOPER JOKE

Guy goes into the doctor's. "Doc, I've got a cricket ball stuck up my backside." "How's that?" "Don't you start."

## FARMER'S MARKET

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# W.I.

The May meeting was the annual resolution meeting. We were lucky to have Muriel Jennings, a W.I. adviser, to help

us with the three resolutions which were all carried unanimously. The one day school held recently went very well; Josie Yeo who came told us about antiques and collectables with some slides. Members had tea and coffees served to them and most brought a packed lunch. It is hoped to hold another later in the year. At the recent group meeting held at Whitfield, Alkham did extremely well winning the competition, out of seven W.I.'s in the group, also winning three raffle prizes. In March 2005, it is the turn of our W.I. to host the group meeting. The summer outing on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July was organised. It was decided to take the steam train from Tenterden to Bodiam and on to the castle for the afternoon. Leave Alkham about 9.30am and return home about 5pm. Cost should be roughly £15 to £18 all in. There are places left so if anyone is interested for a good day out ring Cherry 01303 255114. Doreen Wilks and her craft circle must be congratulated on making 29 hats, 16 blankets and 2 coats for the premature babies at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. When Doreen took them, she was invited up to the premature unit to take them in person. The evening ended with the programme meeting for next years speakers. Mandy and Debbie who are the programme organisers gave us a lot of ideas for next year with lots of good and varied speakers. Next month's speaker is Mr K Booth on Dover Archaeology. Tuesday June 8<sup>th</sup>. (Cherry Leppard)

**OZ on SQUIRRELS** – The first highlight of our May holiday on the Isle of Wight was Jak sniffing out, digging up and eating a soft-backed crab on Ryde beach. The second was a red squirrel leaping from tree to tree in the grounds of Osborne House and twisting in and out of adjacent holes in his home trunk. The red squirrel has been common in Europe since the last Ice Age, under such names as 'skug', 'escurel' and 'skurrel', all deriving from ancient Greek 'sciouros' meaning 'shade tail'. Linnaeus coined the scientific name *Sciurus vulgaris* in 1758 and in 1792 Kerr added *leucourus* meaning 'light-tailed' to distinguish the unique British species. The red squirrel population has fluctuated markedly over the years, usually in response to the availability of suitable trees for food and shelter. Between 1860 and 1900 in Britain a surfeit of red squirrels was caused by the fashionable planting of imported conifers. Rapid decline followed after 1900 due to epidemic disease and widespread felling of conifers required for First World War preparations. By the 1930s the population again started to increase but now faced different pressures. Grey squirrels, *Sciurus carolinensis*, had been imported from America as novelty pets in 1876, and had taken over the English deciduous woodlands which they could utilise better than the red squirrels. Over large areas of southern England the red squirrel was extinct by the 1940s. Today the red squirrel is found in England only in Cumbria, the Isle of Wight, Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Thetford Forest in Norfolk and Cannock Chase in Staffordshire. The exact reasons for the unequal struggle between reds and greys remain unclear. Jak knows all about greys. He once caught one in Kearsney Abbey, whimpered with delight, dropped it and raced after the next one. (Steve Osborn)

### DOVER CARNIVAL PROMS

Once again, the Dover White Cliffs Country Carnival Association, with the support of local musicians, is organising a festive concert in the style of "The Last Night of the Proms" at 7.30 pm on the Friday of Dover Carnival Week, 2 July, in Dover Town Hall. The first half of the programme will feature a selection from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*, and then, after the interval, three songs by Irving Berlin newly arranged by Michael Lewis. The concert will end as usual with the traditional Proms Finale: *Jerusalem, Rule Britannia* and *Land of Hope and Glory*. All singers are welcome, but must attend at least four rehearsals, the first of which is at 7.30 pm on Thursday 27 May in River Methodist Church. Audience tickets are available at £5 for seats and £2 for promenaders (side balconies) from Dover Town Hall or next door at the Dover Visitor Information Centre. For further details ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

**LIGHTS** – DDC are looking into the request for parish lighting adjacent to the football pitch on Vicarage Meadow.

**TABLE FAIR** – There will be a table fair in the village hall on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June in aid of village hall funds. If you would like to book a table at a cost of £5 please ring 824876.

### EUROPEAN PARTY Elections

The village hall has been booked between 7.00am and 10.00pm on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June for people to cast their votes for the European Parliament.

**DYKE** – As the dyke was enlarged for highway purposes opposite the village hall the Parish Council have asked the Highway Authority to make the area safe by the use of appropriate fencing.

**THE PLAY EQUIPMENT** on Vicarage Meadow was inspected by DDC with regard to safety. The Parish Council are not happy as the play equipment is parish property and the council were not consulted before the inspection took place.

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## WHAT'S ON

### Regular events

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

### Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Thursday	3	Fete stallholders meeting 8.00pm in the village hall
Saturday	5	Bingo in VH - 7.30pm
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in the VH at 7.30pm
Thursday	10	European elections in village hall 7.00am to 10.00pm
Saturday	12	Table Fair in village hall from 10.00am to 3.00pm
Sunday	13	Cricket v Worth 2.30pm on Vicarage Meadow
Wednesday	16	PCC Deanery in VH 7.00pm
Saturday	19	Coffee morning at Finsa in Slip Lane in aid of the cricket club
Sunday	27	Cricket v Westbourne 2.30pm on Vicarage Meadow

## CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Healing Service 7.00pm		
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00am
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00am	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Worshipping together 11.00am	Sung Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence Hougham 10.00am		

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 followed by refreshments

**CONGRATULATIONS** to John Garlinge, who led the team, and to helpers Larry Lambourne, Derek Banks-Nash and Mick Wingfield for completing their hedge laying project on Pimlico Way. For those new to the village, Pimlico Way runs from South Alkham across the h ground and down to Slip Lane. The hedge on both sides of Pimlico Way, for a substantial length, was grubbed out in the 1970's by a farmer and was replanted on the northern side by the Alkham Valley Society in the 1980's. John and his team practised the ancient art of hedge laying over the length to the west of the path heading towards Swingfield. As the name suggests, the hedge and small trees are partially cut just above the ground and then laid over and bound with sticks. This eventually creates a stock proof barrier with an attractive appearance. It's worth a look.

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

<b>Gwyn Prosser M.P.</b> 0207 2193704	<b>Alkham Valley Society secretary</b> Joanna Walker 821642	<b>Vicar</b> Kevin Mephram 01303 244119 <b>Church Wardens</b> Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756 <b>W.I.</b> Betty Neely 01303 251475
<b>County Councillor</b> , Bryan Cope 207976, work number 01795532547	<b>Newsletter</b> , Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail <a href="mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com">brianwimsett@hotmail.com</a>	<b>Village Hall booking</b> Rosemary Polden 824876
<b>District Councillors</b> Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	<b>Parish Clerk</b> , Susan Lees 822661 <a href="mailto:susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk">susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk</a> <b>Police</b> - 999 phone & 01303 850055 <b>Neighbourhood Watch</b> 218151/218130	Alkham web site <b><a href="http://www.alkham.org">www.alkham.org</a></b>

## LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

<b>ACCOUNTANCY</b>	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyns Meadow	824201
<b>ALKHAM MEADOWS</b>	Touring Caravan Park - Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road	206344
<b>ARBORICULTURE</b>	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton	824853 & 07973 501390
<b>BED &amp; BREAKFAST</b>	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road	826375
<b>BUILDING WORK</b>	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton	824991
<b>CAT &amp; DOG GROOMING</b>	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis	822902
<b>CLEANING SERVICES</b>	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis	828007 & 07889310479
<b>CURTAINS &amp; BLINDS</b>	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley	01303 891806
<b>ELECTRICAL</b>	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham	01303 252764
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmaims Farm	Alkham	202004 or 822888
<b>EQUESTRIAN</b>	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham	827644
<b>EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES</b>	Alkham Valley Garden Centre - everything for horse and rider	South Alkham	01303 891996
<b>GARDEN CENTRE</b>	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and horse supplies	South Alkham	01303 893333
<b>KENNELS</b>	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton	822422
<b>LIVERY</b>	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham	01303 892000
<b>POST OFFICE</b>	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell	827000
<b>SCHOOL</b>	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne	01303 251300



# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett: The Old Post Office  
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE  
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No. 131 July 2004

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**ALKHAM VILLAGE FETE 2004** will be on the 10<sup>th</sup> July at 2.00 pm on the Vicarage Meadow, will be opened by Mr Gwyn Prosser MP and will feature a number of special attractions including Vintage Cars, the Snowdown Band, East Kent Morris Dancers, the Capel School May Pole team, Produce Show and Children's Races and Competitions as well as any number of stalls, etc.: Come along and enjoy yourself. Can we please have lots of volunteers to help put the tents up on Saturday morning (on the Meadow from 8.30 a.m.) and to get everything ship-shape and Bristol fashion – there are jobs for all ages and abilities and it's quite fun really! I still need people to assist with various stalls and odd jobs throughout the day so call me on 01303 892082 and I'll find something for you to do. Also please can we have some help clearing the Meadow afterwards, again the more helpers there are the easier it is for us all. You will already know about the Produce (Fruit, Veg and Flower) and Children's cookery, Art & Craft and Garden Fun Shows from May' and June's Newsletters, if not details can be obtained from Sue Tapsell on 822295. I dare say others will be asking for Bric-a-Brac, Cakes,

Needlework and Raffle/Tombola Prizes elsewhere in this Newsletter: Please give what assistance you can. In addition can all unsold raffle tickets (or counterfoils and cash) be returned to Dot Polden or myself by Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Finally, we have had problems with car-parking in the past (we have limited for space) and would ask that people help either by leaving their cars at home or by following the signs and/or attendants' instructions as regards the Main Car Park area and Disabled Badge-Holders' Car Park: we will also be operating Tesco-style "Dropping Of Point" by the Village Hall. I look forward to seeing you on the day. (Paul Tapsell) .....

### ALKHAM PRODUCE

**SHOW** - Please note that entries for the Adult classes should be in the village hall by 11.00am but entries for the Children's classes have until 2.00pm before judging takes place. Schedules are available from Susannah or Shirley Tapsell.

### MARQUIS OF GRANBY

**Wednesday Night Carvery £9.95**

(eat as much as you like)

**Thursday Night Steak Night Special**  
16oz rib-eye **£8.45**

**Sunday Lunch Carvery £7.95**  
Please book early 822945

### ROCKING DAVE TAYLOR

will be performing live with 'rock and roll' through the years from 8.00pm at the Marquis of Granby on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July after the Alkham fete. Please book early if you want a meal in the pub by ringing 822945 or call in.

**RECYCLING** – The next collection is **Thursday July 1<sup>st</sup>**. Many thanks to Mark Robson for taking my place in June and helping Ken Hammond out with the collection (I fell off my pedal bike). (editor)

### ALKHAM CHURCHYARD

I am about to perform a wedding at Alkham Church, and I can guarantee that there will be mixed comments about the Churchyard. Some will be utterly bowled over by the beauty of meadow grasses and flowers that bring back memories of years gone by. Others will bemoan the lack of neatly trimmed edges, and will declare it a disgrace that dishonours those who have been laid to rest. The truth of the matter is that it is a conservation area with rare grass growing in it that needs to be allowed to seed before it is cut. If we were allowed to keep the churchyard regularly cut, the meadow flowers and grasses would not survive and some perhaps be lost for ever. Our duty to protect what we have been entrusted with cannot be easily ignored on the whims of fashion. Just think how much was destroyed in the 60's and 70's with the rush for cheaper modern developments. It was later realised that much of this was a mistake, but too late to rectify the damage done. If we can enable Alkham Churchyard to remain a haven of natural beauty, we leave for our grandchildren and successive generations, a treasure that is not taxable or destroyed on a whim. It will be time to cut the grass in July, and in the past it has fallen to a few stalwart villagers who have accomplished the task. This year we are appealing for help with the cutting of the grass in the week beginning Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July. If you are able to offer a few hours strimming or clipping, raking, collecting etc. please speak to the wardens (see back page).

The Church belongs to the whole Parish of Alkham who have a right to be buried there. With a persons rights, also comes a duty. Can you help? (Kevin Mepham)

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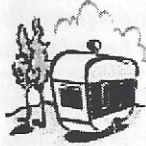


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High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover  
Tel. 01304 852960

## Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park  
Alkham Village  
Telephone  
01304 206344



### DOVER & DISTRICT ALZHEIMER

and Dementia Carers' Support Group. If you know or care for anyone who is confused or has memory problems, you may be interested to know that support is available. A carers' support group meets on the third Tuesday morning of each month – currently at a member's house in Deal – where in an informal setting, problems can be aired and shared and practical information given; phone 01304 364637 for details. As part of Alzheimer's Awareness Week, a coffee morning is being held at Trinity Church, Union Road, Deal on Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of July from 10.30am to 12.30. There will be cake and bring and buy stalls. Whether you are just an interested party or a carer, do come along and support; information and advice will be available if needed. Do bring along the person you care for if at all possible. It is hoped that further coffee mornings can be arranged as a social activity where persons being cared for can be included. (Margaret Danstead, Alkham)

**VILLAGE OF THE YEAR** – Alkham has been visited twice by the judges in the Environmental Section of the competition with the lead judges coming on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June to have a good look round. The main reason for entering was to show the organisers that Alkham took recycling seriously with bins at the Garden Centre and a monthly collection from about 60 houses. It's not clear whether this point was taken on board but the judges did drive along Pimlico Way from Slip Lane to South Alkham to have a look at the hedge laying carried out by John Garlinge and his team. The importance of the Parish Council and the Alkham Valley Society was also stressed.

### THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

- In May, members of the AVS attended a Kent Tourism initiative, familiarisation with Maidstone plus the AGM of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies (KFAS) of which the AVS is a member. Maidstone has put together an informative and attractive tour, part on foot and part on the River Medway. Most spectacular are the two new footbridges and an amphitheatre on the river side, a masterpiece of landscaping and made from local Kent ragstone. We should try to organise a visit. The KFAS AGM was held in Broadstairs; a keynote talk was on the Role of amenity societies in Local Government. Oh, we are useful! A copy of this talk has been obtained and is available via the Secretary, AVS. The meeting also provided a chance to do some modest networking. On September 18<sup>th</sup> 2004, the Bexley Civic Society is hosting a KFAS conference. We have

provisionally reserved places for 3-5 members to attend but specific names are required. The conference includes a visit to the pioneer Red House, designed in 1859 by Philip Webb for William Morris and recently purchased by the National Trust. If anyone is interested, please let the Secretary know before the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. The AVS committee is considering Ightham Mote for the annual visit, with a possible fastish footwork visit to Sissinghurst 'at the hour when there is a tinkle of ice in glasses at twilight'. Any interest? (Joanna Walker (Secretary - 821641)

**GARDEN TALK** – On Wednesday July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm we will be visiting the gardens of Hockley Sole at the kind invitation of Angie and Nigel Snape. (Susannah Tapsell)

### FARMER'S MARKET

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

Local produce

Phone 01303 245399

### ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

If you are subject to any vandalism, intimidation, unwarranted rowdyism or any other similar unpleasant activity, the Rural Community Warden at Capel is quite happy to come and help deal with the situation. His name is Paul James and he can be contacted on 07977 981994 and his number has been added to the 'Telephone Numbers' on the back page of the Newsletter for future reference.

(editor)

**MEMORIES** – A lady who used to live in the village visited Alkham and talked to Sam Gordon, who lives in Evergreen on Slip Lane. As a result of this, Sam received a letter from her which recorded some memories of Alkham from just after the war. Her name was Vivienne Smith (now Reeve) and over the next few months, I'm going to publish parts of her letter under the title 'Memories of Alkham'.

### MEMORIES OF

**ALKHAM** In the past Alkham was predominately a farming village with several large farms such as Hogbrook Farm, Halton Court and Malmain Farm. Between Halton Court and Box Tree Cottage to the east of Slip Lane used to be Norton Farm, which was used as a machine gun post by the army in the Second World War. After the war, the beautiful but spoiled period farm house was demolished and the farm later divided into building plots on which most of the new houses, which can be seen today, were built. Vivienne Smith worked at Norton Farm between 1946 and 1947 when it was owned by James Ross who only spent 6 months of the year there, the reason for this being that he worked in the Calcutta branch of Rootes of Maidstone. It sounds like something from 'It ain't half hot mum' but that was the state of the car industry then. Further memories of Vivienne Smith will be printed next month. (editor)



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# W.I.

The outing to Bodiam Castle with a trip on the Tenterden Railway was finalised, with 41 members and friends going.

The coach will leave Alkham at 9.15 so we arrive in plenty of time for the 10.40 train to Bodiam. Members were asked to bring things for the different stalls at the fete in July. Most of the W.I members are involved with all the stalls! The Xmas dinner has been booked at "The Marquis of Granby" in December. A lot of interest was expressed for "Brigadoon" at the Marlowe Theatre in November this is by the Herne Bay Operatic Society. Names to be taken next month. The speaker was Kevin Booth, a curator at Dover Castle, who brought slides of historical monuments across England. A lot of archaeology artefacts are housed at the Castle. It was very interesting and good to know there are people like him who care and preserve our heritage. Susan Lees thanked him very much. Next months speaker is B. Hood and his subject "Ashes to Ashes" on Tuesday July 13th at 7.30pm. (Cherry Leppard)

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**OZ on QUACKS AND CROAKS** – The question "which sex of ducks quacks?", posed in Alkham's January quiz, and the quizmaster's gleeful answer "female – of course!", caused much discussion, not all from aggrieved feminists. Subsequent research in Bushey Ruff was inconclusive. In the flock of mallards that we observed, males seemed to outquack females if anything. The consensus among duck experts is that generally, given that sounds vary according to function and between species, females make "loud" quacks and males make "raspy" quacks. At Middlesex University, academics have now taken the research further, discovering, according to a report published last month, that ducks have regional accents. Dr Victoria de Rijke compared quacks recorded at Spitalfields City Farm in east London and at the tranquil Trerieve Farm near Looe in Cornwall, and concluded that the ducks had developed distinct regional accents in response to their environments. The cockney ducks had rough "shouting" quacks with short open vowels that allowed them to be heard above the din of city transport, while their Cornish cousins had gentle burrs, more like "giggles", with longer and slower vowels. Not surprisingly, regional accents are also found in other creatures such as frogs. Amphibian expert Julia Wycherley discovered the accents while trying to find out exactly which sub-species of pool frog (*Rana lessonae*) had lived in East Anglia before becoming extinct. She spent much time listening to frogs' mating calls and detected three accents directly related to the frogs' genetic heritage, from ancient Iberia, Italy and the Balkans. The problem for displaced frogs is that mating can prove impossible if they make calls in the wrong language. English Nature now plans to acquire a single-source population of Balkan pool frogs in the hope that they will, one day, exchange croaks and repopulate the East Anglian wetlands. (Steve Osborn)

### A LITTLE HELP from friends

Margaret Ashman, who lives in Green Lane Ewell Minnis, is the secretary of the 'Wheels '4' Bowls Trust' and her husband, Raymond, is President. A friend of theirs was diagnosed with the progressive and often frustrating Parkinson's disease and was struggling to come to terms with it, especially as he has to use a wheel chair. However, it was discovered that people with the disease can play bowls but only if a special chair is used costing between two and three thousand pounds. Following street collections, raffles and donations together with support from other organisations they are near to reaching their total. With the help of a loaned wheel chair, Peter who suffers from the disease is progressing quite well with his new hobby. If you would like more information about the Trust please phone Margaret 824386.

### RHINO CHALLENGE 2004

Turn your puff into pounds for a very good cause this summer! We will be holding our third annual Rhino Challenge on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July, with a choice of two routes; a 20 mile and a 50 mile bike ride starting and finishing at Port Lympne and covering some of the spectacular countryside of the

Romney Marsh. There is also a 10k running road race. There will be a variety of family entertainment throughout the day and into the evening including; bouncy castle, face painting, have-a-go archery, dog agility display and firework finale! The aim of the event is to raise money to support our herd of 19 black rhino – the largest breeding herd outside Africa, so get on your bike and 'pedal to protect' these magnificent animals! For more information call Sue on 01303 264647 or visit [www.howletts.net](http://www.howletts.net).

### ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD

The people who were going to walk backwards along the Alkham Road to highlight the dangers of the road were banned by the police from doing so. Although the police recognised that the valley road is dangerous, it was thought that such a protest would disrupt traffic. However, a group of people, including the father of Victoria Smith who was killed in an accident on the road last year, did walk to the Marquis of Granby and felt that they had made their point. They are now planning a mass cycle ride along the road to keep up the campaign's momentum.

**WANTED** – 16mm self loading projector preferably with a halogen or modern bulb. Please contact Brian on 824969.



## WHAT'S ON

### Regular events

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

### Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	3	Bingo in VH – 7.30pm
Saturday	10	FETE - see page 1
Monday	12	Village Hall committee meeting 8.00pm in village hall
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in VH 7.30pm
Wednesday	14	Garden Talk, Hockley Sole 7.30pm
Saturday	17	Craft fair in village hall in aid of Cancer Research
Sunday	18	Cricket v Wickham & Stodmarsh 2.30pm on Vicarage Meadow
Monday	19	Dover & District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	26	Parish Council meeting in village hall 7.30pm – all welcome

## CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00am
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>		Healing Service 7.00pm	
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00am	Songs of Praise West Hougham village hall 6.30pm
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony's , Alkham 10.00 a.m.		

Weekday services: Morning Prayer 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

**GATSO GUNS** – The insurers have confirmed that parishioners using the Gatso guns will be covered by the Parish Council insurance policy. If anyone feels strongly about speeding drivers and would like to become part of the village team, please phone the Parish Clerk on 822661. A one day course will be given by the police on the use of the guns should the police consider that there is a speeding problem in the parish.

**PIPELINE** – Folkestone and District Water Company have started work on the new pipeline to the west of the parish as can be seen by the stripped topsoil between Lower Standen and the A20 overbridge.

## 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  
Joanna Walker 821642

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969  
e mail [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661  
[susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk)

Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055  
Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130  
Community Warden 07977 981994

Vicar Kevin Mepham 01303 244119  
Church Wardens Richard Tapsell  
822295 and Grace Stacey 822756  
W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475

Village Hall booking  
Rosemary Polden 824876

Alkham web site  
[www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

## 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
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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
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# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 132 August 2004

Delivered free to all  
properties in the Parish

**Alkham  
Valley  
Garden  
Centre**

Phone  
01303  
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For all your  
gardening needs  
and animal  
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## **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.*

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Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

**ALKHAM FETE** - May I extend a huge thank you to all those people who contributed to the Fete this year, I think it was a great success despite the rain and it was wonderful to see so many new faces (as well as the old ones!) helping from first thing in the morning till we cleared the Meadow. It is invidious to single out individuals but I must mention the new kids on the block who took over the Car Park and ran it perfectly; well done Simon, Mark, Steve, Ken and Matthew and several others, also Cherry and all the Tea Tent ladies did a sterling job (and the cakes were excellent!) and the Scopes Hog Roast went down a storm. I should also like to thank the tent wallahs (both on the day and the drying squad), for service above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you one and all. We took about £2,900 and hope to have about £1,800 to divide between the Church and Village Hall in due course; the post mortem meeting will be in late August. (Paul Tapsell)

**LIVE music at the Marquis of Granby.** On Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of August at 8.00pm, Tony Martin will be singing as Frank Sinatra. Phone 822945 for more details or to book a meal.

## **ALKHAM PRODUCE**

**SHOW**, (generously sponsored by the Ladies Keep Fit group). A very big thank you to all those who entered exhibits. Once again, it made an impressive display for people to enjoy. The children's exhibits brought smiles to everyone's faces and many a nose was thrust into the wonderfully fragrant roses. The shield for Best exhibit in show went to Geoff Gaskill for his prize onions, the Floral Trophy to Barbara Palmer (perennials), the Countryside Cup to Geoff Gaskill (gooseberries), the Ken Davies Cup to Rosemary Polden (fuchsia) and the President's Cup to Geoff Gaskill (onions). The cup for Best exhibit in the Children's show was won by Molly Laflin for her beautiful miniature garden. Mention should also made of those who achieved a high standard with many 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed exhibits and if anyone would like to donate a cup for a points system, we will work on that for next year? Thank you all very much. (Susannah Tapsell)

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Sandie Tapsell and the 20 year old Sky Comet for winning the 4 year and over and Arab Championship at the Kent County Show. Sandie also won the yearling Arab Class showing Ibn Kuda. Congratulations also to Ann Cunningham and Esteban ibn Narismma for winning the 2 and 3 year old Arab class. All in all a good show for the Alkham Valley Arabian fraternity.

## **MARQUIS OF GRANBY**

**Wednesday Night Carvery £9.95**  
(eat as much as you like)

**Thursday Night Steak Night Special**  
16oz rib-eye **£8.45**

**Sunday Lunch Carvery £7.95**  
*Please book early 822945*

**ALKHAM RECYCLING** - The next collection will be on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of August. For the first four months collection, up to the end of June, the Alkham account at Kent Community Recycling has been credited with £66 with the only expense being the plastic sacks costing about £2.60 per month. If you have any ideas about how you would like this money to be spent for the benefit of the Parish, please give me a ring. (editor)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** and congratulations to Stan Couchman who celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July. He was born 11 days before the start of World War I and joins a select group of nonagenarians in the village.

## **Artisan Nursery Garden Design**

Urgently require staff at all levels  
from apprentices onwards.

Tel: 01303 221953 or 07763327548  
for more info.

**SARAH & PETER CHAMBERS** of Martinvale send heartfelt thanks to their neighbours Alison and Barry Spicer and Ernie Cook for their sterling work in clearing their garden last month of a giant bonfire which was the size of a bungalow! Their kindness was much appreciated.

**THE HARVEST SUPPER** will be held in the village hall on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September, 7.00 for 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 and can be obtained from Betty Neely by phoning 01303 251475.

**LOST** - Pam Sayers has lost a wooden walking stick which belonged to her mother who died in 1978. If you find it, please ring Pam on 822397.

**BOOKS** - There were a lot of books (mainly fiction) left from the fete and these are now in the village hall. If you would like to see what's available please give either Sue Lees (822661) or me (824969) a ring and we'll open the hall for you and if you take any you can make a suitable donation.



## 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 CHURCHYARD

Congratulations to Richard Tapsell for organising the cutting of the grass in the churchyard. John Huggins kindly provided a large tractor pulling a mower and a small tractor mower which cut the larger areas. The rest of the churchyard was cut using trimmers by a group of hard working people. Particular thanks should go to Pam Lawrence of Hougham who worked so hard and also to Richard Tapsell, Kevin Mepham plus Milly and friends. Two irate swarms of wasps managed multiple sting bites on me, Rob Lees and the vicar all of whom showed a remarkable turn of speed.

**FENCE** – The Parish Council asked Dover District Council to fence off the deep part of the dyke opposite the village hall and that's what they have done. It was good of them to do it but it was a bit of surprise to see the large stockade appear which is four foot high with plastic coated chain link over all openings.

**ADVICE SURGERIES** – On Thursday afternoons from 2 pm to 4 pm Advice Surgeries are being held in Capel-le-Ferne village hall (confidentiality is available in the small hall if required) as follows: 29<sup>th</sup> July Homestart support for families; In August; 5<sup>th</sup> Age Concern; 12<sup>th</sup> Patients advice & liaison service; 19<sup>th</sup> Photography advice; 26<sup>th</sup> Care & repair in the home; In September; 2<sup>nd</sup> Gwyn Prosser M.P.; 9<sup>th</sup> Security in the home (police); 16<sup>th</sup> Fire Safety Officer; 23<sup>rd</sup> Energy savings & grants advice ; 30<sup>th</sup> Citizens rights for older people; In October; 7<sup>th</sup> H.I. Kent -hearing impairment advice; 14<sup>th</sup> Council tax benefits for the over 60's; 21<sup>st</sup> D.D.C. Composting / recycling advice; 28<sup>th</sup> Mencap - learning difficulties. Refreshments are available along with book and video hire. Please telephone 01303 245399 for further information.

**PLAY SCHEME** – Dover District Council has organised some summer holiday courses for youngsters. Pre-registration is required and this can be done by filling in a form in their booklet, which can be obtained by phoning DDC on 821199. There is a charge of £2.55 per child per day of the playscheme (£1.25 if receiving Housing Benefit). In addition there are summer courses such as summer soccer (£9 per day or £40 per week), Pony Activity week and days (week £80 or per day £30) plus water sports and cricket. There is also Teenscheme, which runs for 5 weeks from the 26<sup>th</sup> of July and gives teenagers the chance to try out different sports such as bowling, water sports, clay pigeon shooting, skiing and many more. For booking and pricing ring Sue Andrews on 375559.

### GARDENTALK

We decided to cancel our visit to "Hockley Sole" because the weather was so miserable but we are hoping for a bit of sunshine soon when we may be able to arrange another date. The August meeting will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 7.30pm at "Chalksole Cottage" the home of Geoff and Linda Gaskill.

(Susannah Tapsell)

**BROADBAND** – As most people know, the exchange at Whitfield has been upgraded to provide Broadband to Alkham. Unfortunately, there is only a range of 6Km, which means that it only extends to the Short Lane area. However, BT say they have an ongoing policy of upgrading the system and in August the signal should reach 6.5km so more houses will be able to get it. (editor)

**CHAIRS** – Many thanks to the Marquis of Granby for giving their pub chairs to the village hall. The existing wooden chairs have been in the hall since it opened in 1931 and these will now go into retirement.

## THE JOINT BENEFICE OF ALKHAM, CAPEL & HOUGHAM BARBECUE

SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST,  
2004 at 6.00 p.m.



AT  
ST RADIGUND'S  
ALBANY ROAD  
COST: £5.00

(TO INCLUDE  
DRINKS)  
TOMBOLA STALL

### Tickets from:

Barbara Clay 01303 250304  
Christine Elcombe 01303 252959  
Dick Salmon 01303 251502

### MEMORIES OF ALKHAM

...continuing. When Vivienne Smith first started to work as a housemaid at Norton Farm on Slip Lane in 1946, she lived with the foreman's family. Work at the farm was hard as apart from the family of six, breakfast had to be made for Mick the cowman, his helper Joy (a landgirl) and some German prisoners of war. Vivienne's mother owned Valley Cottage (end of track at the bottom of Short Lane) which had no electricity or mains water. There was always something going on at the farm but what she remembers most was 'Farmer' the big bull. One night when the family was away she heard the most horrendous noise and clanking of chains and out of the window saw Farmer approaching dragging his chains and half of the back of the stall he had been in. Fortunately, the chain tangled and Farmer was eventually returned to a new stall. The father of the wife of the owner of Norton Farm was William Christopher Wordsworth, the son of the famous poet. When he retired from the Calcutta Times in the spring, he wandered to Alkham where a house had been built for him on the farm and this is now called Appletree Cottage.

**ALKHAM VALLEY MEADOWS** has applied for planning permission for a mobile office on the caravan site next to the Garden Centre.

### FARMER'S MARKET

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



# FREDERIC HALL

**Solicitors**

York House, Folkestone

01303 851185

& Clyde House, Dover 202411

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**AND 5 KING STREET, DOVER**  
Discover for yourselves why Geering and Colyer  
deserve their reputation for customer care  
**SURVEYORS \* VALUERS \* ESTATE AGENTS**

**W.I.** - Thirty members of Alkham W.I met in the village hall at their last monthly meeting. Forty three members and friends have an outing on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July to Bodiam Castle. Coach leaves Alkham at 9.15 and returns about 5pm. A trip to the Marlowe in November to see Brigadoon by the Herne Bay Operatic Society was arranged, several members were interested. The speaker should have been Mr B Hood and the subject "Ashes to Ashes". Unfortunately he was poorly so Debbie, who works for him, spoke instead. The title of the talk gives a clue, it was an undertakers. Debbie made it sound very interesting, humorous at times and sad at others. She explained what happened to you when you die and how they cope with bereaved relatives. She was thanked by Mandy Summers. Next month is an American Supper type meeting where members bring food and share. Tuesday August 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. (Cherry Leppard)

**Christian Aid and  
St Lawrence  
Church**

**Open Day at New  
Church Farm  
Church Hougham**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August  
10a.m. - 5.00 p.m.**

**Refreshments - Stalls - Games**

## Howard Cleaves and the Alkham Valley Society

Many members of the Society will remember Howard Cleaves, who was Secretary of the Society when it was formed in 1977, and it is with regret that we hear of his death at the grand old age of 93. He was certainly in the late eighties, if not ninety, when he took part in the last Christmas Walk. What an achievement at that age. He played a tremendous part in the formation of the Society and was an active and efficient Secretary for many years. Howard was exceptionally informed on the subject of trees, taking interested parties around Kearsney Abbey to impart his knowledge. He also gave talks on the subject. Members of the Society offer their sincere condolences to the family in their bereavement. It is understood donations in his memory are to be sent to the Council for the Protection of Rural England, and we have accordingly carried out the family's wish .....

### A REMARKABLE MAN

died on 27<sup>th</sup> June and his life was celebrated at Temple Ewell church on 6<sup>th</sup> July. Howard Cleaves was born in 1910 and grew up in rural Monmouthshire in a large, happy extended family. The tiny woven coffin evoked tales of his forebear, John Crease, the last coracle fisherman on the River Usk. In 1933 Howard graduated in Mathematics and Education from Bangor University and began to teach. During the war he served in the Meteorological Office and the Royal Air Force. Howard moved in 1951 with his wife Josie and their two daughters to the Duke of York's Royal Military School at Dover, where he taught for the next quarter-century as Head of Mathematics. Generations of schoolboys knew him, whether at the blackboard or the cricket nets, as "Mr Chips". Howard's MSc was awarded in 1953 for his dissertation on "Stresses in aeolotropic circular discs". On retirement in 1975 he and Josie moved to "The Gables" at Kearsney Court. At that time, the

Alkham Valley and its adjacent parklands were threatened by land-clearances, road-building and housing, and Howard, aided enthusiastically by Josie, became a formidable secretary to the fledgling Alkham Valley Society. Howard's daughters describe him as "a man of insatiable curiosity who never ceased to learn from the world around him". Told that it was impossible to learn new languages at the age of 55, he taught himself Russian and went on to translate Russian aeronautical journals for the Pergamon press. He was a founder member of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, and contributed to a mathematics textbook still in use today. Howard also belonged to the University of the Third Age, lecturing on subjects as diverse as architecture, Hebrew poetry and the relationship between mathematics and music. In 1994 Josie died and Howard gained increasing comfort from the Church, singing in the Temple Ewell and River church choirs, and visiting the Methodist and Anglican lunch clubs each week. He also sang bass until April this year in Dover Choral Society and the Duke of York's Chorus. The privilege was mine of standing alongside Howard in both choruses and observing how he dealt with increasing deafness. After routine announcements, Howard would ask "Anything of importance?" to which my answer was usually "NO!" "I thought not!" would come the reply. A small boy, on hearing that Howard had died, asked "Will Howard's ears be working now?" to which, said Howard's daughters, the answer is surely "YES!"

(Steve Osborn)



## WHAT'S ON

### Regular events

<b>TUESDAY</b>	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm

### Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	7	Bingo in VH - 7.30pm
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in VH 7.30pm
Saturday	14	Beekkeepers in VH 8am to 5pm
Monday	16	Dover & District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	17	Garden Talk 7.30pm at Chalksole Cottage
Sunday	29	Cricket versus Harrington Hackers starts midday, Vicarage Meadow

## CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>			Healing Service 7.00 pm
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of Praise West Hougham village hall 6.30pm
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund, Capel 10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.

weekday services: morning prayer 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

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** – Since the flurry at the start of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme things have been pretty

quiet. This in itself is a good thing as it hopefully shows that there are no pressing problems in Alkham. The scheme however is still active and if you encounter any problems, please do contact your local representative or give me a ring and I will pass the messages on. (editor 824969)

**ALKHAM WEB** – It was quite pleasing to meet a family from Spain who were walking around Alkham holding a copy of the map and walks, which are on the Alkham web site.

**VILLAGE OF THE YEAR** – We have received a letter from the organisers saying that we are going to get an invitation to the award ceremony at Harrietsham on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September. This doesn't mean we have won the Environmental Category but it's an improvement as we didn't get an invitation to go last year.

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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207976, work number 01795532547

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

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Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130  
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822295 and Grace Stacey 822756  
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<b>CLEANING SERVICES</b>	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 07889310479
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<b>SCHOOL</b>	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353



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Brian Wimsett: The Old Post Office  
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE  
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No. 133 September 2004

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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](http://www.alkhamcourt.co.uk)

Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

**TWINNING** – The proposed twinning of Alkham with Audreselles is definitely not proceeding. I've no intention of printing the content of the apparently rude letter from the Mayor of the French village as to why they are not proceeding, because if the interpretation was incorrect it could lead to a libel action. Parish Councillor, Geoffrey Lymer, is going to look for another village to twin with and it's highly unlikely that it will be in France. (editor)

**30mph SIGNS** – The 30mph repeater signs proposed for Slip Lane are not going to be installed because despite DDC giving a price for their supply, it would appear that if the Parish Council put them up, the Highway Authority would take them down as it's not in accordance with their signing policy. A recent national survey showed that a lot of drivers did not realise that Parish Council lighting at regulation spacing enforces the 30mph limit, so it's difficult to see why a small repeater sign would not be a good idea. (editor)

**FOR RENT** 2 Paddocks with stables and water supply available in Slip Lane, Alkham. For details, please contact Mr Hodges on 01304 852216.

**RECYCLING** - The next collection will be on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of September**. The amount being collected remains about the same but there are still items in the sacks, which Community Recycling will not take and we have to walk into the household waste site at Hawkinge. Most people have got it right but a few have missed points put in the flyer and Newsletter, so if you recycle please would you spread the word that the only plastics we take are those that contained drinks such as milk, soft drinks and squash. With regard to foil please make sure it is the type which you can bend i.e. not crisp packets etc. (editor)

**TEEN SHELTER** - Parish Councillor, Geoffrey Lymer, has produced a design for a teen shelter for youngsters in the village. He has got all the necessary materials and would like to get a work force together to build the structure and put in a couple of concrete plinths. If any youngsters or parents would like to help with this worthwhile project please contact the Parish Clerk, Sue Lees, on 822661.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Alex Crane who lives with his parents, Christopher and Susan Harman in Newlyn Meadow, on achieving a BA (Hons) in Architecture from Brighton University.

**GATSO GUNS** – The Parish Council voted unanimously not to proceed with the proposal for six villagers to be trained to operate Gatso guns for use on the Alkham Valley Road. No reason was given for this decision at the Parish Council meeting but it was clear that the matter had been the subject of some discussion. (editor)

**CONFIRMATION** - Raye and I would like to thank everybody in the Parish and Benefice who helped in any way with, and supported me, in my recent Confirmation. The Service was not only personally very moving but, I have since learned that it had a similar effect on many others present. It was nice to have so many friends there. A special thank you must go to our vicar Kevin and to Pam Lawrence for the Healing Services recently conducted by them which were the path that led me to be confirmed. I would also like to thank the Rt. Rev. Stephen Venner, Bishop of Dover, for holding such a special service in our own parish Church. (Brian Luckhurst)

**ABANDONED and untaxed cars**  
To help DDC remove the above efficiently, contact Mrs Denise Axford on 01304 872286 or email them on [abandoned.vehicles@dover.gov.uk](mailto:abandoned.vehicles@dover.gov.uk)

**GP** – A & E Departments are designed to treat critical or life threatening situations. From September 1<sup>st</sup>, GP's will no longer have to provide services between 6.30pm and 8.00am on weekdays or at weekends and public holidays. If you require urgent medical help at these times, not covered by A & E, ring **0844 800 1234** and they will deal with the situation.

**THE HARVEST SUPPER** will be held in the village hall on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September, 7.00 for 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 and can be obtained from Betty Neely by phoning 01303 251475.

**EGGS** – Jon and Julie Wood have recently moved into village and have a number of chickens whose freshly laid eggs are generally for sale at a cost of 80p for half a dozen. If you'd like to buy some and check availability please ring 821563.

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Tel. 01304 852960

## Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park

Alkham Village

Telephone

01304 206344



**HONEY SHOW** - If you cast a regular eye over the information Brian provides on the back page of the magazine, doubtless you will have noticed that the Dover and District Beekeepers meets in the Village Hall during the winter months. The Association's connection with Alkham goes back a long way. Until recently our apiary was situated on the outskirts of the village and several of us still have hives secreted around the parish. Saturday 25th September is the highlight of our calendar: the Association's Annual Honey Show and Competition takes place in the hall between 2.30 and 5.30. Admission to the event is free and, as Show Secretary, I would like to extend a warm invitation to any of you who might wish to attend. A selection of the products of our and other associations' hives will be on display - honeys of various sorts, of course, as well as wax, candles, mead and confectionery; refreshments will be available. We are always on the look-out for new members and more than willing to provide whatever support beginners need to get themselves established in a craft which is endlessly fascinating. The Show provides an opportunity to meet enthusiasts and, if your appetite is whetted, to make arrangements to visit our apiary at nearby Coldred. Alternatively, I'd welcome a call (01304-824584) from anyone who would care to visit my hives in Ewell Minnis. **(Roy Dyche)**

### Artisan Nursery Garden Design

Urgently require staff at all levels from apprentices onwards.

Tel: 01303 221953 or 07763327548 for more info.

**ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD** - As most people in the village will have seen, the Highway Authority have put high skid resistant chippings on the Alkham Valley Road at its eastern end and also on the double bend in the centre of the village. These locations have presumably been identified as areas where vehicles are likely to skid because of braking or cornering. A meeting is being held between the Highway Authority and Parish Councils on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August in the DDC offices at Whitfield to discuss what measures are going to be considered for improving the safety on the Alkham Valley Road. **(editor)**

### A DAY AT THE RACES

It wasn't supposed to be but five cyclists steamed past Ken Hammond, his son Alan and me 20 miles from the finish and we had to follow. The ride was in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust and started at Woodbridge in Suffolk and there was a choice of the 60 mile route, which the three of us did at an average speed of about 17mph, or the shorter 25 mile route which Billy Hollis, Mary and her sister rode, taking in two pubs for soft drinks and a ploughman's lunch plus a look round the gift shops in Snape. A great day was had by all and many thanks to Billy for providing the transport. We haven't sent the sponsor forms back yet so if anyone would like to add to the list please contact one of the entrants. **(editor)**

**JULIE ROOK**, Cabinet member of DDC, has been given the responsibility for anti social behaviour, CCTV, youth, corporate enforcement and community safety. She would welcome any letters from parishioners, which bring her attention to any of these issues within the district. Please write to her at DDC, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ.

**MANY THANKS** to the lady who lives to the west of the village who gave a donation to the Newsletter and also for her kind comments. **(editor)**

**BROADBAND** - Further to the article in last month's Newsletter it would appear as though Broadband may be available over a larger area than reported. According to a couple of reports on the Internet, following successful trials in Milton Keynes and in the Scottish Highlands, from September 6<sup>th</sup> 2004 BT is now confident that just about anyone connected to a DSL-enabled exchange should be able to get broadband. Although they are confident about the extended reach of ADSL, BT also expects that one in five people living beyond the former 6Km limit will need a visit by a BT engineer to make sure the service can work. BT won't charge for the visit, but it accepts that, in a "small number of cases" it still may not be possible to provide a reliable broadband service. (on the internet see [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/08/18/bt\\_extended\\_adsl/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/08/18/bt_extended_adsl/) and also [news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/3575964.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/3575964.stm))

**GARDENTALK** - A really lovely evening was spent at Geoff and Linda's "Chalksole Cottage". We very much enjoyed sharing the delightful design and success of the vegetable garden, the well ordered herb garden and the beautiful flower garden with its views across the valley. New faces were welcomed and a jolly time was had by all.. The next time we meet will be on Friday 8th October 7 30pm at John and Rosemary's "Brook House" Meggett Lane. **(Susannah Tapsell)**

### FARMER'S MARKET

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

Local produce

Phone 01303 245399

**GARAGE SALE SAFARI** on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Capel-le-Ferne. Buy your 'map' for 50p from the Village Hall in Lancaster Avenue to find all the garage sales (at least 45 booked) in the village. Refreshments will be available at the village hall. Please telephone 01303 245399 for further information



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**HARVEST CELEBRATIONS** at St. Anthony's. The Harvest Service will held at 11.00am on Sunday 19th September and again there will be a wedding held on the previous day, so decoration of the Church in Harvest mode will take place on the Sunday morning from 10.15am. If you would like to contribute traditional harvest gifts of fruit and vegetables we would most grateful if you would bring them to the Church at that time. If, sadly, you are unable to attend the service but are going to the Harvest Supper on Tues. 21st perhaps you would take them with you for the Harvest charity auction. We would like to thank all those who worked so hard in cutting and clearing the grass in the Churchyard during July. (Richard and Grace - Church Wardens)

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**OZ on LORDS WARDEN** - The Queen's approval of the appointment of Admiral the Lord Boyce as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports has been welcomed as an uncontroversial decision. The Cinque Ports, formed around 1050 and granted a Royal Charter in 1155, maintained ships to be commandeered by the Crown in wartime. In return Portsmen could "soc and sac, tol and team, bloowit and fledwit, pillory tumbril infangentheof, outfangentheof, mundbryce waives and strays, flotsam and jetsam and ligan", ie do just as they wished around the south-east coast. The post of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports was created to control these activities and was combined later with the office of Constable of Dover Castle to assert the authority of the Crown. The first Lord Warden, in 1226, was William d'Averanch, followed by a succession of French barons for the next 200 years. Two Prince Henrys, (later Kings Henry V and VIII), became Lords Warden, in 1409 and 1493 respectively. Over the years, Lords Warden have reflected their times, so that after French barons and English princes came Victorian soldiers, statesmen and industrialists. The most famous of these was the Duke of Wellington, who occupied the post from 1829 until his death in 1852, but that century also saw the post occupied by William Pitt, Lord Palmerston and, in 1891, by Mr W H Smith, the famous newsagent. Recently the office was given, in recognition of services to the nation and the Commonwealth, to Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Robert Menzies, and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the only woman to hold the office, from 1979 until her death in 2002. The appointment of Admiral Boyce, a political crossbencher, seems a wise choice when the media are hungry for tales of rifts between No 10 and the Palace. (Steve Osborn)

# W.I.

The W.I meeting held in August was member's night so we had no speaker. Every member who came brought a plate of food which was laid on a table so we could help ourselves. With a glass or two of wine, it was most enjoyable. There was a little bit of entertainment by the members. The idea was, with a couple of props the rest of us had to guess who they were. Example was Marylyn Monroe and the Beverly Sisters. The outing to see "Brigadoon" at the Marlowe was arranged, 17 members were going on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November. The other outing to see the "Des & Mel" show in London was finalised. This would take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November. A coach would leave Alkham at 9.30am to be at the studio by 12.15. The live show starts at 1pm to 2pm. There will be time then to eat or do a bit of shopping in London. Coach to leave at 6pm. The only cost will be the coach fare. Jumble sale in the hall on Saturday 11th September for W.I funds. Time 11am. There will be no monthly walk in August. Next months meeting in September is Sarah Turner and her subject is "Tai Chi". (Cherry Leppard)

## THE QUEEN'S AWARD for Voluntary Service.

To celebrate her Golden Jubilee in 2002, The Queen announced a new annual Award to recognise outstanding voluntary activities by groups in the community. Nominate your local unsung heroes! Give them the recognition they deserve! For information and a nomination form visit [www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk](http://www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk) email [gjaward@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gjaward@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) or call 0845 000 2002 (A group (two or more people) can be nominated if it has been working in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands or Isle of Man, normally for a minimum of three years, and the majority of its members are volunteers. Groups solely concerned with fundraising for charitable purposes are not eligible). (Parish Council) **A JUMBLE SALE** will be held in the village hall on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> of September in aid of W.I funds.

## MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Wednesday Night Carvery £9.95

(eat as much as you like)

Thursday Night Steak Night Special

16oz rib-eye £8.45

Sunday Lunch Carvery £7.95

Please book early 822945



## WHAT'S ON

### Regular events

<b>TUESDAY</b>	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm

### Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	4	Bingo in VH – 7.30pm
Sunday	5	Cricket v Courtstairs VM 1.30pm
Monday	6	Parish Council meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	11	W.I. jumble sale VH 11.00am
Sunday	12	Cricket v Griffin's Head VM 1pm
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting in VH 7.30pm
Monday	20	Dover & District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	21	Harvest Supper see page 1
Saturday	25	Beekeepers Honey Show see P2

## CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>		Healing Service 7.00 p.m.	
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of Praise for Harvest West Hougham village hall 6.30 p.m.
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Harvest Festival 11.00 a.m.	Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence Hougham 10.00 a.m.		

Weekday Services: Morning Prayer 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

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** - If on reversing your car from a car park, you notice a piece of paper or other material stuck to your rear window, don't get out to remove it until you are some distance away. Car Jackers are known to resort to this ruse as a means of jumping into your car whilst the engine is running. Also if you see any vehicle carrying builder's rubble or garden waste, try to note its registration number, the make and colour of the vehicle, when and where you saw it and the direction in which it was travelling. Report

this to the Country Eye office (01304 215130) who intend to set up a database. Kent Trading Standards have received complaints concerning companies who leaflet drop inviting the public to donate unwanted clothes which are then collected door to door. Some of these companies are commercial organisations and not charities. Trading Standards would appreciate information relating to future collections in Kent particularly with regard to the company concerned, the area, the goods and collection date. Ring them on 0845 7585497 or email [tsadvice@kent.gov.uk](mailto:tsadvice@kent.gov.uk)

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484

County Councillor, Bryan Cope  
207976, work number 01795532547

District Councillors  
Sue Nicholas 823956  
Andrew Richardson 211835

Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055  
Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130  
Community Warden 07977 981994

GP out of hours to access urgent  
medical help 0844 800 1234

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969  
e mail [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661  
[susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk)

### Village Hall booking

Rosemary Polden 824876

### Alkham Valley Society secretary

Joanna Walker 821641

W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475

Vicar Kevin Mephram 01303 244119  
Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell  
822295 and Grace Stacey 822756

Alkham web site [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

## LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

<b>ACCOUNTANCY</b>	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	St. Margaret's 852252
<b>ALKHAM MEADOWS</b>	Touring Caravan Park – Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road 206344
<b>ARBORICULTURE</b>	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
<b>BUILDING WORK</b>	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
<b>CAT &amp; DOG GROOMING</b>	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
<b>CLEANING SERVICES</b>	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 07889310479
<b>CURTAINS &amp; BLINDS</b>	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley 01303 891806
<b>ELECTRICAL</b>	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
<b>EQUESTRIAN</b>	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
<b>EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES</b>	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham 01303 891996
<b>GARDEN CENTRE</b>	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and horse supplies	South Alkham 01303 893351
<b>KENNELS</b>	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
<b>LIVERY</b>	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
<b>POST OFFICE</b>	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
<b>SCHOOL</b>	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  
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No. 134 October 2004

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## **VILLAGE OF THE YEAR**

Alkham entered the Environmental Section of this competition and were commended, which is disappointing as this is a fourth place spot. It was hoped we would do better because of Alkham Recycling but the feeling was, that when the judges came to Alkham, they weren't particularly interested in the project. It was noted that the winner had a crested newt. (editor)

**BURGLARY** - On the 7<sup>th</sup> of September a house in Slip Lane was broken into and some money stolen. The police reacted swiftly to the 999 call, as did the Incident Officer, but were unable to locate the intruder. Evidently a house in Lydden had also been recently broken into, so it would appear that burglars may be operating in this area.

**TREE WARDEN** - Peter Davis, who runs the Alkham Valley Tree Surgery, has kindly agreed to be Tree Warden for Alkham to give advice, initiate projects and to protect trees. To contact him please see entry under 'Local Businesses' on the back page.

## **ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD**

The speed of traffic along the valley has recently been monitored by cables across the road. The results have been analysed and the top 15% of fast drivers discounted, as any speed restrictions are highly unlikely to have any effect on this group. The results, called the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile, showed that the average speeds along the Valley Road were around 50 mph and for this reason a speed limit of 50mph is a feasible option and may eventually be imposed. The Parish Council Chairman, Neil Burrows, also suggested to the DDC working group that a 40mph limit should be imposed between South Alkham and Alkham. High skid resistant surfacing was proposed on the Valley Road at the Wolverton Hill and Meggett Lane junctions. Further meetings will take place with regard to speed restrictions and safety measures. (editor)

**TRAFFIC** - Before the new A20 dual carriageway was opened in December 1993 there were approximately 7000 vehicles a day using the Alkham Valley Road and with the opening this dropped to around 5000vpd. The latest traffic count has shown that the traffic has risen to 6000vpd, this being about a 2% annual increase in traffic. (editor)

**BUFFET & SUPPER DANCE** in Alkham Village Hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of October from 7.30pm to 11.30pm. There will be live music by Toucan and tickets, available from Betty Neely on 01303 251475, cost £8 inclusive of food but bring your own drinks. Proceeds will go to the Kent Air Ambulance Service.

**ALKHAM RECYCLING** - The next collection will take place on Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> of October.

**ALKHAM CYCLING** - The annual church bike ride took place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September and Ken Hammond rode for the Benefice, with monies raised going to St. Anthony's. He covered 67 miles and visited 76 churches and in the process raised £166.

**AN EXHIBITION** of work by the members of the Alkham Art Workshop is to be held in the village hall on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of October between 5.30pm and 10.00pm. Admission is £2.00, which is inclusive of refreshments.

## **Artisan Nursery Garden Design**

Urgently require staff at all levels  
from apprentices onwards.

Tel: 01303 221953 or  
07763327548 for more info.

**A FETE COMMITTEE** meeting will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October at 8.00pm in the village hall to discuss the fete and also to decide how the profits should be distributed.

**MEADOW TIDY UP** - On the 16<sup>th</sup> of October a working party is needed to clear up the Vicarage Meadow and also to give the cricket pavilion a coat of preservative. Work will start at about 10.00am and take a couple of hours followed (almost certain) by a barbecue and a few free pints. Please ring Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082 a couple of days before to check what tools to bring (weather dependent).

## **MARQUIS OF GRANBY**

**Wednesday** Night Carvery **£9.95**  
(eat as much as you like)

**Thursday** Night Steak Night Special  
16oz rib-eye **£8.45**

**Sunday** Lunch Carvery **£7.95**  
Please book early 822945



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Tel. 01304 852960

## Alkham Valley Meadow

Touring Caravan Park  
Alkham Village  
Telephone  
01304 206344



**ROAD SIGNS** - I am writing to express my view on the subject of road signs which happen to match the sentiments expressed in newspaper articles (*available*). I note that it is suggested that 30mph signs should be erected in Slip lane and I object on the basis that more signs are a form of litter and it is stupid to encourage drivers to do 30mph when that is too fast for most of Slip Lane anyway. Further it could be argued that the Road Narrows signs should be taken away as, if a driver has not already discovered that fact by the time they get to them, they should not be allowed on the road. Legal road signs can be troublesome enough but there are also numerous illegal signs. For example somebody has put a notice on a pole opposite Bushey Ruff encouraging road safety and this could be a hazard in itself as anything distracting can be a danger. I still think that it should be made much clearer that drivers are entering a village by one of several means used in this country and elsewhere in the world. What you do about the drivers who travel at 40mph along the valley and then continue at the same speed into the village I do not know. (Barry Sheppard - sent to the Parish Council with a copy to the Newsletter. The letter has been edited)

**SAMARITANS** - In 1953 a 14 year old girl tragically took her own life. She, like thousands of others, felt that life was just too difficult to carry on. For this reason, Chad Varah formed the Samaritans which now operates 24 hours every day, 365 days per year, to offer confidential, emotional support to those people who are experiencing problems in their lives. Samaritans need people just like you. Could you listen to and support someone who felt they were going through a crisis? The local Folkestone branch is keen to welcome new volunteers. If you feel you can spare time each month, at hours to suit you, please phone 01303 266353 to obtain more details and information about our next selection day.

### FARMER'S MARKET

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

Local produce

Phone 01303 245399

**FARMERS' HARVEST MARKET** on Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall. Marshmellow Bakeries will be making a Wheat-sheaf Loaf, and Goodchilds, a special Harvest Cake; E. F. End will be providing pumpkins. There will also be the usual variety of stalls such as meat, eggs, dairy, cheese, bread, cakes, sweets, herbs & spices, olives & specialities, preserves, apple & pear juice, fruit, vegetables, plants and cut flowers, and craft stalls.

**FENCING** - DDC said they are disappointed by the fencing put round the dyke by the village hall and are going to speak to the people who put it up. The main problems are that it doesn't cover a large enough area and the netting goes to the base of the ditch such that it will probably form a dam when the dyke is in flood.

### FOLKESTONE

**CAMERA CLUB** - The club has just started its new season and if you are interested in photography, be it film or digital, we are sure to have something to interest you. It is a fun and also rewarding hobby, which is often even better when sharing it with friends. Our season usually consists of lectures, inter-club competitions, friendly battles with other clubs, audio visuals, travelogues, monthly workshops and even outings. Meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Community Hall, Castle Hill Avenue. Folkestone, every Monday commencing at 7.45pm and new members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining, please, ring Jenny Barraclough on 01303 245399 or email: [jenny-bar@btconnect.com](mailto:jenny-bar@btconnect.com) for further information or visit our website [www.folkestonecameraclub.co.uk](http://www.folkestonecameraclub.co.uk). The next selection day will take place 10<sup>th</sup> October.

**THE AGM** of the Alkham Valley Society will be held in the village hall on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November at 7.30pm. There will be dinner afterwards in the restaurant of the Marquis of Granby - A' la carte menu. This is an early notice since people get busy before Christmas. It would suit the Marquis if we could give them some idea of numbers. Please call the Secretary now on 821641.

### DAVID HORNE

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& Clyde House, Dover 202411

### NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

I recently had to complete a form for a hospital in London, and I had to inform them which denomination or religion I believed in. The nurse said, it didn't really matter unless things took a turn for the worse and I needed the last rites. Well it cheered me up no end! She went on to say that most people put down C. of E. rather as an insurance just in case. Most of them only go to a Church for a family celebration, (and even then wait outside the door till the last minute). Why are we so slow at coming into God's house now when at the time of our death? We will jump at the chance of eternal life? Alkham Hougham and Capel Churches are here to serve all the people of the Benefice. At the end of October we shall be holding Memorial services in the Churches to remember our loved ones who have gone on to eternal life. If you would like us to remember family or friends, please let us know their names. Or better still why not come along to one of the services on 31<sup>st</sup> October, where we shall be remembering all who have touched our lives in a special way. You may not have considered your own preparation for eternal life, but most of us do not get advance warning, and not everyone has been a Guide and learnt to 'be prepared'. We are always willing to share our understanding of eternal life with enquirers. (Kevin Mepham)

### ALL SOULS MEMORIAL SERVICES

- On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October we will be holding memorial services for the departed, as follows:  
St Anthony's, Alkham - 6.30 p.m.: St Mary (old church), Capel-le-Ferne 11.00 a.m.: St Lawrence, Hougham - 9.30 a.m. (Memorial Eucharist). If you have a loved one you would like remembered by name on that day please will you pass it to any of the following: Vicar: Revd Kevin Mepham, 01303 244119 Reader: Mr Tony Elcombe, 01303 252959: Pastoral Assistant: Miss Pamela Lawrence, 01304 241339: Churchwardens: St Anthony's, Alkham: Mrs Grace Stacey, 01304 822756: Mr Richard Tapsell, 01304 822295: St Mary, Capel-le-Ferne, Mrs Christine Elcombe, 01303 252959: Mr Dick Salmon, 01303 251502: St Lawrence, Hougham: Mrs Rachel Hogben, 01304 210594: Mrs Mary Pressnell, 01304 202346.

**OZ on WASPS** - One wet and windy day in June my wife was stung by dozens of angry wasps after she accidentally broke their nest buried deep in a tub of evergreens. In spite of double doses of antibiotics and antihistamine the pains lasted for weeks. The wasp man explained that we had created ideal conditions for a nest by lining the tub with polystyrene before filling and planting. He also explained that the wasp population was high this summer because of the preceding hard winter. It seems that some queen wasps awaken and venture out during winter warm spells, only to die when the cold suddenly returns. Last winter the queens stayed asleep until spring, resulting in offspring being up by some 80% this summer. My wife's pains were just beginning to recede when, one hot July day, an ominous buzzing started from an air-brick behind books in the study. "Just right for wasps", said the wasp man as he climbed the ladder, "they've probably chewed your books to make the nest", adding gleefully that he'd been called out to many of our friends, ranging from three doors away to Ringwould. A week later, he felt so sorry for us when we found a third nest in a compost bin, yet another "perfect environment for wasps", that he charged only a small call-out fee. That great naturalist, Rev Gilbert White, paid boys to catch queen wasps with hazel twigs tipped with bird-lime. He too noticed the yearly fluctuations in the wasp population: "In 1781 we had none; in 1783 there were myriads", which "destroy all the finer fruits just as they are coming into perfection." Our apples were finally destroyed last month when holed by "golf-ball" hailstones, letting in hungry wasps that had survived the summer purges. (Steve Osborn)

**W.I.**

This meeting saw very few members 'sitting out' the vast majority joined in the elegant "Tai Chi" exercises led by Sarah. Exercises designed to take the stress out of life and improve health in all age groups. The rest of the evening was taken up making arrangements for outings - The Des & Mel Show either 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> November (Cherry Leppard 01303 255114); and a Christmas Shopping Trip to France via the shuttle 4<sup>th</sup> December, £21 (Doreen Lott 01304 824876). The Jumble Sale made £127 profit. Susannah Tapsell was pleased to report that a home was found for the gigantic toy dinosaur, which no one seemed to be interested in at the Jumble Sale. A little boy spied it when the unsold items were being dumped and was overjoyed when he was given it to take home with him. (Sue Lees)

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## WHAT'S ON

### Regular events

<b>TUESDAY</b>	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm

### Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	2	Bingo in VH – 7.30pm
Friday	8	Garden Talk at Brook House 7.30pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting in VH 7.30pm
Wednesday	13	Fete meeting see page 1
Saturday	16	PCC Jumble Sale in VH 11.00am
Saturday	23	Buffet dance – see page 1
Saturday	30	Art exhibition – see page 1

## CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Eucharist 8.00 am Harvest Festival Family Service 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>		Healing Service 7.00 p.m.	
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of praise West Hougham village hall 6.30pm
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Worshipping together 11.00am	Sung evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony, Alkham 10.00am		
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Memorial Service ☩ 6.30 p.m.	Memorial service St Mary's, Capel ☩ 11.00 a.m.	Memorial Eucharist ☩ 9.30 a.m.
Weekday services: morning prayer at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays); Evening prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5 pm Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am			

**LIGHTING** – The Parish Council asked DDC if they would install a light near the road end of the football pitch, to light the pitch and the proposed teen shelter. The cost of the light is about £300 but the connection would be £2000 as the box has to be above flood level and therefore DDC has reluctantly refused the request.

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484

County Councillor, Bryan Cope  
207976, work number 01795532547

### District Councillors

Sue Nicholas 823956

Andrew Richardson 211835

Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055  
Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130  
Community Warden 07977 981994

GP out of hours to access urgent  
medical help 0844 800 1234

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969  
e mail [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661  
[susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk)

### Village Hall booking

Rosemary Polden 824876

### Alkham Valley Society secretary

Joanna Walker 821641

W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475

Vicar Kevin Mepham 01303 244119

Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell  
822295 and Grace Stacey 822756

Alkham web site [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

## LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

<b>ACCOUNTANCY</b>	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	St. Margaret's 852252
<b>ALKHAM MEADOWS</b>	Touring Caravan Park – Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road 206344
<b>ARBORICULTURE</b>	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
<b>BUILDING WORK</b>	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
<b>CAT &amp; DOG GROOMING</b>	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
<b>CLEANING SERVICES</b>	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 07889310479
<b>CURTAINS &amp; BLINDS</b>	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley 01303 891806
<b>ELECTRICAL</b>	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmain Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
<b>EQUESTRIAN</b>	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
<b>EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES</b>	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham 01303 891996
<b>GARDEN CENTRE</b>	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and horse supplies	South Alkham 01303 893351
<b>KENNELS</b>	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
<b>LIVERY</b>	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
<b>POST OFFICE</b>	Southdown Stores groceries, videos, fruit/veg, off licence, fresh bread/milk	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
<b>SCHOOL</b>	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  
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No. 135 November 2004

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**ILLEGAL DUMPING** - If you are aware of any locations in your parish which are regularly used for the illegal dumping of rubbish, would you please contact P.C. Foster on 01304 218130. South East Kent Police, together with DDC and KCC will be mounting joint operations to combat this nuisance which, in some instances, is highly organised and involves known criminals. Details of any vehicles which you spot transporting rubbish would also be welcome.

**COUNCIL TAX** - The Kent Benefits Partnership was set up specifically to help the over 60's take up their entitlement to Council Tax Benefit. They are trying to target those people who own their own homes, have moderate savings of less than £16,000 and who up until now have thought themselves ineligible to claim Council Tax Benefit. To increase the uptake of this benefit, they are arranging outreach surgeries to give help with filling in the claim forms, so if you are interested please phone the Parish Clerk on 822661.

**RECYCLING** - The next collection will be on Thursday November 4<sup>th</sup>. There has been some publicity about DDC supplying houses in the Dover area with black boxes in which to put paper, glass bottles and cans. The Parish Clerk contacted DDC and they said that Alkham wasn't included and it may be a while before we are. The reason isn't clear but the boxes would be welcome as they take glass bottles which we don't.

**A CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** in aid of the church will be held in the village hall on the 20<sup>th</sup> November starting at 10.30am.

**"DES & MEL"** - The W.I. have arranged to go to the show on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November and have some spare tickets. Please see 'W.I.' on page 3 for details.

## **MARQUIS OF GRANBY**

**Wednesday Night Carvery £9.95**

(eat as much as you like)

**Thursday Night Steak Night Special**

16oz rib-eye **£8.45**

**Sunday Lunch Carvery £7.95**

*Please book early 822945*

## **SUSAN LEES WANTS!**

I am not really being nosey but I do need to see any and everybody's deeds to their property in the Parish, but only if the deeds go back to before the 1950's. I can hear you say "who does she think she is?" - the reason is history. Sadly, old title deeds are no longer needed and too many have been binned. As a fanatic on Alkham's past I like to keep a record of who lived where and work out when a property was built. I do stress that I do not want to keep the deeds for myself; I just need the information contained in them. **PLEASE** phone me on 822661 if you have any knowledge of the history of your house/farm.

**RON DRYDEN** - It is sad to report the death of Ron Dryden at the age of 68. Ron was born in Kendal and served in the RAF for 27 years before moving to Alkham. He was a leading business man in Dover being the manager of the Charlton Centre. Each year he laid the wreath at the War Memorial in St. Anthony's churchyard on Armistice Day and his presence will be greatly missed.

**OPEN EVENING** at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November from 6.00pm to 9.00ish. There will be 10% off everything and there will also be Father Christmas, carol singers, mulled wine, mince pies etc.

**BENEFICE BARN DANCE** Many thanks to everyone who supported the Barn Dance. A good time was had by all and a profit of £450 was made, which has been divided between the parishes for their church funds. (Anne Huggins)

**ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY** Please note, those who would like to attend the AGM and supper afterwards that the supper will now be at The Fox, Temple Ewell and they require one weeks' notice (not 24 hours). We hope this does not put any plans out; lifts will be given to those who would like a lift. These can be arranged at the meeting. Hope to see you 25<sup>th</sup> November, Alkham Village Hall at 7.30 pm. (J Walker)

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** service will be held in St Anthony's Church on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November starting at 10.15am then progressing to the War Memorial by 11.00am for the two minutes silence.

## **Artisan Nursery Garden Design**

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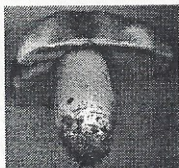


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Tel. 01304 852960

## Alkham Valley Meadow

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Alkham Village  
Telephone  
01304 206344



### FUNGUS FUN

Penny Bun and Satan's Bolete. Two closely related members of the boletus family of fungi easily identified by their pores instead of gills on the underside of the cap. But as you can guess, this is a Jeckyll and Hyde combination. The former being the delicious woodland mushroom known as 'cep' in French and 'porcini' in Italian and selling for twenty pounds or more a kilo; while the latter is its red coloured poisonous relative. Stimulated by the autumn rains and warmth, they rise mysteriously from the forest floor But what we see are the fruiting bodies, whose sole purpose in their short life is to ensure the dispersal of spores. The majority of the fungus lies hidden beneath the ground in the form of threadlike mycelium. We are becoming more at ease with collecting wild mushrooms, a practice embedded in continental cultures where you can even take your unknown species to the local pharmacy for identification. And what could be more pleasant than a stroll through the woods with a basket to collect your fungal booty, identifying them afterwards with a good book like Roger Phillips' 'Mushrooms'. Fungi are very specific in their environment. For instance in my experience ceps prefer clearings in beech or oak woods with a deep leaf litter on the ground. Why not try a walk in the locality - who knows, you might meet that nice Dr Jeckyll. (Geoff Gaskill)

**HARVEST SUPPER** - On the 21<sup>st</sup> September our annual Harvest Supper & Auction was again held in the village hall and a wonderful evening was had by all. I thought next year we might invite the famous Jamie Oliver to see what great value for money one gets with such a wonderful meal and drinks. One of his latest creations in the Mail Newspaper on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept was beans on toast dressed over all for £8, and a glass of wine costing £6, compared to our Gourmet meal for £5. The night was most enjoyable with great village rivalry on the bidding at the auction. I have strict instructions, when unaccompanied by my better half, to obtain a jar of Mrs Barbara Palmer's marmalade whatever the cost. Many thanks to Paul Tapsell and also to all the hard workers behind the scenes and the donators of produce for both the Dinner and auction. I asked a friend (Mr D Dyer) to pen an Ode to the Lady whose goods bring the highest bids. "This lady's fare is known far and wide indeed throughout our countryside/ Every year goods are brought in for our auction to sell after our supper and they always go well/ When the bidding starts and the stakes are raised it's this lady's produce that is likely to be praised/ Whether cakes, buns or jars of jam the bidding is brisk. When you know it's made by Barbara Palmer it's an opportunity not to be missed." In the words of the old song 'here's to the next time.' (Mrs Edith Neve, Ewell Minnis).

**WATER** - Southern Water gives approximately £18 per annum reduction on your water bill if your roof drainage goes to a soakaway or stream and not to a public sewer. The contact number is on the water bill.

### DAVID HORNE LOCAL HANDYMAN

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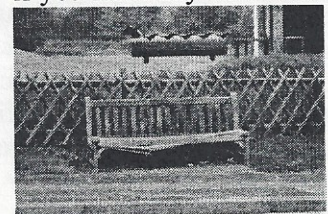
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**SPIDER** - Barbara Heritage found a spider with a large orange body and ringed legs in her garden off Meggett Lane and thought it was a dog rose hip until it moved. She contacted the British Arachnological Society and the Secretary, Ian Dawson, replied saying that he suspected that it was one of our large orb-weavers which are mature in autumn and either Araneus diadematus, the Garden Spider, which has a broken white cross on its back, or Araneus quadrafrus, which is our heaviest spider, and has a more spherical abdomen with four white spots on its back. Colour is often variable in spiders and is not always helpful in identification. Both species display a wide range of colours from pale beige through yellow, orange, red, green, brown and even black. Both are certainly large spiders and have ringed legs, and both are widespread with the former the commoner of the two. Neither poses any cause for concern.

### FARMER'S MARKET

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

**SEAT** - The wooden seat adjacent to the Alkham Valley Road by Vicarage Meadow has been wrecked by vandals. The police were informed and visited the site and are keen for any information. Please phone the Parish Clerk on 822661 if you have any information.



before final destruction



# CHITTENDEN'S FUNERAL SERVICES

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**W.I.** The October meeting was  
attended by about 25 members.

The Marlowe trip to see  
"Brigadoon" in November was all booked  
and members to travel in cars, as there  
were only 17 going, not worth booking a  
coach. 35 members were interested in  
going to the "Des & Mel" show in  
London on Tuesday 16th November. A  
coach to hold 48 has been booked so if  
anyone from the village would like to go  
please ring Cherry 01303 255114. The  
coach will leave Alkham at 9am. The  
show is live and is from 1pm to 2pm.  
There will be plenty of time after to get  
food and some time in London; coach  
will leave at 6pm. Cost only the coach at  
£8.50. The speaker was Paul Harris, a  
well known entertainer and more well  
known for his Saturday morning show  
with Paul James on Radio Kent. His talk  
was Variety acts through the ages and  
was an excellent speaker making us roar  
with laughter. Some of the speciality acts  
through the 17th and 18th century were  
bizarre from swallowing metal to fire-  
eating. He was thanked by Helen Price.  
Next month is the A.G.M where there  
will be a ballot for the committee.  
(Cherry Leppard)

**DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY** will  
present a performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*  
at 7.30 pm on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November in  
Dover Town Hall. Composed in the summer

**OZ on LADYBIRDS** - Early in October came news that British ladybirds are threatened by greedy foreign cousins. *Harmonia axyridis*, known as the Harlequin Ladybird or Multicoloured Ladybug, was discovered late in September in a pub garden in Sible Hedingham, Essex. Within a week, more Harlequins had been found in Battersea, Canterbury and Sandgate. "This is without doubt the ladybird I have least wanted to see here," said Britain's leading ladybird expert, Dr Michael Majerus from Cambridge University. Since being introduced from their native Asia into North America 25 years ago to control aphids, Harlequins have become pests in the US, thriving particularly well during the last 10 years of warm winters, and are still sold in continental Europe by biocontrol companies. Dr Majerus says that "the Harlequin will outcompete most of Britain's 45 ladybird species for their principal food, aphids, and when it has eaten all the aphids it will go on to eat other insects such as hoverflies, lacewings and butterflies, their eggs and their larvae." For centuries now we've relied on ladybirds for aphid control. In mediaeval times our own *Coccinella 7-punctata* was named The 7-Spot Ladybird, deriving from 'beetle of our Lady', a reference to The Virgin Mary, in gratitude at the ladybird feeding on greenfly. The red body was said to represent Mary's cloak, and the seven black spots to represent her Seven Joys and Seven Sorrows. In contrast the adult Harlequin found in Essex was black with two large and two small red spots. But ladybirds come in a range of colours and patterns, and Dr Majerus, warning against indiscriminate killing, says "If you think you've found one, stick it in a box that will go through the post and send it to me at Department of Genetics, University of Cambridge, CB2 3EH." (Steve Osborn)

of 1846, and finished just in time for Mendelssohn to conduct its first performance at the Birmingham Musical Festival on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1846, the work is a showcase for some of Mendelssohn's most marvellous melodies. Our November soloists are international stars Henry Herford (Elijah) and Mary Seers (soprano), supported by local soloists June Woodland (alto) and Martin Rendle (tenor). The chorus, joined by a choir of Angels from the Dover Grammar School for Girls (director Mary Sherred), 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 Tourist Information Centre (next to the Town Hall), members of Dover Choral Society or by telephoning 01304 822042; and, if there are any left, at the door on the night. For further details about the concert please ring Michael Foad, 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

## FARMERS' MARKET

Following the Kent Life Magazine Food & Drink Awards 2004, held at the East Kent Hop Farm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2004, Capel-le-Ferne's Farmers' Market has won an award for the best Farmers' Market in Kent. Three of the committee went for a dinner and awards ceremony at the Hop Farm. There were 3 short listed for the award and we won!! What delight we felt. It was like the Oscars!! The market really does get better and better. Some of the stalls also got awards. (Jenny, Cherry, Gwyn & Mick organisers)

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## WHAT'S ON

### Regular events

<b>TUESDAY</b>	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm

### Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Monday	1	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in village hall – all welcome
Saturday	6	Coffee Morning in aid of the Soup Kitchen 10.30 am
Saturday	6	Bingo in VH – 7.30pm
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting in VH 7.30pm
Monday	15	Dover & District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	20	Christmas bazaar in VH 10.30am
Thursday	25	AVS meeting – see page 1
Saturday	27	Beekeepers in village hall
Monday	29	Village Hall committee meeting 8.00pm in village hall

## CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>		Healing Service 7.00 p.m.	
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11 am.
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Remembrance services simultaneously at all three churches 10.15am followed by an act of remembrance at 11.00 a.m.		
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Worshipping Together 11.00am.	Sung Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund Capel-le-Ferne 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

**SOUP KITCHEN** - Betty Neely is holding a coffee morning in the village hall on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November at 11.00 am in aid of the Alkham Soup Kitchen run. In the car park by Russell Street in Dover is a small portakabin, which is opened every evening from 6.00 to 6.30pm to provide sandwiches, soup, tea and coffee to the homeless or needy. Primarily it is run by the Dover churches but others outside the church help as well and the small Alkham group did 35 evenings over the last year and the money raised from the coffee morning helped considerably.

**FOLKESTONE CAMERA CLUB** have talks and practical evenings in the United Reformed Church Community Hall, Castle Hill Avenue. Folkestone, every Monday commencing at 7.45pm New members are always welcome and anyone interested in joining, please, ring Jenny Barraclough on 01303 245399 or e mail: [jenny-bar@btconnect.com](mailto:jenny-bar@btconnect.com) for further information. Visit our web site at [www.folkestonecameraclub.co.uk](http://www.folkestonecameraclub.co.uk).

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484

County Councillor, Bryan Cope  
207976, work number 01795532547

### District Councillors

Sue Nicholas 823956  
Andrew Richardson 211835

Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055  
Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130  
Community Warden 07977 981994

GP out of hours to access urgent  
medical help 0844 800 1234

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969  
e mail [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661  
[susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk)

### Village Hall booking

Rosemary Polden 824876

### Alkham Valley Society secretary

Joanna Walker 821641

W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475

Vicar Kevin Mepham 01303 244119

Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell  
822295 and Grace Stacey 822756

Alkham web site [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

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<b>ELECTRICAL</b>	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
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<b>SCHOOL</b>	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-feme 01303 251353



# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 136 December 2004

Delivered free to all  
properties in the Parish

**Alkham  
Valley  
Garden  
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and animal supplies

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**POST OFFICE** - The person who runs the post office in Capel village hall is willing to do the same at Alkham if a need is shown. If you think it would be worthwhile please phone the Parish Clerk on 822661 as the more people who phone the more likely it is to happen. (editor)

**SEAT** - As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, the seat on the corner by Vicarage Meadow adjacent to the Valley Road was smashed by mindless vandals. If you think it is worth replacing the seat at this location please phone the Parish Clerk on 822661.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE** - A party is being held on New Year's Eve in the village hall for villagers or old Akhamites, starting at 8.00pm. There is no charge but please bring your own food, drinks, plates and glasses etc and also, if possible, an item which can be raffled. The profits from the raffle will pay for the hall hire with any money left over going to the Air Ambulance. There won't be tickets but please let either Debbie (827530) or Grace (822756) know if you'd like to go along.

**RECYCLING** - The next collection will be on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. District Councillor, Andrew Richardson, reported that it was hoped that the next phase of the DDC recycling scheme would come to Alkham. He also said that the use of black boxes was not delivering the tonnages that they had hoped for and eventually they would move to clear plastic sacks, as they were easier to load on the vehicles and produced more items for recycling.

**TEEN SHELTER** - Parish Councillor, Geoffrey Lymer, reported that he had no response with regard to the request in the Newsletter for youths in the village to help erect the teen shelter. Although it appeared as though there had been some demand for the shelter he has decided to put the project on the back boiler because of the lack of enthusiasm.

## MARQUIS OF GRANBY

**Wednesday Night Carvery £9.95**

(eat as much as you like)

**Thursday Night Steak Night Special**  
16oz rib-eye **£8.45**

**Sunday Lunch Carvery £7.95**

*Please book early 822945*

**HIGHWAYS** - It appears to be all change again. At the moment there are 15 Highway Authorities in the County of which DDC is one. It is proposed to do away with these and replace them with three districts at County level. It was thought that this would be a retrograde step as there would not be the local knowledge. It seems as though that this decision was linked to the possibility of a Unitary Authority but following the vote in the North East perhaps things may change?

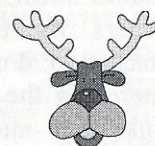
## Merry Christmas

**THE W.I.** is holding a carol and coffee morning in the village hall on the 18<sup>th</sup> December starting at 10.30am. Oliver the donkey will be there to give rides to children who come along and all profits from the morning will go to Cancer Research.

**PUBLIC MEETING** - On Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 7.00pm, a representative from Folkestone & District Water Company will be in the village hall to answer any questions you might have about the proposed water main from Bushey Ruff to Drellingore.

**ELECTRIC FENCE** - We met Di Smith from Sladden Farm in her field and she said that somebody was walking through the farm at night, presumably to avoid the Valley Road, and pushing down the electric fence. She doesn't mind people walking through the farm but if you do, please make sure the fence is up again, as otherwise it lets the cows get out. We mentioned there was a bull in the field and Di said that one was quite enough, adding that the bullocks were generally made so by the vet. It would seem a good idea to put the fence back up. (editor)

**THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY** require part time bar, waiting and assistant kitchen staff. Please phone 822945 or pop in; the minimum age is 16. The pub will not be open on Christmas day.



**Artisan Nursery Garden  
Design**

Saturday persons required, to help  
set up nursery, any age considered.

Tel: 01303 221953 or  
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# MARSHALL & CLARKE

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Tel. 01304 852960

## Alkham Valley Meadow

Touring Caravan Park  
Alkham Village  
Telephone  
01304 206344



**COFFEE MORNING** - Many thanks to all the ladies, especially Betty Neely, who ran the coffee morning on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November in aid of the Alkham Soup Kitchen run and raised £65. Blankets are always welcome, so if you have any to spare, please give me a ring (824969) or speak to Ken Hammond. (editor)

**TWINNING** - Parish Councillor, Geoffrey Lymer, is still looking for a town to twin with and he is going to visit three in the near future. Despite what I said in a previous Newsletter, they are all in France. (editor)

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** - In November, several thefts of bicycles were reported at locations in Folkestone, Hawkinge, River and Dover. Bicycle owners are advised to make sure that their property is maintained securely at all times when it is left out of sight. Bicycles should always be marked with a security code, using pens which are available at a price £1 each from the Neighbourhood Watch office in Dover Police Station. This enables them to be traced back to their owners by the police. Also, garages attached to domestic premises have been entered in the Broadmead Village area of Folkestone and burglaries have resulted. Residents in this type of property are advised that they should make sure that such garages, and the means of entry to the house if it is possible through the garage are made secure. If necessary a padlock should be fitted inside the garage door.



**TELEPHONES** - As you are probably aware, Broadband is now widely available and I've just connected to it. There was some problem with getting the signal in the Old Post Office because of a filter on the wall. The latter was the remains of an early warning system, which was in the shop up until the early 1990's, and it is quite amazing that it was such a short time ago that just about all Post Offices had them. On a particular date the squawk box on the wall had to be turned on and you listened for the code word to be broadcast, which was then entered on a postcard and sent back to the organisers. In the event of an imminent nuclear attack I was supposed to listen for the warning relayed via the box and then go out in the garden and let off rockets to warn the village. (editor)

### FARMER'S MARKET

Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall each

Tuesday 10am to 1pm.

Local produce

Phone 01303 245399

**WOLVERTON** - The bus company has not been stopping on the Valley Road at the bottom of Wolverton Hill because of the road alignment and the local authority is pushing to have the road improved.

**GARDEN TALK** - Our Christmas meeting will be held at Geoff and Linda's home, "Chalksole Cottage", on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. All occasional members very welcome to come and join the regulars. Please bring the usual festive supplies and also a festive activity (No, I didn't mean the mistletoe!). A big thank you to John and Rosemary for hosting our last meeting when we had a lovely evening and great fun with a quiz provided by Jenny Fagg. (Susannah Tapsell)

### DAVID HORNE

#### LOCAL HANDYMAN

For all your jobs no matter how small  
Gardening, Decorating, Rubbish  
Clearing etc.

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### CRICKET DINNER

Village teenager Matthew Hyland collected two trophies at the Alkham Cricket Club presentation dinner, held at the Marquis of Granby restaurant on Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup>. He was presented with the "Performance of the Year" award for his maiden half-century and went on to receive the Player of the Year award, donated by Paul and Alison Hood of the Marquis of Granby, for an excellent all-round performance. The trophy was presented to Matthew by guest of honour Brian Luckhurst. Club captain Ian Callaway welcomed former Kent and England cricketer Brian, as well as the club's other special guests, Raye Luckhurst, Rev Kevin Mepham and Mark Loveday. Other trophies went to Ed Haste (Young player of the Year), Simon Gunning (Clubman of the Year), Craig Mulder (best bowling average), Steve Durrant (best batting average). A bouquet was presented to Barbara Palmer for organising the cricket teas and Richard Tapsell was thanked for his hard work preparing the wicket for each game. The staff of the Marquis were also thanked for enabling a wonderful event to be staged for 46 players, family members and guests. MC for the evening was Peter Frater, while team skipper Matthew Gerrard gave a review of the season, which was not one of the most successful in the club's long history - but an enjoyable one nonetheless. The cricket club is now searching for a sponsor for the team's shirts for the 2005 season - any individual or business interested should contact Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082. (Peter Frater)





# CHITTENDEN'S

## Funeralcare

FOLKESTONE

1 Ingoldsby Road  
(01303) 851456

Manager

Mr. Chris Daughters

HYTHE

Windmill Street  
(01303) 262762

Manager

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**W.I.**

The meeting held on Tuesday  
November 9<sup>th</sup> was the Annual  
General Meeting. A ballot

was held for the new committee, the results were Rosemary Crothall, Susan Lees, Susannah Tapsell, Christine Tapsell, Cherry Leppard, Betty Neely, Doreen Wilks and Grace Stacey. The President, Rosemary, stood down after holding that position for three years. The new president is Susannah Tapsell. Treasurer and secretary stay the same. Susannah gave Rosemary a vote of thanks for her excellent leadership and friendship over the last three years. Doreen Wilks gave a report on the half yearly council meeting held recently at the Leas Cliff hall and Susannah a report on the group meeting at Whitfield. As it was the A.G.M there was no speaker but a few members brought along their favourite piece of china and said a few words about it. The next meeting is Tuesday December 14<sup>th</sup> where C Cribbens will take us "Line Dancing". (Cherry Leppard)

**YOU KNOW THE STORY** of the three wise men, but you may not know the wonderful story told by Henry Van Dyke of the other wise man. He too saw the star rising in the east and set out with gifts to offer the King whose birth had been foretold. This one did not reach the young child along with his brethren because he stopped along the way to help a sick, elderly man by the roadside. This other wise man did not find the Holy Family in Egypt where they had fled. Instead, he saved one innocent child in Bethlehem from Herod's massacre. The great desire of this

**OZ on BAIRNSFATHER** - This month sees the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'the Christmas Truce', when British and German soldiers collected their dead on Christmas Eve 1914, silenced the guns and spent Christmas exchanging food, drink, tobacco and songs. One of those troops was a young machine-gun lieutenant with a gift for recording war in words and pictures. Bruce Bairnsfather was born in India in 1888, son of Bengal Infantry Lieutenant Thomas Bairnsfather and his wife Amelia. After his education in India and Stratford-upon-Avon Bruce joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. However he became bored with army life and left to study at the Hassall School of Art, later designing posters for such products as Liptons Tea, Players Tobacco and Flowers Beer. When war broke out, Bruce rejoined the Warwickshires and was sent to the Western Front, where he drew cartoons that were instantly and lastingly popular with soldiers in the trenches. In April 1915 Bruce was badly wounded and returned to England for treatment. On his recovery he was promoted to Captain in charge of new recruits at Albany Barracks on the Isle of Wight. It was here that Bairnsfather created the unforgettable "Old Bill", a laconic middle-aged Tommy with a walrus moustache. In Bairnsfather's most famous cartoon, Old Bill and young Tommy are stuck in a muddy shell-hole with ammunition banging all around and Old Bill is saying exasperatedly "Well, if you knows of a better 'ole, go to it." During the Second World War Captain Bairnsfather was official cartoonist to US Forces in Europe and he died in 1959. Just one year ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2003, a bronze plaque was fixed to a cottage wall in the hamlet of St Yvon, near Ypres. It is the first and only official memorial to the creator of "Old Bill". (Steve Osborn)

other wise man was denied, yet in a strange way he found the one he sought. He knew that the child he sought would not be found in a palace or among the rich and powerful, but feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, healing the sick, comforting the captive, and reaching out to the lost. As the years went by, he searched and used his gifts of healing and gave of his great wealth to the poor and lowly and oppressed. Finally, in his last act of dying when all hope of finding the King was gone, the other wise man found peace. He had done the best he could do from day to day. He had been faithful and in that last act of love found the king. In his searching and giving the other wise man had become like the King he sought - offering himself in love and revealing Christ to the hungry, naked, sick and the lost. At Christmas we claim to welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives, but can we show that by a change in life. Can we give a gift to someone that does not deserve it from us, someone who is not related or a friend? Can we perform some act of kindness simply for Goodness' sake? If we really seek Jesus we

will find him in selfless acts of love. Why not add one to your Christmas preparations, and see what you find? (Kevin Mephram)

### CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Since February this year the Choir of St Peter and St Paul, Temple Ewell, has been rehearsing and recording Christmas carols for its first ever CD. One of the singers on the disc is bass Howard Cleaves, well known locally as the founding secretary of the Alkham Valley Society, and whose death in June was remembered in the August Newsletter. The disc is dedicated to Howard, "a devoted and cherished member of our choir", and copies are now available at £5 from Richard Christian on 01304 826320, with proceeds going to church funds. (Steve Osborn)

## FREDERIC HALL

Solicitors

York House, Folkestone

01303 851185

& Clyde House, Dover

01304 202411



## WHAT'S ON

### Regular events

<b>TUESDAY</b>	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm

### Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	4	Bingo in VH – 7.30pm
Sunday	5	Xmas craft fair in aid of Cancer Relief in village hall 10 to 4pm
Friday	10	Garden club – see page 2
Monday	13	Meeting re: pipeline, see page 1
Tuesday	14	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Friday	17	Xmas raffle draw at Whist Drive
Saturday	18	W.I. carols & coffee, see page 1
Monday	20	Dover & District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Friday	31	New Year's Party – see page 1

## CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00am
Tuesday 7th		Healing Service 7.00 p.m.	
Sunday 12th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Service of 9 Lessons and Carols 11.00 a.m.	Carols at West Hougham Village Hall 4.00 p.m.
Sunday 19th	Service of 9 Lessons and Carols 6.30 p.m.	Carol Service Capel Village Hall 3.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Monday 20th	Carols at Bracknell House, Capel – 6.00 p.m.		
Friday 24th <b>Christmas Eve</b>	Crib Service 4.30 p.m.	Midnight Mass 11.30 p.m.	
Saturday 25th <b>Christmas Day</b>	Sung Eucharist 11.00 a.m.		Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 26th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund Capel-le-Ferne 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

**HELEN & CAL** would like to thank everyone who supported the Hog Roast and Disco, held in aid of the Air Ambulance. We had a wonderful evening, the rain only just held off. The Fortune Teller was very popular and gave her services free. Dave and Alison did a wonderful job with the Disco. Thanks must go to Derek and Marion for allowing us to park in their field. A very special mention must go to my three daughters who work so hard every year, we could not do it without them; thank you Sally, Heather and Rebecca. We raised £788, £500 of which will go to the Air Ambulance and £288 to the local RSPCA

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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