

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett: The Old Post Office
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No. 149 January 2006

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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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25k Wild Bird Seed £13

25k Peanuts £22

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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

FREDERIC HALL

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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	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 1 st	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund, Capel-le-Ferne 10.00 a.m.			
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 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 Janet Barrow 829585
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, Sue Lees 822661	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
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

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CONGRATULATIONS – C.B.E. (Commander British Empire), Robin St. J. Knowles C.B.E., Barrister, M.A. elder son of Margaret and Norman Knowles of Slip Lane, Alkham was appointed C.B.E. in the New Year's Honours list. This is one of the highest honours. Robin was educated at Alkham village school, Sir Roger Manwood's (Sandwich) and read law at Trinity College (Cambridge). He was called to the Bar in 1982, became Queen's Counsel in 1999 (aged 39), sworn in as a Recorder (Judge) in the Crown Court in 2000 (aged 40). He was recently elected Chairman of The Commercial Bar (England). Investiture by the Queen is expected in March (**Norman Knowles**) *there will be a full report in next month's Newsletter (ed)*

SPEED LIMITS - The order legally confirming the speed limits along the valley road was confirmed in early January so the 40mph and 50 mph signs plus red road marking should soon appear.

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VANDALISM - There has been a spate of mindless vandalism in the village mainly around Vicarage Meadow. The expensive and recently replaced bench outside the cricket pavilion, which had previously had the uprights sawn, has been uprooted and thrown in the hedge. The resting post at the top of the Meadow that Rob Lees repaired a short while ago has been broken up and thrown in the brambles. At the Parish Council meeting the chairman said that behaviour like this was not acceptable in the village but he was not sure whether it was due to locals or people outside the village. The council is going to approach DDC with regard to the possibility of installing CCTV and for other advice. Although it may affect the insurance premium it was decided to replace the bench and store both benches inside the pavilion to be brought out when cricket is played.

COMMUNITY WARDEN As a result of the above, the idea of having a Community Warden was discussed at the Parish Council meeting. Unfortunately the service is not free and would increase the Parish precept considerably (that is the money included in the rates for the village) so reluctantly it was agreed not to pursue the matter. The precept, as proposed at the December Parish Council meeting for 2006-2007, is £8500.

LIGHTING - The Parish Council is going to find out what the cost and implications are of installing a street light on the corner of the car park on Vicarage Meadow opposite the village hall. This would not only light the car park but also illuminate the entrance to Meadow Hill Cottages, the recently constructed house on Hogbrook Lane.

PARISH CLERK – I'm pleased to report that we now have a Parish Clerk, who is Angela Miller. She lives in Newlyn Meadow and her telephone number is 824791. We wish her the best of luck. Sue Lees will be helping in the short turn with the handover and then she can retire and start to pursue her many interests again.

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JUMBLE SALE – There will be a jumble sale in the village hall on Saturday the 4th of February starting at 11.00am. All profits will go to the W.I. funds.

CARAVANS - Evidently the people who moved into the area adjacent to the Garden Centre with their caravans last year intend to return in the spring. As this land is classed as agricultural, further pressure is going to be put on DDC regarding a prohibition order and a meeting will be arranged with DDC in the very near future.

WELL DONE ALKHAM! Many thanks from Chalksole Homegroup to all who so generously donated £170 for needy children in Folkestone. Irene Barnard and Linda Gaskill were able to take advantage of Woolworth's ½ price sale on toys just before Christmas and were able to purchase some fabulous toys for children known to the Surestart team. Santa really came to town for them. Shall we do it again next year?

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GARDEN TALK - The first garden meeting of the new year begins this month at Bramhall, the home of Richard and Susannah Tapsell. It is open to anyone who may have an interest in gardening and is very informal, so no need to be intimidated if you are not as knowledgeable as you would like to be. Come along and learn, enjoy a glass...or two of wine, and sample a few nibbles. So the venue is as above and starts at 7.30 pm on 17th February 2006. Look forward to seeing you all there. **(Devina Bartlett 827548).**

RUPP'S – There was further discussion at the Parish Council meeting about the off road groups trying to get the roads used as a public path upgraded to roads open to all traffic. It was thought that the consultation could take up to two years before officers acted but there might be cases which are settled more quickly as each application will be judged on its merit.

FARMER'S MARKET

Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall

Tuesday 10am to 1pm Local produce
Phone 01303 245399

BOOKCLUB NIGHT OUT

The Book Club will meet for supper at the Marquis of Granby, 7.30pm on February 8th. Please read a biography or autobiography and come ready to discuss it over the meal. New members are very welcome. Could all who are coming please give Rosemary Heddle a call on 827880. **(Linda Gaskill)**

AUTHOR EVENT at Deal Library on Thursday 9th February. Christine Aziz, author of 'The Olive Readers' and winner of Richard and Judy's 'How to get published' will be at Deal Library to talk about her work on 9th February from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. In September 2004 Pan Macmillan and Channel 4's Richard & Judy show launched the first ever televised 'How to Get Published' competition. Budding writers were invited to send in their first chapter and a synopsis of their novel for the chance to win a publishing contract. 46,000 entries later, five short listed authors appeared live on air in front of 1.5 million viewers. Christine Aziz, a 50-something homeopath and freelance journalist was announced as the winner. She won a £50,000 advance and a publishing contract with Pan Macmillan. Christine Aziz was born in Yorkshire and has worked as a shop assistant, dental receptionist, factory packer, singer, cleaning lady, actress, journalist, community worker and English teacher. She now works as a homeopath and freelance journalist. The Olive Readers is set in a dystopian future and told through the eyes of a young woman, Jephzat and has been compared to Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale. Tickets are £2 and available from Deal Library.

WATER PIPES – correction

In the December edition of the Newsletter I included an article about the water pipe along the valley. Folkestone and Dover Water Company Services have read this article and say that the information given, as interpreted at a November presentation, is incorrect. I therefore apologise for the errors and am pleased to publish the correct facts, which are: The ponds at Bushy Ruff have a low water level because of lower than average rain fall and will refill when persistent rain arrives. No decision has been made as to whether to abstract water from Bushy Ruff and discussions are continuing with the Environment Agency (EA) who will conclude whether there is enough water at the site to allow abstraction. If they do obtain a license the water will be pumped to Lye Oak and that is why there is only one pipe going along the valley. Part of their proposals for development at Bushy Ruff was to work with EA in creating an augmentation system that would pump water into the nearby lake during drought periods and the EA plan to line part of the lake to act as a refuge for wildlife. If the water company does not source water from Bushy Ruff then the system will have to be developed by the EA.

PIMLICO WAY which runs from South Alkham across the hill to Slip Lane is already a byway open to all traffic and some years ago the Alkham Valley Society replanted the hedge and trees which were previously grubbed out by a farmer. KCC gave a grant for this and they consider that it is the AVS's responsibility to keep the hedge cut but the latter think that it was not a never-ending agreement and that KCC should cut it. The AVS are going to write to KCC.

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SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

KENT POLICE have launched Mobile Police Station (MPS) that will visit rural locations and PC Foster started in the Dover area on Thursday 22nd December in Sandwich Road, Whitfield and then Station Approach, Shepherdswell. These visits will take place every three weeks and people are encouraged to go along and see PC Foster and have a look at the information etc he will be carrying on the MPS. It is also an ideal opportunity to discuss any Policing matters that concern you. The date for February has not yet been published but if you are interested the police on 01303 850055 may be able to help. (NW)

ST. ANTHONY'S – We tend to take the church for granted but it really is of some architectural importance. A recent visitor to the church said that the carvings on the Purbeck stone inside the church were the best he had ever seen in his life.

FREDERIC HALL

Solicitors

York House, Folkestone

01303 851185

& Clyde House, Dover

01304 202411


W.I NEWS - At the first meeting of the year Susannah Tapsell, our president, welcomed members. The "jobs" that several of the members take on was sorted out. Our president had been to a resolutions meeting and a presidents meeting so she informed us of that. The ice show at Brighton is all in hand on the 28th January, the coach will leave Capel at 10am. This meeting was an open meeting to allow many villagers to see Susan Lees slides of Alkham in the 60's and 70's. There were about sixty people altogether and how we all enjoyed the old photos of the valley as it used to look and also our children when they attended the Alkham school and some of ourselves in our youth! Richard Tapsell kindly came along to work the projector as Susan gave an interesting commentary. She had also brought some old photograph books to look at and pinned lots of photos on the walls. She was warmly thanked by Helen Scopes and I know everyone had a lovely evening. The slides she had were her own and some of the late Mrs Lord and Olive Harvey. We are hoping Sue will dig out some more sometime! The next meeting in February is the "Red Cross". **Cherry Leppard**

MAIN DRAINAGE - The houses at Drellingore have cess pit drainage and it was hoped that the main drainage would be extended to cover these properties. The Environment Agency was asked to act as arbitrator between the residents and the sewage authority and has refused the request. The Parish Council thought this unfair as it is possible that the size of the cess pits will have to be increased to meet current regulations and that the cost of emptying the cess pits will have to be met by the householders.

OZ on LITTLE EGRETS

After the Christmas snow thawed we ran our dog in Kearsney Abbey, noting on the way a heron, still and grey in the gloom. Soon another blizzard sprang up and we returned, finding our 'heron' smaller and apparently covered in fresh snow. It was, of course, a different and rarer heron, a Little Egret with brilliant white body, distinctive yellow feet and black legs. For the first three days of the New Year our house gave a grandstand view of the bird, glowing white against the muddy riverbank and feeding nervously in the shallows. Local papers reported later that a pair of egrets had taken up residence on Barton Path, in Dover, a first for this location. The Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) is another example of a species that has increased dramatically in the UK recently, perhaps due to global warming. In the 1950s its winter quarters crept north from Spain, through France, to reach Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour in 1996 and County Cork in 1997. Before this expansion, the Little Egret's main claim to fame was as supplier of plumes, particularly for hats, in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Cocker and Mabey, in *Birds Britannica*, describe how egret feathers sometimes traded at 20 times the value of silver weight-for-weight. Some feathers were obtained humanely from egret farms, where birds were cared for and plucked four times a year. However the main source of imported feathers was from the killing of millions of wild egrets, a slaughter that led directly to the formation of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in 1889 and the banning of the plume trade in 1920. Appropriately the RSPB Nature Reserve at Dungeness has long been the best local site for viewing these lovely birds. **(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



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Alkham Valley Road

Other events in the village		
Saturday	4	W.I. jumble sale in the village hall starting at 11.00am
Saturday	11	Annual Quiz in the village hall starting at 7.30pm
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm
Monday	19	Dover & District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	25	Beekeepers in the village hall 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
Thursday 2nd	Joint benefice Sung Eucharist by candlelight St Mary, Capel-le-Ferne 7.00 p.m. Candlemas			
Sunday 5 th	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sunday 5 th	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	
Tuesday 7 th	Healing service St Radigund, Capel-le-Ferne 7.00 p.m.			
Sunday 12 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Sunday 12 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 19 th	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Sunday 19 th	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	
Sunday 26 th	Joint benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund, Capel-le-Ferne 10.00 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. secretary - 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 Angela Miller 824791	
		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, Malmains 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	Meggett 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

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SPEED LIMITS - As people who drive along the Alkham Valley Road will have seen, the new speed limits are in place with 50mph from Drellingore to South Alkham and then a 40mph limit to the village. This is repeated on the Dover side to Wolverton from where there is a 50mph limit to Kearsney. Various comments have been made about these speed limits, such as rural clutter and that people will probably ignore them. Personally, I think the 40mph limits have given the feeling that you are driving through a community and that Wolverton and South Alkham are inclusive in the village. **(editor)**

EGGS were thrown at the windows of two properties in the centre of the village and as one resident was away the congealed mess was very difficult to remove. People have a fair idea who the culprits are and prosecution will be sought should it happen again and be witnessed.

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PETER CHAMBERS - It is sad to report the death of Peter Chambers who moved into Martinvale, in the centre of the village, in the early 1970's. Peter had a full and rewarding life and this was helped by his brother's advice to learn German. As a result, when he was 17 and joined the Navy in 1944, he was moved straight into intelligence and then after the war was in Germany translating documents. He then went to Aberdeen University for four years to study foreign languages and became fluent in 6. In 1952 he joined the staff on the Daily Express and during his career was Foreign Correspondent in Paris, spent two years in New York and was 'William Hickey' for a while. When he left the Express in 1986 he did a couple of years writing for Judith Chalmers on 'Wish you were here'. He married Sarah ten years ago but they had known each other for 30 years and sympathy goes to Sarah and all relatives and friends. Whilst I was at Martinvale two beautiful floral tributes were delivered, one from the Mail on Sunday and the other from the Sunday Mirror.

POWER CUT - Evidently the three hour or so power cut on the 6th of February in Alkham was due to the temporary generator providing the power packing up (due to fuel blockage?). The generator was supplied by an outside contractor and an engineer had to come down from Sidcup to repair it, which accounts for the long delay.

SHEEP - Two sheep have been killed in the field to the east of Short Lane by dogs. The farmer hasn't taken any action on this occasion but dog owners are asked to make sure their dogs are under control at all times as the sheep are extremely vulnerable.

PARISH COUNCILLOR

Peter Frater had to resign from his position as Parish Councillor because of pressure of work. The post was advertised and posters placed on the village notice board and in the Old Post Office but no applicants came forward. As a result of this, I'm delighted to say, that Sue Lees has been co-opted as a Parish Councillor until the next elections.

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VILLAGE HALL - Grateful thanks go to the late Olive Harvey, who died in March 2004, for leaving over £10,000 to the village hall in her will. Olive was very active in village activities and it is fitting that there should be a lasting memory to her. In the first place a plaque is to be inscribed and placed in the hall and then ideas will be sought as to the best way to spend the money. It may be that it will go into the general funds for the long term security of the hall and I think Olive would have approved of this idea.

RECYCLING - The next recycling day will be on 2nd March and this will mark the second anniversary of the scheme which started in March 2004.

QUIZ - there will be a quiz in the village hall on the 8th of April starting at 7.30pm. All profits go to the Air Ambulance and to book a table please ring 824876.

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THE CHASE - Ken and I were cycling along the road below Lydden Circuit when we very warily passed a Rottweiler that was chewing grass (or something) in the verge. We rapidly accelerated to 27 miles an hour but a quick glance behind showed the Rottweiler was chasing us at about 30mph and gaining rapidly. I wasn't too concerned until Ken, who had been behind me, steamed past at a great rate of knots and I realised that I was now top of the menu. This continued for a short while but fortunately the dog ran out of puff before we did and undoubtedly returned home feeling rather pleased with itself and laughing like Mutley in Wacky Races. Irrespective of these perils, if you are overweight or slightly depressed, a reasonably active ride over 26 miles will use up about 1200 calories and get the serotonin in the brain moving such that you finish the ride feeling relaxed, assuming you are not chased by a Rottweiler. **(editor)**

QUIZ - The annual quiz seemed to be enjoyed by most people and a profit of £270 was made, which is being donated to a local charity. This is the East Kent Railway which generally runs trains from Shepherdswell to Eythorne starting at the end of March. Thanks go to the Polden and Lott families for doing the food, Jacqui Fielding and Carla Saltmer for doing such an excellent job as scorers and Sue Lees.

**FARMER'S MARKET
Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall**

**Tuesday 10am to 1pm Local produce
Phone 01303 245399**

TRAIL RIDERS - A number of people around the village have commented on a group of motorcyclists who look fairly menacing with their masks and ride aggressively on the RuPP's and byways around the village. Jane Davis, who lives on Wolverton Hill and walks her dogs on the byway leading from Ewell Minnis to Temple Ewell, says that since December 2005, there have been 3 or 4 occasions where she and her hounds have come close to being mown down by 'sinister'-looking bikers hurtling about where dogs have previously been safe to run off-leash. Although she is beginning to recognise the awful noise predicting their approach, it is still extremely difficult to recall the dogs quickly enough to jump out of their pathway. They never make any attempt to slow down, despite the fact that she is clearly struggling to maintain control. Needless to say, she has found it to be a quite terrifying experience on each occasion and wonders if pedestrians have lost all their rights? Barbara Newitt and her sister were verbally abused by them at Common Hill and I was ridden at when cycling back into the village by a motorcycle coming up Short Lane at speed. A letter has been written to the Parish Council asking them if they would inform the police such that they can be contacted, should the riders reappear, and in the first place give them a warning. It appears that these riders do not belong to the Trail riding group, who do ride responsibly.

CHALKSOLE GREEN Whilst walking the dog I went through Chalksole Green, which is an official village green at the top of White Hill, and it was terrific to see six ducks in the smaller pond and three in the other, which was puddled by John Huggins. The Conservation Committee have been doing a lot of work around the green and the laid hedge plus removal of undergrowth has transformed the site. Congratulations to all those who are taking part. I think the larger pond may still be leaking as the ducks were walking as well as swimming so I understand it may have to be lined. The puddling was hampered by hot and dry weather.

SCAM - One of our employees was called on Wednesday from "VISA", and I was called on Thursday from "MasterCard". Note, the callers do not ask for your card number; they already have it. The scam works like this: Person calling says, "This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card that was issued by (name of bank). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for £249.99 from a Marketing company based in (name of any town or city)?" When you say "No" the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?" You say "yes". The caller continues - "I will be starting a Fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 0800 number listed on the back of your card and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?" Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works. The caller then says, "I need to verify you are in possession of your card". He'll ask you to turn your card over and look for some numbers". There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the next 3 are the security Numbers that verify you are the possessor of the card. The caller will ask you to read the 3 numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?" After you say No, the caller then thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back; if you do", and hangs up. You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the Card number. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. Are we glad we did! The REAL VISA Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of £249.99 was charged to our card. **(Shelley Jackson)**

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Alkham WI – The February meeting was well supported by members looking forward to the year ahead. Ideas were invited for Spring and Summer outings. Cherry Leppard is already in the process of arranging an outing to see Billy Elliott later in the year – cost £45 plus travel. Members were encouraged to take part in the Top Team Quiz 31st May and attend the Group Meeting 18th April when the talk will be on the fascinating subject of The Crown Jewels. The evening concluded with an excellent talk and demonstration by a team of Red Cross workers, which included a five year old, who certainly knew just how to carry out Life Saving Techniques. It was agreed that many people in the village might like to take advantage of a day in the near future when the Red Cross could give more detailed instructions. **(Sue Lees)**

Cancer Research – the Alkham Ladies have worked hard once again, and raised £450 during the past year for this cause.

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ROMANIA – I received an email about the plight of children in Romania with an appeal for monetary help. Evidently there are a lot of children in Romania, who because of government policies are living on the street and encountering the social problems attached with that such as prostitution, glue sniffing and drug taking. A Christian organisation called the City of Hope is trying to do something about the situation and in April a group of 14 people from the Living Well Family Church will be travelling to Bucharest to work alongside the City of Hope. All of their travelling and living expenses will be self funded so all money raised will go into protecting and helping the children. They plan to practically help the charity by tackling some of their DIY needs. This will involve redecorating the rescue centre, and doing some necessary repairs, especially on the decaying roof. Toys will be taken as well. The costs of running the centre are £700 with additional costs totalling a further £800 a month. Each child costs £70-£100 to support each month and the rescue centre needs a new central heating system costing £2000 and minibuses at £6000 - £7000 each. The group hopes to raise £15,000 by donations and fund raising events. Information regarding fundraising events they will be running in the future is on www.missionromania.co.uk. For further information please contact Noel on 01227 829018 or 07710610954.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

The on-going role of the Society in Pimlico maintenance is being investigated and soon we should have some news. It has been noted that one of the farmers/landowners has already cut his/her section of hedge in what is a neat job, and that at this point off-road vehicles come back onto the track. Thank you landowner/farmer and the Parish Council for revitalising an ongoing concern. Watch this space for an action updating. **(Joanna Walker ,Secretary)**

OZ on HOBSON-JOBSON

Recently BBC2, in partnership with the Oxford English Dictionary, ran the series *Balderdash and Piffle*, attempting to “ante-date” certain English words and phrases, ie find written evidence of them before the OED dates. In the final programme, a request for “balti” before 1983 sent me scurrying for my precious copy of *Hobson-Jobson*. Subtitled *A glossary of Anglo-Indian colloquial words and phrases* and containing 1020 densely-printed pages, it is a treasure-house that illustrates India’s huge influence on the English language. The book originated in a friendship between Col Henry Yule of the Bengal Engineers and Dr Arthur Burnell of the Madras Civil Service. They met only once, at the India Library, and afterwards exchanged letters devoted to building an Anglo-Indian dictionary. Sadly, Burnell died in 1882, four years before publication of their book. *Hobson-Jobson* was revised in 1903 and was then out of print for many years. The second edition was republished in 1968 and it is this edition that I acquired 20 years ago. Like all good dictionaries *Hobson-Jobson* takes the reader on a magical mystery tour, from ‘calico’ to ‘khaki’ to ‘dungarees’ to ‘dinghy’, with surprises on the way such as ‘pundit’, ‘toddy’ and ‘chintz’. *Hobson-Jobson*’s words derive from many sources, including traders’ languages, scientific and technical terms and Civil Service jargon. ‘Hobson-Jobson’ is itself an example of another important class of words, being an Anglo-Saxon corruption of “Ya Hasan! Ya Hosain!” heard at Moharram Festivals. The term was applied later to any word derived by mispronouncing Indian, such as ‘shampoo’ from ‘champo’ and ‘pyjamas’ from ‘jammās’, and then to all such words from any language, such as ‘plonk’, Australian for ‘vin blanc’. Perhaps we now need a universal *Hobson-Jobson* reflecting the internet and new words arising from such hybrids as Spanglish and Chinglish. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Thursday	Mobile Library stops at the car parks by the village hall from 9.25 am to 9.50 am
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Alkham Valley Road

Other events in the village		
Saturday	4	P.C.C. jumble sale in the village hall starting at 11.00am
Monday	6	Parish Council meeting in the village hall starting at 7.30pm. All welcome
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm
Monday	19	Dover & District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	25	Beekeepers in the village hall in the afternoon
Sunday	26	Tea in the village hall after the Mothering Sunday service – see below

CHURCH SERVICES				
Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services:
Wednesday 1st	Sung Eucharist and imposition of ashes St Anthony, Alkham 7.00 p.m.			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 5th	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	Sunday 5th	Evensong 4.00 p.m.	
Tuesday 7th	Healing Service St Radigund, Capel-le-Ferne 7.00 p.m.			
Sunday 12th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Sunday 12 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 19th	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Sunday 19th	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	
Sunday 26th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 10.00 a.m.			
Mothering	Mothering Sunday service St Anthony, Alkham 3.00 p.m. followed by tea in the village hall			

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055	Village Hall booking
	Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	Rosemary Polden 824876
	Community Warden 07977 981994	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
County Councillor , Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547	Newsletter , Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	W.I. secretary - Janet Barrow 829585
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BALLOONS

Whilst Linda and Geoff Gaskill were walking the dog at Chalksole they found some balloons in a

field. The balloons had names attached and came from children at a school in Belgium, which was celebrating a friendship day. Linda sent an email to the school and Tom Vandamme, teacher of class 6 at Rekkem replied with the above photograph and said he would translate the email and tell the children. You should be able to see further pictures on their site on www.gbs-rekkem.be

FIREWORKS – Whoever was responsible for the enormous fireworks which went off in Alkham on the night of Saturday 18th March, in close proximity to the Equestrian Centre, please at least have the courtesy to forewarn the owners of your intentions if you feel it necessary to repeat the performance. On this occasion not only did the hot residue shower down on the buildings, some of which contain hay and straw, a horse broke out of its stable; this however was quickly caught. Later that night two dogs were also seen running around in the vicinity of the village hall. Please remember fireworks and animals don't mix. **(Hogbrook Equestrian Centre)**

GEORGE WILKS

(1928-2006)

Saint Anthony's church was packed on the 9th of March for the funeral of George Wilks who died recently. George would have been pleased and amused at the number of people who turned up to say goodbye as he was a modest man but liked and loved by everybody who came into contact with him. To describe him as a nice man seemed to be bland but the dictionary defines the word as good natured, friendly and kind and this was George. A fitting tribute was read at the service by Susannah Tapsell, who really spoke for the village when she said he was always there to help, a thoroughly decent person and a great friend. Ken Hammond and I, whilst walking the dogs, generally came down Slip Lane past Appletree Cottage and we always hoped to see George. If we did we started talking loudly saying that we hoped he wasn't in the garden. He'd then walk over with the usual smirk on his face and accuse us of winding him up. Sometimes he would pretend to hide behind a tree but he always gave as good as he got. It was all good fun and both Ken and I felt the same about his passing; a great loss. George didn't push himself to the front, he was quiet and unassuming but it was all these qualities that brought a church full of people together to genuinely mourn his passing. What better epitaph can you have for a life well lived.

(Brian Wimsett)

Doreen, Mandy and family would like to thank everybody for their kind thoughts and sympathy.

ST ANTHONY'S EASTER GARDEN & EGG HUNT

Did you know the legend that eggs laid on Good Friday, if kept for a hundred years would have their yolks turn to diamonds? Or that if you found two yolks in your eggs that you were going to be rich soon? We can't promise that any of that will happen but we would like to invite children in the village to help us celebrate Easter at St Anthony's on April 16th. There will be a competition for the best decorated Easter Garden (which you can make on a baking tray), followed by an Easter egg hunt in the churchyard after the 11am service. All children are welcome! If you want to know more about Easter see www.theholidayspot.com/easter
(Linda & Geoff Gaskill 823100)

Robin St J Knowles C.B.E., Q.C.,

M.A., Barrister – Further to the report the editor was kind enough to insert in last month's Newsletter following the news that Robin (elder son of Margaret and Norman Knowles) was to be invested C.B.E. (Commander British Empire) we report as follows: The investiture by the Queen at Buckingham Palace took place on 9th February 2006. Tickets were restricted to three and they were rapidly commandeered by female members of the family. Whilst they departed with their new hats father (grandfather) remained at home in sole charge of a one and a half years old half Chinese granddaughter. The citation for Robin's award took note of his free legal work as chairman of the bar Pro Bono team to help those who are unable to afford proper representation in the higher courts. Additionally he is chairman of Richard House, a large hospice in the east end of London helping children from deprived areas, up to 100 who are life limited and facing a bleak future (see also page 2).

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Robin St J Knowles C.B.E., Q.C., M.A., Barrister – Robin has been advised in the last few days that on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor he is to be so appointed by the Queen a Deputy High Court Judge sitting in the Queen's Bench and Chancery Divisions in the High Court in London. It is thought that at age 45 he is probably the youngest to be appointed in recent times (**Norman Knowles**)

REFUGE - The church should be a place of refuge and recently a traveller used the word in its widest context. When Sue Lees walked past Saint Anthony's she noticed a man standing in the porch to the church and spoke briefly to him. Later it was found that he had spent the night there together with his motorbike but had caused no damage whatsoever.

RECYCLING - Another year of recycling was complete so Kent Community Recycling was asked if they would give us a cheque for the amount that we collected. We have received a cheque for £277.33 in payment for 1.7t of card, 6t of paper, ½ t of cans and ½ t of plastic. The only cost over the year was £31 for plastic sacks (2.5p each) as the van is generously lent by Billy Hollis. The money has been paid into the Alkham fund, which has a balance of £783.57. We'd love to spend some on the village so if you have any ideas please let us know.

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ALKHAM W.I. - Despite 10 members being absent from the March meeting, including the president Susannah Tapsell, those present enjoyed themselves. Susan Lees presided with the assistance of Janet Barrow secretary and Cherry Leppard as stand-in treasurer. Members learnt that unfortunately no seats were available at the Annual Council Meeting, due to the number of people apparently wishing to hear Ann Widdicombe MP speak. However, Pam Sayers' name was drawn out 'of the hat' as the delegate who will be able to represent Alkham at the meeting. Various ideas were put forward for spring and annual outings, but dates have yet to be fixed. Cherry is still attempting to make arrangements for a Billy Elliott outing, but due to a high demand the task is proving difficult. The speaker, Mrs Bryant provided a slide show, which explained how garden tubs and containers could be made from many unusual articles providing a variety of delightful floral displays throughout the year. There will be a demonstration on, and an opportunity to join in, Country Dancing at the next meeting 11 April. (**Susan Lees**)

an apology - Firstly an apology to The St. John's Ambulance Service must be given. The Red Cross Society was mistakenly praised for providing the excellent demonstration at the February W.I. meeting. However, it is hoped that the St. John's Ambulance team will be able to give a more detailed demonstration, on another evening later in the year, for anyone who would like to come along and learn how to deal with emergency health situations.

BUS STOP - The authorities are willing to put a path with a pedestrian hard standing adjacent to the east end of Newlyn Meadow for a new bus shelter. The cost of the shelter is between £2500 and £3000 and would have to be paid for by the Parish Council. The council is therefore going to ask if they are still willing to provide the path without a shelter being erected.

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FETE MEETING - There will be a Fete Committee Meeting on Wednesday 12th April at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall to make various arrangements for this year's Fete (8th July at 2.00pm.). After the rather reduced turnout at the AGM it'd be nice to see as many people as possible. Fresh ideas and new helpers are, as always, most welcome but if you can't make it but would like to be involved in the event please call me and give me your details. (**Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**)

ALKHAM CC versus OLD ENGLAND

CC - The fame of the Alkham Cricket Club has spread far and wide and, thanks to several good words from Raye Luckhurst, a cricketing spectacular has been arranged: Alkham CC will be playing Old England CC on the 6th August at the Meadow. Full details of the England team, comprising entirely of ex-England players, will be released nearer the time, as will information about the programme for the day, but we shall be having a lunch reception (ticket only), followed by the game, from about 2 p.m., with various entertainments and attractions for all the family throughout the day - clear your diary now. The whole event is intended to raise funds for the Mountbatten Centre and the Club and anyone who wishes to be involved should please get in touch. (**Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**)

BOOK CLUB - The next book club will meet at Chalksole Cottage (823100) to discuss *The Hungry Tide* by Amitav Gosh on Wednesday 12th April. Looking ahead, In May we will discuss *The Olive Readers* by Christine Aziz at Beech Tree (Rosemary and Martin Heddle) and In June Archangel by Robert Harris at Mandy Summer's. Both of these meetings will be on the third Wednesday in the month, 7.30pm, as usual. (**Linda Gaskill**)

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St. Anthony's Church Annual General meeting will be held on Thursday 20th April 7.30pm in the Village Hall, when the Church Wardens and council members will be appointed. This is an open meeting when all parishioners can come along and raise any questions regarding Church activities, although only those on the electoral roll are eligible to vote. Our Mothering Sunday service will be at 3pm on 26th March followed by a cup of tea and a slice of Mothering Sunday cake in the Village Hall. During the service it is hoped that the children will be able to have a little posy of flowers for their mothers. We look forward to seeing you there. Many of you know that our organist, Frank Conley, is following a course in lay ministry at present and is consequently not available to play at our services on a regular basis. The P.C.C. would therefore be so grateful if there is someone in the parish, who could perhaps volunteer to play just two or three hymns at either the 6.30pm [1st Sunday in month] or 11am [3rd Sunday]. Please contact either of the Church Wardens, Richard Tapsell and Grace Stacey.

FREDERIC HALL

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THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

is in the village hall on the 3rd April starting at 7.30pm. Please come along and have your say.


GREEN WASTE – Dover District Council are extending their Green Waste collection to Alkham but only for 6 houses at Wolverton, 36 on the Alkham Valley Road, 35 in Glebelands, 20 at Newlyn Meadow and 15 houses at South Alkham. It is understood that the green waste is garden waste. It does seem as though DDC has taken the cheapest option with regard to meeting their recycling requirements and I have written to them regarding this point and also asking whether Alkham Recycling was being used as an excuse for not extending the general recycling collection. I said that I would publish the reply so lets hope that it's definitive rather than gobbledegook .

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY presents an all-Bach concert at 7.30 pm on Saturday 8th April 2006 in Dover Town Hall. *Cantata No 80* features massive choruses with soloists delivering the message of Psalm 46. In the 1730s Bach composed *Suite No 3 in D* for a Leipzig orchestra. The second movement became famous as *Air on the G string* and was used recently on television to promote a certain cigar. The concert ends with the 1733 *Kyrie* and *Gloria* that later became Part 1 of the *B Minor Mass*. It is sublime and thrilling choral writing, quite impossible to describe, and the only way to experience it is to come along and listen. Soloists are again welcomed from London's Guildhall School of Music, and all will be accompanied by The Connaught Orchestra (leader George Simpson) and conducted by Michael Lewis. Tickets at £9 (students £5) are available from Dover Visitor Information Centre (by 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 'phone Ken Palmer on 01304 330511 or Bob Joslin on 01304 363344. **(Steve Osborn)**

OZ on BLACKCAPS

Like most other novice birders I have great difficulty in identifying warblers, and am only really sure of them when my friend Ted is over from Canada and tells me what they are. It was therefore gratifying, in January's snowstorms, to see so many blackcaps still scraping a living in East Kent. The blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) is easily distinguished by its neat black cap, and is known all over Europe by similar names, such as the Dutch 'Zwartkop', French 'Fauvette à tête noire', and Scandinavian 'munk' for 'monk'. (And here I would welcome a little help as my German dictionary translates 'mönchsgrasmücke' as 'monk grass mosquito'. Any offers?). Most European blackcaps migrate to Southern Spain and North Africa for the winter. However an increasing number of birds have been over-wintering in Britain and Ireland, sometimes as far north as Scotland. Part of the reason must be global warming, but it is thought that the increase also results from the adaptability of blackcaps in feeding from winter birdtables and peanut bags. Researchers have now discovered that blackcaps that winter in the north produce more eggs and healthier offspring. This is because both parents are less tired than the southern migrants, and can also beat them to the choicest breeding grounds in Spring. An even more recent line of research suggests that blackcaps are becoming generally hardier in the evolutionary struggle because they have learned to recognise and reject cuckoos' eggs in their nests. Some authorities believe that these changes, particularly with respect to winter migration, are so revolutionary that two distinct species could eventually evolve. I don't mind, so long as they preserve their beautiful song which Gilbert White memorably described in a 1774 letter to Thomas Pennant as a "full, sweet, deep, loud and wild pipe". **(Steve Osborn)**

EASTER TABLE FAIR in the village hall on the 8th of April. Tables cost £5 and if you would like further information please ring 824876. All profits will go to the Air Ambulance.

Regular events in the village		 <p>Boarding for Dogs, Cats & Small Animals Canine Hydrotherapy Pet Food Shop</p> <p>01304 – 822420</p> <p>Alkham Valley Road</p>
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 07811405124 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 in car park by the village hall 9.25am to 9.50 am	
Friday	Whist Drive in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm	

Other events in the village		
Monday	3	Annual Parish Meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm. Please come along and have your say.
Saturday	8	Easter table fair – please see page 3
Saturday	8	Quiz in aid of the Air Ambulance in the village hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm
Wednesday	12	Fete meeting – please see page 2
Monday	17	Dover & District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Thursday	20	PCC AGM in the village hall starting at 7.30pm
Thursday	27	Village Hall AGM in the village hall starting at 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
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	
Tuesday 4th	Healing Service, St Radigund, Capel 7.00 p.m.			
Sunday 9th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of Praise 6.30pm	
Tuesday 11th			7.30 pm meditation	
13th Maundy	7.30 pm sung Eucharist			
14th Good Friday		2-3 pm hour before the cross		
Sunday 16th	Sung Eucharist 11.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 23rd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony, Alkham 10.00 a.m.			
Sunday 30th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Mary (old church), Capel-le-Ferne 10.00 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. secretary - 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 Angela Miller 824791	
		Alkham web site www.alkham.org

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES			
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton	824853
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
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ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmain 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	Meggett Lane, South Alkham	01303 892056
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham	01303 891996

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ALKHAM FETE 8 JULY - Can anyone please help with putting up tents on the morning usually starting around 8.30 and making themselves available again to take down and put away at the end. We did have extra hands last year which made an enormous difference to the core group who always turn out. Would a promise of tea and biscuits help? There are also some stalls that still need helpers so please contact me on 824845 or Paul Tapsell 01303 892082 if you are interested. This summer event has proved very successful over the years but we are always looking for new ideas and fresh enthusiasm. It's an afternoon where villagers, old and new, get together and work hard to help support the village hall and wonderful old St Anthony's. See you there. **(Irene Barnard - Fete Secretary)**

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SUE LEES - In October of last year Sue Lees officially retired as Parish Clerk for Alkham. As she had been doing the job for 23 years it was thought a good idea to put a book of thanks together from people in the Parish. Fifteen plastic folders were distributed around the parish each with a list of names with a request that something nice, funny or rude was written about Sue and that the folder should be passed on to the next person on the list. Sometimes this worked but four folders disappeared without trace (2 replaced) and most of the others took some months to do the circuit. In March all the sheets received were put in a folder with some pages at the front with photos on and given to Sue. In addition the Alkham Fund paid for a couple of gifts, these being CD's containing census information to help Sue with her history projects. Sue was delighted by the book and would like to thank all those who took the time to write something. She was also very surprised and thrilled with the two gifts. The attempt was made to cover the entire Parish but some people may not have received a folder so if you would like to add your comments to the book please either contact me (824969) or Sue (822661). **(editor)**

MOIRA - Moira Hoyle would like to thank everybody for all the fuss they have made over her following her recent illness. Susannah Tapsell has been terrific not to mention her husband Les who is one in a million.

SHORT LANE - The owners of Poems had put boxes with pansies on the wall to the culvert that goes under Short Lane. Some yobs pulled out the pansies and threw them on their drive and then smashed the boxes. Not only is this cowardly and despicable but also criminal damage. Measures are currently being considered (see page 2, middle) and if offenders are recorded the police will bring a prosecution.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Only 6 parishioners turned up for the meeting but there were two excellent speakers, who were Sally Coleman (Neighbourhood Watch) and Yvonne Holder from the Anti-social Behaviour Unit. She spoke to the children playing football by the meadow to get their opinion before the meeting. The speakers gave sound advice some of which is on page 2.

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Ripple Farm Organics is a small horticultural farm of 14 acres situated in the Stour Valley with light, chalky soils producing vegetables of great taste and quality. Their box scheme aims to provide its customers with a seasonal range of fresh, locally grown vegetables, salad and, occasionally fruit. The contents are chosen each week to give a balance of root crops, greens and salad although the weather places certain limitations on choice. A small box costs £6, a medium box £8 and a large box £11 each being packed on a Thursday morning, with all fresh produce picked that day. To make the scheme viable for Alkham at least 10 people would have to sign up, so if you are interested please ring Brian on 824969. More details are on www.ripplefarmorganics.co.uk. **(Jo Mowat)**

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WHY IS THERE a Rectory and a Vicarage in Alkham? I always wondered why and came across a book which gave the answer. The word Parish comes from parashio, which means households within an area and at first described the territory for which the bishop was responsible. Later, as bishops delegated spiritual care a Parish described a smaller area under the control of a rector who collected the tithe. This was a primitive tax (a bit like council tax) being a tenth of produce from each household, such as wheat which could be stored in the tithe barn. If the rector didn't want to serve the Parish in person, he would arrange a legal substitute, a vice or a vicarious (hence vicar) to whom he gave, usually a small part, of the tithe. The distinction of rector and vicar is still maintained but is somewhat blurred and it appears as though a parson can be taken as either. **(editor)**

FETE BRIC-A-BRAC STALL Could I ask you all once again to remember this stall when spring cleaning or clearing cupboards due to a move. Any saleable item please with no cracks, chips or rust. We have built quite a reputation over the years and it would be wonderful to give the dealers something to fight over. Peter and Denni Frater, in particular, have been very generous with their donations in the past so any unwanted gifts or prizes would be most welcome. Thank you. **(Irene Barnard)**

CONGRATULATIONS must be given to Doreen Polden's family for all the effort they put into fund raising for the Air Ambulance Service on Saturday 8th April. £557 was raised between the Table Fair in the morning and the Quiz in the evening. Thanks must be given to all those who supported the events but especially to Keith and Dawn Turner for running such a fun filled quiz; the winning team from Newlyn's Meadow continue to crow! **(Sue Lees/Brian)**

HANDYVAN - The Help the Aged HandyVan service is a unique home security service, where trained HandyVan fitters visit your home and install equipment such as door chains and viewers, window locks and smoke detectors. A fleet of 35 HandyVans are based around Britain and deliver a free service to those who meet the following criteria: applicants must be over 60 years of age, do not pay income tax (excluding tax on personal pensions) and disposable savings/assets do not exceed £25,000 (not including the value of their home). If you would benefit from the HandyVan service then please call 01255 473 999 (seniorsafety@helptheaged.org.uk)

CRIMESTOPPERS - The most effective way to give information about crime is to contact the police directly, however this is not anonymous. If you wish to remain anonymous then you can report information by calling our 0800 555 111. In all cases Crimestoppers should not be used to report information of an urgent nature (e.g. reporting a crime that is happening), the police should be contacted directly on 999 in such instances.

IF YOU DON'T REPORT a crime or anti-social behaviour nothing will happen and the police will assume there are no problems in the area so call 01303 850055. If you see a suspicious car parked, lights off which then drives away, make a note of the number (or part). **Covert cameras can also be installed by the police.**

NOMINATED NEIGHBOUR

If you feel you are vulnerable to people calling, try and get a nominated neighbour. Have a piece of paper to hold up which gives the name and address of the neighbour asking the caller to see them. All the utilities know of this scheme (i.e. British Gas etc).

Alkham Valley Society

The summer outing will be to the Yalding Organic Gardens and Research Centre taking place on the 29th June; further details to follow at a later date. It would be most helpful to have an idea of numbers wishing to go on the outing and so if people interested could ring Mrs Jackson on 01304 826202 I would be grateful.

CHALKSOLE

COMMON Conservation Group - Those of you who have visited the common recently will have seen a change, *hopefully for the better*, as compared with twelve months ago. A lot of effort has been expended by a number of people in clearing the site, felling oversize tree branches and improving the pond areas. Also, John Garlinge's band of hedge layers has tidied the perimeter growth, always a good excuse for a bonfire! But, and there is always a but, there is a need for ongoing maintenance particularly now for trying to reduce the number of brambles which can only be done by digging up the root growth. Therefore we are looking for **willing volunteers** to come and help on Saturday 13 May for a couple of hours or so starting at 9.30am. Please bring with you any suitable tools such as garden forks, secateurs etc. and of course a flask. For more information please contact either Clive Batcheldor (823568) or Mick Wingfield (824841)

Alkham Valley Society

It was big relief to hear from Clive Batcheldor that John Garlinge and his merry men trimmed Pimlico, and in fact that it was they who had already set to and cut it back earlier this year – and we thought it was the farmers...thank you very much. Thanks to Mick Wingfield and the same troupe are doing a marvellous, and we understand, ongoing job on Chalksole Green and the ponds. If both projects have become community projects then that is the best that could happen, since no joy is yet forthcoming from official sources.

(Joanna Walker (Sec))

Alkham Valley Society

On the 1st May the society is having a walk starting from Foxgloves, Ellinge at 10.30 am and will be walking some of the paths and bridleways that trail riders (motorbikes) have asked to be re-classified, and most likely finishing at a pub. Let's hope the weather is kind to us. New members to the society are always welcome, please call Mrs Jackson on 01304 826202 for details should you wish to join. **(Shelley Jackson)**

HOUGHAM is holding their Village Fayre on Bank Holiday Monday 29th May starting at midday.

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GARDENTALK - A very lively and entertaining evening was enjoyed by all at Maurice and Pam's home last month, with a considerable amount, well some, of horticultural discussion taking place! Our next gathering will be at John and Rosemary's at 16 Heathfield Way Barham on Friday 5th May 7.30pm. **(Susannah for Devina)**

CALLING ALL SINGERS! – Once again local musicians are preparing for the Dover Festival Prom Concert, to be performed at 7.30pm on Friday 7th July in Dover Town Hall. This year's programme features a selection from Gilbert and Sullivan's *Yeomen of the Guard*, songs by Flanders and Swann, and Mozart's *Laudate Dominum*, together with the traditional Proms Finale of *Jerusalem*, *Rule Britannia* and *Land of Hope and Glory*. All singers are welcome, but must attend at least 3 of the 4 working rehearsals, the first of which is at 7.30pm on Thursday 8th June in the Methodist Church, Lewisham Road, River. For further details ring Sue or Steve Yarrow on 01304 872812 or Mike Lewis on 01227 831208. **(Steve Osborn)**

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RECYCLING – I wrote to DDC about their recycling and this is the edited reply: The green waste recycling scheme collects most garden waste but it does not collect kitchen waste, because there are presently no composting facilities that can treat kitchen waste and produce safe compost. The legislation around the composting of kitchen waste has been tightened following the Foot and Mouth outbreak and this material now needs specific treatment. Alkham Valley has not received the black box scheme due to the rural nature of the area. Initially, the priority for the Council was to collect as much tonnage from as many properties to reduce costs. However, now that the second phase of the Green Waste Recycling Scheme has been successfully introduced to Alkham Valley, the collection of paper, cans and glass in black boxes for recycling is being reviewed. I do expect Alkham to be one of the areas highlighted. However, I hope you can understand that the review will take some time and it may be several months before we have finished delivering boxes to those added to the recycling collection scheme. **(Claire Pitts Waste Services Manager)**

ALKHAM W.I. – the April Meeting was well attended, which was just as well because the speaker, Mrs Thuxted, expected everyone to join in the Country Dancing. She was extremely patient when dancers turned the wrong way causing chaos and shrieks of laughter. Pam Sayers gave an excellent report on the Annual Council Meeting at which Ann Widdecombe MP had been the guest speaker. Outings – 25th May, a visit to Lathe Barn; and 13th July, venue yet to be decided, to either Cadbury's World of Chocolate or Sheffield Park. Non-members are always welcome. The next meeting is 9th May when the Annual resolutions will be discussed and members can enjoy looking at each other's favourite pieces of jewellery. Ideas are needed for the 2007 programme by 11th May. **(Sue Lees)**

OZ on NZ – Mark Twain wrote "If it would not look too much like showing off, I would tell the reader where New Zealand is", adding "people think that New Zealand is close to Australia...and that you cross to it on a bridge." Having now been, I know that NZ is actually at the end of a day-long journey seven miles up in a metal tube. Like many young people in the 1960s we considered emigrating to NZ, hesitated because of the mums, got busy and the moment was gone. So this February, with my wife's sister and her husband, we took a 6-berth campervan on a pilgrimage to what might have been. It was a delirious, slightly surrealistic, four weeks, travelling clockwise round South Island from one campsite to another, with red wine and cards instead of television in the evenings. We marvelled at the ever-changing landscape; the vast Canterbury Plains, quirky Otago Peninsula, majestic Milford Sound and snow-capped Southern Alps. There was a constant exotic rain-forest atmosphere, with cicadas clicking day and night, and albatrosses, penguins, seals and dolphins never far away. Finally we took the ferry to North Island, drove up the middle to Auckland, and enjoyed the hot geysers and Maori displays at Rotorua. Inevitably, fascinating tales are heard on such a holiday. For me, the story that best sums up the spirit of this energetic but compassionate society is that of the 28th Maori Regiment at the Battle of Point 209, a hill in Tunisia, in March 1943. After a day and night of bloody hand-to-hand fighting, Rommel's troops were offered an honourable truce if they surrendered. They declined and regrouped to defend the hill. As the assault recommenced, hundreds of Maoris sprang up and performed the Haka, upon which the enemy waved white flags and surrendered. **(Steve Osborn)**

SHOWER CUBICLE - I have a plastic three sided shower cubicle with tray, which I have replaced with a more modern one. It is undamaged but needs a good clean. If anyone would like it free please phone me on 824969. **(editor)** PS – there's also a bath.

Regular events in the village		 <p>Boarding for Dogs, Cats & Small Animals Canine Hydrotherapy Pet Food Shop</p> <p>01304 – 822420</p> <p>Alkham Valley Road</p>
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 07811405124 for further details	
Wednesday	The Book club meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Please phone Linda on 823100 for further details	
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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	7	Alkham are playing cricket on Vicarage Meadow in the afternoon
Monday	8	Parish Council AGM in the village hall starting at 7.30pm. All welcome
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm
Monday	15	Dover & District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Sunday	21	Alkham are playing cricket on Vicarage Meadow in the afternoon
Saturday	27	Beekeepers in the village hall in the afternoon

CHURCH SERVICES				
Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services:
Tuesday 2 nd	Healing Service St Radigund, Capel-le-Ferne 7.00 p.m.			Services: Morning Prayer, Capel: Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays). Evening Prayer, Hougham – Wednesdays at 5 pm Eucharist
Sunday 7 th	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sunday 7 th	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	
Sunday 14 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Sunday 14 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 21 st	Worshipping Together 11a.m.	Sunday 21 st	Worshipping Together 11a.m.	
Thursday 25 th	Ascension Day, Sung Eucharist 7.30 p.m. St Anthony's Alkham			
Sunday 28 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist, St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne 10 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
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791	Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835		Alkham web site www.alkham.org

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES			
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton	824853
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, Malmain 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
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
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This Newsletter was printed at the Rainbow Centre in Folkestone – 01303 850733

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett: The Old Post Office
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TEST STARS AT ALKHAM Details of Alkham cricket club's match against a team of former England Test stars in the village on August 6 have now been finalised. The Old England XI will be captained by John Lever, of Essex, who first appeared for England in India in 1976. Alkham CC will face a daunting task, for the star line-up includes former Kent favourite Richard Ellison, Nottinghamshire batsman Derek Randall, Warwickshire wicketkeeper Geoff Humpage, Essex spinner Robin Hobbs and Sussex and Kent batsman Alan Wells, plus his brother Colin (Sussex and Derbyshire). The 12 named for the game are completed by Peter Such (Notts, Leics. and Essex), Paul Parker (Sussex), Jon Hardy (Gloucestershire, Hants and Somerset), Joey Benjamin (Warwicks and Surrey) plus Monte Lynch (Gloucestershire and Surrey). The match is in memory of Brian Luckhurst, who was a strong supporter of Alkham CC and who also played for the Old England XI. Alkham is using the match as an opportunity to raise funds for the Mountbatten Cancer Centre at Canterbury Hospital, where the former Kent favourite received treatment (cont'd on page 2)

SECURITY - There was some discussion at the Parish Council meeting about installing a closed-circuit television system in the village. The general opinion was that CCTV was not particularly effective in dealing with vandalism as the vandals could hide their features or cause problems elsewhere. The Parish Council said that they would ask the police if some of their video surveillance equipment could be borrowed. The camera in this equipment is very small and can be hidden such that vandals are unaware of being videoed. Various locations were discussed but for obvious reasons these will not be made public until after any perpetrators are caught and prosecuted.

Ripple Farm Organics - 15 people have said they would like to have a box of vegetables from the farm and the first delivery is on June 1st. The boxes will be left at the Old Post Office, which people can access via keys from various locations. Payment for the first box is required straight away and all contact is via the farm on 01227 730898. There has been a £1.00 price increase per box (first for 6 years).

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Stallholders' Meeting for the Fete is on Thursday 1st June at 8 pm in the Village Hall. Would anyone who is or would like to be helping with this year's Fete (8th July) please come along so that we can distribute jobs, raffle tickets, etc and make sure that everything that needs to be done is in hand. No experience is necessary and it would be great to see some new faces to help the rest of us old timers! If you can't make it to the meeting please give me a ring on 01303 892082 so that I can count you in! (**Paul Tapsell**)

PLANT STALL - Plants are needed for the plant stall at this year's fete (8th July). If you have any that you would like to donate please take them to either Geoff Gaskill at Chalksole Cottage or Rosemary Heddle at 8 Newlyn Meadow. If you have any books for the book stall please phone Sue Lees on 822661.

Treat your home to a **spring/summer clean without lifting a finger** - All general cleaning tasks undertaken. References and proof of address given for your peace of mind. Mature student with 3 years management experience in the cleaning industry **Nailbourne Cottage, Alkham**
Call Tracey: 07814 354122
Email: debremaeker@btinternet.com

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

Simon Norris has kindly agreed to run the sunflower competition again this year. There are two classes, one for adults and one for children with entries to simonjnorris@tiscali.co.uk or leave a message on 01303 891550.

The closing date will be announced and a trophy will be awarded to the winner of each group. It's just for fun so no cheating. Free seeds are available from Brian Wimsett (824969) so please lets have a lot of entries this year (The photo is of Ken Hammond and his sunflowers but Shirley Tapsell's were bigger in 2003).



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Cricket cont'd from page 1 - Alkham's Ian Callaway, who has been handling arrangements for the game with former England wicketkeeper Jim Parks, who organises the Old England team, said: "This is a tremendous honour for Alkham because Old England only play a handful of games each season - and not usually against a tiny club like ours which just plays friendlies. We can hardly believe that we'll be hosting such a distinguished team of former county and England players at our quaint little pitch this summer! The match is a wonderful way for the village and local people to remember and honour Brian Luckhurst, who was not just a great ambassador for the game but also an invaluable friend to our club. We also owe a big debt to Brian's widow, Raye - for it was through her friends in the Old England set-up that it has been possible to organise this match. Alkham CC hopes the people of East Kent will support it by buying raffle tickets and a special commemorative programme - as well as turning up on August 6 to see the former England stars in action. Alkham CC is now searching for a sponsor for the match, advertisers for the programme and for prizes for the raffle. For further information, contact Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082 (**Peter Frater**)

HARDSTANDING - The local authority say that they do not have enough money to install a path between the village hall and Newlyns Meadow. This includes the bus hard standing. The Parish Council said that it was the Highway Authority who put forward the idea at their recent display in the village hall and they will write to them.



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DUFFY is no more. As Ken said, he had been preparing himself for the worst but it still came as a shock when it happened. You may have seen Derek Banks Nash walking around in his duffle coat which was of unknown age but at least 50 years old. He wrote to me on the 27 April to say that Duffy had passed away and is now in the great wardrobe in the sky and that the cremation was held in the previous week. Derek said that he would have preferred a burial but Marion said that they would not have been able to sell the house when it came to it. The hedge layers, who had become attached to the coat, sent a card to Derek expressing their deepest sympathy. Deepest sympathy also goes to Marion as I have seen the replacement jacket. (**editor**)

Ode to a Lost Friend

There comes a time in every man's life
When he has to accept things must go!

In Derek's case it's not his wife
But the black duffle coat. Oh no!

He's worn this and loved it for many a year
But now it's gone he's shed a few tears.

But alas this coat was old and thin
The wind whistled through and
shamed his kin.

His hedge laying chums can no longer smile
As now he'll have something to beguile.
We'll welcome him back with his new
coat of gold

But hopefully this time it won't be so old.

(**John and Sue Garlinge**)

PADDOCK TO LET - The paddock is approximately one and a quarter acres and situated in South Alkham. Reseeded two years ago; Hay / Straw storage available. Double Stable block can be made available if required. Rental negotiable depending on requirements, please contact 01303 891550.

BUSES - From April 1st people over 60 can have free off-peak travel anywhere in the county. This also applies to disabled people who are blind or partially sighted, profoundly or severely deaf, without speech, have severe walking difficulties, don't have use of both arms, have a learning disability or are medically unfit to drive. DDC can tell you how to apply and if you need to give medical evidence before they issue a travel pass.

APOLOGIES for the mess I made of the church services last month. It was a new copy and paste system with the services emailed in the correct format. (**editor**)

OIL PAINTING - Using money presented to Sue Lees by the Parish Council for her 23 years service as Parish Clerk an oil painting of the village, specifically to include Sue's house, was commissioned to be painted by Margaret Knowles. It really is a lovely picture and in addition Margaret has donated the generous amount of money she received to St. Anthony's church.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

The annual outing of the Alkham Valley Society is on Thursday 29th June, see last newsletter. Once again we will be using cars for this excursion, to the Henry Doubleday Research Organisation Organic Gardens at Yalding near Maidstone (exit 7 off M20); we will meet in the Alkham Village Hall Car Park at 10.30 a.m. where lifts can be arranged. The Yalding Organic Gardens are set in a particularly lovely part of Kent, and the Association is known for its Heritage Seed Library which conserves 1000 varieties of old and unusual vegetables, some of which can be seen at Yalding. There should be something of interest for all. Yalding itself is an attractive village and we have planned to lunch at about 12 noon at The Walnut Tree, concessional prices of about £5.00 a head, before travelling a short distance to the Gardens. Here there are 18 themed gardens, among them an apothecary's garden, Victorian Artisan's Glasshouse, a Low Water Garden, a Child's Garden etc - delights too numerous to mention - and there is also a café, a small shop and plant sales. We aim to have a speaker to tell us something of the background of the Organic Gardens. The gardens close at 5 p.m. but we hope this will have given us a good idea of what the Gardens offer. It would be nice not to have to have umbrellas but you never know. We have a menu with various choices of lunch dishes from The Walnut, and it would speed things up if we could tell the kitchen in advance. *Please ring the AVS secretary for more information and to let us know approximate numbers interested.* (**Joanna Walker 821641**)

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ST ANTHONY

ST ANTHONY'S DAY, Saturday 2nd September. There are several Saint Anthony's in religious history, but the Alkham one is St Anthony of Pamiers, a town in SW France. Born in Pamiers, or Fredalcum as it was then known, in the late 5th Century.

Anthony was the nephew of the Visigoth king Theodorik of neighbouring Toulouse. Antoninus, to give him his Latin name, forsook his noble connections for the church. He was ordained priest by the Pope in Rome and then set about evangelising the Christian faith in Southern France and northern Spain and performing several miracles during his ministry. However, his profession of Catholicism put him into conflict with the Visigoths who martyred him by beheading on the banks of the Ariège river in 506. An abbey was founded in his name at Pamiers in about 960, and a town on the Aveyron river, St Antonin de Nobleval, is named after him, marking the miraculous appearance of his severed head and arm at the house of Festus, a influential nobleman converted by Anthony during his travels. The link with Alkham remains to be discovered. Perhaps there is a link with St Radigund after whom the local abbey is named and some relics of whom were found near Pamiers in 1672. Or perhaps there was a special spring near our church. St Anthony performed a miracle of creating a spring by banging his staff on the ground, the waters from which had healing powers. Quite useful to have somebody like St Anthony around during times of drought and hosepipe bans! Other suggestions and insights into the connection with Alkham are welcome. To celebrate the 1,500 year anniversary of his martyrdom, we will be marking his Saint's day, 2nd September, with a series of events such as a special church service and blessing. We hope that as many as possible will come and reinstate part of our village heritage. More details to come. **(The Alkham Church Committee)**

CYCLE RIDE – Ken Hammond and I are going to do the London to Southend bike ride (about 60 miles) on the 9th July in aid of The British Heart Foundation. If anyone would like to sponsor us please give me a ring on 824969.

(Brian Wimsett)

OZ on LINLEY – This year sees the 250th birthdays of both Mozart and the English composer Thomas Linley the Younger, whose life and talents paralleled those of Mozart to such an extent that he was nicknamed in his own time 'the English Mozart'. Linley was born, the third child of composer Thomas Linley and his wife Mary, at Abbey Green, Bath, on 7th May 1756, some three months after Mozart. The whole Linley family was talented musically, but young Thomas was an exceptionally gifted prodigy, like Mozart a renowned violinist in childhood. After touring the British Isles with his father and three soprano-singing sisters, he travelled to Italy at the age of 12 to study composition and violin with Nardini. He finally met Mozart at Florence, and the two young men instantly became firm friends. On returning to England in 1773, the 17-year old Linley was appointed leader of Drury Lane Theatre orchestra and began to compose, writing during the next five years over twenty violin concertos, two operas, three oratorios and countless songs and madrigals. In August 1778 Linley, aged 22, died suddenly in a boating accident at Grimsthorpe Castle, a tragedy that shocked his hosts, the Duke and Duchess of Ancaster, the Royal Family, and his loyal public. Mozart lived another 13 busy years, and it is interesting to speculate on what might have happened to music if Linley had lived longer. Roger Fiske, writing in 1986, thought Linley "our most promising composer between Purcell and Elgar...his accidental death when only twenty-two changed for the worse the whole history of British music." Perhaps Mozart should have the last word. He told the Irish tenor Michael Kelly that "Linley was a true genius...had he lived, he would have been one of the greatest ornaments of the musical world." **(Steve Osborn)**

GARDEN TALK – A big thank you to Rosemary and John who kindly invited us all to see their new house in Barham. After a tour and drinks in their new garden, we eventually settled down to a quiz which culminated in a tie-breaker question!! Pulses raced, the heat was on, but eventually the best team prevailed and with three members fighting over who would plant the winning gourd seeds, a brilliant time was had by all. Hilary and John (Meggett Lane), have kindly agreed to let us rampage through garden on 2nd June at 7.30pm. See you there! **(Devina 827548)**

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W.I. - The May meeting is always one of the more serious ones, because the National Federation requests that all members discuss two Resolutions, which are usually presented to the Government later in the year. On this occasion members had great difficulty in finding any reason to oppose the Resolutions; one of which requests that schools encourage pupils to take part in keep-fit and other sporting activities; and the second that everything must be done to encourage environmentally friendly energy saving procedures. An afternoon tea at Lathe Barn was arranged for 25th May but the outing to Cadbury's World has been changed. Although a date has yet to be fixed a visit to Sheffield Park, followed by a ride on the Blue Bell Railway will take place in July. The evening was rounded off with an attractive display of jewellery. **(Sue Lees)**

Baking Poverty History - Eileen West has ordered cream from Cornwall in order to run a genuine 'Cream tea afternoon' at St. Mary's Church Hall Dover Saturday 3rd June 2.30-4.30pm. Everyone is welcome to call in. The proceeds will go towards the Christian Aid funds.

FREDERIC

HALL

Solicitors

York House, Folkestone

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& Clyde House, Dover

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Other events in the village

Thursday	1	Fete meeting in the village hall at 8.00pm – please see page 1
Saturday	3	Bingo in the village hall starting at 7.30pm
Thursday	8	Alkham Cricket Club are playing June Court Cavaliers at 6.00 pm on Vicarage Meadow
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm
Monday	19	Dover & District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

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Sunday 4th	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11a.m	
Tuesday 6th	Healing Service, St Radigund, Capel 7.00pm.			
Sunday 11th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11a.m	Songs of Praise Village Hall 6.30p.m.	
Sunday 18th	Worshipping Together 11a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 25th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist, St Lawrence, Hougham 10 a.m.			

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	Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641
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District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Alkham web site www.alkham.org
	Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791	

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(no prefix local number)

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ELECTRICAL	RS Electrical: Part P Domestic Electrical Installer	Kingsdown 367310 and 07896 584402
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
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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

This Newsletter was printed at the Rainbow Centre in Folkestone – 01303 850733

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett: The Old Post Office
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THE PICTURE above was taken at the Alkham village fete a couple of years ago. It is a traditional fete, which attracts a lot of people from outside the village and provides funds for the fabric of the village. Please do come along on the day and join in the fun and if possible help with the organisation and running of the fete (see centre article). I think Alkham is a great place to live with all the activities associated with a small village taking place and the highlight of the year is the fete, so many thanks to Paul for all his hard work. **(editor)**

VILLAGE FETE - I try to keep upbeat despite the lack of response to these messages in the Newsletter and judging by the number of people who come to the Fete it seems that you enjoy it, so why aren't rather more of you prepared to come forward and volunteer to help? We need people to help put the tents up on the day (8th July) - meet on the meadow at 9 am and we'll find something you can do regardless of age, ability or infirmity (or all three). We also need people to help on a few of the stalls and for the children's races, so if you haven't already been approached to help for some of the afternoon please let me know and I'll sort something out! We must have some more car park attendants to assist the regular team for some of the time so that they can have some opportunity to look around the rest of the Fete and spend their money too! We could use some raffle prizes and various stalls will be needing items for sale on the day. Help clearing the meadow after will also be appreciated. I'm not asking for a huge commitment; if a couple of dozen 'extra' people gave an hour or so towards the event (after all it is the major Village social 'do' of the year) it really would make a huge difference and I guarantee you'll enjoy yourself. Please don't think "Oh, it's okay, someone else will do it", because they're thinking the same thing, however I bet if they see you joining in they'll be more likely to help out too. If you're new to the village and shy or worried about coming forward on the day, give me a call on 01303 892082 and I'll find someone who can show you the ropes. If you think your husband, wife, partner or parent could probably do something give me a call and I'll approach them (I won't even tell them you dubbed them in to me!). Please join in - it won't be a village fete without you! **(Paul Tapsell)**

ORGANIC VEGETABLES

It was a great idea by Jo Mowat to set up an organic vegetable delivery to Alkham from Ripple Farm. Unfortunately, for some people, the vegetables did not come up to expectations and as there are only a few people who wish to continue, Ripple have said that it is not economic to deliver the boxes to Alkham and therefore the scheme will not continue. **(editor)**

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CHRISTIAN AID - The sum of £315.95 was raised from the collections during Christian Aid Week. Alkham P.C.C. would like to thank all those who contributed and not forgetting of course the collectors. **(Margaret Batchelor)**

RECYCLING - Ken and I are quite happy to do the recycling for nothing but it is a bit frustrating when some people still get things wrong. All items, except for cans, must be separate otherwise we have to sort them. Only plastic bottles which contained drink can be recycled and crisp packets etc is not foil. **(editor)**

WATCH OUT - WATCH OUT there is a heron about searching ponds and taking the goldfish to feed its young. He or she flies in very quietly early in the morning and late at night - so take care of your fish. **(Sue Lees)**

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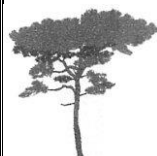
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ALKHAM WAR MEMORIAL - if you are interested in the men who lived in Alkham and died fighting for their country, information can now be accessed through:

www.rollofhonour.com/Kent/Alkham.html

However, little is known about JOSEPH MOUNT who died 11 Oct 1918 age 23 and is buried at Alkham. What is strange is that the only likely death registration index was at Salford, near Manchester, maybe in one of the Military Hospitals in that area. The mystery remains as to why he was not listed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Also, if he died at Salford it must have been quite an expensive procedure to bring him back to Alkham for burial. I wonder who paid for that? What seems certain is that the Alkham community regarded his demise as being a result of his war service, because his name has been put forward, and accepted for inclusion on the memorial. The MOUNT family lived at Ewell Minnis throughout the 19th & early 20th centuries working on local farms. They married into well known local families. Should someone read this article and has any information at all on JOSEPH or the MOUNT family do please contact me. **(Susan Lees)**

LIBRARY BUS – You may already know that a Library Bus visits the village every Thursday and waits on the car park by the village hall from about 9.25am to 9.50am. I don't use it but as it was very early one morning I went inside to find if the times had been changed. They hadn't but I was very impressed with the way that the new bus has been fitted out and there appeared to be a very good range of books and other items. A few people visit the bus but its future would be assured if more people used the service.



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MAGGOT FARM - today's Meggett Farm. Alan Long, who lives in Dublin, recently found that his great grandfather lived in Alkham, so he contacted Brian through the Alkham website and Brian contacted Susan Lees' who soon discovered:- George Gates farmed Maggot Farm in 1851 and his niece Mary Ann kept house for him. James Tomsett, one of the living-in farm hands married Mary Ann in 1852 and they had two children Anne and George; they in turn married in Alkham and continued in the farming tradition. Although George had his children baptised at Alkham Edward 1889, George 1891 and Frederick 1892 they had moved out of Maggot Farm by 1891. It was George jnr. who ended up in Ireland, but why and when remains unknown at present.

(Sue Lees)

KENT VOLUNTEER AWARDS

If you would like to nominate an individual or a group of people for 2006 Kent Volunteers Award then please give me a ring on 824969 and I can let you have a form. The awards are for the arts, environment, welfare and disability, community support and development, voluntary work in education and schools, counselling and advice, sport and sport support and for mentoring. All people nominated will receive a certificate and there will be three winners in each group who will be informed in October with an awards ceremony at the Ramada Hotel, Hollingbourne on Sunday the 25th of November.

HEART FOUNDATION – The Essex Castle bike ride went well raising about £150 for the British Heart Foundation. It was a 70 mile course through a lovely part of Essex and although described as flat, it was not. We all found the ride easier this year but there was a nagging worry as we had left the only cycle pump in the car. Luckily we got round without any punctures and completed the course in about 4½ hours, allowing for a couple of stops. The three of us are going to do the London to Southend bike ride in aid of the BHF so if you'd like to sponsor us please give me a ring on 824969. **(editor)**

OLD ENGLAND CRICKET

(Tickets for the Reception) - Preparations for the Old England cricket match (Sunday 6th August, starting at 2 p.m.) are coming along nicely; raffle tickets and posters are available for distribution so please call me and I'll deliver whatever you need. Tickets for the Grand Reception are now available, places are very limited but there are 50 tickets (£15 each) for sale to villagers and the public and in order to be fair we shall be conducting a lottery for those tickets, please let me have your details (name and telephone number) for entry into the draw by the 14th July. Entries will be screened but you will get a chance to mingle and lunch with England cricketers (as well as the Alkham players!). The programme is for the Reception to be from 12 noon, the game will start at 2 pm., the tea interval will be from 4.30 to 5 pm. and the game will finish by about 7.00 p.m. (if not before!) when the Raffle will be drawn. Shepherd Neame will be providing a beer tent and there will also be refreshments, ice creams, a hog roast, cakes, etc available. As you will appreciate space is somewhat limited so it's probably best to get there early to secure a good vantage point! We are looking for a large number of helpers, marshals and stewards on the day, so please call me if you are able to volunteer; we have arranged a rota so that no one will be tied up for too long. We also would welcome offers of ball sponsorship (£25 with a mention in the programme) and raffle prizes. The aim of the event is to raise as much as possible for the Mountbatten Centre in honour of Brian Luckhurst so please call me and put your name down for a short stint (who knows it may even improve your chances of getting a ticket for the reception!). Please call me on 01303 892082 if you have any questions. **(Paul Tapsell)**

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GARDEN TALK - Our thanks go to Hilary and John for this months meeting. The garden was much admired and the hot nibbles were appreciated on what was quite a chilly evening. The quiz was followed by the writing of a funny garden limerick. Needless to say, some were amusing and some were soooo naughty! The author of one shall remain nameless, but let's just say that cucumbers were mentioned but not in the context of a healthy salad!! Next meeting will be hosted by Derek and Marion at The Hermitage, from 7.30 pm. **(Devina Bartlett)**

PC Foster who is the local police officer urges people to tell him when there are problems in the village. You can phone him on 218130 or on 01303 240055 if he is needed quickly.

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IT'S A MONK'S LIFE!

Ever wondered what life was like as a 6th century monk? Well, you have a chance to find out when you join in our celebrations for St Anthony's Feast Day on Sunday 3rd September. Events will start with a guided Monks' Walk from St Radigunds Abbey to Alkham following the ancient Priests' track. You will hear about the history of the Abbey and its inhabitants, the Premonstratensians, who are believed to have dedicated Alkham church to St Anthony of Pamiers. This will lead into a special Saint's Day service in the church, followed by a Monks' Lunch in the Village Hall. We promise more than gruel; perhaps even some Abbot's Ale. It is hoped as many as possible will join in all or part of the day's events.

(The Alkham Church Committee)


ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

Last October the Alkham Valley Society was asked to support a protest against the development of a new building on a green field site in Temple Ewell, adjacent to a listed garden by a well-known Edwardian architect and garden designer. The Alkham Valley Society joined in supporting the residents who would be affected by such development, and the CPRE. The planning request was turned down. A few weeks ago planning permission was again sought from Dover District Council. We joined forces in again supporting the protest, and again DDC turned down the planning application. We will see what happens next, but it is useful for the Alkham Valley Society members to know there are successes. We are proposing a visit by the Society to this garden at some time.

(J Walker. Sec AVS)

OZ on SUMMER

As I write, our footballers have won their opening game in this year's World Cup, a drought has been declared, and the temperature is soaring into the Fahrenheit eighties. It is in fact the start of an English dream summer, which I hope will be carrying on as you read, and raises memories of two impressive events. The first was forty years ago, on 30 July 1966 at Wembley, when, in front of a crowd numbering some 95,000, England beat West Germany 4-2 after extra time to win the World Cup. That was the last final to use a plain old-fashioned ball, as from 1970 onwards the World Cup used the Adidas "Telstar ball", with black pentagons on white to aid visibility on black and white television screens. The second memory-jogger, from thirty years ago, was the Great Drought of 1976, which actually started in October 1975. For nearly a year the rainfall measured at Kew was only 43% of the average, with no spring rainfall at all over much of southern England. The drought worsened with intense sunshine in May 1976 when temperatures in Kent rose to 84°F, followed by a heatwave giving temperatures of over 90°F every day during the last week in June and the first week in July. At the time, I worked in a drawing office, and in the afternoons we dusted our hands and forearms with French chalk to prevent them sticking to the drawings. One of the consequences of the prolonged heat was a plague of ladybirds that only finished when millions of the creatures died from starvation or being crushed underfoot. Finally Denis Howell became "Minister for Drought". Within days of his appointment the drought ended with a colossal downpour - on August Bank Holiday, of course. **(Steve Osborn)**

Regular events in the village		 <p>Boarding for Dogs, Cats & Small Animals Canine Hydrotherapy Pet Food Shop</p> <p>01304 – 822420</p> <p>Alkham Valley Road</p>
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 07811405124 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	

Other events in the village		
Monday	3	Parish Council meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm, everybody welcome to attend.
Saturday	8	Alkham fete – see page 1
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm
Sunday	16	Alkham Cricket Club are playing Bossingham at 2.30 pm on Vicarage Meadow
Monday	17	Village Hall committee meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm
Sunday	23	Alkham Cricket Club are playing Wickham and Stod. at 2.00 pm on Vicarage Meadow

CHURCH SERVICES				
Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services:
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30pm	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Morning prayer at Capel: Monday – Friday 8.30am (except Bank holidays): Eucharist at Capel Thursday
Tuesday 4th		Healing service 7 pm.		
Sunday 9th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	No service	
Sunday 16th	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 23rd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony, Alkham 10am.			
Sunday 30th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Mary (old church), Capel 10 am.			

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. secretary – 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 Angela Miller 824791	Alkham web site www.alkham.org

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES			(no prefix local number)
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton	824853
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
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ELECTRICAL	RS Electrical: Part P Domestic Electrical Installer	Kingsdown	367310 and 07896 584402
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmain 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
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SCHOOL	Capel-le-Ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-Ferne	01303 251353

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THIS YEAR'S FETE was amazing with a terrific atmosphere and many hundreds of people on Vicarage Meadow enjoying the side shows and warm summer sun. Alkham fete always attracts a lot of people but this year there seemed to be more than usual. The weather certainly helped but the setting is superb with a large open space surrounded by a conservation area and rolling hills in the background. Paul will report on the amount of money taken but all the stalls appeared very busy and there was a constant queue at the tea tent. It was nice to see a lot of people turn out to put the tents up and a special thanks goes to Darren Mowat for the use of his ubiquitous van that brought the tents, tables, books and just about everything else that didn't move. He also gave a vote of thanks at the end to Paul Tapsell for all the work he had done, which raised a loud and well deserved cheer. (editor)

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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB is making the final preparations for the biggest day in its 167-year history, when it hosts a team of former England Test players at The Meadow on Sunday August 6. The charity match, in honour of Brian Luckhurst, starts at 2pm and the club is hoping local residents will turn out to support the village team against the Old England XI - and hopefully assist with some of the many tasks which need to be done to make the big event a huge success. Anyone who is able to help should call Paul Tapsell as soon as possible on 01303 892082, as he needs volunteers to take a short shift during the afternoon assisting at the bouncy castle, ice cream stall and car parking. As with the Fete, a lot of the pleasure is in the taking part, rather than just being a spectator, and it would be super to raise as much as possible for the Mountbatten cancer care centre in Canterbury. The Old England XI report that with just a couple of weeks to go the squad are all fit and looking forward to their visit to Alkham. Captained by John Lever, the team will include former stars such as Derek Randall, Richard Ellison, Alan and Colin Wells plus Geoff Humpage. Alkham CC's squad for the game is: Ian Callaway, Matthew Gerrard, Dennis Barnard, Peter Frater, Nick Price, Tom Bird, Mark Naris, Gerry Aldridge, Paul Simpson, Paul Hatton, Mark Johnson, Ed Haste and Rob Warr. Paul Tapsell has stepped down for the day to take charge of the event organisation, as there is so much to do on the day. Entry to the game is free - and spectators are advised to bring a picnic blanket and/or folding chairs. Car parking is £1 and a programme costs £3. Shepherd Neame are providing a beer tent and the WI are organising teas in the village hall. Please get involved and help make it a big success for the village - even if the odds are rather stacked against the village team on the pitch!

(Peter Frater)

WHAT'S IT CALLED? - Dover District Council need to know what the very steep road leading off Slip Lane by Malmaims Manor is called (approx 300 metres up Slip Lane). Various names have been suggested such as White Hill (the name of the farm at the top), Chalky Hill and Warren Lane, which it is an extension of. If you have an opinion please give Sue Lees a ring on 822661.

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GOODBYE - Andrew, Paula, Jack and Matthew Bryant, who live at Newlyn Meadow, are leaving this green and pleasant land and are off to find sunnier climes in Australia. We wish them all the very best, but if they change their mind (there has been much deliberation over some years) the hills of Alkham, over which they enjoy tramping, will always welcome them back. All the best and.....

WELCOME to Val and Stan who have moved into Evergreen on Slip Lane. They were just in time to carry some books to the van and help on Sue Lees's stall at the fete.

THE HARVEST SUPPER is in the village hall on Monday the 25th of September starting at 7.30pm. Tickets costing £5 are available by phoning Betty Neely on 01303 251475.

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GARDEN CLUB - Many thanks to Marion and Derek for the lovely evening they hosted for the garden club recently. It was a lovely balmy evening, and their garden was admired by all. Maurice held court with his ladies of the round table, and there was much chatter and munching all of the lovely goodies that Marion provided. The quiz caused much consternation as we all tried to identify tree leaves. Everyone seemed to guess the walnut leaf for some strange reason, but the hawthorn proved a sticking point as the fiendishly clever Derek had removed all the prickles beforehand, (however, not all were fooled)! One member overheard the cunning plot and revealed it to the rest of us; she was last seen pedalling into the night and we all hope she made it home safely!! Next meeting will be held at Mo and Ro's on Friday 28th July at 7.30 pm. South Alkham Farm is the venue. **(Devina 827548).**

BIKE RIDE – The weather was fairly testing with an easterly breeze on Sunday the 9th of July when the three intrepid riders set off for the London to Southend bike ride. Derek Banks-Nash very kindly drove us up to London where, despite my explicit instructions, Dean's Tom-Tom got us straight to the start. We all set a good time at an average speed of over 16mph and in all raised about £200 for the British Heart Foundation. Many thanks go to all the people who sponsored us. **(editor)**

THE Christmas lights appear to have used more electricity than first thought as the Cricket Club received a bill in excess of £100 for the winter period. As it was for the village, the Alkham Recycling Fund is going to pay the excess.



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SANCTUARIES OF STONE

I was recently reading an article in the NFU magazine (July 06) about the wonders of the rural churchyard and how it is a haven for fauna and floral. It particularly mentioned lichens growing on older gravestones. The stonework in churchyards in areas where no chemical sprays have been used, such as St Anthony's, is vitally important for the conservation of lichen. There are a staggering 1,500 or so species of lichen in Britain, over 300 of which have been documented growing on churchyard stones in England. Apparently, lichen is a combination of two "plants" – the bit you can see is fungus, but inside this there are cells of algae that provide the lichen with food from sunlight in the same way green plants utilise the sun. Lichen is sometimes as old as the gravestones upon which it is found because it grows extremely slowly. The reason lichen colonies are greater on the top of gravestones is because it is fertilised by bird droppings. To help conserve churchyard lichen, the article suggests that we should not allow gravestones to become overgrown with brambles or shaded by tall trees. To encourage the lichen, limestone and sandstone should be used for the headstones. (So please bear this in mind when making a will!). **(Patsy Sayers)**

ALKHAM WI - Just like the fete this meeting was one of the best. Very few members were absent and there were three guests to swell the numbers. The speaker, Mr. Pearce gave a talk entitled 'Murder comes gift wrapped'. It was the story behind a parcel bomb death which had taken place in Kent. The well illustrated talk demonstrated so clearly the problems faced by forensic scientists when trying to piece together evidence. Susannah Tapsell thanked members for their contributions to, and support of, the WI Tea-tent at the fete and asked if the same support could be given to the Teas being run by the WI for the All England Cricket Match in Alkham 6th August - cakes should be taken to village hall between 10.00 and 11.00am. Next month's meeting will be for the committee to sit back and be entertained by members. **(Susan Lees)**

ALKHAM VALLEY

SOCIETY - The Society outing this year was to Yalding Organic Gardens – about a dozen of us and in addition some guests had a very good lunch at the Walnut Tree in Yalding. By this time the weather was not only beautiful but HOT. The Gardens were created only about ten years or so ago on an old potato field and since then, using only organic methods, a rich variety of borders, rose gardens, herb gardens have been created. There is also a small vegetable garden. June is to be recommended. The route is sustained by and regular interpositions of fruit bushes which proved a welcome relief since the fruit, including magnificent tayberry bushes were ripe and luscious huge redcurrants are organic enough to be sampled without washing off chemicals. Wilting a little, we saw the final garden which set out to show how anyone anywhere can plant flowers and veg in any old containers including old wellington boots, and, yes, really any container you can imagine. Tea all round and rather good cakes before we went our various ways back to Alkham. The fine weather and good companionship made for a most enjoyable afternoon. Thanks to all who came and made it a success. We will meet again at the AGM in November at which meeting we will make a serious attempt to collect your £1 annual subs. Fortunately a whole one and a half seasons hence. **(Joanna Walker, Secretary)**

WHITFIELD ACTION

GROUP has been formed because of the large planned expansion of houses at Whitfield. The Alkham Parish Council has been asked for its support and as a result a councillor will attend their next meeting. The main effect on Alkham would be the increase in traffic along the valley which already stands at about 6000 vehicles per day.

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TWO PEOPLE who live opposite Short Lane were at the Parish Council meeting to express their concern about the speed that traffic travels round the bend towards Dover from the village green. The main reason for the concern was that a motorcycle had come round the bend and collided with their car which was emerging from the entrance roughly opposite Short Lane. They also reported that there had been an accident at the Short Lane junction where a car was waiting to turn right. They had written to the Highway Authority who said that a lot of money had recently been spent on the Alkham Valley Road and it was up to the police to enforce the speed limit. The Parish Council agreed with this but said the accidents should be put on record and to emphasize the point that as the access is also a bridleway horses emerge as well. A 'concealed entrance' sign was suggested and this could be a partial solution.

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A VILLAGE CELEBRATION

The Bishop is coming! Yes, Bishop Graham of Maidstone will be coming to preside over our patron saint's Feast Day celebration service on Sunday 3rd September. And that's despite the fact the he only returns from holiday the previous day! We are expecting a big turn out for this special event, marking the 1500th anniversary of the martyrdom of St Anthony of Pamiers in 506AD. It will also be a wonderful occasion to welcome members of River church with whom we will be joining as an expanded Benefice later this year under our new vicar. The agenda for the day is as follows: 9:00 am - Monks' Walk from St Radigund's Abbey to Alkham: 11:00 am - Benefice Service at Alkham Church with Bishop Graham: 12:30pm - Monks' Lunch in Alkham Village Hall. Novices Needed. There will be something for everyone on 3rd September. A special call to other "Anthonys" and their families to come to the church for a blessing. The choir will be in full voice and the church beautifully decorated - including, if it is ready on time, a tapestry banner of St Anthony. We will also be incorporating a mini-play based on the life and times of St Anthony into the Feast Day service. Children are especially welcome and costumes will be available. If you or your child would like to take part please call Linda on 823100. **(The Alkham Church Committee)**

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who helped towards this year's Fete, it seems to have been a great success and it was smashing to see so many people turning out to help set up the tents, organise the car parking, run the stalls, etc. and to help clear away afterwards. I don't like to mention individuals because so many people do so much, so my heartfelt thanks to everyone - you know who you are! We shall be having the post-Fete meeting at 8 pm on the 24th of August in the Village Hall to discuss the event and divide the profits so please come along to have your say in what we can do to improve things even more for next year. **(Paul Tapsell)**

OZ on BRADGATE

The final chapter of John Buchan's spy thriller *The Thirty-nine Steps* concerns "various parties converging on the sea" at "Bradgate", in north-east Kent. Bradgate is, of course, Broadstairs, and behind the fictional story of Richard Hannay is a fascinating true story of John Buchan. In July 1914, two days before war was declared, the Buchans took their daughter Alice to Broadstairs to convalesce after an ear operation. However Buchan, overworked, stressed, and depressed by the onset of war, was soon ill himself and took to his bed with an ulcer that plagued him for the rest of his life. There he found time to write the thriller that he had been planning mentally for some time. His wife Susan thought that, but for the ulcer, *The Thirty-nine Steps* might never have been written. The Buchans stayed in a villa called St Cuby, on North Foreland, which appears in the final chapter as Trafalgar Lodge, on the Ruff, a "big chalk headland". The tenancy included access to a private beach via stairs comprising two shafts and three tunnelled sections, which are still in place. There are now 108 concrete steps, built in the 1940s to replace the 78 oak steps that existed in 1914. There has been much speculation about Buchan's decision to reduce the number of steps in his story to 39. Some say that he chose his age, others that he was advised by a publisher or friend to change the number to enhance the story's title. Surely the last word must be with his wife. In her biography of Buchan, published in 1947, she said "How many steps were there I do not know, but John hit on the number thirty-nine as one that would be easily remembered and would catch people's imagination." **(Steve Osborn)**

Monday	The Chalksole Homegroup, third Monday of the month. Please phone Linda on 823100 for further details	 <p>Boarding for Dogs, Cats & Small Animals Canine Hydrotherapy Pet Food Shop</p> <p>01304 – 822420</p> <p>Alkham Valley Road</p>
Tuesday	Art classes in the village hall from 10 am to 1 pm. Ring 07811405124 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	

Other events in the village

Sunday	6	Cricket – Alkham v Former England stars – see page 1
Sunday	13	Alkham Cricket Club are playing Westbourne at 2.30 pm on Vicarage Meadow
Tuesday	15	W.I. meeting in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm
Monday	21	Dover and District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Thursday	24	Fete committee meeting in the village hall at 8.00pm
Sunday	27	Alkham Cricket Club are playing Harrington Hackers at 12.00 pm on Vicarage Meadow

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services: Morning prayer at Capel: Monday – Friday 8.30am (except Bank holidays): Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15am.
Sunday 6th	No service	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	
Tuesday 8th		Healing service 7 pm.		
Sunday 13th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Songs of praise village hall West Hougham 6.30pm	
Sunday 20th	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 27th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund, Capel 10.00 am			

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. secretary – 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		Alkham web site www.alkham.org

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

(no prefix local number)

ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853
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
ELECTRICAL	RS Electrical: Part P Domestic Electrical Installer	Kingsdown 367310 and 07896 584402
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmain 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
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

This Newsletter was printed at the Rainbow Centre in Folkestone – 01303 850733

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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DEREK RANDALL the very popular Old England player being clean bowled by Nick Price for 34. The match was in honour of Brian Luckhurst who lived at South Alkham and eleven cricketers who once played for England turned up on the 6th of August to take on the might of the Alkham Cricket Club. The weather couldn't have been better with the sun beating down on our quaint but very picturesque cricket pitch whose boundary is not too far away. Meridian television was at the match and it was featured on the local evening news.

CARAVANS - A planning application has been submitted for the land adjacent to the Garden Centre at South Alkham. The application is for the site to be used by 5 touring caravans on a rolling basis for 365 days a year. If you wish to respond to this application write to Development Control, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ or email to developmentcontrol@dover.gov.uk quoting reference DOV/06/00876. The person dealing with the application is Mrs. Coles. If you wish to object to the application the objection should be specific rather than on the basis that you just don't want a site there. The same applies if you wish to support the application. The deadline for responses is September 3rd.

Thanks go to Debbie Burris of Short Lane, Alkham for the photographs



A MOMENT CAUGHT IN TIME as the dashing Den Barnard cuts to slip for the Alkham team (the bowler was the formidable Joey Benjamin and unfortunately the catch was held). The Old England XI scored 257 for 7 (31.5 overs) and Alkham held on with a score of 153 for 9 wickets to claim a draw. The man of the match was Alkham's Nick Price who took 5 wickets and the day raised £5000 for the Canterbury Mountbatten Centre (there is further comment on the match on page 2).

BETTY NEELY was 80 recently and a surprise birthday party was held at The Hermitage with lots of people coming along. Marion and Derek, with help from friends, put on a superb spread for a deserving lady. Happy Birthday Betty.

JUMBLE SALE - There will be a jumble sale in the village hall on the 16th September starting at 11.00am in aid of W.I. funds.

LIZ LAMBOURNE, who lives in Newlyn Meadow, will be taking part in the Canterbury Festival. She will be exhibiting drawings & paintings at The Studio, Derringstone Hill House, Barham - together with three other exhibitors from the 12th -28th October.

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A GOLD BRACELET of great sentimental value was lost on 6th August at the Alkham versus Old England match. A reward is offered for information on its return. Please ring 01303 892487.

AN EXPLORER MAP, which is in perfect condition, was dropped by someone on the bridle path above South Alkham. There are all sorts of circular routes marked so if you'd like it back please ring 01304 826619.

KEN HAMMOND is taking part in the Friends of Kent Churches bike ride which raises money for churches and most of the PCC is sponsoring him. The idea is that you are sponsored per church visited and I'm going with him. We hope to visit between 60 and 100 churches so 5p a church would help a lot. If you'd like to sponsor me please ring 824969. (Brian Wimsett)

THE POLICE said bogus callers had called at a house in Melbourne Avenue pretending to be water board officials and whilst the owner was distracted stole a considerable sum of money. It went on to say that the bogus callers committed the same crime in Alkham but gave no further details.

RECOGNISE A STROKE - If someone falls over unexpectedly or there are other symptoms, doctor's advise doing the following in case the person has had a stroke: **1.** Ask the person to smile: **2.** Ask the person to raise both arms: **3.** Ask the person to speak a simple sentence coherently. If the person has difficulty with any of the tasks, call 999 and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. (Stroke Association)

THE OVER HANGING branches at the bottom of Slip Lane are on land of unknown ownership. The Highway Authority has been asked to cut them back.

CRICKET - May I just say a brief thank you to everyone who helped with the Old England cricket match, it really was a huge success (if I say so myself) which just shows what can be achieved when everyone pulls together; so a big thank you to the WI all-stars, the Alkham Tea ladies and the families, friends and players who all contributed in the run up and on the day. A particular thanks to Peter and Den for all their hand work behind the scenes. We raised just over £6,000 after expenses so we aim to give £5,000 to the Mountbatten Centre in Brian Luckhurst's name. Here's to the next 167 years of ACC! I still have some copies of Brian's autobiography and souvenir programmes if anyone would like to purchase a reminder of a very special man and a special day. (Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)

James & Dillys Robertson Justice - a book is to be published next year about the actor James Robertson-Justice. As many people will know his wife Dillys used to live at Forstal Cottage. Although they were divorced during this time, James did visit Alkham, and opened the Village Fete one year. The author of the book would like any information people can give him but would be particularly grateful for a **photo of Dillys** - grateful enough to make a donation to the village. Please contact Susan Lees on 822661.

JOSEPH MOUNT - named on the Alkham War Memorial (see July Newsletter). It is now known that on 26 Sept 1918 Joseph Mount of Ewell Minnis married Edith, daughter of Robert Bailey believed to be the publican at The Newcastle Inn at that time. Fifteen days later Joseph died 11th Oct at 58 Great Cheetham Street, West Broughton, Salford, Lancs. Edith, his wife was with him when he died. His occupation having been a War Goods Inspector & Army pensioner. Joseph must have served in WWI, but been invalided out, reason unknown but possibly he had been weakened from something like a gas attack and with little resistance contracted Enteric/Typhoid Fever from which he died. (Sue Lees)

THOUGHTS from a Sunday summer's day in the heart of England - a tribute to Brian Luckhurst. What more could one wish for, seated comfortably with first class view: on a golden late summer's Sunday afternoon, when the sun shone gently twixt steamy cloud, the rich aroma of hog roast wafting through the air, and the gentle thwack of leather on willow echoed around the leafy mound as runs amassed and wickets tumbled. The soft murmur of appreciation from a swelling crowd rippled around the quintessentially Kentish village green. Surely this was England at its finest: paying tribute to a cricket pro so sadly missed; a first class cricket match. No, not the Oval nor the Lords, but just as good and maybe better, Old Englanders showing their prowess and pace, and teaching 'cubs' a thing or two. The village team from Alkham rallied valiantly, showing their flair, with increasing shrieks of 'come on lads' echoing around the green. But... qualities of age, experience and still lingering professional aptitude were clearly going to win the day, and so they did, the 'oldies' reigned supreme! We, replete with wine and tasty hog roast crackly snacks, then took our leave, and told ourselves, how fortunate to see such sights, to slow our pace, entranced by cricket on the green. (George Stirling and friend Mary)

ALKHAM DID IT AGAIN

August 6th 2006 will be remembered along with 'The Millennium', 'The Jubilee', 'Children in Need' and lots of other times when everyone pulls together to raise money for charity. Paul Tapsell must be feeling very good with himself, he deserves to, he worked so hard not knowing how it would go but the weather was perfect, the crowds turned up and the people of Alkham got to and supported Paul and made a wonderful day. It will be talked about for a long time. Well done Alkham. (Helen Scopes) (now a glamorous great grandmother -ed) **THANKS** to the Marquis of Granby for taking their cardboard up to Kent Community Recycling and adding the money raised to the Alkham Recycling Fund.



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SURVEYORS * VALUERS * ESTATE AGENTS

ALKHAM WI – members were completely shocked when the meeting was opened with a letter being read that had been written by the President, stating that she had taken the decision to resign from her position. However, the four members, Debbie Burris, Debbie Griggs, Helen Price and Alison Warnock, who were in charge of the meeting, took over; and what a splendid light hearted evening they made of it with quizzes, poems, about how women see themselves (!) and a competition of the best painted butterflies, created by blobbing paint on paper which was folded over and back again. It was all great fun. The next meeting is 12th September; when the speaker Miss Goldfinch will be teaching the craft of making Corn Dollies. (Sue Lees)

BOOK CLUB - Next meeting Wednesday 6th September 7.30. Never Let Me Go by Ishi Guro. Host Gabby Jones, Meadow Cottage, Chalksole. New members always welcome. Contact Rosemary Heddle 01304-827880 for further details.

FREDERIC HALL

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GARDEN TALK - The July meeting was held at the home of Mo & Ro at South Alkham Farm. Once again it was a lovely balmy evening and we were able to take full advantage of the weather and take a tour of their very pretty garden. Many thanks for their hospitality. It was decided to miss the meeting in August, with several members being on holiday etc. The next meeting will be at the home of Susannah and Richard Tapsell on 8th September at 7.30 pm. Look forward to seeing you all there. (Devina 827548)

THE ALPHA COURSE – What is the point of life? What happens when we die? What relevance does Jesus have for our lives today? The Alpha course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith. It's relaxed, non-threatening, low key and fun. There is a meal together at the beginning of each session which gives you an opportunity to get to know each other. There is no charge for the course but you may be asked for a contribution to the meal. The course consists of a series of talks and after each talk small groups are formed for discussion. If you are interested, please come along to The Living Well Family Church, Canterbury Road, Lydden on the 4th of October at 7.30pm. For any enquiries please call John 07721 347958 or Noel 07710 610954.

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS at St. Anthony's. This year the Harvest service will be held on Sunday 24th September at 6.30pm. We will be decorating the Church on Saturday 23rd between 10.00am and 12.00. If you have any fruit, vegetables or flowers or could come and help at that time, it would be very much appreciated. For those of you who have not got a vegetable plot but would like to contribute to the event, we are collecting canned food for Ken & Brian to take to the "Soup Kitchen" in Dover when they are on duty. Please bring these to the Harvest Supper on the Monday evening. A selection of the canned food could include soup, tuna, corned beef and spam. Tickets for the Supper can be obtained from Betty Neely on 01303 251475 (Church Wardens)

OZ on BUNTHORNE

One day in 1930s Lancashire young Robert Smithies, waiting for fish and chips at the kitchen table, was reading a vinegar bottle when he noticed gleefully what the name 'Gartons' spelt backwards. It was the start of a passion for words that only ended with his death, aged 72, on 31st July this year. During a remarkable life Smithies enjoyed popular success as press photographer, television presenter and editor, and, since 1966, as a Guardian crossword setter under the pen-name of 'Bunthorne'. Bob, as he was otherwise known, was born in Middleton, Lancashire, on 4th April 1934, into a working family that valued education and encouraged Bob and his two sisters in their studies. In 1950, at the age of 16, Bob left school to work in the *Manchester Evening News* darkroom, moving on to the *Manchester Guardian* as photographer in 1955, where he stayed during the change to the London-based *Guardian* in the 1960s. Typical of this era was Don McPhee's recollection that at Christmas 1970 Bob tossed a bound compilation of Picture Post features across the Manchester picture desk to him and said: "Here you are lad, learn yourself summ'at." In 1974 Bob joined Granada Television as news editor but was soon redeployed as presenter of such programmes as the long-running *Down to Earth*. Bob was always a devoted solver and setter of crossword puzzles and had a puzzle accepted by the *Guardian* in 1966. For the rest of his life he composed puzzles for the *Guardian* and others as 'Bunthorne', a character from his beloved Gilbert and Sullivan. Bunthorne's elegant puzzles were highly regarded by solvers and fellow compilers, the clueing often fiendishly difficult but always scrupulously fair. Crossworders could argue for years about Bunthorne's 'best' clue, but his own favourite was simply: "Amundsen's forwarding address (4)". (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 07811405124 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

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Alkham Valley Road

Other events in the village		
Sunday	3	Monk's lunch in the village hall – see separate flyer.
Monday	4	Parish Council meeting in the village hall starting at 7.30pm – all welcome
Sunday	10	Alkham Cricket Club are playing Griffin's Head at 1.00 pm on Vicarage Meadow
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm
Saturday	16	W.I. jumble sale in the village hall starting at 11.00am
Monday	18	Dover and District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	23	Quiz in the village hall – please phone Doreen on 824876 for details

CHURCH SERVICES				
Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services: Morning prayer at Capel: Monday – Friday 8.30am (except Bank holidays): Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15am.
Sunday 3rd	Joint Benefice, St Anthony, Alkham 11am			
Tuesday 5th		Healing Service 7 pm.		
Sunday 10th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Songs of Praise St. Lawrence churchyard 6.30pm	
Sunday 17th	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 24th	Harvest Festival Evensong 6.30am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641
Community Warden 07977 981994	GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234	W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
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 Angela Miller 824791	Alkham web site www.alkham.org
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835		

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES			(no prefix local number)
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton	824853
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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
ELECTRICAL	RS Electrical: Part P Domestic Electrical Installer	Kingsdown	367310 and 07896 584402
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
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

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 158 October 2006

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MINDLESS DAMAGE was caused to the cricket pitch by a car driving onto Vicarage Meadow and spinning round on the crease. Witnesses' say that it happened in the early hours of the morning and the culprits are being actively sought before being put in the hands of the police. The Parish Council are going to look into the cost of installing a lockable drop-down barrier.

THE FINAL FETE FIGURES were £1,250 each for the Church and Village Hall, and £30 each to Capel School, Alkham Cricket Club, the Folkestone Auto Club, the RSPCA and CJ's dance troupe. The AGM will be in October and we will be looking for volunteers for next year's Fete! (**Paul Tapsell**)

A BIT OF A WHINGE

I understand that someone has stopped doing recycling because we gave money to the cricket club for the Alkham village Christmas lights electricity bill. The reason we are doing the recycling is not for the money but because it is environmentally worthwhile. I have also regularly put an item in the Newsletter asking for ideas as to how to spend the money and have got no response. One house recycling bottles, cans, paper and card board generates about 40p each month. There are easier ways of raising 40p than going round in a stacked smelly van and having to sort everything at Hawkinge. Last month, Ken and I who do it for no personal benefit, got fed up with the rubbish in some of the sacks. **A reminder to some they only take:** plastic bottles that **contained drink** with their **tops removed** and discarded. All items including **paper** and **cardboard** must be separate and it would help if you flattened the cardboard and put newspapers in **carrier bags**. If you know someone who recycles but doesn't read the Newsletter please spread the word. (**Brian Wimsett and Ken Hammond**)

THE PARISH COUNCIL now has its own email address which is alkhamparishcouncil@tesco.net.

LIGHTS – Parish Councillor Geoff Lymer is waiting for EDF to come back to him with regard to the cost of installing lights by the football pitch opposite the village hall.

VALLEY COTTAGES – DDC have been asked to put a sign up in front of Valley Cottages saying the latter.

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IT'S CHALKY HILL – The response to what the road off Slip Lane by Malmaims Manor is called was evenly split between White Hill and Chalky Hill. The Parish Council took a vote and the latter won.

CHRISTINE AND DAVID wish to say a very big thank you to our family and friends who have been so kind, helpful and generous during Christine's longer than expected stay in hospital. The many cards, flowers and gifts were very much appreciated and recovery seems to be progressing well.

(**David & Christine Tapsell**)

BOOK CLUB Wednesday 11th October 7.30pm. Read a non fiction book of your choice. Host Linda Gaskill Tel 823100. Bring a dish, pot luck supper. New members always welcome. For more details phone Rosemary Heddle 827880. (**Rosemary Heddle**)

MANY thanks to Paul and the Fete Committee from the Village Hall Committee for the £1250 donation.

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ANNUAL HONEY SHOW

As usual Dover and District Beekeepers are staging their honey show and competition in the Alkham Village Hall towards the end of October. Last year we had the pleasure of welcoming quite a few local residents, one or two of whom were clearly stung by the beekeeping bug and have since joined the association. We would like to extend a similar invitation to any of you who are free to attend on Saturday 28 October. The doors open at 2.30 and the show lasts about two hours. Admission is free, refreshments will be available and as well as displays of honey, wax, confectionery, mead and other products from our hives, there will a small exhibition of beekeeping items and different honeys for you to sample. It is always a relaxed, friendly occasion and we would welcome the chance to talk to you about what is an endlessly fascinating hobby. Should you wish to visit our apiary, which is nearby, please let me know. It is easy enough to arrange. (**Roy Dyche, Honey Show Secretary 01304 824584**)

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Paul James, the local Community Warden phoned to say there will be a Neighbourhood Watch meeting in Capel village hall on the 2nd October at 7.00pm.

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Phone: 01303 252764 - Simon & Helen Price

Sunflower Competition Results - It was an interesting year for trying to grow sunflowers! A late start to the competition, a long hot June and July (including the obligatory hosepipe ban) and all followed up by a wet and decidedly autumnal end to August meant a shorter than normal crop. The adults as always took it way to seriously, with phone calls requesting measuring at the first sign of a weather forecaster predicting wind and others saying "you can't measure yet it's not tall enough" or "it's bent over it was taller". Special mention should go to the family Robson of Newlyn Meadow all five of whom entered their own plant. Apparently they suffered the worst slug attack since the great slug attack of 1864, "they were coming over the hedge", this left mum Debbie with the tallest plant and Rachel with a report saying 'must try harder'. John Norris had the tallest in the adults section, although having won last year and being the organisers father means he will come away empty handed this time. So the overall winner was Master Alfie Blears from Wolverton, with a whopping 3.1 metres, which is approximately three and half times his own height. Alfie will be receiving his trophy and prize shortly. Well done to everyone who entered, it was good to see you all and I hope everyone has a go next year. Go out and buy your seeds now, read the packet and get them in when it says! (Tip: They grow better in the ground than pots). **The results, name, height, category:** Alfie Blears, 3.1,C: John Norris,2.6, A: Harrison Blears, 2.5, C: Debbie Robson, 2.5, A: Bronwen Robson, 2.46, T: Shirley Tapsell, 2.4, A: Sue Lees, 2.3, A: Aimee Wood, 2.2, C: Tom Robson, 1.91, T: Molly and Elly Laffin, 1.84, C: Mark Robson, 1.84, A: Benjamin Norris, 1.54, C: Chloe Huggins, 1.4, C: Simon Norris, 1.36, A: Rachel Robson, 0.6, T.



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CRICKET CLUB Awards

Dinner - Alkham residents are invited to join the players at the village cricket club's annual Awards Dinner, which will be held this year at Blue Birds on Snargate Street, Dover, on Saturday November 11. The club's growing band of families and supporters has meant that it has had to find a larger venue for its big night, after squeezing 50-odd people into the restaurant of the Marquis of Granby for the last two years. Having been forced to stage the event outside the village, the club has found a venue in Dover that can hold more than the anticipated number - so with this extra capacity the players would be delighted to see more villagers joining them. Perhaps some of those who came along to watch the momentous match versus Old England last month might like to attend. That match meant that 2006 has been the most memorable in the club's 167-year history - so everyone involved with the club wants to make sure the season is rounded off in style at this celebration event, where the club's various trophies will be presented to the best batsman, best bowler, and player of the year etc. Tickets cost £20 each for a three course meal and anyone interested in attending should contact Peter Frater at peter.frater@pfpr.com or on 01304 820067.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ken Hammond and co. in visiting 63 churches on the Church Bike Ride. They covered 61 miles over a period of 8 hours starting at Hythe and going east to Sandwich. Thanks go to all the people who sponsored them raising about £200 in total.

JUST TO SAY how much I enjoyed the Church Service on the 3rd September and the lunch which followed. It was a lovely way to spend a few hours. I always enjoy my visits to Alkham. **(Cllr Sue Nicholas)**

CONCEALED ACCESS SIGN on the bend leading to Short Lane. The Highway authority does not install concealed access signs but they can be put up by house owners on private land subject to conditions i.e. planning permission. The HA is quite happy to visit the site to give advice.

The Alkham Valley Society

has submitted a response to the planning application for a 365 day-a-year touring caravan site with septic tank in South Alkham; we did so following the majority views of the Committee, which, we trust, reflected the majority views of membership as reflected in 2005 AGM. We would also like to take the opportunity to add our congratulations to the Old England v. Alkham Cricket Match in August, what an excellent day and so well organised. We would like to thank Mark & Liza Loveday and team for a really English luncheon and reception up at the Old Rectory, the gardens of which came into their own looking bright and beautifully kept as usual. The tea tent was perfectly sited for a really good tea, cakes and sandwiches as well as cheese and pineapple spikes at 4.30 p.m. Altogether the reception, enjoyed by all, was a great 'kick-off' for a day untampered by discord and full of goodwill, good cheer, and very good champagne. Thank you! Thank you those members who have generously sent in subs for 2007. The AGM is set to take place in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Thursday 16 November, followed by supper at The Fox in Temple Ewell. **(Joanna Walker Sec.)**

ALKHAM W.I. - members were pleased to welcome back their treasurer Christine Tapsell after her recent illness; and present Margaret Knowles with a little teddy bear (bought at Capel Farmer's Market) his jumper embroidered with the words "Thank you Margaret from your Alkham friends". Margaret has contributed so much to the WI and to Alkham itself through her artistic gifts - designing and embroidering the WI President's table cloth; making innumerable entries for WI competitions; etching and painting pictures of Alkham; making articles for, and helping run, the needlework stalls at WI bazaars and Alkham fetes. The meeting concluded with a very relaxed talk by Pat Goldfinch who demonstrated the art of corn dolly making. Every member joined in and took home the dolly they had created. Next meeting - National Trust talk on Ruyard Kipling. **(Sue Lees)**

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ST ANTHONY'S FEAST DAY,
Sunday 3rd September 2006 - Despite the overcast skies and strong winds an intrepid gathering of some 30 walkers from our benefice and the River churches assembled at St Radigund's Abbey just before 9am to embark on the trail of the ancient Priests' Walk. This was the commencement of the day's events to celebrate 1500 years anniversary of the martyrdom of St Anthony of Pamiers. The River Methodist Minister the Reverend John Johnson opened the proceedings with prayers and these were followed by a brief tour of the Abbey ruins. Mr & Mrs Moynan gave generously of their time to give a fascinating talk about the history of their home which dates back to the 12th Century. It was interesting to note that the historic links that once existed between the different parishes were again being joined some 800 years later. We could certainly have lingered here for longer but time was against us.

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We were accompanied by a "monk" during our journey and along the way the magnificent views across the valley were much admired as they have been for centuries. Ley Lines and Dene Holes which are particular features of this area were described during the walk. Refreshments were served in the Village Hall upon our return. The main focus of the day was the Service in our Parish Church where we were delighted to welcome Bishop Graham who celebrated the commemorative Eucharist in the company of the Reverend John Coleman and Tony Elcombe, our Benefice Reader. Against the background of beautiful floral displays, the body of the church was full and the congregation was magnificently led by a combined churches choir and the music directed by Jerry Spillet. A playlet performed by local children re-enacting the life and times of St Antoninus was well received and met with laughter and applause. This really was a celebration and it was wonderful to hear the church resounding to the joyful music and voices throughout the service. Finally we retired to the Village Hall where a simple 'monk's' lunch was served in the traditional manner comprising bread and cheese washed down with ale and wine. This was very well supported and we were joined once again by Bishop Graham. Our thanks must go to the many ladies who worked so hard in preparing and serving the meal and to the 'cellarers' who obtained and dispensed the drink. Hopefully St Anthony's Day can become a regular event in the village calendar. And who knows, perhaps some links with Pamiers in SW France might emerge. In the interests of further research on our patron saint you understand; the fact that this area is known for its wonderful food and wine is a happy coincidence.

(The Alkham Church Committee)

OZ on ODONATA – During this warm and pleasant summer it was thrilling to see so many dragonflies and damselflies, first at Bushey Ruff, then in our back garden, and later everywhere, and to discover something about them. Dragonflies (*Anisoptera*) and damselflies (*Zygoptera*) belong to the same order, *Odonata* (meaning 'toothed jaw'). *Anisoptera* means "unequal-winged", since dragonflies' hind wings are shorter and wider than their forewings. They are large insects, with touching eyes, and often wander far away from water. *Zygoptera* means "yoke-winged", as damselflies have four equal wings. They are small insects, with separated eyes, and stay close to the water. Odonata are invariably slender and beautiful, and come in a huge range of translucent colours. Altogether there are some 5,300 species in the world, only 38 of which live in Britain, as they favour warmer climates. Perhaps because of their comparative rareness and exotic appearance, Odonata have traditionally been objects of superstition in Europe. In mediaeval times dragonflies were called the "devil's darning needles" as it was believed that they would sew up the eyes of anyone foolish enough to fall asleep outdoors during the day. Conversely, in the East, the dragonfly has long been revered. Japan, the first country in the world to create a national Dragonfly Nature Reserve, sometimes refers to itself as Akitsushima (the Dragonfly Island). Perhaps the finest description of these elegant and colourful creatures in English literature is in Tennyson's lines, *The Dragon-Fly*: "Today I saw the dragon-fly / Come from the wells where he did lie. / An inner impulse rent the veil / Of his old husk: from head to tail / Came out clear plates of sapphire mail. / He dried his wings: like gauze they grew; / Thro' crofts and pastures wet with dew / A living flash of light he flew." (Steve Osborn)

GARDEN TALK - Our thanks this time go to Richard and Susannah for hosting the September meeting. It was a very enjoyable evening and was loosely based on our garden success/failure stories for the year. I Say loosely, because it was very informal evening with lots of chit chat, tasty dips and catching up with members we had not seen for a while. Welcome back Beattie! The next meeting will be at Pam and Maurice Sayers on October 6th at 7.30 pm. (Devina 827548)

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 07811405124 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



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Other events in the village		
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm
Monday	16	Dover and District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Thursday	19	Fete Committee meeting 8.00pm in the village hall
Saturday	21	PCC Jumble Sale in the village hall starting at 11.00am
Saturday	28	Honey Show – Beekeepers in the village hall most of the day

CHURCH SERVICES				
Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services:
Sunday 1st	Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30pm	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Morning prayer at Capel: Monday – Friday 8.30am (except Bank holidays): Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15am.
Sunday 8th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.		
Sunday 15th	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 22nd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Lawrence Hougham 10am.			
Sunday 29th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Mary (old church), Capel 10 am.			

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641
Community Warden 07977 981994	GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234	W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
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 Angela Miller 824791	Alkham web site www.alkham.org
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835		

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES			(no prefix local number)
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton	824853
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
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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
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
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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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If you are letting off fireworks this year please remember that animals, especially horses and dogs,

become extremely frightened by the noise they make.

MOTOR CYCLES – John Ullmann has asked me to include an item in the Newsletter about young motor cyclists that are riding over his land adjacent to the Folkestone side of the village. He says it is absolutely terrible that they are using his land like this, riding up and down the steep banks and across the top. The motor cyclists have no permission to do so and also have no insurance and must stop immediately.

JOBS – A 13 year old boy seeks jobs for pocket money. Please phone 01304 823380.

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS MEAL

To celebrate the Christmas Lights switch-on there will be a village meal at the Marquis of Granby (7.30 for 8.00 p.m.). As with last year if enough people want to attend the event will be 'village only'. Last year's event was oversubscribed and hopefully there will be a similar response this year so you need to act quickly if you would like to book a place. The menu is: Tomato and Basil soup starter; Roast Turkey, Beef or Lamb with roast and new potatoes, Yorkshire pudding and 3 veg; Christmas Pudding, Ice Cream or Chocolate Fudge Cake for dessert and Coffee and Mince pies to follow - all for only £15. There is a vegetarian alternative.

Please note that there will also be a raffle to raise funds for the cost of the electricity to run the lights! Donations of prizes for the raffle would also be much appreciated. In order to secure the whole pub, and make it a truly village affair, I need to know numbers and have orders **and payment** by November 15th. I look forward to hearing from you. Mark Robson, 8a Newlyn Meadow. 01304.820459.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jane and Peter Davis of Alkham Valley Tree Surgery on the birth of two identical twin boys on the 18th of September.

RECYCLING – Many thanks go to the people who recycle and responded to 'A bit of a whinge' in last month's Newsletter. The last collection was just about perfect with only a few plastic punnets creeping in. Following this success it would also help if the tops of the sacks and carrier bags could be tied together as some do spill out when we open the van at Hawkinge.

THE QUIZ in aid of the village hall on the 23rd September made a profit of £100. Thanks go to the Polden and Lott family for organising it.

POPPY APPEAL – Rachel Fountain and volunteers will be going round the village between 28th October and 11th November collecting money for the annual Poppy Appeal. The Remembrance Day service will be held in St. Anthony's church at 10.15 am on the 12th of November and at 11.00am people gather round the memorial in the churchyard to commemorate the sacrifice made by people in the World Wars and observe the 2 minute silence after the names of the fallen are read.

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - Following the well established tradition (of two years) the Village Christmas Lights switch on will take place on Saturday, December 2nd. The event will start at 4.45 p.m. when the crowds will be enthralled by the beautiful voices (and ladies!) of the W.I. as they lead carols on Vicarage Meadow. The switch on will be at 5.00 p.m. followed by mulled wine and mince pies served at the Marquis. It is expected that Father Christmas will make time to visit us during the proceedings too. Any child, up to the age of 11, who would like a chance to carry out the switch on, should present a picture of a Christmas tree at the Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall on Saturday, November 25th. One name will be picked out of a hat and that person will be asked to turn on the lights.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR for St. Anthony's Church, Alkham - Saturday 25th November - Alkham Village Hall 10.30am -12 noon. Apart from all the home made goodies to buy there will be an exhibition of paintings. It is hoped that lots of children up to the age of nine will paint a picture of a Christmas tree and bring it along to the bazaar, where the winning artist will be chosen. The winner will be the child who switches on the village Christmas tree lights on 2nd December.

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YOU MAY HAVE MISSED IT

but the Tour of Britain with some of the world's top cyclist went round the outside of the parish in September. The photo shows them going through Lydden. Unfortunately they were having a go slow because of lack of organisation so you didn't miss much (the photo was taken from a video by Alan Latham).



Then you get the real bikers!
(thanks to Kentish Express for the photo)

Neighbourhood Watch

A white Peugeot Partner Van is trying to sell door to door - but is it? It is believed that it might be looking for suitable premises to commit burglary. This vehicle has the name Ocean Delight on the side and is offering fish for sale. The part registration is NV ?? AUN. If you should see this van please ring the Force Control Room on 01622 690690 and give them the full details. **There is also a parcel scam.** If a card or phone message from Parcel Delivery Service is left asking you to phone a number as they were unable to deliver a package do not ring as it is a premium rate service. Your phone account is immediately charged £15 plus connection costs.

KCC has launched its new Explore Kent website. The address is www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent and contains fantastic information on walking, cycling and riding in Kent as well as ideas for great days out in the countryside. You can download free publications including maps, walking, cycling and riding routes and an events calendar. **(PC)**

RECYCLING OF WASTE

The delivery of October's Alkham Monthly Newsletter coincided with my reading of a trade journal concerning 'green' living. Against the background of our village collection program (and the article 'A bit of a whinge') perhaps the following statistics may be of interest. Britain is the third worst recycler in Europe and we need to work hard to catch up with countries like Holland and Germany who recycle more than half their waste. Who is behind us? Well, Portugal on 3 per cent and Greece on 8 per cent. The UK recycles 18 per cent of its domestic waste. At the other end of the table, The Netherlands recycle 65 per cent. According to the Institute for Public Policy Research the annual waste generated by each person in this country is 600 kg and which is comparable with our European neighbours. If each home recycled 50 per cent of its rubbish the UK's annual CO2 emissions would drop by 6 million tonnes. So well done to Ken and Brian for taking the initiative in helping Alkham to become a 'greener' village.

(Clive Batchelder)

BOOK CLUB - The next meeting will be on the 1st November in the home of Jane Aslett, Drybrook, Short Lane, telephone 824729. We will be discussing Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison at 7.30 pm.

(Rosemary Heddle)

The AGM of the Alkham Valley Society will be held at the Alkham Village Hall on 16 November beginning 7.30 p.m. There may be issues which members might like to raise at the meeting. There has been a good response to supper at The Fox in Temple Ewell. We need to know the precise numbers, and to have the £8.50 per head (carvery and pudding) before hand. Please let the Secretary know if you are having supper, thank you. There will be a Committee Meeting 26th October at Marion and Derek Banks-Nash's starting at 8 p.m. If we don't see you at the AGM, remember the Christmas Walk on 27th December as usual.

(Joanna Walker - Secretary)

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS 1945 - The museum shop, where I am curator, has CD's produced by the Green Label Music Co. one of which is as the title. There are 23 original evocative Christmas tracks by the stars of the day (Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby etc) plus speeches by Churchill and Atlee. They cost £6.95 each (rrp £9.50) and there are other titles which include 'We'll Meet Again', 'Golden Age of Radio' and 'Forces Sweethearts'. If you'd like to buy a CD please ring me on 824969. **(editor)**

GARDEN TALK - A big thanks this time to Pam & Maurice Sayers for a lovely and, very intellectual meeting at Box Tree Cottage. Brushing up on our Latin would have been a useful exercise before attempting Pam's fiendish quiz on trees and shrubs. There will be no meeting in November and the next time we get together will be for our annual Christmas party at the home of Lucy and Ian McKensie on 8th December at 7.30 pm. Please supply a goody for the table and a small gift for the raffle. Many thanks and see you all there. **(Devina 827548)**

NEWSLETTER - The financial year for the Newsletter ended in August and I'm pleased to say it broke even again. The revenue from the adverts was £461. The costs were £372 for printing, £62 for stamps and envelopes for 19 mailed copies and £24 for petrol for collecting and delivering the Newsletter to the deliverers. The sum in the Building Society, inherited from Tony Ingall in 1997, is still untouched so the finances are still very healthy. I'd like to thank the 15 people in the parish who deliver 300 of the 330 copies produced each month throughout the year and also the Rainbow Centre in Folkestone who kindly print the Newsletter.

(PC at end of articles is Parish Clerk, Angela Miller)



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APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRIEST -

On the 6th. October two candidates were interviewed for the post of Incumbent for the new Benefice, which will include St. Peter and Paul River, St. Anthony Alkham, St. Radigund Capel and St. Laurence Hougham. Following these Interviews, where each Parish had a representative present, the Revd. A. J. Bawtree has been offered the post and he has subsequently confirmed acceptance. On Tuesday 6th February 2007 at 7.30pm.a service will be held at River church when Revd. Bawtree will be licensed to serve as Priest for the Benefice. When this has been completed the post for a "House for Duty" appointment will be advertised. This will be a part time post and the appointed person will take up residence at Capel vicarage. (Richard Tapsell & Grace Stacey. Church wardens)

PRIEST'S WALK – A DVD of the priests walk and monk's lunch in Alkham village hall on the 3rd September is available from Jo and John O'Shea. It costs £7 with £1 going to the church. Phone 07811405124 for further details.

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WI - Helen Scopes stood in as president and Susan Lees as secretary. The meeting was enjoyed by all those present, especially when the speaker, Mrs. Woodward from the National Trust, presented the life of Rudyard Kipling illustrating her talk with very interesting and colourful slides. This being the occasion when names are taken for next year's committee - 16 names were put forward, which will mean an election will have take place at the November meeting. Ruth Pascoe from the Federation Office will also be present on that occasion. When members were asked for an idea for light entertainment finish the November meeting - Bingo was suggested, a game, we are told, which has become popular once again.

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY'S autumn concert, at 7.30 pm on Saturday 18th November 2006 in Dover Town Hall, celebrates Mozart's 250th birthday with three of his most-loved works. Serenade No 13 *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* will be followed by the *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore* ("Solemn Vespers") and the *Requiem Mass*, one of the great choral works, loved by performers and listeners alike, and influencing all later settings of the *Requiem*. Soloists are Catherine May, Melanie Lang, Bragiberg Thorsohn and Philip Spendley. All will be accompanied by the Connaught Orchestra (leader George Simpson) and conducted by Michael Lewis. Tickets costing £10 (Students £5) are available from Dover Tourist Information Centre, members of Dover Choral Society or by telephoning 01304 822042; and, if there are any left, at the door on the night. For further details about the concert please ring Ken Palmer on 01304 330511 or Bob Joslin on 01304 363344. (Steve Osborn)

KENTCARSHARE is a free, simple, secure, internet-based service run by Kent County Council that enables you to register your car journey on-line and find others to share the costs. Kentcarshare has been running for a year and there are over 1700 registered users across Kent. Car sharing can be used to get to work daily, going to the shops once a week or even for social events that happen once in a while. To register, log onto www.kent.gov.uk/carshare. New users are entered into a prize draw to win a year's worth of car tax! (PC)

OZ on LOMEA – There cannot be many East Kent dwellers unaware of the existence and proximity of the Goodwin Sands, named after King Harold's father, Earl Godwin. Even so I only discovered this week, while browsing in the excellent *The Lore of the Land* by Westwood and Simpson, that Lomea was the ancient name given to the island supposed to have submerged to form the Sands. The name almost certainly derives from Old English *lam* for 'loam', as the Sands comprise Blue Clay and sand strata overlying a chalk outcrop, and were reputed to be extremely fertile in Godwin's time. It was known to the Romans as *Infera Insula*, meaning 'lowest island'; legend has it being so low as to need a complete sea-wall surround. The story continues that William the Conqueror gave Lomea to St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, but the abbot neglected the sea-wall, and the island was lost in the great storms of 1099, forming what we know as the Goodwin Sands. Experts now doubt the tales of an inhabitable island. R J Cloet, in the June 1954 *Geographical Journal*, stated that in Caesar's time such an island would still be covered by 10 feet of water every high tide, and would anyway have been swept away in about AD400, when North Sea levels rose generally. The Sands have remained a menace to shipping ever since, and have expanded steadily over the last two hundred years, prompting governments to think of useful things to build on them. Ideas included lighthouses (rejected in favour of lightships), gunnery ranges, heavy industry, prisons, and ambitious harbour projects, including part of a bridge/tunnel channel crossing. The site has also been considered for the third London airport, giving rise to the intriguing but unlikely possibility of it being renamed "London Lomea". (Steve Osborn)

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ACCOUNTS

Money raised through Barn Dance and donations: £494.06.

Expenditure: Lights and decorations: £410.67

Father Christmas suit: £24.99

Gifts for children at switch on £24.99

Donation towards cost of electricity: £33.41

Total expenditure: £494.06

Balance: £0.00. (Mark Robson)

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 07811405124 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



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Other events in the village		
Monday	6	Parish Council meeting in the village hall starting at 7.30pm. All welcome to come along
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm
Thursday	16	Alkham Valley Society AGM in the village hall starting at 7.30pm. All welcome
Monday	20	Dover and District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	25	Church Christmas Bazaar in the village hall starting from 10.30am to mid-day (see page 1)
Saturday	25	Beekeepers in the village hall from 2.00pm
Monday	27	Alkham village hall committee meeting in the hall starting at 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES				
Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services:
Sunday 5th	Evensong 4pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Morning prayer at Capel: Monday – Friday 8.30am (except Bank holidays): Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15am.
Tuesday 7th	Healing Service, St Radigund, Capel 7.00pm			
Sunday 12th	Service of Remembrance 10.15am	Service of Remembrance 10.15am	Service of Remembrance 10.15am	
Sunday 19th	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	
Sunday 26th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony's Alkham 10.00 am			

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. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
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 Angela Miller 824791	Alkham web site www.alkham.org

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES			(no prefix local number)
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton	824853
BOARDING KENNELS	Kennels and Cattery, Canine Hydrotherapy and Pet Food Shop	Wolverton	822420
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 Part P electricians and data instorers	South Alkham	01303 252764
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
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
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This Newsletter was printed at the Rainbow Centre in Folkestone – 01303 850733

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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A CAROL SERVICE

with choir will be held in Alkham on Sunday the 17th December in St. Anthony's church at 6.30 pm.



KARATE CLASSES (14 years and over). Something for everyone whether it be for self defence or purely to keep fit. Classes will be held in Alkham Village hall from 7.15pm to 8.45pm every Thursday evening commencing on the 1st of February 2007. Why not come along and learn the art of Kyokushin Karate. For further details please phone Simon (2nd Dan) on 821336. The first class is free and then £2.50 per session.

QUIZ – The annual quiz, probably in memory of Bacchus, will be held in the village hall on Saturday 3rd of February. The cost is £3.50 per head including food and to book a table for up to 8 people please phone Brian on 824969 or Sue Lees on 822661.

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At 4.45pm on Saturday the 2nd of December 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. It is also expected that Father Christmas will make an appearance. Afterwards there will be mulled wine and mince pies served at the Marquis of Granby.

THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY require part time waiting staff (age 15 plus) and bar staff (age 18 plus). Please phone 822945 for further details.

CARAVANS – The planning application for 5 touring caravans on a rolling basis on the piece of land at South Alkham adjacent to the Garden Centre was turned down by the planning authority. The applicants have the right to appeal against the decision.

CAROL SINGING, coffee morning and bazaar Saturday 9th December 10.30am to midday. Do come along and enjoy yourselves; apart from singing there will be lots of homemade goodies to buy. All profits will go to Cancer Research.

RECYCLING – The next collection will be on Thursday the 7th of December.

CHRISTMAS MEAL – On December 2nd, after the Christmas tree lights switch-on there is a village meal at the Marquis of Granby (7.30 for 8.00pm). It costs £15 for three courses and there are still spaces left so please phone Paul on 822945 as soon as possible for further details and to book a place.



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OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND We will be holding an Open Gardens weekend next year on 28th and 29th July 2007. When we have opened our gardens in the past on each occasion the weekend has been a tremendous success and a large sum of money has been raised. The funds raised will again go to St Anthony's church to help to finance the repairs that are needed to the ceiling in the nave and to give a much needed boost to our general funds. Because of rising costs combined with a decline in our income we have found ourselves, as we approach the end of the year, in a situation where we have a deficit which, without some considerable fundraising, we will be unable to rectify. It is for this reason, therefore, that it was proposed to hold another Open Gardens weekend. Firstly, of course, we would like to hear from anyone who would like to open their gardens for those two days and we would also like to hear from anybody who would like to help in any other way as there will be lots of help and support needed. Please ring one of the following numbers if you would like to be involved:- Marion Banks-Nash 820701, Susan Lees 822661, Margaret Batchelor 823568 and Raye Luckhurst 01303 892848. We look forward to hearing from you. **(Marion Banks-Nash)**

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CHRISTMAS FOLKLORE - Have you ever wondered why you hang baubles on the Christmas tree, or why we put up a tree in the first place? There are many customs associated with the festive season, so how did this one come about? Glass baubles on a tree came about as the result of a drunken game among glass blowers, who being very busy worked up a thirst. Many drinks later they began to see who could blow the biggest glass bauble. These were later to be discarded but their wives being clever called them spirit balls and sold them on the local market. They proved popular and a thriving business was born. Christmas trees originated from the pagan act of worshipping the oak tree. Attempts by early missionaries failed to stamp out this practice, so it was absorbed in the Christian faith, swapping the oak for a fir tree, as its original shape symbolised the Holy Trinity. Prince Albert made it the popular part of Christmas that it is today. The popular image of Santa in a bright red suit, and black boots was invented by the American Coca Cola company. Sorry but it's true. In the early days he was portrayed in many guises. Then Coca Cola decided to use him in their Xmas adverts. The artist Haddon Sundblom, using the colours of red and white created the character we all recognise today. Finally the abbreviation 'Xmas' is not in fact slang or laziness on the writer's part. The X represents the Greek letter 'chi', which is the first letter of 'Christos', meaning Christ. Happy Christmas to you all. **(reprinted from December 1997 and written by Devina Bartlett)**



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ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

The AGM for the Society was held in the village hall on the 16th of November and as usual it was an informal and pleasant affair. Maurice Sayers, the chairman, was on holiday so John Jackson took his place. Apart from the usual proceedings there was some discussion about the motor cyclists who are using footpaths and bridleways around the parish. It is probable that these are not trail riders who are legitimately trying to exercise their rights to use RuPP's but people who have no regard for the law. The advice is, if you see such riders you should ring 999, which I find surprising. If there is an ongoing problem you should phone the PROW team on 0845 345 0210 and report them and hopefully the authorities will then do something about it. Two of the existing committee members indicated that they would rather not continue so



Martin Heddle and Max Walker volunteered to take their places. Marion Banks-Nash, Pam Sayers, Ken Hammond, Shelley Jackson and Lindsay Bennett agreed to continue as committee members. Maurice Sayers remains as chairman with Barry Sheppard, treasurer and Jo Walker, secretary. Most of the audience then went to the Fox for a meal and a drink to round off a convivial evening.

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 11th December. Accompaniment will be provided by the St Edmund's School Band, and the concert will also feature a selection of seasonal songs by St Margarets

Primary School. The charity appeal will be on behalf of The Shaw Trust. Tickets at £1 (children 50p) are available from local churches or from Carrol Moore on 01304 820150. **(Steve Osborn)**



HOUSES - At the Alkham Parish Council meeting the chairman of the Sutton PC, Graham Smith, spoke about the number of houses that are intended to be built in the Whitfield area. The Local Development Framework (LDF) says that 10,000 new houses should be built but the South East Regional Authority (SERA) advises 6100. Graham said that they accept that new houses have to be built but all the houses in excess of 6100 will have to be built on green field sites and therefore the SERA option should be adopted. He also said that there were a lot of houses in the Dover District that could be refurbished but as new houses are VAT free and improvements not, then the tendency was for new houses to be constructed. Dover District Council is in favour of 10,000 houses being built and Graham Smith asked the Alkham Parish Council if they would support him in advocating that 6,100 should be built in the first instance. There was unanimous agreement with this motion and the council will write to the relevant authority in his support.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

European Environmental Control (EEC) are back visiting the area. They are the Company from Lancashire who offer security equipment at very high prices. Although the company is a bona fide company their selling



techniques are not always creditable. They have featured on 'Watchdog' type programmes for many, many years. They do not like NHW as we ruffle their trading habits, so always inform them, should they ring you, that you are NHW and you will be advising your neighbours of them. Trading Standards have been informed. Please make sure that elderly and vulnerable neighbours are aware of this information. **(NHW email)**

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ALKHAM WI - The AGM on the 14th November started in a traditional way with the singing of 'Jerusalem' followed by an election for the 2007 committee; which resulted in Janet Barrow, Susan Lees, Raye Luckhurst, Grace Stacey, Doreen Wilks with Helen Scopes being elected as the new President. Thanks to be given to Joanna O'Shea and Margaret Tobey for being 'Tellers'. Ruth Pascoe, the Dover West area representative being present, said how pleased she was to see that 14 people had been prepared to stand for committee, all too often nowadays people are reluctant to join in and help. Among the many Christmas activities reminders were given that the WI is to lead carol singing 2nd December 4.45pm when the Village Lights are switched on, and the Carol Singing Coffee Morning on 9th December. Names are being taken, whether WI members or not, for an outing to see 'Last of the Summer Wine' 21 January - 01303 255114. The meeting closed with Bingo, and although the ladies have never been so quiet, they all agreed they thoroughly enjoyed the game. **(Sue Lees)**

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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB held its annual Awards dinner and dance on November 11 to celebrate a year which saw the club play the biggest game in its history when it faced an Old England XI. The Brian Luckhurst Memorial Match raised over £5000 for the Mountbatten Cancer Centre in Canterbury and saw Alkham defy the odds and clinch a remarkable draw against a team of ex-Test players including Derek Randall, John Lever, Richard Ellison and Peter Such. Growing support for the Alkham club meant that this year it had to find a venue capable of hosting 70 players, guests, family and friends - so the event was held at Blue Birds in Dover. The awards were dominated by all-rounder Nick Price and new 2007 Captain, Mark Naris. Price collected the Bowling, Performance and Player of the Year trophies, while Naris picked up the Batting and the Players' Player awards. Kent Girls under-15s wicketkeeper Rebecca Johnson received the Young Player award; Paul Hatton was named Supporters Player of the Year, while Paul Tapsell was once again named as Clubman of the Year for his magnificent effort in organising the Old England match. Tapsell was also given Life Membership of the Club, along with Raye Luckhurst, John Huggins and Barbara Palmer for the support they have given to the club. Certificates were also given to existing life members Bob Palmer and club president Mark Loveday. **(Peter Frater)**

NEWSLETTER - You may have noticed that three large box adverts have disappeared (evidently Bradford and Bingley estate agents no longer exist). This is no problem as the Newsletter has sufficient reserves to cover any shortfall and I can replace them by visiting local businesses. If however you would like to advertise before I do this please give me a ring on 824969. The cost of a large box is £3.50 a month.

THERE were three males, thought to be immigrants, wandering around the village lately. After approaching a local for a 'light' the police were informed. It is thought the men were living rough but they have not been seen recently so it is probable that they have been dealt with by the police.

OZ on FESSENDEN

An unanswerable question from the last 120 years is "Who invented radio?" As with today's computer and internet, radio technology developed rapidly and globally, particularly with the Great War looming, and it is difficult now to untangle just who devised what. However, one notable event occurred 100 years ago this month. During the cold and stormy night of Christmas Eve 1906, radio operators on ships off the New England coast were amazed to hear a faint human voice emerging from the dots and dashes on their Marconi Morse stations. As news spread and crewmen gathered round the receivers, the voice announced itself as that of Reginald Aubrey



Fessenden, presenting a programme of speech and music. Fessenden then transmitted a recording of Handel's *Largo* from an Edison cylinder, read a passage from the Bible describing Christ's birth, sang *O Holy Night* loudly while accompanying himself on the violin, and finished with Christmas wishes and a promise to broadcast again on New Year's Eve. It was the first-ever public radio broadcast, and followed Fessenden's earlier successful experiments in audio signals. Born in Quebec in 1866, Fessenden was awarded a mathematics scholarship at the age of 14, but left college four years later with no degree and with little technical training. Hoping to gain some experience with electricity, Fessenden wrote to Edison "Don't know anything about electricity, but can learn pretty quick", to which Edison replied "Have enough men already who don't know about electricity". However, Edison later recruited Fessenden as technician, starting him on a long career inventing for other radio companies, the Niagara Falls Power Plant and for the British



government during the Great War. Fessenden died in Bermuda in 1932, holding over 500 patents in fields as diverse as sonar research, microfilm, seismology and anti-artillery devices. **(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 07811405124 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	2	Christmas tree lights turn-on. Please see page 1
Saturday	9	Carol singing and bazaar in the village hall from 10.30am to midday – please see page 1
Sunday	17	Carol service in St. Anthony's church starting at 6.30pm
Monday	18	Dover and District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services: Morning prayer at Capel: Monday – Friday 8.30am (except Bank holidays): Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15am. 
Sunday 3 rd	Evensong 4pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	
Tuesday 5 th	Healing Service, St Radigund, Capel 7.00pm			
Sunday 10 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	No service	
Sunday 17 th	Service of nine lessons and carols 6.30 pm	Service of nine lessons and carols 10.00 am	Said Eucharist 9.00 am	
Sunday 24 th	Crib service 4.30 pm	Midnight mass 11.30 pm	No service	
Monday 25 th	Sung Eucharist 11.00am	No service	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	
Sunday 31 st	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund Capel-le-Ferne 10.00 am			

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. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791	Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835		Alkham web site www.alkham.org

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

(no prefix local number)

ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853
BOARDING KENNELS	Kennels and Cattery, Canine Hydrotherapy and Pet Food Shop	Wolverton 822420
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 Part P electricians and data instorers	South Alkham 01303 252764
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
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

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