

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 137 January 2005

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CHRISTMAS TREE - Over



100 villagers, both big and small, came to see the official switching on of the lights on the Parish Christmas tree. It was a

great occasion with Mark Robson presiding, complete with lights on his hat, and a choir singing carols accompanied by villagers. It was Mark's idea to get the tree from Tilmanstone and he helped with all the works, but it was John Huggins who made it happen. He supplied the large pipe, manhole cover, piping and cement such there is now a permanent spot for the tree. He also provided the lights and arranged the electrical supply, which was connected with box and timers free of charge by Simon Price. Mark and John brought the tree back from Tilmanstone and then it was carried one night along the Valley Road by six stout and puffing men to be taken round the bus shelter and hoisted in place, with lights attached. It really was a great idea, which was obviously appreciated by the village as so many people turned up. Thanks also go to Paul Hood who provided mulled wine and mince pies at the Marquis. (see also page 3) (editor)

HEROES RETURN - The National Lottery have a fund to help servicemen return to the places where they fought. The fixed amount varies dependant on distance. A friend applied and was granted over £500 to revisit, with his wife, the Normandy beach where he fought in WWII. I understand carers can go with an individual, so if you'd like to see whether you or a relative are eligible phone 0800 169 2277.

Happy New Year

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be in the village hall on Saturday the 22nd of January. Tables are for up to eight people and if you'd like to book a table please ring either me on 824969 or Sue Lees on 822661. Food will be provided at the interval but you should bring your own drinks. (editor)

RECYCLING - The next collection will be on Thursday 6th January. Please make sure that **paper and cardboard are stored separately and that caps are taken off bottles and discarded.**

ALKHAM FETE 2005
Alkham is well known for holding a truly traditional English Fete. However, I am sure you will agree that we don't want it to stay so traditional that it becomes boring. All of you at sometime must have thought 'why don't they....' so this is your chance. However trivial you might think your idea is please let us know and give the Parish Clerk a ring on 822661.

HOUSE DEEDS - I would like to thank so many of you for responding so quickly. I have received some really interesting Deeds and I have many more yet to pursue. There was even one set, which was literally retrieved from the solicitor's bin. If anyone else would like to contact me about their house Deeds please ring me on 822661. (Sue Lees)

POST OFFICE - To date 10 people have stated an interest in post office services being set up in Alkham once again. However, I would imagine this would not be sufficient for the Post Office to be interested. So may I ask once again for anyone who believes that they would use postal services in Alkham to contact Sue Lees on 822661.

PARISH CLERK - Sue Lees, after doing the job so ably for many years, has decided that from next September she will give up the post. If anyone is interested in taking on the job please contact Sue on 822661.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WALK
The walk, organised by the Alkham Valley Society, will take place on 27th December and starts at 10.30am from the Village Hall car park. It ends at about 12.30 and some walkers like to go on to the pub afterwards. (Jo Walker)

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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Alkham Valley Meadow

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ALKHAM'S HEROES - After the Remembrance Day service I decided to find out as much as I could about the men whose names are on the memorial in the churchyard. The following was found on the Commonwealth War Graves website (www.cwgc.org.uk) a very useful reference point for anyone trying to find out about people who have died in wars.

Edward Collard. Private, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regt) 2nd Battalion. Died 13/5/1917 aged 37. Son of Ambrose Collard of Wolverton and the late Elizabeth Collard. He is remembered on the Arras Memorial at Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery (This probably means his remains were never found):

George Collard. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery. 340 Battery, 337th Brigade. Died 29/1/1917 aged 39. Buried at St Peter's Church, River.

Stephen James Maple. (Only record listed). Leading Seaman, HMS Bacchante. Died 25/4/1915. Commemorated at Chatham Naval Memorial. His ship was sold for scrap in 1920:

Sidney Marsh. Private, 3rd Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regt). Died 15/2/1917. Son of Alfred and Sarah Marsh of Common Hill, Church Alkham. Buried in the churchyard:

Ernest Tupper. Petty Officer Stoker, Royal Navy. HMS Aboukir. (Torpedoed by U-boat 22/9/1914). Died 22/9/1914 aged 30. Husband of Minnie Beatrice Tupper of 41, Princess Street, Folkestone. Native of Folkestone. Commemorated at Chatham Naval Memorial.

Ronald James Couchman. Guardsman, Grenadier Guards, 5th Battalion. Died 25/7/1944. Son of Ernest James and Olive Blanche Couchman, Alkham. Buried at Florence War Cemetery:

Lewis Donald Fagg. Private, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment), 4th Battalion. Died 23/10/1943 aged 25. Son of Ernest and Emily Maud Fagg of Alkham. Athens Memorial:

Allan Gordon Gavin. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 2nd Battalion. Died 19/10/1944. Son of Gordon Bedford Gavin and Euphemia Paulina Gavin of Alkham. Buried at Leopoldsburg War Cemetery Belgium:

Henry Frederick Keeler. Private, The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) 1/6th Battalion. Died 24/10/1942. Son of Charles and Louisa Keeler of Ewell Minnis. Alamein Memorial Egypt. If anyone has any information on any of the men listed on the war memorial I would be grateful for anything that might help build up a picture and help preserve their memories. (Mark Robson)

FARMER'S MARKET

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

THE ALKHAM 2004 Poppy Appeal collection amounted to a record £339.39. Many thanks to those who helped, by taking the poppies around the village and collecting the money. And thank you as well to all the individuals who gave so generously. (Rachel Fountain)

LICENCES - Various legislation has come into place such that you need licences for entertainment. As I suspected, when I made up a team at the Hougham Fete, Morris Dancing is not classified as entertainment. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

We would like to record the very good attendance for the AGM on 25th November, for which much thanks go to all who turned out on quite a cold evening. We were sad to lose Paul as Chairman. Maurice Sayers has stepped into the breach and Barry Shepherd is the new Treasurer. Bill Rolfe, a founder member of the Society also stepped down from the Committee but, though living in Hythe, remains a member; thank you Bill. We warmly welcome several new members. Supper at The Fox following the meeting was excellent and there was a most congenial atmosphere; such events can become custom. The Committee will devise a programme, while not losing sight of the original aim, to keep an eye on conservation and the environment. Thanks very much to all who came along and made it a pleasant evening. (J Walker)

GARDEN TALK

The gardening club members met at the home of Geoff and Linda, where we spent a very jolly festive evening. Many thanks to you both. Susannah was also thanked for organising the club for the last 7 years. The next meeting will be held at John and Hilary's home Thorn Cottage, Meggett Lane, South Alkham on Friday the 25th of February at 7.30pm. New and old members welcome. Merry Christmas and Happy Gardening (Rosemary & John Crothall)

BETTY NEELY and Joanna O'Shea would like to thank everyone for their support at the dance held in the village hall in aid of Kent Air Ambulance, which raised £360.

FOR SALE - Oval oak drop leaf table and 5 rush bottom chairs, £80. Circular glass top G Plan coffee table, £6. Please ring 821641.

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SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

TED BAKER died on the 15th of November at the age of 93. At the outbreak of WW1 he lived at Wolverton, in one of the houses to the south of the Valley Road, with his grandfather. Rationing was slow to come in and food became scarce but Ted's grandfather produced most of their needs including vegetables, milk, butter, eggs and pork. The pigs were killed at Ewell Minnis and after cleaning hung in the kitchen, which he found unsettling at breakfast time. In 1916 Ted started school at Alkham being walked from Wolverton by Dolly Marsh. There were about 70 children at the school with infants in the small room. At 7 they went to the big room where Mr Harman sat at the front with the cane on his desk. Ted later went on to join the Tennis Club, which played on courts near where Glebelands now stand. He married Gwen Jenkins, who lived in Alkham as a child, in 1936 at St. Anthony's church and around that time was a member of staff at Dover Boys' Grammar School. In 1939 Ted moved to Maidstone and worked in the Treasurer's Department of KCC. In 1971 he retired to Moretonhampstead in Devon where they renamed their house 'Wolverton' and received the Newsletter each month from its inception in 1993. Following health problems they later moved to a residential home where Gwen predeceased Ted. (editor)

OZ on SCRABBLE - It's that bleak time of year when indoor games beckon, one of the most played nowadays being Scrabble. Nigel Forde, in his poem "Going by the Board", refers to 'Dad', who "spent the whole of Advent / memorizing the abstruse words in the OED supplement." Scrabble was invented in 1931 by Alfred Butts, an American architect who became unemployed during the Depression. The original game, Lexiko, had no board, and players scored both for word lengths and letter values. Butts calculated letter values by analysing the words in the New York Times. In 1933, his patent application failed, the game also being dismissed by Parker Brothers and Milton Bradley. Butts continued making the sets, giving or selling them to friends. In 1938 he added a playing board so that words could be joined crossword fashion. The new game, known as New Anagrams, Alph, Criss-Cross and then Criss-Crosswords, was again rejected by the Patents Board and the big games manufacturers. With World War II looming, Butts, now re-employed as an architect, abandoned the project. In 1948 James Brunot, owner of an early Criss-Crosswords set, approached Butts and reached a commercial agreement. Brunot tidied up the layout, simplified the rules, and relaunched the game as Scrabble, obtaining patent and trademark in December 1948. After four years of struggle the game took off with a sudden flood of orders, becoming a national craze in 1953 in Australia and the UK. Over 100 million sets in 29 different languages have now been sold in 121 countries round the world. Brunot died in 1984, and so did not see the first World Scrabble Championship in 1991. Butts, however, lived on to witness the success of his brainchild, playing enthusiastically most days with family and friends until he died, aged 93, in 1993. (Steve Osborn)

CHRISTMAS TREE

I would like to thank the following people for making the Christmas tree on Vicarage Meadow a reality: Den Barnard, John and Simon Huggins and Brian Wimsett (for digging the hole and the trench for the electricity); Simon Price (for installing the electrical supply); Ken Hammond, Paul Hood, Pat Kelly, Brian Wimsett, Mick Wingfield and Mick Woods (for carrying the tree from Newlyn's Meadow to the Vicarage Meadow and for helping to set it up where it now stands). Mentions must go too to Irene Barnard, Tracy Huggins and Paul and Alison Hood who provided the workers with teas and bacon rolls so that, despite all the exertions, we are now somewhat heavier than before we started! And, of course, Paul and Alison for providing the mulled wine and food in the pub after the switch on. Thanks to Paul Tapsell and the cricket club for the use of the electricity supply, to the ladies of the W.I. for providing a choir to lead the singing of carols on the evening of the switch on and to Chloe for pressing the button! Thanks to everyone who turned out

at such short notice to support the event. My apologies if I have missed anyone. The evening was a great success and, in anticipation that this will become an annual event, I have already pencilled in Saturday, December 3rd 2005 when the switch on will be followed by mulled wine and minced pies before a village meal in the pub later in the evening. Watch this space. In the meantime, Happy New Year to you all from the Christmas Lights Committee. (Mark Robson)

W.I.

The last meeting of the year of the W.I was held on Tuesday 14th December. Susannah Tapsell our new president took the meeting. The various jobs were delegated. The Xmas dinner at the "Marquis of Granby" was finalised for Thursday 16th with 29 members to attend. The speaker unfortunately could not come, it should have been Line Dancing, so a couple of members had done a quiz for us to do which everyone enjoyed. It was quite nice just to have a chat and refreshments. The second Tuesday in January is the next meeting where new members will be most welcome. (Cherry Leppard)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

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

Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Monday	10	Parish Council meeting in village hall 7.30pm all welcome
Monday	17	D & D Bird Club in VH 7.30pm
Wednesday	19	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	22	Annual Quiz see page 1 and below
Saturday	22	W.I. Jumble Sale in VH 11.00am
Saturday	29	Beekeepers in VH

ANNUAL QUIZ - Even though I do the Newsletter and Quiz, I put the wrong date on page 1 and then did 320 copies. The Quiz is on Saturday the 22nd of January starting at 7.30pm.

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00 am
Tuesday 4th		Healing Service 7.00 p.m.	
Thursday 6th		Eucharist 9.15 a.m.	
Sunday 9th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00am	Songs of Praise 4.00 p.m.
Sunday 16th	Worshipping Together 11.00 am	Sung Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 23rd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 30th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00 am	Evensong 4.00 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			

POND - Mick Wingfield, who lives in Newlyns Meadow, is the pond warden for the village and he spoke at the last Parish Council meeting. He would like to take on the project to restore the pond at Chalksole Green but as it is owned by the Parish he had to get the Council's permission; this was swiftly granted. The idea is that the ponds will be made watertight and the area locally landscaped. It was suggested, rather than cutting back all the undergrowth each year, it would be a good idea to just have a path meandering through the green to the ponds with rustic seats here and there. (editor)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police - 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484	GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234	Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976, work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Vicar Kevin Mephram 01303 244119 Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
		Alkham web site www.alkham.org

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	St. Margaret's 852252
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
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 07889310479
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley 01303 891806
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmaims Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre - everything for horse and rider	South Alkham 01303 891996
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and 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 groceries, videos, fruit/veg, off licence, fresh bread/milk	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353

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*Excellent facilities for family or business stays,
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Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

POST OFFICE – Thirty six people have expressed an interest in using a post office in Alkham Village Hall. It is not known whether this will be enough for the person who runs a similar one in Capel to come to Alkham but the Parish Clerk has passed on the details.

MARTINVALE – The latter is the house standing adjacent to the Valley Road and Hogbrook Lane, which was recently hit by a milk lorry turning left onto the main road. Dover District Council is proposing to put three steel posts adjacent to the house but at the Parish Council meeting it was suggested that a bell shaped kerb (Trief kerb) be laid on the corner. This would be a much better idea as it should stop damage to both the house and vehicles.

PROWLER – On the 6th of January a prowler was in the back garden of a property in the centre of Alkham watching a female bath and then he went to the front of the house to watch through a bedroom window. This happened at 8.10pm and 21.15pm and the police were informed.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
Dover District Council has launched its new Anti-Social Behaviour Unit as a central part of its major commitment to getting tough on anti-social behaviour across the area. A dedicated team has been set up to work closely with the Police and partners in the community to make a real difference - and to reinforce the message that people do not have to put up with anti-social behaviour and that together we can stamp it out. Incidents of anti-social behaviour can now be reported through one central line for the new Unit on (01304) 872220. Callers can make a confidential report to protect their identity if they choose. It is stressed that in an emergency people should still call 999. During the first three weeks of official operation, the new unit received 75 allegations, 40% of which were completed to the satisfaction of the complainant within 4 working days.

CHALKSOLE GREEN – A meeting, arranged by Mick Wingfield, will be held in the Marquis on the 8th of February at 7.30pm to discuss what should be done to the green and ponds at Chalksole. Please come along and join in the discussion or alternatively have a pint or two. For further information please phone Mick on 824841.

THANKS go to Christopher and Peter, who live in Common Hill Cottage, for improving the byway past their property and down to Common Hill.

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

TSUNAMI – The American supper held in the village hall on the 15th January for the tsunami appeal was a great success with over 100 people turning up. Tony Dibson from radio KMFM started things off followed by a free disco provided by Dave and Alison with people dancing from the start and creating a wonderful atmosphere. There was spin the bottle, pass the parcel and other games plus a raffle with 67 prizes donated by the people who came along. The fortune telling by Rowan, the White Witch, who was tucked away in the store room decked with fairy lights, was extremely popular. Over £750 was raised on the night with more to come from other collections. Congratulations go to the organisers, particularly Debbie and Helen, and also many thanks to all those who came along and gave so generously.

RECYCLING – The next collection will be on Thursday 3rd of February.

CHEQUERS

West Hougham

Thai food restaurant

Monday to Saturday

Carvery

12.00 to 4.00pm on Sundays

Phone 01304 226776

FOUND in Slip Lane, a pair of prescription glasses. Please phone 824969 for further details.

CHALKSOLE GREEN – Concern was expressed by local homeowners about vehicles which were driving over the grass verge at Chalksole Green and causing the road to break up. Dover District Council has agreed to install verge marker posts and also to fill in the numerous potholes.

MARSHALL & CLARKE

PROPERTY AGENTS AND VALUERS



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and at

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Tel. 01304 381622
High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover
Tel. 01304 852960

Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park
Alkham Village
Telephone
01304 206344



WATER PIPE-LINE –Folkestone & District Water Company are going to lay a pipeline along the Alkham Valley to extract water from the eastern end of the valley. As there was some concern about this project the Parish Council arranged a meeting in the village hall where members of the company could answer these concerns. It was explained that it was necessary to extract water from the chalk region not only to supply Dover but also the clay area around Folkestone. In the first place water will be extracted from boreholes at Bushey Rough and later extended to Buckland Mill area. The project will commence in the spring and take about 10 months to complete and hopefully supply sufficient water for the next 30 years. People voiced concern about the effect on water levels in the lakes at Bushey Rough, Russell Gardens and Kearsney Abbey and the flow of the Dour and the Alkham Bourne. Assurances were given that water levels would be maintained and in times of drought water would be taken from boreholes lower down the river Dour. The new pipe will go across farmland rather than follow the route of the valley road because too many properties would be affected and there will be fewer bends, which affect water quality. The concern over the increase in heavy vehicle traffic was not allayed especially as access to the pipe would be on the west side of the village near the 30pmh signs.

BRITISH RED CROSS and the tsunami. In next month's Newsletter there will be more details about how much was raised from the door-to-door collection round the parish but Pam Sayers thought you might like to know where the money is going. The Red Cross met and provided comfort and support to returnees at London's airports and provided clothes as some arrived in beach wear. They are assisting in the collection, burial or return to relatives of human remains and have a web site to help restore family links; this has had more than 1 million hits. The support line set up by the government is manned in part by Red Cross volunteers. Internationally they provided a logistics team and essential communications and transport in Sri Lanka; sent 7 cargo flights with relief items; chartered a Jumbo jet to ferry the items around; dispatched health and other delegates to the affected regions; sent 8000 body bags to Sri Lanka and sent a team leader to the Maldives to determine what help might be needed there. For the most recent information, please go to the Red Cross web site at www.redcross.org.uk.

CANCER RESEARCH – The W.I. raised the magnificent sum of £212.51 for Cancer Research from the carol singing round the village on the 21st of December, the Christmas carol morning and the selling of second hand books and magazines. On behalf of the Alkham W.I. I would like to thank Mr Loveday and Pam and Maurice Sayers for their hospitality on the 21st and also all the people who donated so generously. (Mandy Summers)

FARMER'S MARKET

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

MEMORIAL - I was both fascinated by and grateful for Mark Robson's piece in the December Newsletter. It prompted me to seek information from the War Graves Commission about two uncles lost in WWII. I found nothing of one whom I believe went down with all others in a prisoner of war ship somewhere in the Far East. However, I knew that the other Uncle had been killed in Egypt and I have found the details of his grave in Alexandria. As a result, I have discovered after 62 years that I am named for him he having died just six months before I was born. I had hitherto (particularly as a youngster) thought the name "Francis" to be a bit cissy but now find myself rather proud of it! (Peter Mercer) and Eileen West nee Collard phoned to say that as a result of the article she had accessed the site and contacted Mark with a revision to his list of names.

DAVID HORNE LOCAL HANDYMAN

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ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY This year's Christmas walk, on 27th December attracted upwards of forty people and numerous well-behaved dogs. Chris Tapsell set a smart pace from the Village Hall car park in the direction of Ellinge Bottom. Luckily everyone soon went at their own speed. Weaving up the hills and along the byways, we were strung out across the landscape, and speckled with reds, blues, browns and creams on the green fields the walk looked like a re-enactment of the Canterbury Pilgrims. The wintry woods and icy meadows were dazzling in the winter sun and cloudless sky, but eventually, with backs to Canterbury, Alkham beckoned and another Christmas walk was done. Next year well, how about it those who had not put it on their Christmas list? Warm thanks to all who came along and made it a pleasurable event, and special thanks to Chris and Jane Tapsell, and the weather. (Joanna Walker. Secretary)

CHITTENDEN'S

Funeralcare

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Mr. Chris Daughters

HYTHE

Windmill Street
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SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

W.I.

The meeting was held on
Tuesday 11th January, our
president Susannah

Tapsell was unwell so the vice
president Rosemary Crothall chaired
the meeting. It was very wet and
windy that evening but it did not stop
the members coming, in fact very few
were absent. There was not a lot of
business, a one day drama school
which two or three members were
interested in going on and the coffee

morning and jumble sale on Saturday
morning 2nd.

For the trip to the Albert Hall to
see "Classical Spectacular" in March
with the London Philharmonic
Orchestra there are a few seats left at
about £30 plus coach. If anyone is
interested ring Cherry on 01303
255114 for more details. The speaker
was Martin Newcombe who spoke on
"Foods for free and herbs that heal".

We have had Martin speak at our
meetings many times and he is an
excellent speaker. With slides he
explained all about the foods and
herbs in the middle ages. Some of the
concoctions were quite revolting!! He
was thanked by Debbie. Next months
speaker is Mr Pascal on the R.N.L.I.

(Cherry Leppard)

OZ on GROSE – Crime and language link three of my Christmas stocking books; the amazing *Brewer's Rogues, Villains and Eccentrics*, Crystal's *Shakespeare's Words* and *The Vulgar Tongue* by Francis Grose. The last-named book, subtitled *Buckish Slang and Pickpocket Eloquence*, is a facsimile of the first edition (1785), containing such gems as 'Gutter Lane' for 'throat' and 'pogy' for 'drunk'. Grose, antiquary and draughtsman, was born in Middlesex around 1730, the son of a wealthy Swiss jeweller. After studying art, he worked as "maker of tinted drawings, chiefly of architectural remains." In 1763 Grose became Paymaster of the Hampshire Militia, where, as he later confessed, "the only account-books I kept were my right and left pockets, into the one of which I received, and from the other of which I paid." Grose lost his inherited fortune in making financial amends and resorted to his draughtsman's skills. Encouraged by friends he published *Antiquities of England and Wales* in four volumes between 1773 and 1787. In 1789 Grose made an antiquarian tour through Scotland and befriended Robert Burns, who wrote the poem *Tam O' Shanter* for him. The *Antiquities of Scotland* was then published between 1790 and 1791. Grose proceeded to Ireland intending to do the same for that country, but soon after his arrival in Dublin in 1791, and while dining with his friend Mr Hone, he was seized with an apoplectic fit and died immediately, later being buried in Dublin. *Antiquities of Ireland* appeared posthumously, (completed by Edward Ledwich), between 1791 and 1795. Francis Grose was short in stature and almost spherical, making him an easy target in view of his name, but he was much loved as a loyal friend who would overlook faults, while always seeking virtues, in others. Shakespeare would have described him as a 'gentle'. (Steve Osborn)

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH

We would like to thank all the parishioners, who helped in any way to make the Church look so festive for the Christmas services. All the services were well attended and we think the decorations, tree and the candles were much appreciated by everyone. A big thank you also, to the team of ladies who regularly clean the Church throughout the year. (Grace and Richard, Church Wardens]

and On Saturday 26th February from 11.00 a.m. onwards a "Mini Garage Sale" will be held at St Radigund's Church Hall in aid of church funds. There will be bric-a-brac, lots of books, cakes, tea, coffee, light lunches and a raffle. On Sunday 13th February from 12-2.00 p.m. there will be a Lent Hunger Lunch in aid of church funds, in St Radigund's Church Hall.

Artisan Nursery Garden Design

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

Tel: 01303 221953
or 07763327548.

FREDERIC HALL

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York House, Folkestone

01303 851185

& Clyde House, Dover

01304 202411

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR -If anyone would like to enter Alkham in the Village of the Year competition the entry forms can be obtained by emailing info@ruralkent.org.uk or by phoning 01303 850816. There are six categories, which are: Building Community Life: Business: Young people: Older people: Environmental Action: Information Technology. I would be quite happy to help anybody if they wish to enter Alkham in the competition. (editor)

WHAT'S ON		
Regular events		
TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details	
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am	
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am	
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm	
Other events (VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)		
Saturday	5	Bingo in the village hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday	8	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	19	PCC Jumble sale in VH 11.00 am
Sunday	20	AGM for East Kent Heritage buses
Monday	21	D & D Bird Club in VH 7.30pm
Saturday	29	Beekeepers in VH

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Tuesday 1st	Healing service St. Radigund Church 7.00 pm		
Wednesday 2nd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist by Candlelight St Mary, Capel-le-Ferne 7.00 p.m.		
Sunday 6th	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 am
Wednesday 9th Ash Wednesday			Sung Eucharist 7.30 p.m.
Sunday 13th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Songs of praise West Hougham village hall 4.00 p.m.
Sunday 20th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Sung evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 27th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony, 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			

THE ANNUAL QUIZ was held in the village hall on the 22nd of January and most people seemed to have a good time. There were thirteen tables of up to eight people and food was provided at the interval, prepared by Doreen Lott with Sue Lees helping. Matthew Hyland did a splendid job as scorer keeping calm under pressing conditions. The competition was quite close this year with most tables doing well and second prize was won by the table headed by Darren and Jo Mowat, who lost by half a point. The team which triumphed was from Ellinge and Chalksole comprising John and Shelley Jackson, Mary and Dick Sullivan, Barry and Margaret Sheppard and Geoff and Linda Gaskill who were awarded a small plaque and a bottle of wine each. Further details will be published next month regarding the money raised from the quiz. (editor)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234	Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976, work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Vicar Kevin Mepham 01303 244119 Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835		Alkham web site www.alkham.org

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GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and horse supplies	South Alkham 01303 893351
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LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores groceries, videos, fruit/veg, off licence, fresh bread/milk	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett: The Old Post Office
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TRAFALGAR WEEKEND Over the weekend October the 21st to 23rd 2005 the nation will unite to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. Beacons will blaze across the land, church bells will peal and festivities will take place in homes, hotels, pubs, schools and village and town halls throughout the UK and Channel Islands. DDC will be co-ordinating the District's activities and detailed information will be available on www.whitecliffscountry.org.uk. If anyone has any ideas as to how Alkham could participate, please contact the Parish Clerk on 822661.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ made a profit of £320 and it is proposed, as mentioned at the quiz, that this will go in the 'Alkham Account' to help cover the cost of village activities (please see page 2). Last month I meant to thank Di Smith for her generous donation of a joint of beef for the raffle.

WATER PIPE LINE – If you are affected by F & D Water Company proposals and want to chat to people similarly affected please contact Margaretta Bundy on 825481 to set up a suitable venue.

RECYCLING – The next collection will on **March 3rd**. A couple of people are still putting wrong items out for collection. The only plastics we take are containers, which have had drink in. We cannot take yoghurt cartons or Comfort etc and foil type crisp packets are not foil. It's possible that these people are not reading the Newsletter so please spread the word as we have to walk the rubbish in to the KCC site.

MOTHERING SUNDAY On Sunday 6th March there will be the special service at Alkham Church at 3.00 p.m. This will be followed by a tea in the village hall. What better way to thank your Mother than by expressing your thanks publicly to God, and giving her a nice tea afterwards. Hope to see you there. **(Kevin Mepham)**

CONGRATULATIONS to Margaretta Bundy on obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in Theology from Christchurch College Canterbury.

ALKHAM FETE AGM will be held on 3rd March at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall. All are welcome, especially if you have any comments or suggestions as to how we could improve this year's Fete (Saturday 9th July). Please come along and have your say. **(Paul Tapsell. 01303 892082)**

A MINI BAZAAR and coffee morning, organised by Doreen Lott's grandson, in aid of Dover Boys' Grammar School Enterprise bid is being held on the 26th February in the village hall from 10.30am to 12.30. Various items for sale plus raffle, tombola etc.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Wednesday Night Carvery £10.95

(eat as much as you like)

Thursday Night Steak Night Special

16oz rib-eye **£9.45**

8oz rib-eye **£7.75**

Sunday Lunch Carvery £8.95

Please book early 822945

NEWSLETTER – As you can see the Newsletter has an A3 layout and thanks go to Clive Batchelor of Newlyn Meadow for getting it copied in this format. It was not possible to have the pages collated and stapled in the old format so I decided it was easier to fold the 330 copies rather than staple them. **(editor)**

CHEQUERS

West Hougham

Thai food restaurant

Monday to Saturday

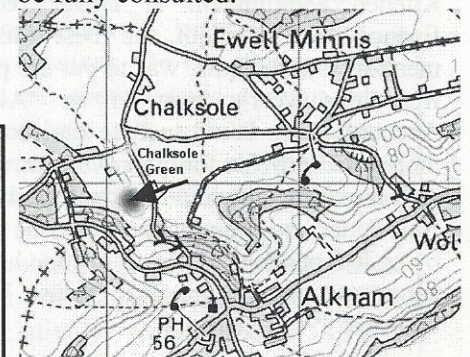
Carvery

12.00 to 4.00pm on Sundays

Phone 01304 226776

CHALKSOLE GREEN

Twelve people met in the Marquis to put forward ideas for improving Chalksole Green. It was agreed that a butyl lining to the pond would be best with a maximum water depth of 1 metre and that meandering paths would be preferable to cutting down all the undergrowth. The overhang of some of the trees needs removing and the tree warden is to be consulted. A committee comprising Mick Wingfield, Maurice Sayers, Clive Batchelor and Geoff Gaskill was formed to take matters further and there will be another open evening in the Marquis on the 8th of March if anyone else would like to be involved. The Parish Council will be fully consulted.



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FINANCES – The Newsletter has been copied at Staples for the last 7 years at 2p (+ VAT) per photostat with the 1320 copies costing £31.02. On average there are 7 large box adverts at £3 per month, two smaller ones at £1.50, plus 16 line adverts at £1 making a monthly revenue of £40, covering the copying plus £4.50 for petrol (Staples/delivering) and £3.70 for the 16 copies, which are posted. In December the photostat cost increased to 4p making a deficit per month of £25. The Newsletter has a reserve, which would cover this for a while, but it seemed sensible as adverts are paid to September, to use some of the money from the annual quiz. In the meantime, Clive Batchelor offered to get the Newsletter copied at the Folkestone Rainbow Centre (see article) for £30, which I gratefully took up. It's hoped that this will be a long term arrangement but it is not guaranteed. In addition the Alkham Soup Kitchen commitment at Dover requires finance so I thought the best idea, as mentioned at the quiz, was to put the profits from this year's quiz in an 'Alkham Account'. This could include the recycling money and provide for other Alkham events. Any money spent would be published in the Newsletter and the account would be vetted by an independent person. If anyone has any comments on this proposal, please let me know (824969). (editor)

W.I. - At the last meeting Susannah Tapsell, president welcomed members and two visitors. A trip to Chartham Church for lunch was arranged in May. We have been there often and thoroughly enjoy it. To round off the afternoon a visit to a garden centre will take place. The summer outing is planned for July, venues to be discussed at next meeting. The final trip is in March to Wembley Television studios to be an audience for a new quiz show to be televised soon, we do not have to take part! Twenty five people can go, we have nineteen at the moment so if anyone would like to come give me a ring. Cost is only the coach fare. Three members showed an interest to go to the Albert Hall in June for the annual conference. An Italian evening, a drama day and our own group meeting were all discussed. The speaker was Dave Pascall the former coxswain of the Dover lifeboat. He gave a most interesting talk about the services they provide with amusing incidents as well as tragic ones. He said from the first call they get it takes eight minutes to get the men ready and launch the boat. Dave also brought the gear the men have to wear and it takes them thirty seconds to don. He then picked out Mandy Summers to put everything on from wellie boots to leggings and life jacket, it took slightly longer than 30 seconds! There are women in the crew as well as the men. It was an excellent talk and he was thanked by Mandy. The total raised in December for Cancer Research was £545. This was the Coffee morning and Carols and donkey rides in the village hall, the carol singing around the village and sales of magazines through the year. An excellent achievement.

(Cherry Leppard)

FARMER'S MARKET

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

NOTHING CHANGES – Letter to the Folkestone Herald 13th January 1945. **Damage to Alkham shelter** – May 1 on behalf of the grateful members of the small community who avail themselves of the waiting facilities in the form of a passenger shelter, kindly provided by the East Kent Bus Company on the Alkham Valley corner, voice a strong protest which may, through the medium of your paper, reach the ears of those concerned. Since its destruction by enemy action in July last, we, the residents of this community, have known what the loss of this shelter has meant, especially on the cold winter mornings. It was with grateful thanks we saw that once more the company had replaced the shelter for the benefit of the waiting passengers. Sir, it is a scandal that there is, in this community an element that would wilfully and wantonly destroy the glass in this shelter one day after its replacement. Are we after all, no better than the Germans whom we are fighting for the preservation of the peace, safety and liberty of the common man? Have we as well been bereft of all sense of common decency, of all respect of the belongings and rights of the other fellow? We hope and trust that this is not the case, and on behalf of the sober and law-abiding users of this boon, tender our thanks to the East Kent Bus Company who must be by now thoroughly disheartened. Time and again, even before its destruction by a flying bomb, glass and defaced paintwork were continually being replaced, but we, who gratefully put this shelter to its rightful use, end with a plea to all whom it may concern to endeavour to put a stop to these actions which are daily betraying the very cause for which we are fighting. *A Evelyn Wicks, The Nook. (I am grateful to Sam Gordon of Slip Lane for this article – editor).*

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Manager

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SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

Two traffic patrol officers from North Berwick were using a hand-held radar device to check for speeding motorists on the A1 last May. One officer used the device to check the speed of a vehicle approaching over the crest of a hill and was somewhat surprised to find that the speed recorded was off the scale, in excess of 300 mph; the device then jammed. The radar had in fact latched onto a NATO Tornado aircraft in the North Sea, which was taking part in a low flying exercise. Following a complaint by the police to the RAF, it was revealed that the officers could be classed 'very fortunate'. The tactical computer on board the Tornado had not only detected and jammed the hostile radar equipment, but had automatically armed a Sidewinder Air-to-Ground Missile, ready to neutralise the perceived threat. Luckily the Dutch pilot was alerted to the missile status and was able to over-ride the automatic protection system before the missile launched.

FREDERIC

HALL

Solicitors

York House, Folkestone

01303 851185

& Clyde House, Dover

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The other day, while driving down into Folkestone, I was horrified to witness an accident where a car ran into the back of a motor cyclist. Thankfully, no-one was hurt, but it reminded me of an accident I had when I was a curate in St Leonards. I was returning home after doing parish visits, and was stationary in the middle of the road waiting to turn right. A white van came tearing down the road, caught the back of my car and sent it spinning like a top. Coming to in the hospital, I was treated for severe shock and minor injuries, and eventually allowed home. Perhaps the greatest shock of all was the sudden realisation that you get no warning, no time to think, to prepare, to plan. In life we know there are no certainties apart from death, and it comes on us often without warning. We shall shortly be celebrating Easter, and perhaps remembering the death of Jesus. It was predicted, and He prepared his followers as much as he could to enable them to simply understand the tremendous difference his death would mean for us all. We are promised that by having faith in him and following him, we shall be granted eternal life. Those words, 'eternal life' trip off the tongue easily, but to someone involved in a tragedy, or to someone grieving, they offer you hope which nothing else can bring. When I had my accident, I was already trying to follow Jesus Christ, and I believe that if I had died, then although I was unprepared, yet it would not have been the end. Jesus promises us new life. That is why we celebrate at Easter. Take a moment to see the reason you celebrate Easter. Is it a reason that brings you comfort and hope? May God Bless you all with wisdom to see the things that are needful for eternal joy.

(Kevin Mepham)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY

will present a performance of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* at 7.30 pm on Saturday 19th March in Dover Town Hall. Tickets costing £8 (Students £4) are available from Dover Tourist Information Centre; by phoning 822402, or at the door on the night if any are left.

OZ on GREATSPOTS

A persistent visitor to our bird table in coldest February was the Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*), unmistakable in bright red underpants. Known in past times as 'greater' or 'pied' woodpecker, 'French magpie' and 'galley-magpie', its modern name is often abbreviated by birdwatchers to 'greatspot'. In recent years there has been a phenomenal increase in the number of greatspots seen, both in the wild and in gardens, after the terrible losses of winter 1963. The rapid repopulation was due partly to the amount of dead wood available after Dutch Elm Disease and, later, the Great Hurricane, and partly to additional woodland nesting space released by the decline of the rival starling population. Accustomed to humans, greatspots have also benefited from the recent popularity of garden bird-feeding with high quality foods, including nuts and fats. The greatspot's other advantage is its unique body structure. It is 'zygodactylic', meaning 'two toes forwards and two backwards', hence is very steady when climbing. The root of its tongue coils round the back of the skull and can be released to harpoon insects in crevices. Fully extended, the tongue protrudes 1½ inches beyond the bill; the human equivalent would be 14 inches. Finally, the greatspot's skull contains shock-absorbers to avoid damage when the bird is drilling into trees or telephone poles at the rate of some 16 blows per second. This drilling, for food or nest-making, becomes known as 'drumming' when the purpose is to attract a mate or deter a competitor. On the afternoon dog-walk, there comes a point when we hear two sets of drumming, one from a neighbour's garden and one from the Abbey grounds, and we've taken to stopping there for a moment just to listen and marvel at what goes on inside those relatively small bodies. (Steve Osborn)

TRENTHAM'S - Highhouse Rd 81- m cly. n - Done
 CT15 6EJ.

WHAT'S ON 852252		
Regular events		
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FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm	
Other events (VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)		
Thursday	3	Fete AGM see page 1
Saturday	5	Bingo in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	7	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	8	W.I. in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	19	Quiz in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	19	Easter egg raffle in VH 10.30am
Monday	21	D & D Bird Club in VH 7.30pm
Saturday	26	Beekkeepers in village hall

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Tuesday 2nd		Healing Service 7.00 pm	
Sunday 6th	Mothering Sunday Service 3.00 pm	Family Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping Together 11.00 am
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Sunday 20th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
24th Maundy Thursday	Sung Eucharist at St Anthony, Alkham 7.30 pm		
25th Good Friday		The last hour before the Cross 2.00 pm	
Sunday 27th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 6.30 am (breakfast) Sung Eucharist 11.00 am	Sung Eucharist 10.00 am
Weekday services: Morning Prayer at Capel, Monday to Friday at 8.30 am (except bank holidays); Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday at 5.00 pm; Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am			

FOLKESTONE RAINBOW CENTRE, where the Newsletter is being copied, was set up in 1985 to help local people deal with personal, emotional and family problems. They offer a range of social support for parents, children, the lonely, the isolated, the socially excluded and the homeless, as well as a fully professional counselling service. For more information please ring 01303 850733 or speak to Clive Batcheldor who lives in Newlyn Meadow.

THANKS go to Debbie Robson for a cheque of £52, which has been passed onto Steph Perrow who co-ordinates the Dover Soup Kitchen. Debbie works with the Dover Adult Service team who, rather than buy Christmas cards for each other, put the money in a box and raised the £52. (editor)

TSUNAMI – You people of Alkham have really exceeded yourselves raising £300 from the Red Cross collection, £250 from the jumble sale in the village hall plus the £750 from the American Supper making £1300 in total. (Sue Lees)

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Margaret - 823568

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Telephone 01304 824969

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THE RECYCLING has now been going for a year so we decided to withdraw the money from the account. Ken and I had no idea how much we had earned and were amazed to receive a cheque made payable to the Alkham Fund for £261.16. We have collected 1.4t of cardboard, 4.4t of paper, 15 kg of foil, 544 kg of cans and 632 kg of plastic. The only expense (thanks to Billy Hollis) has been the plastic sacks of which we leave about 100 a month at a cost of £2.60, making a total of £31 for the year. Thus £230 will be added to the Alkham Fund and with the money from the quizzes it now stands at £730. If anyone has a local project for which they would like some sponsorship, please let me know. (**editor**)

Read a new book a month... are you up to the challenge? If you like reading a variety of books and would like to chat about what you have read with like minded friends, then what better than to join Alkham's new book club? Meeting once a month starting April 27th 7.30pm at Chalksole Cottage (glass of wine almost obligatory), come along and find out more. Books and final meeting time will depend on who turns up! Email or phone Linda on lindagaskill@peoplepotential.fsnet.co.uk or 823100 if you would like to come.

BRIAN LUCKHURST – It is very sad to report the death of Brian Luckhurst who lived at South Alkham. His death was widely reported in the local press and the national dailies, such as the Telegraph and the Times, and Meridian Television carried a moving tribute to a great cricketer. He recently published his

autobiography entitled 'From Bootboy to President', which summed up his life in cricket having started at Canterbury at the age of 15 and ending up as the President of the Kent County Cricket Club. At the start of the 1970's he played for England and opened the batting with Geoff Boycott against Australia and was a skilful player of spin. Deepest sympathy goes to his wife Raye and all the family.... and on Monday the 14th of March a service to remember and celebrate his life was held in St. Anthony's church. The service would normally have been in Canterbury Cathedral but because of his attachment to Alkham he requested it be at St. Anthony's. The church was full to capacity and the sound of the hymns from the 300 people was inspiring. Derek Underwood spoke of his friend and moving tributes were given by his three sons.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held in the village hall on the 4th of April at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and there will be a speaker who will talk about the effect of tourism on the local community and other issues. The talk will be supplemented with slides.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Wednesday Night Carvery £10.95

(eat as much as you like)

Thursday Night Steak Night Special

16oz rib-eye **£9.45**

8oz rib-eye **£7.75**

Sunday Lunch Carvery £8.95

Please book early 822945

FOOTBALL – Ken Hammond is starting football practice for 8 to 13 year old children on Tuesday evenings at 6.00pm starting on the 12th of April. It will be on the football pitch at the bottom of Vicarage Meadow and the Alkham Fund will be supplying the balls. There is also a new set of nets, which will be erected on the night and the usual tops are available.

CHEQUERS

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Carvery

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Phone 01304 226776

SPEED LIMITS - The Highway Authority has been in discussions with the police and they believe the latter are not against the imposition of speed limits along the Alkham Valley Road. When they get confirmation from the police they will put matters in train. The Parish Council has been pressing for a 40mph limit from South Alkham and a 50mph limit in general.

RECYCLING will be on Thursday the 7th of April.

PARISH CLERK – Sue Lees is retiring from the post of Parish Clerk and formal applications are now required from anyone who would like to take up this worthwhile job. There are Parish Council meetings every two months and occasional meetings in between. The post is salaried and if you would like further details please phone Sue on 822661.... **and as an incentive** a cutting from the April 1847 edition of the Kentish Gazette told of the longevity of Parish Clerks. Mr Payne was ably performing his duties in his 80th year at Folkestone; Mr White, the Alkham Clerk, lived to the age of 92; Mr Emery of Temple Ewell was still in good health at 84 and able to plant potatoes and toll the bell when old acquaintances died (I'll have a word with Stan).

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The Neighbourhood Watch News said to reduce or eliminate junk mail write to The Mailing Preference Service, Freepost 29 LON20771, London W1E 7ZT; phone 0845 703 4599; online at www.mpsonline.org.uk. For telephone calls contact The Telephone Preference Service, Freepost 29 LON20771, London W1E 0ZT; phone 0845 070 0707; online at www.tpsonline.org.uk. It may take 4 months to reduce the mail and 28 days for phone calls.

CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS

There is a bill currently going through parliament which, if invoked, will give Parish Councils the authority to issue fixed penalties for litter, graffiti, fly posting and dog offences.

MANY THANKS to Chris Harman for his financial donation to the Newsletter and also to Lucy McKenzie.

GARDEN TALK – A big thank you to John and Hilary for hosting our February Garden Talk. Plenty of wine and nibbles, good company, what else could you ask for? The next meeting will be at Ian and Lucy's home, the Old Vicarage on April 15th at 7.30pm. New members welcome. (Rosemary & John Crothall)

SHORT LANE

The houses at the top of Short Lane are owned by a housing trust and are provided for people with a local connection to Alkham. The following (which has been edited) was received from the Southern Housing Group, which owns the properties.

Rural Housing Scheme - This Association is keen to ensure that we meet the conditions set out in the Section 106 Agreement which was drawn up when the Scheme was developed. Applicants who meet the local connection criteria in the Agreement currently apply to the Housing Department at Dover District Council but there is a need to extend this and therefore local people can now also apply directly to Southern Housing Group. To assist in this process a form has been devised to go out with our housing application form for the applicant to provide full details of their connection with your village and surrounding parishes. To obtain forms applicants should contact our Service Centre on 08456 066 366 from 8.0.a.m to 8.0.p.m. Monday to Friday. To ensure that all local people are aware of how and where to apply for all future vacancies I am producing some A4 adverts to place on your Parish Council notice board and these should be with you by April. The Group will then have a supply of suitably qualified applicants when a property becomes available for letting and this will help reduce previously experienced delays.

W.I. - At the last meeting quite a few outings were discussed and it was agreed to have a day in Greenwich in September. Why we have left it later is Greenwich is extremely busy through the summer months. There is a lot going on there and every Saturday they have a big market, also boat trips up the Thames, walks by the river and the Greenwich museum and observatory. We will drop people off and they can do what they like. A half day in July probably to Great Dixter, lunch in a nearby pub! Names were taken for the lunch in May at Chartham Church. Anyone other than W.I members are welcome on any of these outings, ring Cherry 01303 255114 or see any member. The group meeting was finalised as it is Alkham's turn to host this. The speaker was Mrs Wheal whose subject was "Tropical Fruits and Turtles". She had travelled through Costa Rica to the Gallipoli Islands, she showed some beautiful slides of flowers, tropical fruits and the scenery was amazing. She also had slides of the turtles when they come onto the sands to lay their eggs. Her commentary throughout was most interesting and her greatest thrill was when she arrived at the Gallipoli islands, which she had a few slides of. She was thanked by Debbie Griggs. Next month is "Country Dancing" with Mrs Watkinson which I am sure we will all join in! (Cherry Leppard)

SEAT - The seat by the valley road just down from the bus stop is to be replaced with a new oak one.

BEECH TREE – On Friday the 11th of March one of the few remaining beech trees around the Old Vicarage fell down onto Vicarage Meadow. I understand that the beech trees were planted around the Vicarage shortly after it was built in 1836.

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SLIDE – The play equipment on Vicarage Meadow has been inspected by Eric Cook with the result that the slide has been identified for replacement. The Parish Council are in favour of keeping it in its present location as safety matting won't be required to the sides and quotes are being sought. The swings are all right but could do with a coat of paint, although it may be cheaper to replace the tubing.

INTERESTED in joining a home group?

Starting after Easter, Linda and Geoff Gaskill will begin a Monday evening group in their home, looking at bible readings and their relevance to everyday life. Beginning on April 25th at 7.30 – 9.30 pm, come along for fellowship, study and discussion, all are welcome. E mail

lindagaskill@peoplepotential.Fsnet.co.uk or
phone Linda on 823100 if you would like to come.

FREDERIC HALL

Solicitors

York House, Folkestone

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CHURCHYARD - Alkham is undoubtedly a place of great natural beauty. An important part of the village is the churchyard which as most people know is considered to be a conservation area due to rare grass growing there. That is the reason why the grass is only cut once a year, and the meadow flowers and wildlife, (wasps?) are to be encouraged. I am sure that most people are aware that the Church yard is maintained on behalf of the village now and in the future. There are regulations which we have to try to enforce to ensure the Church yard remains a place of natural beauty and also blends into the surroundings. This means that only natural materials are used for headstones, and that fashion and taste is not allowed to disfigure the harmony of the overall view. You should be aware that garden edging, chippings, or other ornaments are not permitted in the Church yard, and nothing should be placed on the graves without permission of the incumbent. If you are unsure of what is permissible, please speak to the wardens, and a copy of the regulations is displayed in Church. **(Kevin Mepham)**

CHALKSOLE GREEN

A second meeting was held in the Marquis of Granby regarding Chalksole Green. It was decided that there should be two ponds rather than one big one. The reason for this is that the smaller part of the pond is overhung by two very mature oak trees and these should be left untouched and as a result this pond will be shaded. The ash bough over the larger pond is to be removed together with other shading and this pond will be started first. It is yet to be decided whether it will be lined or puddled. The Parish Council have given approval for the committee to carry out the necessary works to reinstate the ponds and the green.

OZ on 23/4 – The 23rd of April is a remarkable date that celebrates Saint George, the birth of William Shakespeare in 1564, and the deaths, in 1616, of both Shakespeare and Miguel Cervantes, the great Spanish author of *Don Quixote*. George, a Turkish soldier in the Roman Army of the 4th century AD, was a particular favourite of Emperor Diocletian. However, when Diocletian began persecuting Christians, George objected and was imprisoned, tortured, and beheaded, becoming one of the earliest martyrs. Diocletian's wife became a Christian in sympathy and was in turn executed. George was canonized in 494 AD by Pope Gelasius, and soon became famous worldwide. In 1222, the Council of Oxford chose April 23rd as Saint George's day. A measure of Saint George's popularity is that he is patron saint not only of England but also of Aragon, archers, armourers, Boy Scouts, butchers, Catalonia, cavalry, chivalry, farmers, Ferrara, Genoa, Georgia, Germany, Greece, horse-riders, Istanbul, knights, lepers, Lithuania, Moscow, Palestinian Christians, plague, Portugal, saddle-makers, skin diseases, soldiers and Venice. Although Shakespeare definitely died on St George's Day 1616, there is no record of his birth-date and so it is usually taken as April 23rd 1564, ie three days before his baptism. Shakespeare famously immortalised Saint George in Act III of *King Henry V*. Shakespeare and Cervantes died on the same date, but not on the same day. Spain adopted the "New Style" Gregorian Calendar in 1582, while England stayed with the "Old Style" Julian calendar until 1752. In between, the Gregorian calendar was 10 days ahead of the Julian calendar, so Shakespeare died on April 23rd 1616 in the Julian calendar, ie May 3rd 1616 in the Gregorian calendar. Incidentally, Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, often called "the first modern novel", was published 400 years ago, on January 16th 1605. **(Steve Osborn)**

WHAT'S ON	
Regular events	
TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm
Other events	
(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)	
Saturday	2 Bingo in village hall at 7.30pm
Monday	4 Annual Parish meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday	12 W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Wednesday	13 Church AGM 7.30pm everyone welcome
Monday	20 D & D Bird Club in VH 7.30pm
Thursday	28 Village Hall Committee 8.00pm

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00am
Tuesday 5th		Healing service 7.00 p.m.	
Sunday 10th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00am	Songs of Praise village hall West Hougham 6.30pm
Sunday 17th	Worshipping Together 11.00am	Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 24th	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 followed by refreshments			

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH Annual General meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13th April at 7.30pm. when elections will take place to appoint Council members for the coming year. Please come along to support us and to raise any comments or concerns you may have about the Church in Alkham.
(Grace Stacey and Richard Tapsell. Church Wardens)

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD - A programme of works is planned for the Valley Road. Some of the existing signs will be replaced and extra ones added where necessary. The skid resistance of the road surface at Chilton is to be improved and other similar works carried out mainly between Wolverton and Bushey Ruff.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876 Alkham Valley Society secretary
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484	GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234	Joanna Walker 821641 W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
County Councillor , Bryan Cope 207976, work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Vicar Kevin Mepham 01303 244119 Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Parish Clerk , Susan Lees 822661 susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk	Alkham web site www.alkham.org

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES		
ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	St. Margaret's 852252
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
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 07889310479
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley 01303 891806
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham 01303 891996
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and pet 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 groceries, videos, fruit/veg, off licence, freshbread/milk	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-Ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-Ferne 01303 251353

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

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ALKHAM VILLAGE FETE bric-a-brac stall - Will you all please remember our stall when you are spring cleaning or clearing out ready to move. We pride ourselves on presenting quite a good display of goods and welcome any unwanted gifts etc and other saleable items. We are happy to collect from you. Thank you. **(Irene Barnard)**

THANKS - In last month's Newsletter there should have been a 'thank you' to John Ullmann for allowing his field to the west of the village to be used as a car park for people attending Brian Luckhurst's funeral. The gesture was greatly appreciated.

THANKS also go to Peter Davis, the Tree Warden, for removing the large bough to the ash tree overhanging the larger pond at Chalksole Green.

HOUGHAM FETE - Hougham will be holding their Village Fayre on Monday the 30th of May starting at 1pm.

HOUSE DEEDS - I would like the people who offered to lend me their deeds to contact me once again because I've mislaid the original details. The deeds that have already been lent are very interesting and have added to the history of Alkham. **(Sue Lees 822661)**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING There were only 14 people at the meeting, including the Parish Councillors and County Councillor, but this didn't stop it from being a forum for lively discussion. Neil Burrows gave his Chairman's report and Bryan Cope spoke for KCC. Bryan said that there were now 100 Community Wardens in Kent and there was a perception that young people generally caused trouble but of the Anti Social Behaviour Orders, which were issued in Kent, two were to people over 70 and one to an under 15. Other items were:

TEEN SHELTER - County Councillor Bryan Cope said that he was disappointed that there wasn't a Teen Shelter in Alkham. It was pointed out that the Parish had intended to provide a shelter but when the youngsters were asked to help erect it no volunteers came forward. It is probable that a lot of the youngsters don't read the Newsletter and therefore may have been unaware that their help was needed, so if you are a parent and would like to see a Teen Shelter in Alkham please contact the Parish Clerk on 822661 and let her know that your son or daughter would like to help.

COUNTY LENGHTSMAN

Lovely title which is another name for a quick response highway team to be introduced by KCC to deal with potholes and the like. The reporting procedure will be the same as usual but I'm not too sure what this will be as the local highway authorities are being reorganised. For the time being, it would be best to phone DDC.

SIGNING - At the Parish Meeting mention was made of the perceived lack of road signing around Alkham and neighbouring areas. If you feel this is the case and would like to see more, please contact the Parish Clerk on 822661 and she will pass your comments on to the Highway Authority.

FETE STALLHOLDERS' MEETING - Everyone who either is presently or would like to be involved in this year's Fete (9th July - put it in your diaries now!) is invited to the stallholders' meeting on the 26th May 2005 at 8 pm in the Village Hall. This is the meeting where we check that everything is organised (we hope) and sort out who is doing what on the day. If you have been frightened to come before because you think that we're scary please be brave, turn up and lend a hand - I can guarantee you'll enjoy yourself and it's an ideal opportunity for anyone who has only recently joined the Village (especially if your names are Rob or Jo), or has not previously been involved in the Fete, to come and get play a part, or call me on 01303 892082 and let me know you're interested! Details of stall holders, competitions, etc. will be in June's Newsletter. **(Paul Tapsell)**

FOOTBALL - The first two weeks of football practice for 8 to 13 year olds were very successful with a good crowd of youngsters turning up. In addition, two of the young mothers have volunteered to help Ken Hammond, which is great news. I understand that Ken let in at least 14 goals on the second week much to the delight of the all the players.

PAINTINGS FOR SALE every Tuesday at the Art Workshop in the village hall from 10.00am to 1pm. Do come along and see what the local artists have to offer.

ALKHAM RECYCLING - The next collection will be on Thursday the 5th of May.

AIR AMBULANCE

The combined coffee morning, evening quiz and Easter egg raffle made a profit of over £400, which has been donated to the Kent Air Ambulance. Thanks go to all the people who supported the events and also thanks must go to the Polden and Lott families for organising everything for such a worthwhile cause.

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SPEED – Evidently, if you drive in third gear in a 30mph limit you will use less fuel and cause less pollution than if you are driving in 4th or 5th gear. According to the Institute of Advanced Motorists, the throttle opening has to be wider when driving in a high gear as the car is less responsive than when you are driving in the more flexible and responsive third gear. It sometimes may sound as though you are using more petrol but evidently this is not the case. The great advantage of driving in third gear is that you won't have to keep checking your speedometer to make sure that you are obeying the speed limit.

KENT DOWNS – The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty covers a quarter of the county of Kent and runs from Bromley in the west, through Alkham, to St. Margarets in the east. It is like a National Park but it is administered by the local authorities. Sarah Loftus, Tourism Officer for the Kent Downs AONB, gave a talk at the Annual Parish Meeting and in the talk, she said that sustainable tourism was going to be encouraged and one project was to encourage the use of trains “take the train to explore the Downs”. Two excellent publications were handed out.

OPEN-AIR DRAMA W.I.

'This is Our Story' - An open-air dramatic presentation of scenes from Dorothy L Sayers' 'Man Born to be King' takes place on Saturday May 21st in the Eythorne Benefice – moving to each of the four villages throughout the day. **11.30 am:** Barfrestone sees the Wedding at Cana and the Healing of the Nobleman's Son. **1.30 pm:** Feeding of the Five Thousand with an invitation to bring a packed lunch or picnic and be part of it all! **4 pm:** Shepherdswell Green sees the drama of the Last Supper and the Crucifixion. **6 pm:** Eythorne Church Field for the Resurrection and Breakfast on the Beach. A Barbecue to which all are invited then rounds off the day! Visitors are encouraged to bring rug, chair or cushion (indoors if wet). Locations will be signed off the A2 west of Lydden.

GARDEN TALK - We had an enjoyable evening at the home of Lucy and Ian. The theme for the evening was "Lucy's Pond" and what to put in it now that it is up and running. Those of us with a bit more refinement offered suggestions such as marginal plants and lilies, to the slightly more ridiculous, some would say tacky, gnome with a fishing rod, wind-up frog and plastic water lilies for year round colour. This person shall remain anonymous! We would all like to give a big thank you to Rosemary who took over the reins from Susannah and has now passed them over to me, (Devina). Next meeting is on Friday 20th May and will hopefully be at Elwin End's garden centre at River. Any queries, give me a ring on 827548. (Devina)

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

W.I. - Twenty-five members attended the last W.I meeting in April and Susannah, our president, went through the business and gave an account of the annual council meeting at Margate. Two birthday parties from the link institutes were attended and thoroughly enjoyed by those members who went. A rose bush and card signed by everyone were given to Rosemary Crothall and of course husband John who, after living in Alkham for 40 years, have moved to Barham to be nearer their daughters. Rosemary has been a member of the W.I for longer than I dare print!! and was also involved a lot in village life. She assures us she will still come to our W.I so we will not lose her altogether. The outings were again discussed and arrangements in hand. A trip to Great Dixter and lunch at a nearby pub first was decided for Wednesday 27th July - would like some more names please to warrant hiring a coach. All welcome. It is the resolution meeting in May so we have no speaker but Debbie and Mandy, the programme organisers, will have a meeting so members are encouraged to take ideas along to the May meeting for speakers for next year. The speaker or demonstrator was Mrs Watkinson who took us "Country Dancing". It was great fun as she taught us about half a dozen dances. Some knew exactly what they were doing while others, well, some got partners muddled up others just lost partners! To those looking on it was hilarious. She was thanked by Pam Sayers. Next meeting Tuesday 10th May at 7.30pm in the village hall.

BIKE RIDE – On the 11th of June Ken Hammond and myself are going to do the Essex Castle Bike Ride (Ken chose to do the 75-mile course). It is in aid of the British Heart Foundation and if you'd like to sponsor us then please ring me on 824969. (editor)

CHALKSOLE COMMON Preliminary work continues at the common and it is hoped that the larger pond nearer the road can be puddled in September. The next meeting will be in the Marquis of Granby on the 10th of May at 7.30pm if you'd like to go along.

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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB'S preparations for the new season have been in full swing for some time and include the acquisition of a sponsor and the purchase of smart new Alkham CC shirts and caps. Enthusiastic team members have been attending weekly indoor net practice at the St Lawrence Ground at Canterbury for the last two months in readiness for the first match, which was scheduled for April 24 at home to River Woodpeckers. While the club clearly missed the experienced Dennis Barnard last season, he has not been lost to the club, for he attended several net sessions in a coaching capacity and will remain linked to the club. Meanwhile, the Meadow's grass has been cut, Paul and Richard Tapsell have been working hard to prepare the wicket, and helpers were encouraged to assist with tidying up the dyke and surrounding area. Last season's promising youngsters (and the less promising oldsters!) have remained loyal to the club so the 2004 regulars are all available again in 2005 (cont'd)

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However, the excitement of the new season is tinged with sadness for all, following the recent loss of Brian Luckhurst - a great supporter of the club over the years and an inspiration to anyone who has ever picked up a bat or ball. Members will always treasure Brian and Raye's attendance as guests of honour at the club's annual dinner and awards night at the Marquis of Granby in November, and discussions are under way at the club to find a fitting way to honour Brian beyond the one minute's silence planned for the opening match against River. The club enters the season with a sponsor - Chunnel Group of Lydden - thanks to the generosity and support of the village's John Huggins and his family. As a result, brand new shirts bear the Chunnel logo - and each player also has his name and year of debut embroidered on the shirt. So "Alky" - as the team is known locally - looks the part. Now they hope to live up to the image with an improved record over last season - although that should not be impossible due to the lack of victories in 2004! The first few fixtures of the 22 scheduled for the season - subject, of course, to the weather - are: April 24, home to River Woodpeckers; May 1, home to Courtstairs; May 8, away to Shepherdswell; May 15, home to Old Hartsdonians; May 22, away to River Woodpeckers; May 29, home to Phil Rowley XI. The season runs until a final match at home on September 11, and includes a two-match tour to the Brighton area in mid-June plus the annual August Bank Holiday fixture against club President Mark Loveday's "Harrington Hackers" at Alkham on August 28. Supporters are very welcome at all games - and let's face it, even if you are not a cricket enthusiast, what could be more pleasant or traditional than relaxing in the sunshine on a lazy summer afternoon at The Meadow in Alkham?

(Peter Frater)

OZ on DICTIONARIES April 15th marked the 250th birthday of Samuel Johnson's great *Dictionary of the English Language*. It is difficult now, surrounded by instant information from the internet and hand-held hardware, to imagine life without dictionaries and to appreciate the task of compiling them. Dictionaries began when mediaeval scholars wrote explanations, called 'glosses', in the margins of texts. Glosses were often collected alphabetically and published as 'glossaries'. The 17th century saw many competing English dictionaries that concentrated mainly on difficult words. By the 18th century, the nation needed a comprehensive national dictionary comparable with those completed by Italy in 1612 and France in 1700. In 1746 Robert Dodsley and others negotiated a contract with Johnson to write a dictionary, which he commenced in 1747 after providing a plan and dedication to Lord Chesterfield. The plan was huge, matching those of the Italian and French academies, and Johnson achieved it over the next eight years by the efforts of himself and six poorly-paid assistants. He defined over 40,000 words, and, in a revolutionary step for dictionary-makers, used over 114,000 quotations from literature to justify definitions and illustrate usage. The *Dictionary* was published five times in Johnson's lifetime, and was such a success that all talk of setting up an English Academy faded. It remained unchallenged until the arrival of Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language* in 1828 and *The Oxford English Dictionary* between 1884 and 1928, both using Johnson's idea of illustrative quotations. A notable omission from Johnson's *Dictionary* is due to the fact that Johnson thought that there were "no words beginning with 'X' in genuine English". This view was shared by the American writer Ambrose Bierce, who declared in *The Devil's Dictionary* (1911) that "words beginning with 'X' are Grecian and will not be defined." (Steve Osborn)

WHAT'S ON – Regular events in the village

Tuesday	Art classes in the village hall from 10 am to 1 pm. Ring 01303 243115 for further details
Wednesday	Keep Fit in the village hall from 9.30 am to 10.30 am – Wednesday Club from 10.30 am to 11.30 am
Thursday	Mobile Library stops at the car parks by the village hall from 9.25 am to 9.50 am
Friday	Whist Drive in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm

WHAT'S ON – Other events in the village

Sunday	1	Alkham Cricket Club versus Courtstairs on Vicarage Meadow in the afternoon
Thursday	5	Voting in the village hall from 6.00am to 10.15pm for national and local elections
Saturday	7	Bingo in the village hall starting at 7.30pm
Monday	9	Parish Council meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm – everyone is welcome to come along
Thursday	12	Cricket Club AGM in the village hall at 8.00pm
Saturday	14	W.I. jumble sale in the village hall starting at 11.00am
Sunday	15	Alkham Cricket Club versus Old Hartsdonians on Vicarage Meadow in the afternoon
Monday	16	Dover & District Bird Club in the village hall 7.30pm
Thursday	26	Fete stall holders meeting in the village hall at 8.00pm
Sunday	29	Alkham Cricket Club versus Phil Rowley XI on Vicarage Meadow in the afternoon

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services:
Sunday 1st	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Morning Prayer, Capel: Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays). Evening Prayer, Hougham - Wednesdays at 5 pm. Eucharist, Capel Thursdays at 9.15 am
Tuesday 3rd		Healing Service 7.00 p.m.		
Thursday 5th Ascension Day	Said Eucharist St Radigund, Capel 9.15 a.m. Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony, Alkham 7.30 p.m.			
Sunday 8th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Songs of Praise Village Hall West Hougham 6.30 p.m.	
Sunday 15th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 22nd Trinity Sunday	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 10.00 am Service at St Radigund's Abbey, Dover – time to be advised			
Sunday 29th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234	Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641 W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Vicar Kevin Mephram 01303 244119 Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
County Councillor , Bryan Cope 207976, work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk , Susan Lees 822661 susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk	Alkham web site www.alkham.org
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835		

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

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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 pet 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 groceries, videos, fruit/veg, off licence, freshbread/milk	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-Ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-Ferne 01303 251353

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett: The Old Post Office
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No. 142 June 2005

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KENT POLICE are keen to recruit more volunteer Parish and Neighbourhood Special Constables, who after training provide their free time to work with Kent Police for the benefit of their local community. You don't need paper qualifications but communication skills are important and you need to be in good health and aged between 18 ½ and 55 years old. The commitment is to at least 16 hours a month plus attending regular training courses. If anyone is interested please contact either James Summerfield or Area Officer Sid Sedden directly on 01622 654009.

A **COFFEE MORNING** is being held on Saturday 18th June from 10.30-12.00 at 6 Glebelands in aid of the Dover Diabetic UK Association. In addition to coffee there will be cakes, Bring and Buy, plants, clothes and a raffle. (**Lucy Matcham**)

BINGO - There is no bingo this month because the hall is booked for a birthday party.

PARISH CLERK - There have been no applications for the vacant post of Parish Clerk and it looks as though it will have to be advertised in the local press, with the possibility that someone from outside the parish will take over the job. If anyone is interested, or would like to take on this paid position, please contact Sue Lees on 822661.

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SUNFLOWER COMPETITION - I'm very pleased to report that Simon Norris of South Alkham is running the sunflower competition again this year (the tallest sunflower wins). There are two classes, one for adults and one for children with entries to Simon Norris at 'simonjnorris@tiscali.co.uk' or leave a message on 01303 891550. The closing date for entries is the end of June with measuring commencing on the 5th of September and a trophy will be awarded to the winner of each group. Remember: It's just for fun, no cheating! (i.e. leave the leaves on the sunflower).

YOUNG FOOTBALLERS - Below is a photograph, which was taken on the 10th of May, showing the youngsters who turned up for the football practice organised by Ken Hammond, who can be seen standing at the back. It looked great fun and hopefully it will continue as a regular Tuesday night event.



PART TIME JOB at Sladden Farm. Our Carron, who has been with us for 5 years, is moving to Cornwall; we are sorry to lose her but it is too far for her to commute! We are looking for a special person to work in our farm shop 3 days a week, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9.30 to 5.00. Knowledge of butchery not necessary, we can train you, but customer care is. We would prefer to employ somebody from the local area. Phone 01304 825188 and ask to speak to Di or Kathy.

GRASS CUTTING - The Parish Council have asked me to print a 'thank you' to Larry Lambourne and Roger Lott for regularly cutting the wide grass verge adjacent to the Valley Road by Newlyn's Meadow.

GREENHOUSE - If you would like an 8 foot square greenhouse please ring Derek on 820701. It is complete but dismantled and all they ask is that you give a donation to the church in payment.

RECYCLING - The next collection for Alkham Recycling will be on Thursday the 2nd of June. Evidently DDC are aware of the village collection.

COFFEE MORNING - There will be a coffee morning in aid of W.I. funds on Saturday 4th of June between 10.30am and mid-day at Bramhall, the home of Susannah and Richard Tapsell. There will also be a raffle and a 'bring and buy'.

ALKHAM CHURCH - Kevin Mephram, who is the vicar for the three benefices of Alkham, Capel and Hougham, is leaving the Parish and his last service will be on the 3rd of July. We wish him well for the future and thank him for the good work that he has done in the parish during the time that he has been with Alkham. There is no immediate replacement and therefore the benefice will be without a permanent vicar until matters are resolved.

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HOMEGROUP – On page 4, in Regular Events, Homegroup is listed. As printed in the April Newsletter this is a group looking at bible readings and their relevance to everyday life.

WHAT A SUCCESS! - The Alkham book club got off to a flying start at its first meeting in April. Put these dates, venues and book titles in your diary if you want to come: June 1st: Chalksole Cottage, Inside Hitler's Bunker by Joachim Fest: July 6th Beech Tree Cottage, A short History of Tractors in Ukrainian by Marina Lewycka: August 3rd The Hermitage, The Last Crossing by Guy Vanderhaeghe: September 7th Woodlands, book to be decided: October 5th 4a Newlyn's Meadow, book to be decided. All of the books are on the BBC Pageturners website and are readily available from Waterstones, mostly from the 3 for 2 offer. All are highly recommended. Everyone is welcome, so long as you have a love of reading. Call Linda 823100 if you want to know more.

BUS STOP – At present the bus stops on the hill by Vicarage Meadow such that children who live in Newlyn's Meadow and properties on the west of the village either have to walk through the narrow piece of road before the Marquis of Granby or go round the back of the village hall. The Parish Council are going to write to the bus companies and ask if they can make a further stop by Newlyn's Meadow, which would resolve the situation.

W.I. - The May meeting of the W.I was the resolution meeting. Two resolutions were discussed one being the price of milk paid to farmers, how little they received compared to the price the consumer paid. We were lucky to have Jim Warnock, a dairy farmer from Capel, to talk us through this problem. He said two to three dairy farmers were packing up every week across the country. It was very important to buy English milk and not imported. Look for the tractor on milk containers in the supermarket and also a union jack which should be on them soon. Better still have the milkman deliver to you! Susannah took the other resolution on the waste we have from packaging and how to recycle it, or how we could get manufacturers to cut out the packaging it uses. The outing to Great Dixter is Wednesday July 27th and a coach has been booked. We will stop at a pub for lunch just before we get to Great Dixter. There are seats left if anyone would like a day out. Members also showed an interest in "Holiday on Ice" in Brighton next January. Mandy and Debbie are sorting out next years programme from lots of suggestions from the members, so hopefully we will have some various topics. Next months meeting is Tuesday June 14th where the speaker Mr. J. Pearce will talk on "Reported Missing"

(Cherry Leppard)

AS A RESULT of persistent vandalism to the gas meter and its enclosure the Village Hall committee have been forced to incur expense of about £500 to have the meter moved to inside the Hall to ensure safety. The money could of course be better spent on improving the amenities of the Hall.

ADAGE - Men over 70 should not attempt to put on their trousers whilst balancing on one leg. (Jim Callaghan via Larry Lambourne)

FARMER'S MARKET

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

Local produce

Phone 01303 245399

ALKHAM PRODUCE SHOW

Please support us and help to make a wonderful display. Here is a list of the adult classes so that everyone will be well prepared for the show in the Village Hall on Fete day! 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; 1 cucumber; 3 tomatoes; 3 onions; any other vegetable. Section B Soft fruit: 5 Classes-6 raspberries; 6 gooseberries; 6 strigs of currants any colour; 3 sticks of rhubarb; any other fruit. 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 cactus; 1 fuchsia; 1 any other plant. We hope you enjoy tending your exhibits and entering them in the show. In order to help us to produce a stunning display for all to enjoy, we are also asking that if you have a potted plant of any kind, whose beauty you could share, please bring it along for purely display purposes. 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)**

POETRY IN MOTION - Our W.I. President, Susannah Tapsell, suggested an entertainment that we could do for the visiting W.I. Groups. It would be poetry covering the various ages of women. Those of us who volunteered, or were told, were asked to meet at Susannah's house to be auditioned. As Grace and I approached her front door with some trepidation we wondered if those who failed would leave by the back door. Once we had all arrived Susannah went into her best Simon Cowell mode. We felt like Pop Idols, were we in were we out? We all passed first rehearsal – phew! Two more rehearsals and we were all in. The night came and we were all wonderful of course and it was much enjoyed by all. **(Helen Scopes)**

THANKS go to John Spain for refurbishing the wooden sign in the centre of the village. It was erected in 1937 to commemorate the coronation of George VI.

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The Bumble Bee Alliance is trying to get funding for a countywide project to increase awareness of the major decline in the

bumble bee population in the county and also to actively work to reverse the trend. The WWF has listed several species as being on the edge of extinction and specifically mentions Kent as an area of serious population decline. Bumble bees are protected by law but due to change in farming practices, land development etc there has been a drastic reduction in numbers. They are no threat whatsoever, they never swarm like honeybees and rarely reach more than seventy bees in a colony. They live about twelve months and the queen builds a cell of wax in a nest which might be in a compost heap, old mouse hole etc. in which she lays several eggs, caring for the larvae before the drones take over. If you'd like to help please phone 01303 211599 or email bumblebeealliance@hotmail.com.

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CRICKET - A stuttering start to the season did not auger well for Alkham CC with a best-forgotten defeat to River Woodpeckers and then a cancelled game, before the village team bounced back with two hard-fought draws. With Paul Simpson taking 4-35, Shepherdswell were restricted to 135-9, before Steve Durrant and Ian Callaway made a confident response. However, an unlucky injury forced Durrant to retire on 51 not out, taking the impetus from the Alkham response. The innings closed on 114-3, with Gerry Aldridge unbeaten on 29 and Callaway 16 not out. Old Hartsdonians hit out freely to reach 226 for 5 at The Meadow before Alkham showed some battling spirit to earn a well-deserved draw. The home team finished on 136-3 thanks to 33 from Matthew Gerrard, a blitz of boundaries from Simpson in his unbeaten 44, and an astonishing display of patient and dogged defence from Callaway, who batted for more than two hours for 12 not out. Alkham were due to visit River Woodpeckers on May 22 and then entertain a Phil Rowley XI at home on May 29 and Betteshanger Staff on June 5. A visit to Worth on June 12 is followed by the annual tour to Brighton for games on June 18 and 19. (Peter Frater)

DOVER FESTIVAL PROMS -

Local musicians will again present a festive concert in the style of "The Last Night of the Proms", at 7.30 pm on Friday 1 July in Dover Town Hall. In this Trafalgar memorial year the programme will have a nautical theme, featuring a selection from Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*, a new work on Trafalgar by Michael Lewis, and the traditional Proms Finale: *Jerusalem, Rule Britannia* and *Land of Hope and Glory*. As is customary a retiring collection will be held in support of a local charity. All singers are welcome, but must attend at least four rehearsals, the first of which is at 7.30 pm on Thursday 26 May in River Methodist Church. Audience tickets will be available in June from Dover Town Hall or the Dover Visitor Information Centre. For further details ring Sue or Steve Yarrow on 01304 872812 or Mike Lewis on 01227 831208. (Steve Osborn)

OZ on WENSLEYDALE -

Travelling recently in the second-best county we spent a morning at Wensleydale Creamery, the only dairy still producing 'Real Wensleydale', favourite cheese of Wallace and Gromit. We saw Wensleydale being made and discovered something of its history. Wensleydale cheese, like so many good things, started with the Norman Conquest, when Cistercian monks brought cheese-making knowledge from France's Roquefort region, settling first at Askrigg, then at Fors, where the land was poor and exposed. In 1156 they moved to Hawes, in Wensleydale, and built Jervaulx Abbey in what Charles Kingsley called "the richest spot in all England... this beautiful oasis in the mountains." Over the next 380 years the monks prospered but, after Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, cheese-making passed to local women working from farmhouses. In 1897, Edward Chapman, an agricultural merchant, established Wensleydale's first commercial creamery and succeeded in standardising quality. Following the post-war depression, the newly-formed Milk Marketing Board took over the milk industry in 1933. Resistance to the Board's plans for Hawes led to the rise of a new champion, Kit Calvert, local farmer and historian, who saved the Creamery in 1935 and went on to rebuild it in 1953. In 1966 the Board finally purchased the now-successful Creamery, and Calvert retired. The enterprise was again threatened in 1992, when the parent company tried to close Hawes and transfer production to Lancashire. This, of course, outraged Yorkshire sensibilities and the plant was eventually saved by a management buy-out. Wensleydale is a moist crumbly cheese with a mild sweet flavour, combined with herbs, spices and fruits in an ever-increasing number of recipes, and is available in most Southern supermarkets. Our visit concluded with the legendary 'Ultimate Ploughman's Lunch' consisting of five different Wensleydale cheeses and a pint of Theakstone's Bitter. Bliss! (Steve Osborn)

Regular events in the village

Monday	The Chalksole Homegroup, third Monday of the month at 7.30pm until October. Contact Linda 01304 823100
Tuesday	Art classes in the village hall from 10 am to 1 pm. Ring 01303 243115 for further details
Tuesday	Ballroom dancing classes 7.30 to 10.30 in village hall (except second Tuesday in month)
Wednesday	Keep Fit in the village hall from 9.30 am to 10.30 am – Wednesday Club from 10.30 am to 11.30 am
Thursday	Mobile Library stops at the car parks by the village hall from 9.25 am to 9.50 am
Friday	Whist Drive in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Sunday	5	Alkham Cricket Club on Vicarage Meadow in the afternoon
Saturday	4	Coffee morning at Bramhall from 10.30am to mid-day in aid of W.I. funds
Tuesday	7	Dancing classes – ballroom/Latin American. Beginners 7.30-8.30: Advanced 8.30-10.30. All welcome
Tuesday	14	W.I. in the village hall at 7.30pm
Saturday	18	Coffee morning at 6 Glebelands from 10.30am to mid-day in aid of Dover Diabetic UK Association
Monday	20	Dover & District Bird Club in the village hall 7.30pm

DOVER GRAMMAR school Combined Cadet Force is hoping to take part in the Nijmegen March in Holland in July. The march is about 25 miles a day for four days and some will be using this event to go to their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. They are trying to obtain sponsorship and if you'd like to help please pass the money to me and I will forward it on. **(editor)**

GARDEN TALK - This month the meeting was at the nursery of Elwin End in River, who had a marvellous collection of bedding plants for sale. Sadly the turn out was a bit low, so I hope that they were not too disappointed with the sales they made. We then went on to the Fox for some liquid refreshments after carrying all those heavy plants to the boot of the car! The next meeting will be at the home of Pam and Maurice Sayers on 24th June at 7.30 pm. **(Devina Bartlett)**

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Sunday 5 th	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	
Tuesday 7 th		Healing service 7.00 p.m.		
Sunday 12 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of Praise village hall West Hougham 6.30 p.m.	
Sunday 19 th	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Sung evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 26 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony, Alkham 10.00 a.m.			

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	Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484	Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641 W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
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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 pet 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 groceries, videos, fruit/veg, off licence, fresh bread/milk	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-Ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel 01303 251353

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 143 July 2005

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THE MEADOW - A number of people have complained to me about loutish behaviour on Vicarage Meadow, ranging from dogs being allowed to foul the meadow and football pitch, motor bike revving, foul language and the chalking of obscenities on or near the play equipment and cricket pavilion: Clearly all of this behaviour is unacceptable and affects us all - to that end if anyone can give me information about who is responsible I'll do what I can to shame them into mending their ways: To start the ball rolling: I have had several reports of a lady who has been seen walking her German Shepherd on the Meadow and allowing it to foul near the cricket square - if it's you please clear up after your dog! As for the individuals who have been chalking Paul's virtues and abilities on the Pavilion (they're not, I hope, talking about me!) can't you just tell him! If you know the young man who doesn't appreciate that kicking a ball against a window is a stupid idea, can you please let me know so I can have a word with him before he injures himself! **(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)**

Bric-a-brac - We have been given very little so far, this year for the fete. Please could you find something, of course saleable, to donate and ring me on 824845. Thank you. **(Irene Barnard)**

ALKHAM VILLAGE FETE

This year's Fete will be on the 9th July at 2.00 p.m. on the Vicarage Meadow, will be opened, we hope, by Lord Nelson and will feature a number of special attractions including Vintage Cars, the Snowdown Band, Many Hoots Owl Sanctuary, the Chapel School Dance team, Produce Show and Children's Races and Tug of War 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, directing traffic 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 Susannah Tapsell on 01304 822295. There will be a children's (and/or adults') fancy dress competition with the theme of "Trafalgar" (with cash prizes for different age groups); if you wish to enter please contact me so that I can make the necessary arrangements! 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 7th July. Finally, we will again be operating a Tesco-style "Dropping Of Point" by the Village Hall, so if you are bringing your car please follow the signs for the various car park. I look forward to seeing you on the day. **(Paul Tapsell)**

ALKHAM FETE CHILDREN'S SHOW

Listed below are the classes for the Children's Show at the Fete on the 9th of July. Entries are to be in the village hall by 2pm. There are no entry fees for these classes and there will be big! cash prizes. Hope to see many entries this year.

Class (1) 4 chocolate Rice Crispy Cakes: **(2)** 4 decorated Fairy Cakes: **(3)** A Play-dough Animal: **(4)** A Potato Man: **(5)** A picture of your favourite Tree: **(6)** A painting of a Tractor: **(7)** A Vase of Grasses: **(8)** Flowers in an egg cup: **(9)** A Cactus **(Shirley Tapsell)**

PRODUCE SHOW - The Olive Harvey Cup. This new cup has been donated by John & Kath Norris in memory of Olive Harvey. It will be awarded to the person with the highest number of points at the produce show, which will be on the 9th of July at the Alkham Fete. **(Susannah Tapsell)**

PRODUCE SHOW - Thanks go to the ladies keep fit club, which meets in the village hall every Wednesday, for sponsoring the awards and prizes for the produce show.

PLANT STALL - Geoff Gaskill and Sarah Laycock are running the plant stall at the fete and would like some more plants. If you have any that you would like to donate please take them to Chalksole Cottage or 9 Newlyn's Meadow or deliver them to the stall on the day.

RECYCLING - The next recycling collection will be on Thursday the 7th of July. The amount collected each month remains about the same with two good van loads.

HOGROAST and live music at the Willows on the 5th August from 7 to 11 pm. Dance to Toucan duo. Tickets £7 from Helen, 822899. Bring your own drinks and a chair.

A COFFEE MORNING will be held in the village hall on the 23rd of July starting at 10.30am in aid of PCC funds.

DANCING - If you would like to learn modern dancing or you are a modern dancer then classes are held in the village hall on Tuesday evenings (except W.I. night - see back page)

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Tel. 01304 852960

THANKS to Rosemary and John Crothall, who have moved out of the village, for their kind donation to the Newsletter. (editor)

THE ESSEX Bike Ride went very well and many thanks go to the people who sponsored Ken Hammond and I with a total of £180 being raised for the British Heart Foundation. The countryside around Colchester is lovely with villages having shops and petrol stations and fewer cars than in this part of Kent. It was however more hillier than expected but we managed to keep up an average speed of about 15 mph. For most people the longer course worked out at about 70 miles but because of poor signing, I ended up disappearing down the busy A12 towards the North Sea and managed an extra 6 miles. Good fun though. (editor)

RECORDING CRAFTS

The museum at Brook (see opposite) has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Grant to record woodland and other crafts. The latter entails making a video and audio record of crafts, which one day may be lost forever. The project was started before the grant was obtained because of the ill health of a rakemaker at Smeeth and over 2 hours of video and aural records have been made. The grant includes for training in the use of video and aural equipment and if anyone is interested in getting involved please give me a ring. The next two crafts will be a wheelwright and a hurdle maker with other crafts, such as charcoal making, following. (editor 824969)

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CHANGE OF DATE: The **President's Party**. The date of the party has been changed from Saturday 2nd July to Saturday 3rd September 2005. This was because so many people could not come since they had other events to attend on that day, so a little birds told us! We hope this date suits people better. It is impossible to ensure everyone can attend but this date seems to suit an initial sound-out. Invitations will be sent out 6 weeks before the date. The party will still take place between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., but, to repeat: NOT on 2nd JULY but on 3rd SEPTEMBER instead. (J Walker)

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY had a most enjoyable visit to the Brook Agricultural Museum on the 8th June. The weather was good and the views of the surrounding Wye hills were beautiful. The village of Brook is itself quite picturesque. The Museum was very interesting, full of implements and all sorts of farm machinery from bygone days. Brian Wimsett's guided tour made it even more interesting with his knowledge and sense of humour. A Big thank you to Brian. Not only were the contents of the Museum of interest but also the buildings as well. I, for one, had not seen an oast house so internally complete before. We also had time to visit the nearby Norman church with fresco paintings before wandering up the road for supper at the Honest Miller. A very pleasant way to spend a summer evening. Thanks to all those who attended. (Shelley Jackson)

The Agricultural Museum at Brook (near Wye) is housed in a superb Grade 1 listed barn (37m long) and an early, mainly intact, 19th century oast house in about ¾ of an acre of land. It is a charitable trust run by volunteers. The collection includes just about everything from when the horse was the power round the farm and most items to do with hops. Open on Wednesday and Saturday from 2 to 5 pm until October or give me a ring on 824969. (editor)

WHERE ARE THEY? - Sam Gordon has given me a cutting from a publication about World War II. It shows a picture of the ruined Christ Church that stood on the Sandgate Road in Folkestone, which was demolished in May 1942 by Focke-Wulf fighter bombers and all that stands today, a short distance from Sainsbury's, is the clock tower. The article goes on to say that gravestones and gargoyles can be found in private hands in the Alkham Valley.

WATER SERVICES

Folkestone & Dover Water have provided information on a major five year programme of works that they are now undertaking. The company is making a £27m investment in a range of projects, which will help ensure a long-term sustainable water supply for our area. The work will include the construction of two new strategic mains, one will run from Folkestone to Dungeness and the other will run down the Alkham Valley to Dover. They plan to begin work shortly on both mains with an on-going construction programme starting in the early summer. Both mains are due to be completed by the autumn of 2006. The new mains will run through both rural and urban areas and an information programme will give advance notice of work to residents and businesses. While some inconvenience will be inevitable, particularly when mains are laid in or near roads, they are taking all possible steps to keep disruption to the minimum. The Parish Clerk has asked for 30 leaflets about the Alkham pipeline and if you'd like one please ring 822661.

WATER - I was delighted to hear on TV South-East News, the girl say that customers in Sussex are facing a "hosepan bipe" this summer. (Steve Osborn)

CHALKSOLE GREEN - Many thanks go to John Huggins for puddling the larger pond at Chalksole Green. This was achieved by bringing in a large amount of clay and then laying it over the pond and compacting it with the machines that John had on site. The puddling only covers the bottom part of the pond so that the water level will not rise too far.

CONGRATULATIONS to Den Barnard on getting early retirement (Ken's found the perfect bike for you).

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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S As reported last month we will be without a permanent Vicar for a while but the Church Wardens will be a contact point and will try to help wherever possible and to keep you informed of the situation and any changes. There will be a Benefice farewell gathering for Kevin in the village hall on Wednesday 29th June at 7.30pm, to which all are welcome. (Richard Tapsell and Grace Stacey, Church Wardens)

FOLLOWING complaints from some parishioners that they are unable to negotiate the wooden style in the east boundary wall of the Church, (a picture of this style, taken in 1911, is shown on page 4 of "A Pictorial Study of Alkham Parish." by Susan Lees and Roy Humphreys) it is being proposed by the P.C.C. and the Alkham Valley Society that it could be replaced by a metal kissing gate of similar design to those in the north boundary wall. Any comments about this proposal should be put in writing and sent to the P.C.C. secretary, Mrs .M. Batcheldor 10 Newlyn's Meadow by 23rd July 2005.

FREDERIC HALL

Solicitors

York House, Folkestone

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& Clyde House, Dover

01304 202411

W.I. - On Tuesday 14th June the speaker arrived early so it was decided to let him speak first and have the business later. Mr Pearce was a retired policeman and his talk entitled "Reported Missing" was most interesting. He spoke about one of his cases in the 1970's of a nurse who disappeared and was found murdered. He had slides which complimented his talk and was quite a bizarre case which had us enthralled. He was thanked by Rosemary Crothall. After the speaker left we had the business. Rosemary gave a report of her, Susannah and Cherry's trip to the Royal Albert Hall for the annual conference of all the W.I' in the country. It was a wonderful day with 7,000 women all packed in the Albert Hall!! The Speakers were Jane Fonda and Bill Bryson. The resolutions were voted on. The outing to Great Dixter was finalised with a coach of 48 going. Susannah thanked everyone who helped at the jumble sale and also her coffee morning. Monies to W.I funds. Next months speaker is Mr C Wade on "Saxon Shoreway" Tuesday July 12th. New members always welcome. (Cherry Leppard)

TEA PARTY - On a lovely sunny afternoon a tea party was arranged at the Hermitage to thank Betty Neely for all the years that she has been PCC Secretary and also to thank Kevin Mephram for being vicar at Alkham. Each thought it was for the other and Betty was presented with a delightful colour encrusted cross and Kevin was given a picture drawn by the accomplished Margaret Knowles. If an event could describe what some Americans would call a typical English afternoon tea party, then this was it, with cream cakes, buns and strawberries. Thanks go to Marion and Derek and all the helpers at the Hermitage.

ON FRIDAY 15th July at 7.00 p.m. St Radigund's Church are holding a Fun Quiz with Cheese and Wine in the Church. Cost is £4 per person. Book your place with Christine Elcombe (01303 252959).

OZ on TALLIS

This year musicians celebrate the 500th birthday of Thomas Tallis, the English composer. His early years are unrecorded, but old-age reminiscences suggest that he was born, probably in Kent but maybe in Leicestershire, sometime in 1505, halfway through music's great Renaissance Period lasting from 1400 to 1600. The first definite reference, in 1532, sees Tallis as organist of Dover Priory, a small Benedictine monastery housing twelve monks. It is possible, though not proven, that he employed a professional lay choir at Dover, as a limb of nearby Canterbury Cathedral, also Benedictine. After the dissolution of Dover Priory in 1535, Tallis was organist at St Mary-le-Hill in Billingsgate, and then at Waltham Abbey in London until 1540, when Waltham became the last English abbey to be dissolved by Henry VIII. In 1541 Tallis returned to Canterbury Cathedral as a lay clerk, and in 1543 he joined Henry VIII's establishment as Gentleman of the Chapel Royal. Here he sang, played the organ, ran the choir, and continued composing music. Around 1552, Tallis married a woman named Joan. In 1575 he formed a partnership of a different kind with William Byrd, and together they secured a royal monopoly on publishing music in England. Tallis remained with the Chapel Royal and served four monarchs, namely Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I. He died on 23rd November 1585 and was buried in St. Alphege at Greenwich. Tallis was a prolific composer of religious music for both the Roman Catholic and the Protestant churches, and negotiated the religious and political pitfalls of the time with unerring skill. Consequently he lived to a tranquil old age summarised so beautifully in his epitaph: "As he did live, so also did he die, in mild and quiet sort, O happy man!" (Steve Osborn)

Regular events in the village

Monday	The Chalksole Homegroup, third Monday of the month at 7.30pm until October. Contact Linda 01304 823100
Tuesday	Art classes in the village hall from 10 am to 1 pm. Ring 01303 243115 for further details
Tuesday	Ballroom dancing classes 7.30 to 10.30 in village hall (except second Tuesday in month)
Wednesday	Keep Fit in the village hall from 9.30 am to 10.30 am – Wednesday Club from 10.30 am to 11.30 am
Thursday	Mobile Library stops at the car parks by the village hall from 9.25 am to 9.50 am
Friday	Whist Drive in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	4	Parish Council meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome to come along
Saturday	9	VILLAGE FETE starting at 2.00pm on Vicarage Meadow – see articles on page 1
Tuesday	12	W.I. in the village hall at 7.30pm
Sunday	17	Alkham Cricket Club on Vicarage Meadow in the afternoon
Monday	18	Village Hall committee meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm
Saturday	23	Coffee morning in the village hall at 10.30am in aid of PCC funds
Wednesday	29	Benefice farewell gathering for Kevin Mepham in the village hall at 7.30pm
Sunday	31	Alkham Cricket Club on Vicarage Meadow in the afternoon

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services: Morning Prayer Capel: Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays). Evening Prayer, Hougham - Wednesdays at 5 pm. Eucharist, Capel Thursdays at 9.15 am
Sunday 3 rd July	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund, Capel 10.00 a.m. Followed by refreshments in the Church Hall (Kevin's last service in the benefice)			
Tuesday 5 th July		Healing Service 7.00 p.m.		
Sunday 10 th July	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of Praise village hall West Hougham 6.30 p.m.	
Sunday 17 th July	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 24 th July	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 10.00 a.m.			
Sunday 31 st July	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund, Capel with a visiting speaker from USPG Followed by refreshments in the Church Hall 6.30 p.m.			

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484	Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641 W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
County Councillor , Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547	GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234	Vicar Kevin Mepham 01303 244119 Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Parish Clerk , Susan Lees 822661 susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk	Alkham web site www.alkham.org

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	St. Margaret's	852252
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
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton	824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis	822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis	07889310479
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley	01303 891806
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham	01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmaims Farm	Alkham	202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham	827644
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham	01303 891996
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and pet supplies	South Alkham	01303 893351
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ALKHAM FETE was opened this year by Lord Nelson who gave a stirring speech whilst holding a microphone in his right hand thus raising the suspicion that it may have been Mark Robson. (editor)

May I just say a quick thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Fete such a success. There are, as ever, too many to thank individually, but it was really nice to see a number of new faces as well as all the stalwarts mucking in at every stage from putting the tents up at 8.30 a.m. to clearing the Meadow by 6.30 p.m. (and yet I think everyone, old and new, enjoyed themselves); We haven't got final figures yet but we shall be having our post-Fete meeting on the 10th August to divvy up the proceeds and then the AGM will be in early October to get things set for next year. If you'd like to come to either meeting and have your say about how we could improve or otherwise add to the fun- and fund-raising elements please don't be shy! Finally a big thank you to everyone on the committee, especially Irene (Fete Secretary) and Clive (Treasurer), for their help and support over the last year. (Paul Tapsell) *thanks also go to Paul for doing such a good job organising the fete (editor)*

BARN DANCE – On the 17th of September there will be a barn dance in the village hall, starting at 7.30pm. All profits will be used to buy Christmas lights to supplement the lighted tree, which was on Vicarage Meadow last year. Please contact Anne Huggins or Mark Robson for further details.

PARISH CLERK – The Parish Council have decided that because there was only one applicant for the post of Parish Clerk they would advertise the job again in the local press. The post involves about 20 hours a week at a salary starting at £7 per hour depending on qualifications. If you are interested, please phone Neil Burrows on 01303 892056 or Sue Lees on 822661.

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SENIOR CITIZEN'S FORUM for towns and villages in the Dover District is a group which promotes the interests and needs of older people and advocate on their behalf. The Forum has a growing membership and if you would like to know more about it you can either phone 07765 540126 or 01304 240090 for further information.

VISIT GREENWICH - On Saturday the 10th of September a coach trip has been arranged to Greenwich where there are many things to see and enjoy during the day. For further information and booking please phone Cherry Leppard on 01303 255114.

MUM RETURNING to work needs help with ironing for about 1 day per week on a flexible basis. Please ring Julie on 01304 821563 for further details.

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION So far there have only been two adult and three junior entries for the competition; a few more would be wonderful. Please give me a ring on 01303 891550 if you'd like to join in the fun. (Simon Norris)

RAFFLE – By a remarkable coincidence the first prize in the fete raffle this year was won by the same person from Whitfield who won it last year. It is pleasing to note that he likes Alkham and always comes to our fete.

THE COFFEE MORNING at 6 Glebelands on the 18th of June was a great success raising £245 for the Dover & District Diabetic Group. Lu Matcham received a letter from the Group thanking them and the supporters for all their hard work. Lu would also like to thank all those who helped, gave prizes and came along to make the day such a success.

ROADWORKS – For those living outside the village, I'm pleased to report that most of the lanes in Ewell Minnis, which were in a dreadful condition, have been repaired and given a 40mm or 50mm continuous overlay as has Chalksole Green Lane and the top part of White Hill.

RECYCLING – The next recycling will be on Thursday the 4th of August.

HOGROAST and live music at the Willows on the 5th August from 7 to 11 pm. Dance to Toucan duo. Tickets £7 from Helen, 822899. Bring your own drinks and a chair.

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD

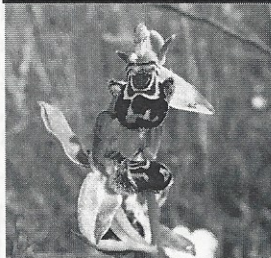
You should have received a letter with the Newsletter which gives details of an exhibition in the village hall regarding improvements to the Alkham Valley Road. If not, the exhibition will be from 2.00pm to 7.00pm on Friday the 12th of August and 9.00am to 13.00 hours on the Saturday.

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



NATURE

NOTES In a floral first for me, I was surprised and delighted to discover a bee orchid (orphyris

apifera) growing in the meadow in front of our house. With its exotic lilac petals and chocolate brown lower lip resembling the rear of a bumblebee seeking nectar, it is aptly named. The discovery was all the more surprising, since my flower book says it favours grassy places on chalk and limestone, whereas at the top of White Hill we are on a thick clay cap. Apparently they used to be found in larger numbers around Alkham, but many have fallen victim to indiscriminate grass cutting. To set seed and flourish they need to be left untouched until August. On a warm night in June, as Kiwi was performing her ablutions, I spotted what I initially thought was a burning cigarette end in the lawn. On closer examination it turned out to be the luminescent tail of a 1cm long female glow-worm (lampyris noctiluca). Designed to attract its plain mate, the bright light is extinguished once the suitor is located and after having laid its eggs, the female dies soon after. It has a three year life cycle and feeds on small snails. The environmentalists amongst us might cite this as proof of glowball worming! (Geoff Gaskill)

FARMER'S MARKET

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ALKHAM PRODUCE

SHOW (sponsored by the Ladies Keep Fit group). A very big thank you to all those who entered, especially to the patient parents of our young exhibitors. Once again it made a delightful display that people very much enjoyed. The shield for Best exhibit in show went to Rosemary Polden for her lovely fuchsia, the Floral Trophy to Barbara Palmer (sweet peas), the Countryside Cup to Geoff Gaskill (gooseberries), the Ken Davies Cup to Rosemary Polden (fuchsia) and the President's Cup to Rowland Brown (beetroot). The new Olive Harvey cup for the most number of points in the show was won by Bob Palmer; John Norris and Richard Tapsell were second and third respectively in this category. The cup for Best exhibit in the Children's show was won by Rosie Comfort for her beautifully made Playdoh turtle. Mention should also made of those who achieved a high standard with many 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed exhibits. Thank you all very much. (Susannah Tapsell)

ALKHAM VALLEY - There was some discussion at the Parish Council meeting regarding the caravans, which are on Alkham Valley Meadows, next to the Garden Centre. The Chairman said that the site was owned by a lady in Ramsgate and that the caravan owners originated from Ireland. The Planning Officer for Dover District Council is looking into the matter and will enter the site when he is legally entitled to do so. The Parish Council had received a letter from a local resident and also the Alkham Valley Society. (editor)

SLIP LANE - At the Parish Council meeting some concern was expressed about the junction of Slip Lane with the Alkham Valley Road. The visibility is very poor in the Folkestone direction and cars are screened by the bus shelter in the Dover direction. A mirror opposite the junction was proposed but it was thought that the Highway Authority would not agree to this and if the Parish Council installed one they could be liable for any accidents caused by headlight reflection. It was also suggested that the white line to the junction could be moved left so that the visibility would be improved to the right but it was thought that this could cause problems for large trailers. It would appear as though there is no simple answer although a bus shelter you could see through would help. The problem is exacerbated by speeding drivers so perhaps a local 20mph limit would be a good idea assuming speeding drivers took any notice. (editor)



STREET PARTY - Despite the short notice (also apologies to those who were not told) there was a good turn out for the Street Party in Newlyn's Meadow to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Seated underneath the bunting and in the sunshine (or the shade of the beech tree) a good spread was enjoyed by villagers and friends alike. There were plenty of reminiscences of wartime experiences, both at home and in the field; a mix of the horrific and the hilarious and I hope these are recorded somewhere. My thanks to all who helped set up and tidy away and to those who provided the food. Thanks too to the bell ringers, Richard Tapsell, Brian Wimsett, Sue Lees and Clive Batcheldor, who joined the national bell ringing at 5.00 p.m. which provided an appropriate way to round off the afternoon. The afternoon was dedicated to the memory of the men of Alkham who gave their lives in the Second World War and I hope that Ronald Couchman, Lewis Fagg, Alan Gavin, William Hinds, Henry Keeler and Ernest Richards would have approved; their sacrifice must not be forgotten. A collection (if Irene's strong-arm tactics can be called a 'collection') for the Royal British Legion raised about £80 (The total was £105 but I know that some of this was raised elsewhere). This will be put to use providing support, work and accommodation for ex-servicemen and women and will be greatly appreciated. It was suggested to me that this should become an annual event.....over to someone else! (Mark Robson)

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BARBECUE – A Barbecue is being held at St Radigund's church Chapel on the 20th August at 6.00 p.m. Tickets cost is £5.00 which includes a drink and dessert.

THE FOLKESTONE CLASSIC Film Club, which is now two years old, meets at the Silver Screen Cinema, Guildhall St (above Waterstones) every Thursday morning at 11 a.m. Doors open at 10.30. The 2005 Summer Season is almost over, but a new season will begin forthwith. The films shown recently included *The Merchant of Venice* (USA. 2004); *The Women* (USA 1939); *Sideways* (USA. 2004) and coming up is a Turkish film *Turtles Can Fly* – life on the border of Turkey and Iraq. (Turkey. 2004.) Membership enquiries: 01303 245812

HEART FOUNDATION – The final amount raised in sponsorship from the Essex Bike Ride for the British Heart Foundation was £198. Most of the sponsors agreed to Gift Aid so the BHF is able to claim an extra 28p for each pound that was donated increasing the total by about £50.

FREDERIC HALL

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THE BOOK CLUB has got off to a flying start with two titles under our belt already. The next meetings and titles are as follows: On August 3rd we will be reviewing "The Last Crossing" by Guy Vanderhaeghe with Rosemary Heddle, 8 Newlyn's Meadow; September 7th will be "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini and hosted by Sue Latham at Woodlands, Short Lane; October 5th Liz Lambourne, 4A Newlyn's Meadow will be holding a review of "Leonardo de Vinci: The Flights of The Mind" by Charles Nicholl and the final date is November 2nd for a discussion of a crime thriller "Fleshmarket Close" by Ian Rankin at Drybrook, Short Lane by courtesy of Jane Aslett. All meetings start at 7:30 pm. (**Linda Gaskill**)

W.I. - The last meeting of the W.I was held on a warm sunny evening with about twenty members present. The recent Alkham fete was discussed as many members helped run it! It was a nice warm afternoon with a lot of people present. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. The outing to Great Dixter is full and arrangements all in hand. The next outing is to Greenwich on September 10th (see page1). The Christmas meal was discussed! I know, but it's only round the corner!! It seemed everyone would like to go to the Lighthouse. That will be booked soon. The speaker was Chris Wade and his talk with slides was "Saxon Shoreway" and a most enjoyable evening it was. This walk covers about 170 miles and starts from Gravesend right round the coast to Rye in Sussex. His talk of an hour only covered Gravesend to Reculver, but with the nice slides and his interesting commentary it went very quickly. I am sure he will be asked again to continue round the coast. Next month is member's night where three or four are arranging a fun evening. Not sure what's in store but it will be good! This is Tuesday August 9th at 7.30pm. (**Cherry Leppard**)

OZ on PENGUINS – To celebrate its first 70 years Penguin is publishing 70 pocket editions called Penguin 70. Other good cheap books existed before 1935, the most impressive being Everyman's Library, founded by Joseph Dent in 1905. When he died in 1926, Dent had achieved his aim of providing "the most complete library for the common man the world has ever seen". In 1935, Allen Lane, a Bodley Head Press director, returning from a visit to Agatha Christie, was stranded on Exeter railway station with nothing to read, and decided that there was a need for quality paperbacks to be sold in railway stations, tobacconists and stores. When his secretary suggested a penguin as a 'dignified but flippant' symbol, Lane sent Edward Young to London Zoo to draw the famous bird. The first 10 Penguins, including works by André Maurois, Agatha Christie and Hemingway, were published in August 1935 to instant acclaim. Priced at sixpence, the same as a packet of cigarettes, and brightly colour-coded, orange for fiction, green for crime and so on, Penguins appealed equally to readers and collectors. In 1937 Penguin installed a book-dispensing machine called the Penguincubator at Charing Cross, and Lane launched the Pelican series of original books on current affairs. This radicalism in promoting new writing helped Penguin overtake Everyman in the run-up to the war, during which Penguin ran the Armed Forces Book Club. After the war Penguin introduced the Classics series, directly challenging Everyman on its own ground. The ensuing rivalry, particularly since Everyman's 1991 relaunch, has been of mutual benefit, with scholars recommending one or the other edition for the quality of its commentary. In 1948 I spent my first ever Christmas half-crown on King Penguin's *Spiders*; it was the first step in a lifelong love-affair with these bright and beautiful books. (**Steve Osborn**)

Regular events in the village

Monday	The Chalksole Homegroup, third Monday of the month at 7.30pm until October. Contact Linda 01304 823100
Tuesday	Art classes in the village hall from 10 am to 1 pm. Ring 01303 243115 for further details
Tuesday	Ballroom dancing classes 7.30 to 10.30 in village hall (except second Tuesday in month)
Wednesday	Keep Fit in the village hall from 9.30 am to 10.30 am – Wednesday Club from 10.30 am to 11.30 am
Thursday	Mobile Library stops at the car parks by the village hall from 9.25 am to 9.50 am
Friday	Whist Drive in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Saturday	6	Bingo in the village hall starting at 7.30pm
Sunday	7	Alkham Cricket Club on Vicarage Meadow in the afternoon
Tuesday	9	W.I. in the village hall at 7.30pm
Wednesday	10	Fete Committee meeting in the village hall at 8.00pm (see page 1)
Friday	12	Exhibition in the village hall showing proposed works to the Alkham Valley Road – 2.00pm to 7.00pm
Saturday	13	Exhibition in the village hall showing proposed works to the Alkham Valley Road – 10.00am to 2.00pm
Monday	15	Dover & District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	20	Coffee morning in the village hall at 11.00am in aid of Village Hall funds
Sunday	28	Alkham Cricket Club on Vicarage Meadow in the afternoon

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Serv Morning Prayer, Capel: Monday- Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays). Evening Prayer, Hougham - Wednesdays at 5 pm. Eucharist, Capel Thursdays at 9.15 am
Tuesday 2 nd		Healing Service 7.00 p.m.		
Sunday 7 th	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	
Sunday 14 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of Praise village hall West Hougham 6.30 p.m.	
Sunday 21 st	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 28 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 10.00 a.m.			

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484	Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547	GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk	Alkham web site www.alkham.org

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	St. Margaret's 852252
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 07889310479
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ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
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 pet 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 groceries, videos, fruit/veg, off licence, fresh bread/milk	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-Ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-Ferne 01303 251353

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THE REPLACEMENT SEAT by the corner of the Valley Road and Hogbrook Lane is now in place thanks to Luke, Christopher and Matthew Hyland who can be seen in the above picture.

FETE - The total amount raised at this year's fete was £3150 and after expenses were deducted the final figure was £2100. The village hall and the church were given £1000 each and small donations were made to other organisations. Paul Tapsell would like to thank the fete committee for all their hard work.

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BUS STOP – A meeting was held with the relevant authority regarding a bus stop on the Newlyn's Meadow side of the village. It was quite positive and they said that a bus stop could be put between the paths which run from the back of the village hall and the other which accesses Newlyn's Meadow. They were also willing to provide a wooden shelter and suggested that another bus stop be put on the other side of the road near the telephone box. The Parish Council will discuss the matter at the next meeting.

A BARN DANCE and American Supper in aid of Alkham Christmas tree lights will be held in the village hall on the 17th of September starting at 7.30pm. Tickets costing £3.50 are on sale now from Anne Huggins or Mark Robson, telephone 820459.

PARISH CLERK - The post for the position of Parish Clerk was advertised in the local papers covering the East Kent area. As a result there were a number of enquiries, which resulted in 6 people sending in their CV's. The interviews are scheduled to take place in the village hall on the 24th of August in front of members of the Parish Council.

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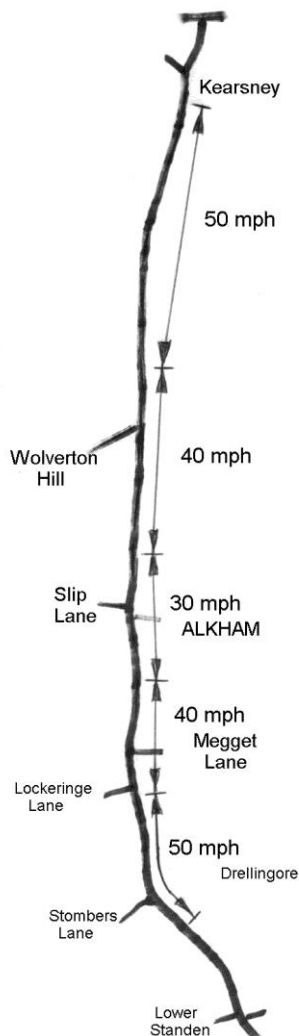
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THE SPEED LIMITS proposed along the Alkham Valley Road, and now published as an order, are as shown on the adjacent plan. From the 30mph limit at Kearsney there will be a 50mph limit to about 500 metres before Wolverton Hill where a 40mph limit will start and continue to the existing 30mph limit through the village. There will then be a 40mph limit from the village to South Alkham, finishing after the bend by Hopton Manor/Upton Farm. From here there is a 50mph speed limit which ends about 300 metres past the sharp bend at Drellingore. In addition there will be short pieces of red anti skid surfacing with 'Slow' marking at the approach to the Lower Standen junction (by the paving slab makers), the bend at Drellingore and either side of the Upton Farm bend. At Meggett Lane and the Wolverton Hill junction the same applies except the road will be covered in yellow skid resistant surfacing. There will off course be repeater signs to enforce the speed limits. The exhibition held by the Highways Department in the village hall on the 12th and 13th of August was well attended with over 100 people turning up to look at the plans. Most of the comments were positive.

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THE HARVEST SUPPER Will be held in village hall on Monday the 26th September, 7.00 for 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 and are available from Betty Neely on 01303 251756.

DANCE - On the 29th of October a dance will be held in the village hall with all proceeds going to the Ghurkha Welfare Fund. More details will be printed next month.

NEWSLETTER - The financial year starts again for the Newsletter and I'm pleased to say that last year it just about broke even. The revenue from adverts and donations was £462 and expenditure was £473. There is a healthy reserve so the slight overspend is no problem. Each month 340 copies are made at the Rainbow Centre at a cost of £31. Generally, 19 copies are posted at a cost of about £3.80 and £2.00 is claimed for petrol making a total of about £37 per month. Two months cost £20 more because of printing difficulties, which the Rainbow Centre kindly resolved.

COMMUNITY PATHS PROJECT grants are available for rights of way improvements. Do you know of any local paths that are popular but could be made easier to use? By improving short sections of some paths it would open up more of Kent's countryside for the enjoyment of everyone, from dog walkers to the disabled. It's not just people with specific mobility needs that are affected, but their friends and family if they are unable to enjoy access to the countryside together. That's why the Community Paths Project offers grants to improve public rights of way. Sometimes, small improvements can make a big difference to everyone. The typical amount is up to £1,000 but larger grants are available for projects with a lot of benefits and you will be given help to organise your project if you need it. Many applications have already been received this year but there is currently still some funding available. If you would like to apply for a grant, or to talk about how the scheme can help you, please contact Ben Collins, at East Kent - Public Rights of Way, Mezzanine Floor, Maybrook House, New Street, Dover CT179AJ, telephone 216307 or benjamin.collins@kent.gov.uk

GARDEN TALK - Our thanks go to John and Sue Garlinge who hosted a very pleasant evening at their home in St Margaret's Bay. The quiz was quite a tough one and Sue was an even tougher adjudicator! The next meeting will be at the home of Helen Scopes, The Willows on Wednesday 21st September at 7.30 pm. **(Devina Bartlett)**

CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK - Dover District Council has written to the Parish Council regarding domestic services over the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL-DS). It has long been the intention that the new domestic service will run to Ramsgate, Canterbury and Folkestone but there is considerable uncertainty over whether it will run to Dover. As a consequence of extensive lobbying Dover has been shown as a provisional destination subject to the resolution of the safety problems (in the event of evacuation being necessary - of running the new trains through Shakespeare Tunnels). DDC said they would be very grateful if the Parish Council would write to those concerned impressing on them the importance to the parish of Dover being connected to the CTRL-DS. If anyone else has a strong opinion they should write to Mr. R. Jones, Divisional Manager, Rail Franchise Specification, Department for Transport, 3/33 Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P4DR.

GET CLUED - An email was sent to parish councils to inform them of a recently launched website aimed at helping people avoid rip-off tradesmen. It is a free service which allows people to read and write reviews of tradesmen they have hired and also provides useful information and advice on hiring and resolving disputes with businesses. Although launched just recently, the site has over 1000 registered members who have submitted reviews of hundreds of businesses in total. People are also benefiting by being able to find out from customers the service standards of tradesmen in their local area and the prices they charge. The WEB site is www.getclued.com. **(Kevin Anderson - GetClued.com)**

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WATER PIPELINE - If any problems are experienced whilst the contractor is carrying out works on the new pipeline along the valley, please contact Paul Williams on his mobile phone, number 07 88 44 73593.

HOG ROAST at the Willows - Helen and Cal Scopes would like to thank everyone who came and helped raise £510. Rain earlier kept some away but we all enjoyed the evening and agreed that live music was better than disco; and of course the pork was superb. Special thanks go to Richard and Derek, and Grace and Debbie for turning up the next morning to help clear up. Thanks to the village hall for the loan of the tables which my son-in-law, David Horne, took back to Brian's cellar. But, I could not do this without my daughters Sally, Heather and Rebecca who give up at least two days of their time to ensure that everything went well.

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HARVEST CELEBRATIONS at St. Anthony's. The Harvest Service will be held at 11.00 am on Sunday the 25th of September. The decoration of the church in Harvest mode will take place on the Saturday between 9.30am and 11.00am. If anybody would like to contribute traditional harvest gifts of fruit and vegetables please bring them along between the above hours. All donations will be taken down to the village hall on the Monday to be raffled at the Harvest Supper.

FOOTPATHS AND WASPS - If anyone is aware of any stiles that need replacing or footpaths that are affected by wasp nests, please contact Edward on 01304 216307.

FOR SALE W reg. (year 2000) Kawasaki ER5 500cc motorcycle, one owner 7500 miles from new, £1350. Also included is a full size top box with rack. Please phone Brian (editor) on 824969. The insurance on this bike, for me, is amazingly low.

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W.I NEWS - The August meeting was member's night where the committee have a rest! There was not a lot of business to conduct mainly outings to finalise. A visit to the Marlowe Theatre in November to see "42nd Street" was arranged. Nineteen members were going and it was decided to take cars rather than hire a coach. Another trip was arranged to Higham Place in September. Fifteen members were interested and again would use cars. We would meet there at 12pm for lunch then visit the house and gardens. The trip to Greenwich in September had to be cancelled due to low numbers. It was agreed to try again next April. Mandy Summers, Debbie Griggs and Helen Scopes had organised the evening for us. There were a couple of quizzes for everyone to do with wine and nibbles to help the brain box to function! Helen had brought along William, her lovely Golden Retriever, to show us how much he had learned at his training classes. Doreen Lott had made and iced a beautiful cake which had to be photographed for a Federation competition. That was then cut and enjoyed by members with a nice cup of tea. Next months meeting is Tuesday 13th September where Richard and Carol Bosworth introduce "Music and Magic". Members were asked to bring a friend and a plate of food for this special meeting.

TRACTION ENGINES - The Parish Council minutes from March 1905 records that a letter was to be sent to DDC to complain about the smoke made by traction engines going through the village. This was again recorded in 1909 when they wrote to the police. Sue Lees tells me that it was serious problem as a thatched barn was set on fire by the engines, so it appears that the road has always been a problem. In February 1902 the Parish Council voted in favour of light railway, which was to be built along the valley. It is interesting that for the period from 1914 to 1918 there was no record regarding the war.

OZ on LITTLE DORRIT One hundred and fifty years ago this month Charles Dickens was halfway through a four month stay in Folkestone. Dickens had visited Folkestone previously, sometimes as an enthusiastic customer of the cross channel packet service to Boulogne. By the spring of 1855 he was depressed, angered by incompetent government and continuing losses in the Crimean War, and he felt increasingly insecure. In July, Dickens and family rented No 3 Albion Villas, "a pleasant little house with the sea below and the scent of thyme sweetening the breezes from the Downs". Here he started work on his novel *Little Dorrit*, between indulging in his new hobby of "swarming up the face of a gigantic and precipitous cliff", where "he could be seen from the British Channel, suspended in mid-air with his trousers very much torn at fifty minutes past 3pm". On 17 July Dickens invited his friend Wilkie Collins, author of *The Woman in White*, to join the vacation as "Walter goes back to school on the 1st of August", adding that work had been considerably disrupted by Walter's continual jumping on the uncarpeted wooden staircase. "Why a boy of that age should seem to have on at all times a hundred and fifty pair of double-soled boots, and to be always jumping a bottom stair with the whole hundred and fifty, I don't know." In October the family moved on to Paris, and at Christmas the first monthly instalment of *Little Dorrit*, illustrated by Dickens's old friend, "Phiz", was published. In this complex work Dickens wove an elaborate mystery around themes of individual responsibility, debtor imprisonment, and, most satisfyingly for him, an attack on governmental idiocy in the fictional "Circumlocution Office". The time spent in Folkestone had indeed done Dickens a world of good. (Steve Osborn)

Monday	The Chalksole Homegroup, third Monday of the month at 7.30pm until October. Contact Linda 01304 823100
Tuesday	Art classes in the village hall from 10 am to 1 pm. Ring 01303 243115 for further details
Tuesday	Ballroom dancing classes 7.30 to 10.30 in village hall (except second Tuesday in month)
Wednesday	Keep Fit in the village hall from 9.30 am to 10.30 am – Wednesday Club from 10.30 am to 11.30 am
Thursday	Mobile Library stops at the car parks by the village hall from 9.25 am to 9.50 am
Friday	Whist Drive in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Saturday	3	Bingo in the village hall starting at 7.30pm
Saturday	3	Coffee morning in the village hall in aid of church funds
Sunday	4	Alkham Cricket Club on Vicarage Meadow in the afternoon
Monday	5	Parish Council meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm – all welcome to come along
Sunday	11	Alkham Cricket Club on Vicarage Meadow in the afternoon
Tuesday	13	W.I. in the village hall at 7.30pm
Saturday	17	Jumble sale in the village hall at 11.00am in aid of W.I. funds
Saturday	17	Barn Dance in the village hall in aid of Christmas Tree lights
Monday	19	Dover & District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Monday	26	Harvest Supper in the village hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services: Morning Prayer, Capel: Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays). Evening Prayer, Hougham - Wednesdays at 5 pm. Eucharist, Capel Thursdays at 9.15 am
Sunday 4th	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	
Tuesday 6th		Healing Service 7.00 p.m.		
Sunday 11 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00a.m.	Songs of Praise for Harvest West Hougham village hall followed by supper 6.30 p.m.	
Sunday 18 th	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 25 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist and Harvest Festival St Anthony, Alkham 10.00 a.m.			

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234	Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641 W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk	Alkham web site www.alkham.org
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835		

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	St. Margaret's 852252
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 07889310479
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ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Meggett Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmaims Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham 01303 891996
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and pet 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 groceries, videos, fruit/veg, off licence, fresh bread/milk	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-Ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-Ferne 01303 251353

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SUE LEES – This really is the end of an era as Sue retires from the post as Parish Clerk. She took on the job in 1982 when George Kirby was chairman

and continued to act as Clerk under a further four chairmen until September of this year. The work that Sue has done over the years cannot be understated. She carried out the job with her usual good humour and was generally the first port of call for any enquiry or complaint in the Parish. I'm sure the Parish would like to thank her for all the good work she has done over the years and wish her all the best for the future when she can pursue all her other interests, which are many. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY AGM will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday 1 December 2005 followed by supper at The Fox, Temple Ewell. Please consider topics you might like to raise. (Joanna Walker)

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THE BARN DANCE in aid of the Christmas Lights was a resounding success and a good crowd danced, ate and laughed their way through the evening. Thanks to tremendous support from the village we raised £467.51p which will be plenty to ensure we have a good display on Vicarage Meadow for many years to come. As well as those who came to the dance many others gave generous donations. Local businesses such as Sladden Farm, the Alkham Valley Farm Shop, the Barn Tea Rooms, Bridleway Riding School, Speedy Tool Hire and The Marquis of Granby supported with raffle prizes, as did many individuals and the Marquis also donated £150 towards the fund! See you all on the 3rd December! (Anne Huggins and Mark Robson)

ON THE NIGHT of the Christmas Tree lights' switch-on (Saturday, December 3rd) there will be a village meal at the Marquis of Granby. For only £14.50 you can have a 3 course festive meal (with vegetarian option) followed by coffee and enjoy the company of other villagers. What better way to start the Christmas season? To make it a truly village affair we need to have between 50 - 60 diners as this will secure our own dining area. I have the menu and there is a vegetarian option. If you would like to go I need to know as soon as possible and to have confirmation, and money, by October 8th. Mark Robson, 8a Newlyn Meadow, 01304.820459

CHRISTMAS - Would your child like to turn on the Alkham Christmas tree lights? If so all they need to do is leave or send a picture of a Christmas tree to 8a Newlyn Meadow together with their name, age and telephone number on the back. All entries will be placed in a hat and the winner will be drawn out by Brian. We will publish more details in the November Newsletter. (Tracy Huggins)

PARISH CLERK - Nicola Wright is now the Parish Clerk for Alkham. She lives at Wolverton on the Alkham Valley Road, post code CT15 7DS and telephone number 820098. We wish her well for the future.

BABY SITTER - A young girl living in the village currently studying for her A Levels is available in the evening and most weekends for baby sitting. Please phone Jacqui on 823058 for further details.

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RECYCLING - The next collection is on Thursday 6th of October. For those outside collection area and wishing to recycle, can take sorted items (cans, plastics containing drink, cardboard, paper and aerosols) to Hawkinge and credit it to the Alkham Account. Kent Community Recycling is on Aerodrome Road just past the museum.

DANCE - On the 29th October in the village hall there will be a dance in aid of the Ghurkha Welfare Fund. It is on the basis of an American Supper and the music will be provided by Toucan. Tickets cost £6 and are available from Betty Neely on 01303 251475.

BUS STOPS - The highway authority is willing to put a path between the one behind the village hall and the other leading to Newlyn Meadow. They will also install a wooden bus shelter adjacent to the path and suggest that a bus stop be put somewhere near the phone box on the other side of the road. The existing bus stops on the bend by Vicarage Meadow would remain but become request stops. If this were to happen it is likely that the concrete bus shelter would be removed. To date the bus company has not commented on the proposals but it seems likely that it will happen.

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W.I. - Our September meeting was one of music and magic. Richard and Carol Bosworth entertained us with Carol performing magic tricks and Richard playing the organ. Carol was really good, we were all very near to her but still could not see how she did it! Richard started, with him playing Jerusalem and all members singing with him. This is the W.I. anthem but we sung it with extra gusto following the cricketers' victory! Each member was urged to bring a friend, which many did, and a plate of food which was laid out and everyone could help themselves; that and a glass of wine made a perfect evening. 10 members went to Higham House on Wednesday afternoon and enjoyed the house tour and the beautiful gardens and of course lunch! Next month members will be asked if they would like to stand for committee, the annual meeting is in November. Nineteen people are going to see "42nd Street" on Thursday November 10th. We will arrange cars at the next meeting. Christmas dinner is booked at the "Lighthouse" on Tuesday 13th December. Hopefully all the members will be able to go. Next month's meeting is Tuesday 11th October and the evening is Sharing Christmas Crafts. **(Cherry Leppard)**

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HONEY SHOW - On the last Saturday in October the Dover and District Beekeepers' Association will again be holding its Annual Honey Show and Competition in the Village Hall. As well as the usual displays of honey, beeswax products, mead and confectionery, there will be a small exhibition on the beekeeper's craft and the chance to taste honey of different types. It is a very pleasant occasion and at our last show we were particularly pleased to welcome a few non-beekeeping villagers who were curious to know what it was all about. We hope the same will be true this year. The show begins at 2.30 and lasts for about two-and-a-half hours. Admission is free, refreshments will be available and there will be jars of locally produced honey for sale. We're always keen to attract new members and more than happy to show potential recruits around our apiary at Coldred. Such a visit could be arranged at the Honey Show or by ringing me, Roy Dyche, on 01304 824584. I can provide suitable protective clothing!

TELEPHONE BOX - As a response to the article in the Newsletter about the proposed bus shelter, Bert Wall who lives in Church Hill House, wrote a letter to the Parish Council. He says that his garden, as a result of being behind the phone box, has been used as a dumping ground for dirty nappies, used condoms, car ash trays, cigarette packets, beer cans etc as a direct result of people using phone box. He thinks that a new bus shelter will get covered in graffiti and not be an attractive proposition outside a person's house.

THEFT - A Hayter petrol lawn mower was stolen from the cricket pavilion between 10pm on Sunday and 5.30pm on Monday the 29th of August.

THE BOOK that Sue Lees wrote with Roy Humphreys about Alkham is (it says) available on the www.amazon.co.uk website for £2.95 plus a sourcing cost.

THE BENEFICE BARN DANCE on the 22nd October at Capel Village Hall; tickets on sale now from Anne Huggins.

RALLY ROW - The Parish Council and residents are up in arms about a motor rally which is to pass through the parish at midnight on the night of Saturday October 1. Residents on Slip Lane and Hogbrook Hill Lane were left notices by the organisers of the Powerush Rally 2005 informing them that the cars would be passing their homes during the night, although the organisers will not disclose the full route. Concerns about road safety and disturbance led the Parish Council to raise the issue with the Police, the Highways Authority and environmental health officers. However, all responded that while they have concerns, their hands are tied as they cannot stop the event. The police can only act on the night if any of the drivers are caught exceeding any speed limits or breaking any other laws. While the organisers' website - www.powerush.co.uk - states that the cars will travel at an average speed of no more than 30mph and claims that the event does not pose any dangers, it also contains a Press cutting from a previous event which refers to accidents and incidents. The site refers to "up to 40 cars" participating in the annual rally, which starts at Canterbury at 11.30pm and finishes at Ashford at 6am on the Sunday, after touring 150 miles of country lanes and villages through East Kent. Quite apart from the disturbance to residents who would be trying to sleep at that time of night, the Parish Council had specific concerns about up to 40 rally cars crossing Alkham Valley Road at midnight at what is a notoriously dangerous blind junction from Slip Lane to Hogbrook Hill Lane. There were also worries about the risk of the many horses in the area being startled by the rally cars. After strong protests from the council, the organisers proposed to downgrade the section of the rally which passes through the parish, changing it from a timed section and imposing an average 20mph speed limit on the competitors. They also proposed to place "Very Quiet" signs at the top of Slip Lane to warn drivers before they entered the village. However, the councillors and other residents are still extremely disappointed that such an event is being permitted to take place. Anyone who has any concerns can contact the rally's PR Officer Ben Greenfield on 07733 312173. The police have stated that if any residents witness any dangerous driving, excessive speed or other incidents during the event, they should note details and registration numbers and inform the police immediately. **(Peter Frater)**

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THE SUNFLOWERS in the sunflower competition were measured during the first week of September. This was a tricky but fun task which on one occasion involved balancing on a very steep slope, waving a garden cane in one hand with a tape measure attached, whilst the grower tried to convince me it was an inch taller a day or so before (you know who you are!). The results were as follows: Adults: John Norris 9ft 10"; Bob Palmer 9ft 6"; Richard Tapsell 7ft 4"; Simon Norris 2ft 2"; Children: Aimee Wood 9ft 6"; James Tapsell 9ft 1"; Benjamin Norris 3ft 6". The winners should have received their trophy by now. As for my poor showing, all I can say is it was a very dry summer in South Alkham! I will be trying again next year and hope a few more people (especially the kids) can sow a couple of sunflowers and join in the fun. If nothing else it gives the birds a little something to feast on during the autumn. (Simon Norris)

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ALKHAM Valley Society the President's Party - Many thanks to our President (since 1977) Mark Loveday, and to Liza Loveday, Lucy Loveday and Priya Sodhi as support staff, for an excellent evening party on 3rd September. Held on the Old Rectory front lawn and inside the house, the company enjoyed very good champagne and all manner of delicious wines as well as a substantial supper beautifully prepared and served by the aforementioned support staff! It was a blessing that the weather held since earlier a cold sea mist had enveloped Dover but somehow stuck to the Valley floors, not daring to rise past the village churchyard. In his welcoming speech the President reminded members that the Society was the collective conscience of the Alkham Valley, particularly where the value of the environment was at risk; that battles are not fought everyday and were indeed perhaps prevented by a constantly watchful collective of eyes and ears having the interests of this particular part of historic Kent at heart. A surprise raffle was held which raised some £200 for the society coffers thanks to the generosity of members - prizes again thanks to Mark and Liza Loveday and AVS members. One of the scene-stealers was John Ullmann's pleasure at winning one of the two charming stuffed hamsters, which, he assured the entertained crowd, would join a treasured company of similar trophies at home - and Paul you were a splendid 'raffler' at no notice at all! Thanks must also go to all the members who attended the event, a special appreciation here to behind-the-scenes David and Christine Tapsell, which made it such fun, and to the children who were enjoying the garden as well as the food: John Huggins was not alone when he expressed his pleasure - 'all this for £1 a year'... have we got news for you! On behalf of the Society, Maurice Sayers, our long-serving and loyal Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to the Lovedays for a splendid evening. And then everyone went home! (Joanna Walker)

OZ on SQUIRRELS AGAIN My June 2004 article described the continuing battles for survival between red and grey squirrels, since when I have seen more of the cleverness and agility that aids both species. Last winter a friend, who lives in the depths of Canada's Algonquin Park forest, sent two photographs. The first picture shows an anti-squirrel bird-feeder designed by him, comprising an empty two-litre plastic bottle with a hole in the side, suspended by a rubber thong, on the end of a chain, mounted to a horizontal tree branch by a ball-bearing joint, so that the feeder bounces up and down and rotates if invaded by anything heavier than a bird. In the second picture the feeder contains a squirrel, happily bouncing, rotating and tucking into the bird-food. Later in the year, we purchased, with some trepidation after hearing the Algonquin story, a RSPB squirrel-proof bird-feeder. Our resident squirrel nonchalantly stole a few peanuts from it, but was far busier eating left-over Christmas nuts from an adjacent bird-table. Interestingly he had quite definite preferences and always ate in the same order; first hazelnuts, then walnuts, almonds, and finally chestnuts. Later still, on a hot day towards the end of summer, I was engrossed in the weekend crossword at the kitchen table, when suddenly there was a flash of white and a noise like an express train. The squirrel had hurtled at great velocity into the kitchen pursued by Jak, his jaws already snapping just inches behind the terrified animal's tail. In a moment the squirrel flipped up, flew vertically, ricocheted off a biscuit tin on a high shelf and disappeared back into the garden, leaving Jak bewildered and exhausted. Only minutes later the squirrel was busy burying the remaining Christmas nuts, his insurance against the coming winter. (Steve Osborn)

QUIZ - There will be a quiz in aid of village hall funds on the 26th of November. If you wish to book a table please phone Doreen Lott on 824876.

Regular events in the village

Monday	The Chalksole Homegroup, third Monday of the month at 7.30pm until October. Contact Linda 01304 823100
Tuesday	Art classes in the village hall from 10 am to 1 pm. Ring 01303 243115 for further details
Tuesday	Ballroom dancing classes 7.30 to 10.30 in village hall (except second Tuesday in month)
Wednesday	Keep Fit in the village hall from 9.30 am to 10.30 am – Wednesday Club from 10.30 am to 11.30 am
Thursday	Mobile Library stops at the car parks by the village hall from 9.25 am to 9.50 am
Friday	Whist Drive in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Saturday	1	Bingo in the village hall starting at 7.30pm
Tuesday	11	W.I. in the village hall at 7.30pm
Monday	17	Dover & District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	22	Jumble sale in the village hall at 11.00am in aid of W.I. funds
Wednesday	26	Fete meeting in the village hall at 8.00pm
Saturday	29	Dance in the village hall – please see page 2
Saturday	29	Honey Show in the village hall from 7.00am to 5.00pm – please see page 2

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services Morning Prayer Capel: Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays). Evening Prayer, Hougham - Wednesdays at 5 pm. Eucharist, Capel Thursdays at 9.15 am
Sunday 2 nd	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	
Tuesday 4 th	St Radigund, Capel-le-Ferne Healing Service 7.00 p.m.			
Sunday 9 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of Praise for Harvest village hall West Hougham then Harvest Supper 6.30pm	
Sunday 16 th	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 23 rd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Radigund's, Capel 10.00 a.m.			
Sunday 30 th – All Saints' Day	St Radigund, Capel-le-Ferne Said Eucharist 8.00 a.m. St Mary, Capel prayer book matins 10.00 a.m.			

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876 Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641 W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
	GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234 Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756 Alkham web site www.alkham.org
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EQUESTRIAN	HOGBROOK Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham	827644
EQUESTRIAN	GREENHILL FARM – DIY and assisted livery – excellent facilities	Megget Lane, South Alkham	01303 892056
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 pet supplies	South Alkham	01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton	822420
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SUNFLOWER COMPETITION The proud winner of the 1st prize in the Junior Sunflower competition was Aimee, who can be seen above receiving her trophy. (evidently she preferred the taste of the chocolate buttons). She lives in the centre of the village and when interviewed she said she would definitely enter again next year.

CHRISTMAS is only eight weeks away!! Chalksole Homegroup would like to buy toys as gifts for needy children; can you help us reach our target of ten toys? If you think you would like to help, contact (Linda Gaskill 823100).

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BUS SHELTER - My children who live in Short Lane were very concerned to read in the Newsletter that the bus shelter on the bend by Vicarage Meadows is to be removed. There are many children who catch the bus for school in the morning who use this shelter and live in Glebelands or on this side of the village. At the moment the children wait in the shelter and cross the road to get on the bus. Not an ideal situation but better than not having a shelter at all. Could you please pass their concerns on to the involved authorities? They would like their concerns considered as they are probably the bus company's most regular passengers. (Julie Saltmer) *It is possible that I reported general comments made at the Parish Council meeting and I'll raise the matter at the November meeting (Ed)*

WELCOME to Mike and Sue who have moved into Countryside and also to John and Maxine who have moved into Halton Forstal. The latter was owned by the late Olive Harvey and it is by some remarkable coincidence that the sale of the house took place on her birthday.

CHRISTMAS TREE - Would

your child like to turn on the Alkham Christmas tree lights? To enter please send a drawing of our tree together with your name age and telephone number on the back to 8a Newlyn by the 19th of November. All entries will be placed in a hat and the winner drawn out by Brian on the 25th of November. All the pictures will be put on display in the village hall for the Christmas Bazaar on the 26th of November. (Tracy Huggins)

A FIVE ACRE field in the centre of Alkham is available to rent for grazing. Please phone Patsy or Steve on 822619 for further information.



HOUSES - If you would like to express an interest in having one of the Southern Housing Association's houses at the top of Short Lane, should one come available, then please phone Vanessa Sanderson on 01403 224810. She is keen to have a list of people but she is only there two days a week so you may have to email her at vanessa.sanderson@shgroup.org.uk.

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RECYCLING -The next collection is on Thursday November 3rd. It would be very helpful if you could flatten milk and drink containers by standing on them so they take up less space in the van. Please remember that paper and cardboard must be stored separately and that we only take plastics which held milk or drinks.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - Yes, I know it's only November but as the December Newsletter may not reach everyone before the event I want to give details of the Christmas tree switch-on on December 3rd. At 4.45 p.m. there will be carol singing by the tree. I hope that this will once again be led by the W.I. choir and this to be confirmed following their next meeting. At 5.00p.m. the switch-on will be carried out by a person yet to be selected (be prepared, Peter!). Following the switch-on there will be mulled wine and mince pies at the Marquis of Granby followed at 8.00p.m. (for 8.30p.m.) by the village meal, also in the pub. There are 60 people booked for the meal and Paul and Allison are able to accommodate a few more so, if you would still like to go, please contact the Marquis direct. (Mark Robson)

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ALKHAM'S HEROES - Last year I carried out some research on the men whose names are inscribed on the war memorial in the churchyard. As a result I was contacted by Eileen West (née Collard) with some information about Edward and George Collard who both died in the First World War. I visited Eileen and spent a fascinating morning looking through her extensive photo collection and learned more about her great-uncles. Using the Commonwealth War Grave Commission's website I had found a George Collard who was buried in River churchyard and wondered if this was Alkham's George Collard. Eileen was able to correct this and told me that George had in fact emigrated to Australia in the early 1900s and, on the outbreak of war, enlisted with the Australian army. Sadly this man, who presumably had moved to the other side of the world in the hope of a better life, was to die in France, about 100 miles from his old home! I have copies of a photo of George and Edward in happier times in their work-clothes with horse and wagon in the lanes around Alkham. This will be displayed in the church at Alkham at the Remembrance Day service on November 13th. If anyone can shed any more light on the other men named on the memorial please contact me so that we might preserve their memories more fully (**Mark Robson 820459**).

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REMEMBRANCE
 The recent commemorations to mark the end of World War 2 have brought back many memories. In September we were privileged to join a group of ex-POWs returning to camp Stalag V111B/344 in Poland for the first time since they were liberated in 1945. My father who has since died spent 5 years in that camp and thus the personal interest. The camaraderie of the veterans, many of whom were speaking of their experiences for the first time, will leave a lasting impression. They spoke not only of the enduring hardships that they suffered and which for some included a forced march of 1200 miles before the advancing Russians in January 1945; but also of their lighter moments. Some of the internees did not survive and we visited the Commonwealth Graves cemetery in Krakow where these "old comrades" are now resting. A short, but very moving service of remembrance was held and a timely fall of leaves as the Last Post sounded was so reminiscent of the release of poppies at the Festival of Remembrance. It certainly added to the poignancy of the moment. During the course of our trip we had the opportunity of visiting Auschwitz, Birkenau and the site of Schindler's factory. Again, the brutalities that were inflicted and the horrors of war generally were graphically illustrated. We will be reminded of this at St. Anthony's on November 13th as we pay homage to the dead of the two world wars and subsequent continuing conflicts. (**Margaret Batcheldor**)

SUNDAY the 13th of November is Remembrance Day and a service will be held in St Anthony's church at 10.15am. If you don't want to go to the service but would like to commemorate the sacrifice made by people in the World Wars, people gather around the memorial in the churchyard at 11.00am and observe the 2 minute silence after the names of the fallen are read.

FIREWORKS are set off around November the 5th and this is an annual tradition, which is enjoyed by many people. As the photo shows, horses and other animals are almost scared to death by the loud bangs that some fireworks make and the horse community in particular is asking you to think twice before you let off loud fireworks. There is at least one dog in the village that tries to climb up the wall during the firework season and most other pets are similarly affected.



BOOKCLUB Alkham book-worms are continuing to work their way through a selection of titles for all tastes. They meet on the first Wednesday in the month except in January when it will be the second Wednesday. New dates, titles and venues are: November 2nd at Jane Aslett's, Drybrook, Short Lane (824729) Fleshmarket Close by Ian Rankin: December 7th at Margaret Danstead's, 2 Meadowhill Cottages (829006): Small Island by Andrea Levi: January 11th at Lucy McKenzie's, The Vicarage (822172): Free choice, just come prepared to talk about a book you have recently enjoyed and would recommend to all of us. Please ring the host if you are coming, last minute is fine. The February session will take place at a café, pub or restaurant, to be decided! Bring some ideas. (**Linda Gaskill**)

CHALKSOLE HOMEGROUP **An experiment that has not only worked but grown!** If you are interested in talking about things that really matter in our everyday life coupled with readings from the bible, then give Linda a call on 823100. We meet on the third Monday of the month at Chalksole Cottage.

CHURCHYARD - On Saturday 5th of November we are proposing to carry out the annual tidying up in the churchyard. If you would like to spend a couple of hours in the fresh air and feel that you would like to help us, please turn up equipped with tools. We will be starting at 9.30am and finishing about 12 o'clock. (**Richard and Grace**)

SUE LEES - The Parish Council showed their thanks for her 23 year service as Parish Clerk by taking Sue for a meal and presenting her with a gift.

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DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY'S autumn concert, at 7.30 pm on Saturday 19th November 2005 in Dover Town Hall, will feature soloists from London's Guildhall School of Music. The first half will comprise the *Maria Theresa Mass*, composed by Haydn in 1799 between his major works *The Creation* and *The Seasons*, and later nicknamed after Empress Maria Theresa, who sang the soprano solos in the first performances of those works. After the interval, young singers from Dover schools will join the 100-strong chorus in a performance of Britten's great 1948 cantata *Saint Nicolas*. All will be accompanied by The Connaught Orchestra (leader George Simpson), and conducted by Michael Lewis in his first concert as the society's new Musical Director. Tickets at £9 (students £5) are available from Dover Visitor 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 of the concert please ring Ken Palmer on 01304 330511 or Bob Joslin on 01304 363344. (Steve Osborn)

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ALKHAM W.I - The last meeting was attended by twenty five members. An outing to be in the audience of "Loose Women" the television show was arranged for Thursday 3rd November in London. Leave Alkham at 10am for the show at 5.30pm. This leaves plenty of time to shop or visit some of the sights. Cost only the coach. The show ends at 7pm, so not too late home. There are more places if anyone would like to join us. Ring Cherry 01303 255114; or plenty of room on the coach if you just fancy a day in London. Names were taken for next year's committee, who would like to stand, ready for the A.G.M. in November. The evening was "Crafts you have made". There were several members who showed us how to make fudge, Christmas baubles and balls, Christmas cards and pot pourri. They then took their crafts to tables and let members try them, with their help. Next meeting is the A.G.M on Tuesday 8th November. (Cherry Leppard)

ALL SOULS' MEMORIAL service Sunday 6th November. We will be holding a memorial service for the departed at St Anthony's at 4.00 p.m. If you have a loved one you would like remembered by name on that day please will you pass it to one of the Churchwardens either Grace Stacey on 01304 822756 or Richard Tapsell on 01304 822295.

UNKNOWN PEOPLE of Eastern European origin have been seen riffling through rubbish that has put out for collection probably to steal identity information. You should be extremely vigilant with the disposal of all correspondence containing your name and address and or banking details, plus receipts from shopping. Although the majority of retailers do not print all of the numbers on a credit/debit print-out if you go on a shopping trip and lay out all of the receipts you will find that unscrupulous people will have your full credit/debit card number. Please think very carefully of the benefits of buying a cross-shredder - also please make your elderly and vulnerable neighbours aware of secure methods of disposing of personal information. (Sally Coleman)

OZ on KIPPS - The featured book at the Folkestone Literary Festival in September was H G Wells's novel *Kipps*, set in Folkestone and first published 100 years ago. Penguin, having this year republished the book in its Classics series, donated 200 copies to Folkestone Library for the Festival read-in. The celebrations started with a Kipps Walk, taking in landmarks from the lives of Kipps and also Wells, who made Folkestone his domestic and literary base for many years. In 1895, after a disastrous first marriage, Wells visited New Romney, with his second wife Jane, to receive treatment for a long and painful illness. On his recovery Jane drove him by carriage to Sandgate, where they moved into Beach Cottage, so near the sea that sometimes waves broke over the roof. The Wells loved Sandgate dearly and moved their furniture from London's Worcester Park to Arnold House, where they lived while Spade House, overlooking the bay, was built for them, funded by the proceeds from Wells's first four major works, including *The War of the Worlds* (1898). Between 1900, when the Wells moved in, and 1910, Spade House became an important literary hub, visited by James Barrie, Joseph Conrad, Henry James and Bernard Shaw among others. It was here, working usually in a garden shed, that Wells wrote his most serious novels, including *Kipps*, in 1905, midway between *Love and Mr Lewisham* (1900) and *The History of Mr Polly* (1910). *Kipps* is based on Wells's early experiences but is set largely in Folkestone, and has characters with quite Dickensian-sounding names such as "Chitterlow" and "Coote". Tommy Steele retold the story in the musical *Half a Sixpence*, successfully on the 1963 London stage, not so in the gaudy 1967 film. As one of the show's songs said: "Flash! Bang! Wallop! What a Picture!". (Steve Osborn)

MORE BICYCLES than cars have been sold in the US over the last year with over 19 million being bought.

Regular events in the village

Monday	The Chalksole Homegroup, third Monday of the month. Please phone Linda on 823100 for further details
Tuesday	Art classes in the village hall from 10 am to 1 pm. Ring 01303 243115 for further details
Wednesday	The Bookclub meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Please phone Linda on 823100 for further details
Wednesday	Keep Fit in the village hall from 9.30 am to 10.30 am – Wednesday Club from 10.30 am to 11.30 am
Thursday	Mobile Library stops at the car parks by the village hall from 9.25 am to 9.50 am
Friday	Whist Drive in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Saturday	5	
Tuesday	8	
Monday	21	
Saturday	26	
Saturday	26	
Monday	28	

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CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services: Morning Prayer, Capel: Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays). Evening Prayer, Hougham - Wednesdays at 5 pm. Eucharist, Capel Thursdays at 9.15 am
Tuesday 1 st	St Radigund, Capel-le-Ferne Healing Service 7.00 p.m.			
Sunday 6 th	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	
Sunday 13 th Remembrance Sunday	Remembrance services simultaneously at all three churches 10.15 a.m. followed by an act of Remembrance at 11.00 a.m.			
Sunday 20 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 27 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 10.00 a.m.			

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234	Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641 W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Nicola Wright 820098	Alkham web site www.alkham.org
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835		

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	St. Margaret's 852252
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 07889310479
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley 01303 891806
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Meggett Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmaims Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	HOGBROOK Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
EQUESTRIAN	GREENHILL FARM – DIY and assisted livery – excellent facilities	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
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 pet supplies	South Alkham 01303 893351
SCHOOL	Capel-le-Ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-Ferne 01303 251353

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett: The Old Post Office
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No. 148 December 2005

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Merry Christmas

At 4.45pm on December the 3rd the W.I. choir will be singing carols around the Christmas tree on Vicarage Meadow with the lights being turned on at 5.00pm together with other festive illuminations.



GRASS BANKS - The Parish Council would be interested in hearing from anyone who would be willing to take over from Rob Leas keeping the grass banks to the Meadow tidy and undertaking various additional 'handyman' roles as necessary. The work has traditionally attracted an annual honorarium rather than a fixed rate of pay. Please phone 822661 for further details.

PLAY EQUIPMENT

Thanks go to Richard Miller, who lives in Newlyn Meadow, for repairing the swings on Vicarage Meadow and also for the generous donation of a slide to possibly replace the existing one.

WATER PIPE - There has been some concern expressed about the ponds at Bushey Ruff being dry. The water company has therefore decided not to extract water from this area and consequently only one pipe is required along the valley to connect to the other extraction point at Buckland. As a result of this, instead of laying the new pipes to the west of the village on the north side of the Alkham Valley Road the water company is going to connect into the existing main in the road close to the 30mph signs. This work should take place in February of next year. The water company has also agreed to keep a pond within a lake at Bushey Ruff and pump water into it if necessary. Most people agree that the contractors working for the water company have done an excellent job.

PARISH CLERK - For personal reasons Nicola Wright cannot continue as Parish Clerk and therefore Sue Lees has kindly taken over temporarily but is insistent that she will not take the job on again permanently.

THE SEAT by the cricket pavilion has been vandalised again. Paul Tapsell suggested they be moved to somewhere more visible. Seems a good idea.

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BUS SHELTER - In last month's Newsletter I said that I would ask the Parish Council, on behalf of Julie Salmer, whether the bus shelter on the bend by Vicarage Meadow would be removed if a new one was built by Newlyn Meadow. I was surprised to find that the Parish own the bus shelter so it is a decision for our council to make and not the bus company. Neil Burrows, the chairman, said that at the present the council had no plans to remove the shelter but added that some people complain that the shelter restricts visibility from the junction at Slip Lane.

SPEED LIMITS - Although it was said that the speed limits for the Alkham Valley Road would be in place by mid October the latest date given is 'within the next two months'.

STREET LIGHTING Quotes are being sought for the installation of a street light near Meadow Hill Cottages on Hogbrook Lane.



THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY require part time waiting staff (age 15 plus) and bar staff (age 18 plus). Please phone 822945 for further details. There are 87 people going to the Christmas Dinner, which is 8.00 for 8.30pm.

DOG WALKING - Sometimes you are snowed under with work and there is no time to walk the dog or it is really cold. I will walk your dog for as long as you want for a pound!! You won't find a better offer so come to Jess to make life easier. (**Jessica Marlow 825617 or 07914881742**)

RECYCLING - The next collection will be on the **1st of December**. Thanks to all the people who squashed the plastic bottles, it really made a difference.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be held in the village hall on Saturday the 11th of February starting at 7.30pm. Please phone me (824969) or Sue Lees (822661) to book a table. (**editor**)

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

On Saturday the 10th of December the W.I. are holding their Christmas Bazaar in the village hall at 10.30am.



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ALKHAMHURST KENNELS has reopened for business with new owners Cate and Kyri Georgiou, who have moved to Alkham from Hertfordshire. Both have a passion for dogs and therefore the ideal solution was to buy a business involving animals. They look forward to meeting old customers and welcoming new ones and viewings are welcome but preferably in the afternoon. We wish them well.....

Their advert is on the back page together with a line advert in the 'Local Businesses and Services'. Another new addition to the latter is Iain Blears plumbing and heating services.

CARAVANS – The Parish Council have spoken to Dover District Council regarding the land adjacent to the Alkham Valley Garden Centre, which has recently been used by caravans. The Parish Council is concerned that DDC has taken the view that because the caravans have left the problem has gone away. However, it is thought that the caravans will probably return next year and therefore the site should be classified as agricultural land to try and prevent this happening.

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RIGHTS OF WAY – At present motor vehicles are using RuPP's (Road used as a public path), which are generally unmade highways across open country and there several in the parish. It is possible that the government will downgrade these after the Countryside & Right of Way Act is passed such that they can only be used by walkers, cyclists, horse riders and horse drawn vehicles but not motorised users. The latter object to their rights being taken away and are therefore trying to get RuPP's upgraded to BOAT's (Byway open to all traffic) and notices have been put up by the local authority on some RuPP's notifying people that such an application has been made. As a result of this there were a number of people at the Parish Council meeting asking the Council to back them in opposing these applications. In addition to this various petitions have been made opposing the upgrades and the Alkham Valley Society is also against RuPP's being reclassified.

AGM - The Alkham Valley Society will be holding its AGM on 1st December at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Alkham. Notices have been sent out to members and we hope to see you there, and for supper at The Fox, Temple Ewell afterwards. Lifts will be available. Notify the Secretary about coming to the supper, if you have not already done so. Thank you!
(Joanna Walker, Secretary)



CYCLE ROUTE - Following an approach from the AVS an informal meeting was held with KCC regarding local cycle routes. Everybody agreed that it would be a great idea to have a cycle path down the Alkham Valley Road (get some of the 5000 people a day onto bikes) but from Dover to Alkham it's almost impossible. It was a pleasant couple of hours but it is unlikely that anything will result from the meeting.

VIEW from the top of the hill In the October edition of the Newsletter there was an article about a car rally passing through the village and this brought a response from Barry Sheppard who lives at Ellinge. He agrees that the section of the rally passing through the village should not be timed and that drivers should be advised to drive considerably. Since 1982 when they moved to Ellinge the road from Swingfield Street to Hawkinge has been on a route for legitimate rallies which have taken part at night. They were warned in advance and it generally took 30 minutes for the whole entry to pass through but they are regularly disturbed by illegitimate rallying at night which results in skid marks, broken glass and the occasional burnt out wreck. They are disturbed by explosions, machine gun and rifle fire from the army training at night, military and private helicopters swooping low, greyhounds at the nearby stable and cross country motorcyclists with noisy exhausts. *(Nor rural sights alone, but rural sounds, exhilarate the spirit, and restore the tone of languid Nature. (William Cowper))*

SPEEDWATCH - Temple Ewell contacted the Parish Council to ask if they were interested in sharing the cost of a SpeedWatch scheme (I understand that the cost is for the hand held laser speed detector guns). The Council said that they had discussed the matter before and for various reasons (insurance being one) they were not in favour of the proposal.

NARROW ROADS - At the Parish Council meeting Ray Ashman from Ewell Minnis said that because of the popularity of satellite navigation in vehicles, heavy lorries were using unsuitable roads. He therefore asked the council to contact the Highway Authority with regard to putting up 6'6" except for access signs on affected roads in the parish. Wolverton Hill and Warren Lane were two roads mentioned by name.

WOLVERTON HILL

The junction at the bottom of Wolverton Hill with the Alkham Valley Road has been improved by the addition of new kerbing and footway. It looks as though it will be safer to wait for a bus but it's unclear whether it will be safer for the bus to stop. The 40mph speed limit, when it is introduced, may help.

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AFTERNOON TEA on Saturday 3rd
December between 2.00 and 4.00 p.m. at the
Church Hall, Albany Road, Capel-le-Ferne
with sale of Christmas decorations together
with crafts, raffle and a cake stall

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will lead the
singing in 'Come Carolling', the Christians
Together in Dover carol concert, in Dover
Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 12th
December. Accompaniment will be provided
by the St Edmund's School Wind Band, and
the concert will also feature a seasonal
production by children from a local school,
together with a charity collection. Tickets
are available from local churches and the
Town Hall. (Steve Osborn)

INDOOR BOOT FAIR on Sunday 27th
November from 8.00am to 12 noon at Capel
village hall; refreshments will be available
and for further information phone 01303
250671.

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& Clyde House, Dover

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W.I - November 8th was the
annual general meeting of the W.I.
There was no need for an election
of the committee as eight members
were standing. Rosemary Crothall
came off the committee after
serving about thirty years! She was
warmly thanked by Susannah our
president. Rosemary has now
moved to Barham but will still
attend the monthly meetings. As
there is more business to conduct
there was no speaker so Susannah
had a list of past members and
asked members, who remembered
them, to tell us any amusing stories
about them. Most of us could
appreciate the little anecdotes
about them. The Christmas dinner
menu was circulated and members
choosing. This takes place at the
"Lighthouse" in Capel on Tuesday
13th December at 7pm for 7.30pm.
There will be no meeting that night
in the village hall as it was decided
to have the dinner instead of the
December meeting. The first
meeting of 2006 in January is an
open meeting where we can bring
husbands and friends. Susan Lees
is showing some of her collection
of slides of "Alkham in the Past".
There is always lots of oohs and
aahs when we see ourselves about
forty years ago!! The meeting is at
7.30pm but visitors can arrive at
8pm.



GARDEN

TALK - We
must thank
Derek and
Marion Banks-
Nash who

hosted this month's garden talk,
together with the evening's
entertainment. It has been a very
enjoyable year and I would like to
thank everyone who has allowed
us to use their gardens and for all
who have provided the munchies
and wine. The last meeting of the
year will be the annual Christmas
party on 8th December at the home
of Lucy and Ian. I thought it
might be a nice idea if any of our
members would like to donate a
small gift and we could have a free
raffle. I look forward to seeing
you all there. (Devina Bartlett)

OZ on BAILLON - I've just spent a
few happy hours weeding the filing
cabinet. Among the debris
accumulated over seven years of
retirement was a newspaper clipping,
dated 19 July 1999, concerning the
sighting that month of a rare bird at
Grove Ferry in East Kent. The
Baillon's Crake, (*Porzana pusilla*),
is a small bird of the Rail family. It
breeds generally in eastern Europe
and in isolated areas of western and
central Europe, migrating to the
Middle East and Africa in winter,
and is also found in Australia and
New Zealand. In Victorian times, the
Baillon's Crake often visited Britain
and actually bred in East Anglia, but
disappeared as the marshes declined.
There were only 12 British sightings
between 1958 and 1995, so the 1999
appearance caused hundreds of
twitchers to converge on Grove
Ferry and Stodmarsh. At first the
bird's eerie croak was dismissed as
that of a frog, but an expert
confirmed the sighting very early
one morning, the species being so
shy that it rarely appears in the
daytime. With a short green bill,
brown and white uppers, blue and
grey face and unders, black and
white flanks, pink legs and a short
tail, the Baillon's Crake reminded
Stephen Moss, in the above
mentioned clipping, of "a giant,
aquatic wren". Louis Baillon, the
bird's original discoverer, was born
in Montreuil-sur-Mer in 1778, and
became a naturalist, sharing his
father's enthusiasm for the flora and
fauna of the Picardy coast. In
recognition of Baillon, his name was
given to two other bird species: the
Puffin de Baillon (*Puffinus*
lherminieri bailloni), known to us as
Audubon's Shearwater; and the
Saffron Toucanet (*Bailloni*
bailloni), an exotic South American
bird with a huge bill. Louis Baillon
died in Abbeville 150 years ago this
month, on December 3 1855. (Steve
Osborn)

A VAUXHALL VECTRA was stolen
from Short Lane just before midnight
on Sunday the 20th of November.
This vehicle was later recovered
after it had been involved in a road
traffic accident. A 17 year old male
has been helping the police with
their enquiries. (NW)

Regular events in the village		Alkhamhurst Kennels Boarding for Dogs, Cats & Small Animals Canine Hydrotherapy Pet Food Shop 01304 – 822420 Alkham Valley Road
Monday	The Chalksole Homegroup, third Monday of the month. Please phone Linda on 823100 for further details	
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Friday	Whist Drive in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm	

Other events in the village		
Thursday	1	Alkham Valley Society AGM at 7.30pm in the village hall (see page 2)
Saturday	3	Bingo in the village hall starting at 7.30pm
Saturday	10	W.I. Christmas bazaar in the village hall 10.30am
Wednesday	14	The Parish Council are meeting in the village hall in the evening
Monday	19	Dover & District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES				
Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services: Morning Prayer, Capel: Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays). Evening Prayer, Hougham - Wednesdays at 5 pm. Eucharist, Capel Thursdays at 9.15 am
Sunday 4 th	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	
Tuesday 6 th	Healing Service, St Radigund, Capel 7.00 p.m.			
Sunday 11 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Carols at Village Hall West Hougham 4.00 p.m.	
Sunday 18 th	Service of 9 Lessons and Carols 6.30 p.m.	Service of 9 Lessons and Carols 10.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Saturday 24 th	Crib Service 4.30 p.m.	Midnight Mass 11.30 p.m.		
Saturday 25 th	Sung Eucharist 11.00 a.m.	No Service	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484	Community Warden 07977 981994	Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641
	GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Parish Clerk, Sue Lees 822661	
		Alkham web site www.alkham.org

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES		
ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	St. Margaret's 852252
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BOARDING KENNELS	Kennels and Cattery, Canine Hydrotherapy and Pet Food Shop	Wolverton 822420
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 07889310479
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley 01303 891806
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Meggett Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmaims Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	HOGBROOK Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
EQUESTRIAN	GREENHILL FARM – DIY and assisted livery – excellent facilities	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
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 pet supplies	South Alkham 01303 893351
PLUMBING & HEATING	Iain Blears plumbing and heating services	Wolverton 822500 or 07888 713 896
SCHOOL	Capel-le-Ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-Ferne 01303 251353

