

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

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Happy New Year

Seven children sent in pictures of a Christmas Tree and one name was selected out of the hat to turn on the lights on the Alkham Christmas tree. The winner was Jessica Miller aged 3, who lives in Newlyns Meadow and her winning drawing is shown below in black and white. The other



youngsters who entered were Chloe Huggins, Rosie Comfort, Polly Comfort, Daisy Hodges, Tilly Hodges and Ellis Milroy. Congratulations to them all for

their lovely pictures. (editor)

WANTED someone to keep Alkham Parish Council in order. Reasonable **REWARD**, telephone 822661.

(Sue Lees is gallantly carrying on in a temporary capacity as Parish Clerk but she is adamant that she will not do it again on a permanent basis)

RECYCLING - The next collection will be on the 5th of January. Please flatten cardboard boxes and plastic drink bottles.

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KISSING GATE - Those who walk from Slip Lane across the meadow to the churchyard will have seen the new kissing gate. This has replaced a stile, which a number of people found troublesome getting over, and the width of the stile would suggest that at one time there may have been a gate but Sue Lees can find no record of this. The cost of the gate was equally shared by the church and the Alkham Valley Society and installed by Richard and David Tapsell. The gate was made by Perry Hayward Welding Services at Hawkinge to whom thanks must go for making it at such a reasonable price and retaining the old features.



VILLAGE CHRISTMAS EVENING - The second, Christmas Lights' switch-on was held on Saturday December 3rd. A crowd turned out on a clear and cold evening to listen to the W.I choir sing carols and to watch Jessica Miller perform the switch-on. Generous support from villagers meant that there were more lights than last year and these seem to have been well-received. Paul and Allison then provided mulled wine and mince pies for the crowd before setting the pub for the village meal which 106 people attended. People who have spoken to me said how much they enjoyed the evening (the power cut simply adding to the atmosphere!) and how they hope this will be repeated. As always there are many people to thank: Simon, Paul and John Huggins, Den Barnard and Richard Miller for providing muscle to cut, transport and install the tree and to dig the trenches for the power supply. Simon Price for connecting the power supply for the trees and, with Alan Tapsell, restoring power to the Marquis! The ladies of the W.I for singing so beautifully - many of us were searching the starlit sky for angels! - and for helping set the mood for the evening. Rob and Sue Lees for providing the hedge for a set of lights, Paul and Allison for providing the refreshments after the switch-on and Noon Lawrence from Tilmanstone who, for the second year, donated the tree to the village. And, of course, Father Christmas himself for taking the time out, at such a busy time, to attend in person and hand gifts to those children who entered the art competition and sweets to those who attended the switch-on. I have heard a whisper that the people of Temple Ewell were so put out that Alkham's display outshone theirs that they have vowed to outdo us next year! We shall watch with interest. Happy New Year to you all. (Mark Robson)

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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)

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DOGS - I've been asked to put an item in the Newsletter regarding plastic bags with dog excrement in being left by the hedge on the popular walk accessed via the modern kissing gate near the Old Rectory. Please would the person who is doing it take the bags home and dispose of them in an appropriate manner.

ROADS - Those of you who drive along the valley will have seen that the Highway Authority have laid high skid resistant surfacing at Wolverton Hill and at the junction with Meggett Lane. This should be followed by short pieces of red surfacing at Lower Standen, Drellingore and Upton Farm and the various speed limit signs.

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ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The Annual General Meeting was held on a bitterly cold evening 1 December. The hall was pretty nearly full. Though not everyone signed or had a chance to sign the Attendance Register, at a rough count there were over fifty people there, which was and is most encouraging. Business was fairly brisk, and the main discussion lay around the question of the Roads Used as Public Paths (RUPPS) and the Byways open to all traffic (BOATS). It seems as if the whole of England is up arms against such a threat to the status quo. The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is working with people on this matter, and it is necessary to write to our M.P. The matter is being addressed by the Alkham Parish Council, and it will be one of the Society's ongoing tasks; we will keep in contact on the issue (welcome back Sue as Parish Clerk..!). We had 'two intruders' as they called themselves, Mrs Harcourt and Mrs Hewitt though we did not think of them as such! They had arrived with an impressive petition against both the RUPP's and the BOATs which affects many people living in the uplands and out of the way places. Many of us present signed. It was backed by formidable research on the subject. The Treasurer reported a respectable balance, largely boosted this year by the President's party raffle and his generosity. Subscriptions will not increase from the present £1 per person (since 1987, raised from 25p), but many people made donations (rubber bands discarded by postmen will be used instead of envelopes on hand deliveries when necessary .Sec). Three new members were elected to the Committee: John Jackson (Ellinge), Lindsay Bennett (Ewell Minnis) and Raye Luckhurst (South Alkham). The Committee expressed their regrets at the resignation of the Vice-Chairman Chris Tapsell and thanked him for his long and helpful service to the Society. Maurice Sayers was elected to remain Chairman, Barry Sheppard will remain the Treasurer, Jo Walker the Secretary, other committee members will be as last year: Marion Banks-Nash, Pam Sayers, Shelley Jackson and Ken Hammond. Our next committee meeting will be held at John and Shelley Jackson's house Foxgloves at Ellinge on Tuesday 28 February 2006 at 8 p.m. The future programme was discussed: Paul Tapsell will be asked to lead the Christmas Walk (27 December from Village Hall Car Park at 10.30 a.m.) and again, everyone is welcome. The annual excursion was discussed, it being agreed that the visit to Brook Agricultural Museum had been successful, and it was suggested that the matter be left for the Committee to decide. The question of the status of the Caravan Park, Alkham Valley Road was raised – the Committee and many people have written to the DCC and received varying replies all of which are vague and dismissive. The matter of its status is not resolved and thus a method of dealing with it is to keep writing and requesting clarification. It was agreed that it raised fears about abuse of an amenity should it be used for irregular purposes about which we have every right to enquire and try to get the same clarity as we have to have for other premises. There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m. and a large section of the company met again a few minutes later at The Fox where a good time was had by all. The Committee takes the opportunity to thank everyone for their support and to wish all a happy Christmas and healthy New Year 2006. (**Joanna Walker (Secretary)**)

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ALKHAM PAST – Although run by the W.I., friends and relatives are invited to attend the next meeting on the 10th of January in Alkham Village Hall to be in your seats by 8.15pm to see pictures of Alkham's past presented by Sue Lees.

CARDS - The profit that Margaret Knowles makes from selling her cards of Alkham all goes to the church fabric fund and over the year she raised £100. She would like to thank the Garden Centre for their help and also all the people who bought the cards. Well done Margaret.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL - Assuming that the Newsletter has been delivered by the 20th of December, Father Christmas will be at the Capel Farmer's Market (see page 2). There will also be a children's bran tub, stall holders in fancy dress and Christmas carols. Buy your locally produced Christmas food & gifts in a traditional Christmas atmosphere. Contact 01303 245399 for further information

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W.I. – Alkham move into its 79th year had one of its best dinners yet at the Lighthouse, Capel. The occasion gave members the opportunity to thank Betty Neely with a basket of flowers and a song of 'she's a jolly good fellow' for being secretary for some 14 years. Susannah Tapsell is president; Betty Neely and Susan Lees vice presidents; Christine Tapsell thankfully continues as treasurer and Janet Barrow has kindly taken over as secretary. Doreen Wilks, Helen Scopes and Cherry Leppard forming the rest of the committee with its many tasks. The next meeting will be on January 10th will be an open meeting to see pictures of Alkham past (see article on the left)

PARCELS - A number of consumers in Thanet & North Kent have reported receiving leaflets through their letter boxes implying that a parcel is awaiting collection. The leaflet asks them to telephone an 090 number for further information. The call, which is charged at £1.50 per minute, is likely to last a number of minutes. Kent Trading Standards is aware of similar scams & is concerned that consumers may be taken-in by this scam particularly as some might be expecting parcels in the run-up to Christmas. 090 numbers are charged at a premium rate and it is very unlikely that genuine delivery companies would use this type of number. If consumers receive one of these leaflets they should contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 for further advice. They may wish also to report the matter to the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services at www.icstis.org.uk or on 0800 500 212'.

(Neighbourhood Watch)

OZ on XMAS CARDS Once again the Woodland Trust, Tesco and W H Smith are promoting a Christmas card recycling scheme between 2 and 31 January. All you have to do is take your used cards along when you visit a Tesco or WHS store and leave them in the receptacles provided. It is a worthwhile move, and popular, coinciding with the first "spring clean" of the year, when we happily part with empty cans, guilt-inducing bottles and torn wrapping paper, but are a little more reluctant to dispose of cards, often beautifully produced and carrying warm personal messages. The modern Christmas card was invented by Henry Cole, founder of the Victoria and Albert Museum, in 1843, just three years after the introduction of the penny post. Unfortunately the then current colour technology of hand-coloured lithography was expensive, causing the card to retail at one shilling (£3.63 in today's money) and the card failed. However by 1860 the new process of chromolithography, allowing cheap and intricate colour reproduction, was well established. When the halfpenny post was introduced in 1870, for unsealed envelopes, the Christmas card really took off, and the Post Office issued its first 'Post early for Christmas' advice in 1880. It is hardly surprising then that we now exchange some 1 billion cards each Christmas in the UK, at an average rate of 160 million a day. Last January the Woodland Trust collected and recycled 58 million cards weighing 1,150 tonnes, and is aiming to achieve a new target of 60 million this January. As an illustration of the environmental benefits of recycling on this scale, the Woodland Trust calculates that recycling just one Christmas card will save enough electricity to enable 105 people to watch the Queen's Christmas day message next year, which should indeed be encouragement. (Steve Osborn)

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 Book club 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

Alkhamhurst Kennels

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Alkham Valley Road

Other events in the village		
Monday	9	Parish Council meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm , everyone welcome to come along
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm
Monday	16	Dover & District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	28	Beekeepers in the village hall

CHURCH SERVICES					
Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham		
Sunday 1 st	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund, Capel-le-Ferne 10.00 a.m.			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	
Note: no weekday services Monday 27th December to Monday 2nd January inclusive					
Tuesday 3 rd	St Radigund, Capel Healing service 7.00 p.m.				
Friday 6 th	Sung Eucharist St Radigund, Capel-le-Ferne 7.30 p.m.				
Sunday 8 th	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.		
Sunday 15 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of Praise village hall, West Hougham 4.00 p.m.		
Sunday 22 nd	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.		
Sunday 29 th	Joint benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony, Alkham 10.00 a.m.				

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994	
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 Janet Barrow 829585
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