

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 160 January 2007

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Happy New Year

THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

SWITCH-ON was enjoyed by a good sized crowd which was entertained by the W.I choir and a visit from Father Christmas who gave sweets to the children who were present. Other goodies were given to those who entered the art competition which was held to choose the child to perform the switch-on. Polly Comfort was that child and, after a count down from the crowd, she deftly hit the button to set the lights ablaze. There was no mulled wine or mince pies afterwards but everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves and 58 people gathered later in the pub for a meal – *continued on page 3*

POPPY APPEAL – Many thanks to the villagers of Alkham for donating generously to this year's Poppy Appeal. The collection came to £342.25. Thanks go to Shirley Tapsell, Grace Stacey, Helen Price, and Sue Lees for collecting. And also thanks to The Barn, Alkham Garden Centre and the Marquis of Granby for having collection boxes.

(Rachel Fountain)

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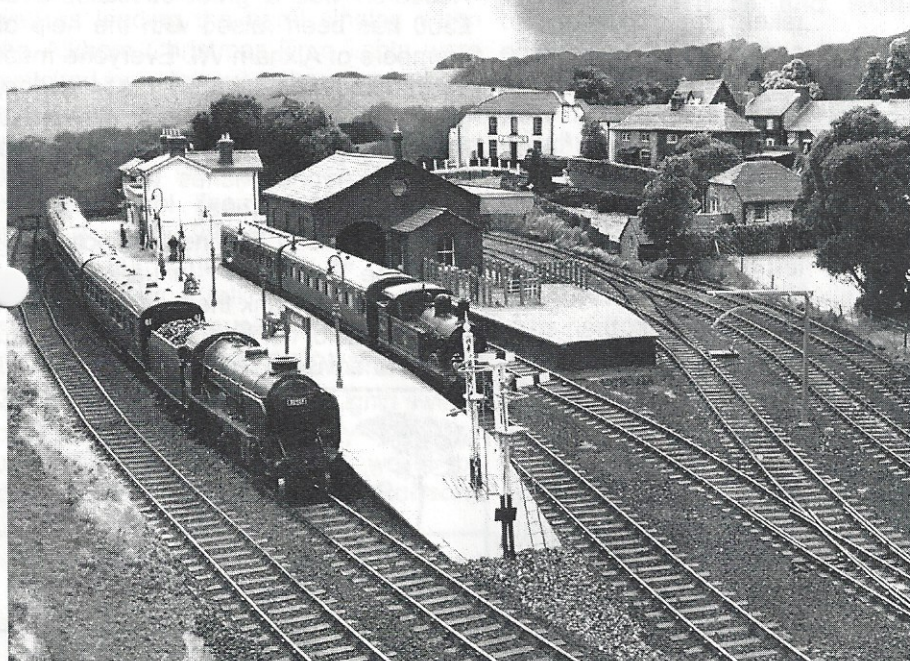


25k Wild Bird Seed £15

25k Peanuts £25

01303 862200

Oscar a Friendly franchise



THE PHOTO ABOVE shows a station in the middle of Alkham with the Marquis of Granby and other houses behind. It's not a picture but part of a model constructed by Ian Hollis showing what would have happened if a railway line had been built down the valley.

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I AM GRATEFUL to Ian Hollis and British Railway Modelling Magazine for letting me publish the article and photographs. The magazine is on sale on the second Thursday of every month, in all good newsagents.

RAILWAY THROUGH ALKHAM

The model is superb and was featured in the March 2006 edition of the British Railway Modelling magazine. Inside the Newsletter are further pictures and the model itself will be on display at MRC exhibition in Canterbury on the 20th/21st of January 2007 at St. Anselms School, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Saturday 10.00am to 5.00pm, Sunday 10.00am to 4.30pm. Entry adult £3.50, OAP £2.50, child £2.00 (5-16), family £9.00 (Entry for 2+2).

During the last 40 years of the 19th century there was intense rivalry between three companies to reach the towns of Kent and build secondary links in the county. A line was built from Folkestone to Canterbury but Ian Hollis has imagined what would have happened if the LCDR option had been adopted, which was for a branch leaving the Canterbury to Dover line at Kearsney and then running down the valley. It would have continued under the ridge of the North Downs into Folkestone and be built to double track main line standard. For the first 40 years, life on the line was gentle but in the 1920's the Kent coalfield arrived and a coal mine would have been sunk at Wolverton producing 400 wagon loads a week. World War II brought big changes – *the story continues on page 2.*

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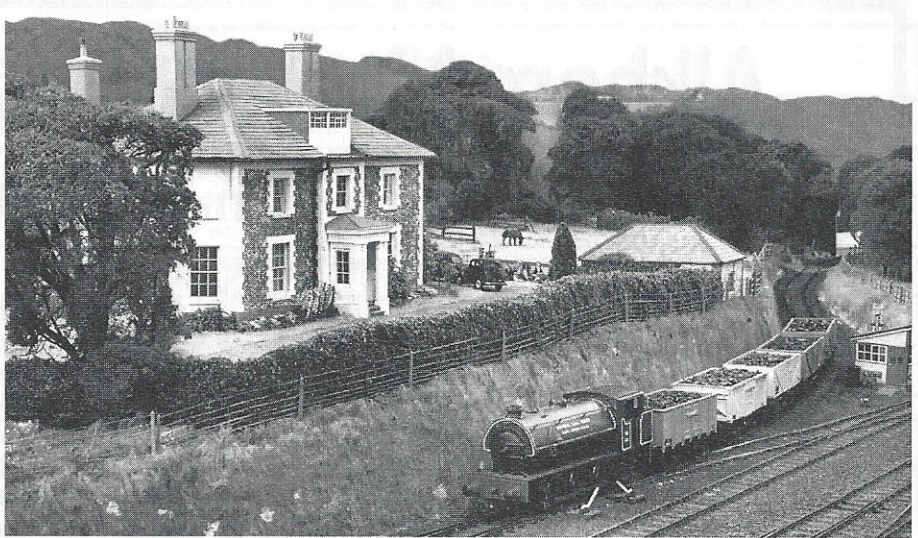
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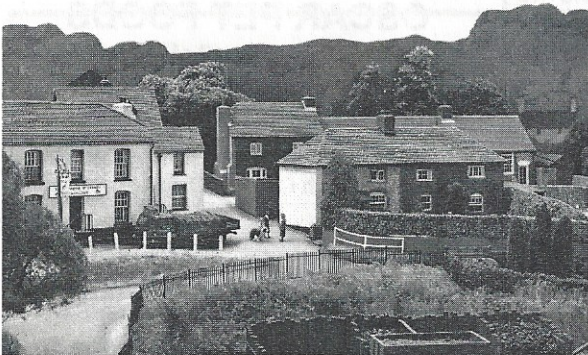
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A TRAIN eases into the exchange sidings past the (Old) Vicarage with 70 tons of coal from the Wolverton pit.



In World War II the army commandeered the line through Alkham and closed it to the public, so they could hide an 18 inch rail-mounted gun under the Downs. After the war the line returned to Southern Region but never regained pre-war levels. By the mid 1950's, British Rail had taken the decision to close the Folkestone connection but keep a single line from Dover, mainly to provide a link to Wolverton colliery. The model reflects this age and the pictures on the left show Fremlin's delivering beer to the Marquis and the early morning newspaper train.

THE MODEL OF ALKHAM is based on actual measurements taken by I Hollis. Through the then Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator he was able to gain access to the houses forming the model and all the owners at the time were delighted to help. Sue Lees provided a wealth of other local information.

THE CAROL SINGING Coffee Morning held to raise funds for Cancer Research was a great success. Over £300 has been raised with the help of members of Alkham WI. Everyone must be thanked whether they made goods, gave goods, paid for goods or worked hard selling the goods. It is a cause to which everyone wishes to contribute. Thank you. **(Sue Lees)**

RECYCLING – The next collection will be on the Thursday 4th January. Ken a I would like to thank the lady who lives in Glebelands for her kindness. It brightened up an otherwise horrible day.

DO YOU REMEMBER the Parcel Delivery Services scam? We have been informed by ICSTIS, the regulator of Premium Rate Services that they successfully closed down all Parcel Delivery Services' lines and froze their revenue. The company has subsequently been fined £10,000 and ordered to pay full refunds to all those who complained to ICSTIS. The Premium rate numbers are now dead. This is an excellent result. **(Neighbourhood Watch)**

POWER CUT – On the 10th of December a large area of Alkham was blacked out because of a power cut. That evening I was phoned by a local resident who said that the reason for the blackout was that a land owner at South Alkham wouldn't let EDF onto their land to repair the fault which was causing it. I have tried phoning EDF to find out whether this is the case but the number given refuses to answer. If it is the case that a landowner is refusing access to EDF, the resident who phoned would like to know the reason why. I'm quite happy to pass on the message to the caller if you want to ring me on 824969 but only as an intermediary. **(editor)**

AS A RESULT of the article in last month's Newsletter I am pleased to say we now have two new box adverts. One of them is on the right of this article and the other is on page 3 courtesy of the Hogbrook Equestrian Centre.



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OZ on STELLA – One of the funniest novels of the last century is undoubtedly *Cold Comfort Farm* by Stella Gibbons, and we've borrowed it often from the library over the years. Recently we acquired our own copy and were soon busy reading the more outrageous bits to each other again. The story tells the adventures of a sophisticated young London woman among her relatives in rural Sussex, the Starkadders of Cold Comfort Farm. Published in 1932, it is a hilarious parody of the 'rural novel' that had been so popular in the early part of the century. Typical of the book is that the farm's cows are named Graceless, Aimless, Feckless and Pointless, and are tended by old Adam Lambsbreath; and it is Aunt Ada Doom who utters the famous line about seeing "something nasty in the woodshed." Stella Gibbons was born in 1902 into a family totally dominated by the father, a well-respected doctor but an extremely volatile man. Fortunately for Stella, this difficult childhood had the effect of helping her assert herself in later life, a trait shared by the heroine in *Cold Comfort Farm*. Stella was educated at the London Collegiate school and University College, London, before embarking on her dual careers of journalism and writing of novels and poetry. The success of *Cold Comfort Farm* in 1932 coincided with Stella's marriage to actor Alan Webb and the birth of her daughter Laura, and she then devoted herself full time to writing and domesticity. By the time of her death in 1989, Stella had published a further 29 novels of high quality that were strangely overlooked by readers. Maybe *Cold Comfort Farm* was just too successful for its own good, so that her fans simply turned away when they didn't get more of the same. **(Steve Osborn)**

BOOK CLUB: A 19th Century Classic of your choice. Wednesday 10th January 7:30pm. Host Margaret 2, Meadow Cottages, Hogbrook Hill. Contact Rosemary 827880 for further details.

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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

The Christmas Bazaar which was held in November made a profit of £256.88 for church funds. This was a very good result and we would like to thank everyone who worked so hard making things for the stalls and to all the helpers on the day for making it such a success. Our Christmas services at Alkham are as shown in the December Newsletter, and we look forward to seeing you at the Crib service on the 24th at 4.30pm, so children, bring your mums and dads along. On Christmas morning there will be a Eucharist service at 11.00am and we must say that this proved to be a very popular service last year. Finally we would like to wish the parishioners of Alkham a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. **(Grace and Richard -- Church Wardens)**

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS *continued from page 1* - The raffle raised £105 which will be put towards the cost of the electricity and my thanks go to Den and Irene Barnard, Maurice Sayers, Richard Miller, The Alkham Valley Garden Centre, the Alkham Tea Rooms, Hogbrook Riding School and the Marquis of Granby for the donation of prizes for this. Thanks must also go to John, Paul and Simon Huggins, Richard Miller and Den Barnard who helped cut, collect and set the tree up and to Noon Lawrence from Tilmanstone who for the past three years has donated the tree saving us an absolute fortune. Several people have commented that they would prefer coloured lights which I have some sympathy with. However the decision to use rope light was made for several reasons not least of which were that the cost of one string of bulbs is more than the cost of the three lengths of rope light and the rope light is pretty much vandal proof! Damage has been caused each year to the trees and decorations and I suspect that individual bulbs would make an almost irresistible target to the people concerned. **(Mark Robson)**

ALKHAM WI - Christmas brings good cheer and hard work but it is worth it. Members are always willing to help raise funds for charity, the Cancer Research Carol singing morning being one of the most noteworthy. Also several members went to Kearsney Manor Nursing Home to sing carols to the residents there as well as leading the carol singing when the Alkham Christmas Tree lights were switched on. However, there have been occasions when members have also been able to sit back and relax such as the Christmas Dinner held at The Lighthouse at Capel. The next WI meeting will be on Tuesday 9th January 2007 when Debbie Burris is going to entertain members with a talk which she always presented in an amusing way.

BOOK SATURDAY DECEMBER 8TH 2008 for the next Christmas Lights switch-on and if anyone has any ideas or suggestions for the event I would be pleased to hear from them! **(Mark Robson)**

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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	From February 1 st – Karate classes in the village hall from 7.15pm to 8.45pm – ring 821336
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	8	Parish Council meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm – all welcome
Tuesday	9	W.I. in the village hall from 7.30pm
Monday	15	Dover and District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	27	Beekeepers in the village hall from 2.00pm to 5.00pm

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 7th	Evensong 4pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30pm	Worshipping together 11a.m.	
Tuesday 9th		No Healing Service		
Sunday 14th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30pm	
Sunday 21st	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 28th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 10am			

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 alkhamparishcouncil@tesco.net	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	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

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The Alkham Valley Society Christmas Walk - Thank you to nearly 60 people and 6 dogs who took part in the Walk on 27th December. It was very well led by Paul Tapsell (baton passed seamlessly from uncle to nephew) in a brightly coloured jester's hat, red and yellow and bells and points. This headgear came in most useful when we had to cross the

Alkham Valley road. Fearlessly the man in the hat stopped the traffic for a few minutes at the start of the two hour hike towards Hawkinge via the meadows behind the Old Rectory, then across to Ewell Minnis and back through Sladden Woods. Everyone seemed to enjoy being out together walking some footpaths which need solid walking. Paul, James and Charlotte had done a recce of the entire walk the day before to be certain that the way was indeed practical. We hope James managed to find his transmitter. There were one or two suggestions made en route which might be entertaining to include in the walk next year. A challenge: can 100 people cross the Alkham Valley road in a crocodile? - Why not. Thanks again to all who made the walk so much fun by coming along. **(Joanna Walker. Secretary)**

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD - For those people who drive to Dover, I'm sure you must have noticed the manhole covers which are sunk into the road since it was partially resurfaced. The Highway Authority say that all but one of these is within tolerance except the cover near the centre of the road. To raise this manhole would require a road closure and Highway's are not keen to do this. The Parish Council is writing to them again expressing their concern especially if a motorcyclist was to hit the one near the centre of the road.

PIPELINE - The new water main along the valley is now complete but before it is put into use it needs to be flushed. The flushed water will discharge into an adjacent ditch, presumably the dyke through the village. The water authority have given assurances that no flooding will occur because of this.

POSTCARDS - Recently there were three old postcards of Alkham church on eBay and I think two local people may have been bidding against each other.

MOTHERS' DAY BREAKFAST - Children and husbands, can you keep a secret? Want to dispel the myth that we can't cook? Plans are afoot to surprise Alkham Mums with a Mothers' Day breakfast in the Village Hall before the special church service on Sunday 18th March. If you would like to 'wow' your loved one then call Geoff Gaskill on 01304 823100.

FOOTPATH - KCC are being contacted again about putting a footpath between the path behind the village hall and the one to Newlyn Meadow. At a recent consultation, KCC had said that they would install this path but now say there is not sufficient money to do so. This path is the safe alternative to walking through the narrow gap on the Valley Road and from the wear to the grass is regularly used.

AN ATTEMPT was made to break into St. Anthony's church with resulting damage to the back door and a side window. It appears as though entry wasn't made as nothing was stolen, it was however pure vandalism to even try and get in.

RuPP's is the acronym for Roads used as Public Paths, which basically means that most forms of transport can use them. You may remember reading in the Newsletter about local RuPP's being used by motorcyclists and 4 wheeled drive vehicles. From the 2nd of May this year the majority of RuPP's will have Restricted Byway Status. This means that they can only be used by pedestrians, horses and vehicles that are not mechanically driven (there are exceptions). However, those RuPP's which have been the subject of objection are not included and their designation will be decided in due course. I understand that this may be a couple of years and this affects a number of RuPP's in the parish.

WHITE CLIFFS CARELINE 24-hour monitoring and alarm service

Any one at any age can feel at risk. Fear need not be something you face alone because we are open 24 hours. We are able to assist in many situations, from providing friendly reassurance to contacting the emergency services. People who join the scheme are supplied with a special alarm unit and pendant so they can call for help wherever they are. One push of the button on the pendant alerts the Control Centre, and help is on the way in a matter of minutes, even if the person is unable to speak. A unit can be installed on either a long term or temporary basis. We strive to keep costs as low as possible. Installation is £10 plus a small weekly charge. If you have just come out of hospital there is a free one month's trial. Phone 01304 872070 or 872071. **(Dover District Council)**

WANTED/NEEDED! Cleaner for private household in Ewell Minnis for a few hours a month. Hours and pay negotiable - please call 07875 871 224 to discuss.

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GARAGE SAFARI - We have **ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY** decided that we will hold a Garage Thank you all who attended the AGM Safari in the Village this year instead of on 16 November – it was a pretty full the Open Gardens Weekend as house and we missed those who originally intended. The reasons for were unable to come. The supper at the change of plan are twofold: there the Fox was well-attended and a is a lot of work and involvement in happy affair with its customary good organising the Open Gardens food and cheerfulness. As mentioned Weekend and we felt that we would at the AGM events planned for the need more time than the proposed coming year (a speaker on a topical date in July would allow, and we also issue and the annual outing) will be felt that, as our new Vicar will be organised by the Committee and installed in the near future, we would everyone will be notified in due like to give him time to settle into the course. **(Joanna Walker - Secretary)**

RESTORATION, refurbishment and reconstruction. Work on a certain well-known landmark in Slip Lane is taking place and is a fascinating exercise (to watch). We know Val & Stan Fowler's neighbours are particularly fond of the old corrugated iron structure and wondered if any arm-twisting is taking place. It is encouraging to see that something mellow will be reinstated in sympathy with this neck of the woods. Good work. **(Jo Walker)**

BOOK CLUB - We enjoyed a friendly evening last month, discussing various books written by authors of the 19th century. Membership continues to grow with the prospect of a few more joining next month, which is always refreshing. Please note that from now on the Book Club have agreed to meet on the 1st Wednesday of every month and not the 2nd. Next months meeting will be held at Beech Tree House, 8 Newlyns Meadow 7.30 pm on the 7th February. Read any book title written by Ben Elton. For further details please contact Rosemary Heddle 827880.

GARDEN TALK - Belated thanks to Ian and Lucy for hosting our Christmas party (I missed the deadline for January)! It was a wonderful evening as usual and the Dutch raffle proved very popular and involved a bottle of whisky, a wooden boat and a teddy bear amongst other things. It was a pleasure to welcome of Sue and Bruce Campbell, who will hopefully become regular members of our gang. They kindly agreed to act as hosts for the February meeting which will be at Malmaims Manor on 9th February at 7.30 pm. Look forward to seeing everyone there. **(Devina 827548)**

KEEP FIT - At this time of year thoughts often turn to doing just a little exercise. Those who could be wavering towards a positive decision may be encouraged to come to the Village hall, Weds. 9.30 -10.30am, where not only do we enjoy a fairly gentle programme, but also raise money for a mixture of local and national charities, £285.00 in this last year. Each person pays just £1.a session and once the hall is paid the rest goes to charity. **(Susannah Tapsell)**

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Alkham Valley Road

STREET NAMEPLATES – The **OZ on AUDEN** – The film Four Slip Lane nameplate has been Weddings and a Funeral famously replaced but still seems to stick out featured Funeral Blues, the 1936 slightly into the road. The Highway poem of grieving that starts “Stop all Authority have been told about the the clocks, cut off the telephone...”. Chalksole Green Lane sign which Wystan Hugh Auden, the poem’s was inexplicably run into. They have author, was born in York 100 years been asked not to put an arrow ago this month into a high-achieving pointing up towards Ellinge on the Anglo-Catholic family. He later new sign as this is Slip Lane. attributed his love of words and music to the church services of his childhood. Auden began writing poetry at school and never stopped, even while reading biology at Oxford and later working in teaching and journalism, eventually producing more than 400 each of poems and prose items. It was while working with the GPO Film Unit in 1936 that he wrote the ever-popular commentary for the GPO documentary film Night Mail: “This is the Night Mail crossing the Border, / Bringing the cheque and the postal order...”. A year later he wrote the lesser-known but equally evocative poem Dover. In the first line, “a tunnel through chalk downs” obviously refers to the Shakespeare Tunnel but has a second resonance with us nowadays since construction of Roundhill Tunnel on the A20 approach. Four lines later “Nothing is made in this town”, reflecting the long-held view that people go through, rather than to, Dover. “A Norman castle... flood-lit at night” is still there, unlike the “Trains which fume in a station built on the sea.” And so Auden continues, describing lighthouses “Like twin stone dogs”, the eyes of departing migrants and homecomers, soldiers in “The Lion, The Rose, The Crown”, aeroplanes that “drone through the new European air”, and “High over France, a full moon, cold and exciting”. From 1939 onwards, Auden lived variously in the US, UK and Europe, dying in Vienna in 1973, but I like to think he never really forgot the Night Mail or Dover. (Steve Osborn)

ALKHAM WI – President Helen Scopes welcomed members and visitors to the first meeting of the year. A year which starts with many enticing outings organized by Cherry Leppard:- TV ‘Last of the Summer Wine’ 21 January; Les Miserable 21 February, TV ‘Loose Women’ 5 March and Classical Spectacular 25 March. Anyone interested in the last two shows please ring 01303 255114. Member Debbie Burris gave a very interesting and amusing talk, as anticipated, on simple but effective, money saving ways to clean the house – why do we listen to manufacturer’s who claim their products clean so much better than anyone else’s? The meeting ended with absolutely gorgeous eats, the only draw back being that they piled the calories on top of all those already gained from eating Christmas goodies. The speaker at the next meeting Tuesday 13th February will be Wendy Finnis from Hougham, demonstrating quilting. (Susan Lees)

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	From February 1 st – Karate classes in the village hall from 7.15pm to 8.45pm – ring 821336
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	8	Parish Council meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm – all welcome
Tuesday	9	W.I. in the village hall from 7.30pm
Monday	15	Dover and District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	27	Beekeepers in the village hall from 2.00pm to 5.00pm

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 7th	Evensong 4pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30pm	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	
Tuesday 9th		No Healing Service		
Sunday 14th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.30pm	
Sunday 21st	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.00 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 28th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 10am			

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876 Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641 W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
	GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234	Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756 Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484 County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547 District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkhamparishcouncil@tesco.net	

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

(no prefix local number)

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

No. 162 March 2007

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PARISH COUNCIL

ELECTIONS - Once again it is election time for the Parish Council; this is your opportunity to become actively involved and to make a positive contribution on a range of issues affecting the village and villagers, such as communal facilities, planning applications and the state of the roads and footpaths, nuisance behaviour and the various other points of contact and liaison with the District and County Councils about wider strategic matters (i.e. education, policing, waste management, etc.). We have full meetings every two months or so as well as perhaps a further six shorter meetings as and when particular urgent matters arise, so the post requires a modest commitment as regards time and effort. If you are interested in standing for the Council, or would like further information about what's involved please contact Angela (the Clerk on 01304 824791), Neil Burrows (Chairman -01303 892056) or Paul Tapsell (Vice-Chairman 01303 892082).

ALKHAM FETE

COMMITTEE There will be a meeting of the Fete Committee on the 14th March 2007 at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall to make arrangements for this year's Fete. We have a number of vacancies for stallholders and would welcome volunteers to run existing stalls or to make suggestions for other attractions or entertainments which might add a new spin to the traditional Fete; please come along, have your say and become a part of the Village's biggest annual social event - I guarantee you'll enjoy yourself! **(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)**

A QUIZ in aid of the Kent Air Ambulance will be held in the village hall on the 21st April. To book a table please ring 824876.

GARAGE SAFARI - An open meeting

was held in the Village Hall recently to discuss the Garage Safari, which will take place on Saturday, 11 August, beginning at 10.00am. We have already received several enquiries and promises to take part but we still need a few more. There are people who live a short distance from the village, some of whom may wish to take part in the Garage Safari but feel that they are too far out. This need not be a problem as there will be plenty of space at The Hermitage for extra tables for anyone who would like to take advantage of it. We would like to have a group of stalls there to encourage prospective buyers to come that far out of the village. There will also be a car park in the field there. The fee for a stall/garage will be £8. All money taken on the stalls/garages will belong to the stallholder. However, a donation to the church would be gratefully received, but there is no obligation whatsoever. There will be tea or coffee and biscuits in the Village Hall and, should anyone wish to provide any other attraction such as a cake stall, ice cream, etc. they would be welcome to do so. The next open meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 11 June at 7.30pm. If you are interested in opening your garage or helping in some other way please do come along as we will be discussing details with all concerned. All of the money raised will go to St Anthony's church funds. **(Marion Banks-Nash)**

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY is conducting a walk on Easter Monday, the 9th April. We will meet at Foxgloves, the house at the very top of Slip Lane on the T-Junction at about 10.30am. The walk will be on flat ground and take about 1½ hours, ending back at Foxgloves for coffee and biscuits. All welcome, including non-members. **(Shelley Jackson)**

OPERATION STACK

You might not be aware but someone is finally doing something to try and stop "Operation Stack" the Kent Messenger Group has launched an online petition. For too long, the people of Kent have suffered the major disruption caused every time Kent Police have to implement Operation Stack. While up to 5,000 lorry drivers park up on the M20 awaiting embarkation on the Dover ferries, the rest of Kent's traffic also grinds to a halt. The KM is calling on the Government to address the issue urgently and asks readers to support its campaign by signing its on-line petition www.kentonline.co.uk/specialreports/stack.asp You might want to sign up....(and forward to your colleagues, clients, suppliers, family, friends etc).

(Peter Frater)

FUND RAISING PARTY

for St. Anthony's Church at Box Tree Cottage On Friday, 23rd March. It is proposed to have a supper at Box Tree Cottage in aid of the church funds. The evening will commence at 7.30 p.m., and a buffet style supper will be served at about 8 o'clock. Numbers will obviously have to be limited so please do book your tickets early. The cost of the buffet will be £10 per person with free beer, wine and soft drinks, (although where alcohol is concerned, the way home for most people will be within walking distance, I am sure).

There will be a raffle, and prizes for this will be very welcome. It is hoped to have a good crowd, and tickets are available from Box Tree Cottage. **(Maurice and Pamela Sayers)**

ACRYSE YOUNG farmer's club meets every Friday evening and is based around the Dover and Folkestone area. Everybody between the ages of 14 and 26 are welcome to join and you don't have to be a young farmer. For more information on please ring 07748630169.

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TABLE FAIR – On the 3rd of March Beattie and I are having a table for 'bric a brac' in the village hall at 11.00am with all the proceeds going to the Church. If any readers have items they are willing to donate then we would be grateful if you would bring them to the hall on the morning. If it is more convenient then I can collect them. Many thanks. **(Raye Luckhurst)**

THE BOOK CLUB spent a most enjoyable evening with 11 members discussing the many varied titles written by Ben Elton. This month's read is titled The Surgeon of Crowthorne: A tale of Murder, Madness and the Oxford English Dictionary by Simon Winchester. It is interesting to know that some of you are able to read the books we select even if you are unable to attend our meetings. Next months meeting will take place at the home of Sue, Woodlands, Short Lane, on 7th March 7.30 pm. Phone Rosemary for further details on 827880.

GARDEN MEETING - We all spent a wonderful evening with Sue and Bruce at Malmaison Manor this month, so much so that the only concession to any sort of gardening was to admire the tulips and snowdrops on the table! Even my lovingly compiled quiz was ignored in favour of wine, chatter, food, more wine etc etc. The next meeting will be at the home of Maurice and Pamela Sayers on Friday 9th March at 7.30 pm. **(Devina - 827548)**

LADIES OF ALKHAM - Did you know that you can go along to Dover South Kent College, (in the town centre), and have your hair done for a fraction of the cost charged by a salon. One of our younger village residents is seeking clients to practice perms, colouring and cut and styles. The work is fully supervised by qualified stylists and you can get a perm for £4.00, a cut and finish for £5.00 and colouring and highlights from £10.00 - £15.00. This is about 75% cheaper than salon prices. Refreshments are available and there is easy parking. If you are interested please phone Emily on 01304 823483. Emily has also offered to help with transport where she can, to and from college, for any senior Alkham residents who would like to come along.

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - We shall soon be starting our nets sessions so that we reach a peak of physical and mental preparation for the start of the season, if you would like to come along to the sessions at the St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury from 7.30 pm on Wednesdays in March and April, please give me a call as numbers have to be controlled. If you are unavailable for nets but would like to be involved during the season (starting at the end of April) again give me a shout and I'll pass your details onto our new skipper, Mark "Ironfist" Naris; he's promised us blood, sweat and tears but in return says he will guarantee us more wins than last year, so if you want to join a team on the way up then now is probably the best time! **(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)**

ALKHAM QUIZ – There was a contented hum in the village hall on the 3rd of February at the end of the annual quiz. I wasn't sure whether this was due to the questions or the alcohol but it was probably a combination of both. I had said that the question master's decision was final but this was happily ignored by everyone present of which there were over 100 occupying 13 tables. Ten teams scored over 100 points (130 max) and the winning team scoring 120.5 was led (in the loosest sense) by Darren Mowat who kindly gave the winning vouchers to Ken Hammond who runs the Alkham Soup Kitchen slot at Dover. Huge bars of chocolate were given to the runners up whose team included Oz of page 3 and Jo Walker's family. A profit of £340 was donated to the Lord Whisky animal sanctuary at Rhodes Minnis who have sent a letter of thanks. **(Brian Wimsett)**

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ALKHAM WI in February – it was good to see so many people present this month, especially as three of them only joined that evening and the one visitor told us she only moved into the village the day before! Hopefully all found it a welcoming occasion. An attempt to cut down on business matters may have confused some people – it certainly cut down on the time spent at the meeting, which may or may not be a good idea. The speaker Wendy Finnis from Hougham fascinated people with her patchwork quilting; some garments were made in traditional patterns but others were very modern and very attractive. Wendy holds regular



quilting classes should anyone be interested to learn more of the craft. Next meeting 13th March, the speaker will be Mr C. Wade on the Saxon Shore Way. (Sue Lees)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will perform Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* ("Solemn Little Mass") at 7.30 pm on Saturday 31st March 2007 in Dover Town Hall. This setting was composed by the 71-year old Rossini in 1863, and was immediately recognized, as it has been ever since, as being neither particularly solemn nor little. Once again soloists will be drawn from the post-graduate ranks of the Guildhall School of Music, London. The choir and soloists will be accompanied by Spencer Payne (piano) and John Hurd (harmonium) and conducted by Michael Lewis. Tickets costing £10 (Students £5) are available from the Dover Tourist Information Centre (next to the Town Hall) 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

OZ on ROSSINI – While writing publicity for our spring choral concert I became increasingly fascinated by the featured composer's life. What better than to share it with Alkham readers? Gioacchino, meaning "Jackie", Rossini was born in Pesaro, on Italy's Adriatic coast, in 1792, into a musically active household. His father was a slaughterhouse inspector and horn player, and his mother was a singer. After an intensive early musical education Rossini began writing operas at 14 and achieved international fame within 6 years. By the age of 37, he had written thirty-six successful operas and was able to retire in comfort, first to Bologna in 1829 to be near his father, and then to Paris with his second wife in 1855. In contrast to the flamboyant first half of his life, Rossini became withdrawn, sometimes depressed over political unrest, and increasingly hypochondriacal. At other times he was great fun, writing whimsical musical pieces for friends, devising and naming recipes, and eating and drinking so much that he became huge and bedridden in old age. Yet Rossini never lost his ability to write effortlessly and to remember what he had written. He once remarked "Give me a laundry list and I'll set it to music." Both of these aspects of his character are summed up in a famous story. One day he was writing music in bed when a page of manuscript fluttered to the floor. Rather than get out of bed to pick it up, Rossini rewrote the whole page from memory. During his long retirement, Rossini never again attempted opera, but did write two major religious works: his setting of the *Stabat Mater*, completed when his father died in 1839; and, taken from the collection "Sins of Old Age", the *Petite Messe Solennelle*, subject of our spring concert. (Steve Osborn)

MANY THANKS to Rosemary and John Crothall for their comments and kind donation to the Newsletter.

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	Karate classes in the village hall from 7.15pm to 8.45pm – ring 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library stops at the car parks by the village hall from 9.25 am to 9.50 am
Friday	Whist Drive in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Saturday	3	Table Fair in the village hall from 11.00am – see page 2
Monday	5	Parish Council meeting in the village hall starting at 7.30pm – all welcome to attend
Saturday	10	Music for dancing 8pm to 11pm. See village hall notice board for more details
Tuesday	13	W.I. in the village hall from 7.30pm
Wednesday	14	Fete committee meeting in the village hall starting at 8.00pm – please come along and support
Saturday	17	W.I. jumble sale in the village hall starting at 11.00am
Monday	19	Dover and District Bird Club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	31	Beekeepers in the village hall from 2.00pm to 5.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services: Morning Prayer at Capel: Some days at 8.30am (except Bank Holidays) Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15a.m.
Sunday 4th	Evensong 4pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30pm	Worshipping together 11a.m.	
Tuesday 6th		No Healing Service		
Sunday 11th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11a.m.	No Service	
Sunday 18th	Mothering Sunday Worshipping together 11a.m.	No Service	Sung Eucharist 9.30a.m.	
Sunday 25th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne 10am			

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876 Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641 W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
	Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484 GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547 District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkhamparishcouncil@tesco.net	Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756 Alkham web site www.alkham.org

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

(no prefix local number)

BOARDING KENNELS	Kennels and Cattery , Canine Hydrotherapy and Pet Food Shop	Wolverton	822420
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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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No. 163 April 2007

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RECYCLING – Dover District Council have extended their recycling scheme to most of Alkham village covering the Valley Road, Short Lane, Glebelands and Newlyns Meadow. They will collect cans, paper and glass bottles. Alkham recycling is continuing but will now only take plastic drink bottles and cardboard from the area which has been covered. As we do not wish to get in dispute with DDC, if any paper or cans are put out for us to collect regrettably we will have to leave them. We will however continue to take all the usual items from properties in Slip Lane and Meadowhill Cottages.

FOOTBALL PITCH – In January there was meeting in the village hall for the Parish Council and youngsters from the village to discuss how facilities within the village could be improved for them. The dark evenings meant that they could not play football on the pitch and some children had taken to playing under street lights outside houses with owners complaining. A quote has been obtained from EDF to lay a cable to the football pitch and erect a light column and the cost of this is £5000. Bryan Cope, the local County Councillor, said that at present there was no money available but after the local elections in May he would bring the matter up again.

MANHOLE COVERS – The subject of the sunken manhole covers on the Alkham Valley Road as you approach Temple Ewell was again discussed at the Parish Council meeting. The Highway Authority now accept that they may be able to use traffic lights to control the work and are currently waiting for Southern Water to get back to them.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY

The owner of the Marquis of Granby has taken over the running of the pub as of Tuesday the 20th of March. They have owned the freehold of the property since 2003 with Paul and Allison Hood, who have now left, being their tenants. They also own the freehold of another pub near Ashford, The Woolpack Inn, Warehorne that is a well known gastropub in the area which has just been awarded runner-up, Pub of the Year for East Kent by CAMRA, of which they are very proud. They are totally free of all trade ties, so customers are likely to see some benefits in the prices charged at the Marquis. Their managers at the Woolpack have recently had their first child and are currently on maternity leave, which means they are very stretched with regard to taking over the Marquis. As a result of this they are looking for some staff

BAR STAFF, WAITING AND CLEANING STAFF are required at the Marquis of Granby and anyone interested in applying should phone (01304) 822945 or pop into the Marquis and speak to the new owner.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING is being held in the village hall on Monday the 2nd of April starting at 7.30pm. It is a chance for people to come along and meet the Parish Council and ask questions or give opinions on parish affairs.

FOOTPATH – The Parish Council are contacting the Highway Authority again about putting a footpath between the one behind the village hall and the other leading to Newlyns Meadow. They are also considering lighting the footpath towards the village hall.

PRIORITY – When the consultation with the Highway Authority and local residents was carried out a couple of years ago one of the proposals put forward was to change the priority at the Dover end of the Alkham Valley Road where it meets the old A2. It was assumed that this would be included in the works recently carried out but they are still considering the matter and Bryan Cope will raise the point at the next Highways meeting. Some people thought that having the Valley Road as the priority would encourage more people to use the rat run but the general feeling was that this would be unlikely. Bryan Cope also intimated that widening may take place at the Crabble traffic lights in 2007/8 so that right turning vehicles to River do not hold up the main road traffic.

DO YOU FANCY being a Parish Councillor? The Council really do have an input into parish affairs so if you'd like to stand in the election in May and would like further information please contact either the Parish Clerk, Angela Miller on 824791, Neil Burrows (Chairman) on 01303 892056 or Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082.

MANY THANKS to all who contributed in any way to the Christmas Bazaar and coffee morning in aid of Cancer Research UK. The total sent this year was £412.00 – a record amount! (**the ladies of Alkham**) *my apologies for not including this in the March edition*

DEBBIE HOLLIMAN is training for the London Marathon on the 22nd of April which she will run in aid of the Kent Air Ambulance. If anyone would like to sponsor Debbie, or buy a raffle ticket, please pop into Southern Equestrian at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre.

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CLOTHING - fly-dropped leaflets from three different companies which state that they are clothing collection companies have been put through letter boxes in the Dover area. One actually states that it is a Third World Clothing Collection Company. These companies, all registered with Companies House, are NOT collecting for charity. They are collecting to re-sell and make money. The Company names are Help and Support Ltd, Europe Suppliers Ltd and Seabeach Ltd.

So if they should come and leaflet-drop in your area, they are legitimate 'collectors', but just remember, they are going to make money out of your generosity and nothing is going to help the needy.

(Neighbourhood Watch)

and there were Fish Sellers in Capel le Ferne who call themselves Ocean Delights. Please remember that Trading Standards advise people not to buy from door to door sellers.

OUR CYCLING companion told us that his girl friend had phoned him from the hospital to say that she had eaten a daffodil bulb by mistake instead of a potato. However, the doctor said not to worry as she would be out in the spring.

THE ALKHAM CARDS drawn by Margaret Knowles have raised another £100 which has been given to Marion Banks-Nash for the church fabric fund. Margaret and Norman are leaving the village and we wish them well in their new home. I have got Margaret's cards and if anyone would like to buy some please contact me. **(Brian 824969)**

THE JUMBLE SALE on the 17th of March in the village hall in aid of W.I. funds made a profit of £137.

IN THE DOVER EXPRESS on the 26th May 1922 there was an article about the Empire Day Celebration in Alkham School that year. It refers to a Roll of Honour being unveiled. It apparently hung in the school and was inscribed with the names of 111 Old Boys who served in the War (i.e. WWI). The Roll was not complete at that date and it was anticipated more names would be added. I would be interested if anyone can tell me more about the Roll and especially if anyone knows the whereabouts of it today. **(Susan Lees)**

ALKHAM W.I. - once again it has to be said that it was great to see a room full of members, there were 34 present. As mentioned last month it was confusing not to have the minutes of the previous meeting read, so it has been decided to read them once again at all meetings so that everyone is aware of what is happening. Cherry Leppard is always willing to receive new ideas for summer outings as she is at present, making enquiries for two outings this year. The speaker, Chris Wade, gave the second half of the talk on the Saxon Shore Walk, showing many lovely photos of the glorious views seen on the walk from Margate to Rye. Views much appreciated by all present. Next month's meeting 10th April may have some slight connection as it is about Sandwich, 'a Kentish Cinque Port' talk by Mrs P Yeomans. **(Sue Lees)**

THE NEXT BOOK CLUB meeting will be held at the home of Susannah Tapsell on the 4th April at 7.30pm. The chosen book title is Restless by William Boyd. This book is currently one of the top 10 sellers, so let's hope we are in for an enjoyable read. Contact Rosemary 827880 for more information.

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Alkham Valley Road

News from St. Anthony's The following statement was sent to us by the Area Dean, David Ridley relating to the current situation at St. Anthony's Church. "It has been agreed by all parties that Rev Trish Godfrey should offer substantial Priestly Ministry in the parishes of Alkham, Capel and Hougham between the months of May to July inclusive. During this time, Trish will continue as Curate at St Mary's, Dover, although her duties there will be substantially reduced; and Rev David Ridley, in his capacity as Area Dean will have overall pastoral responsibility for the Benefice. During this period it is anticipated that the good links already established with the Parish of River will further be nurtured. Whilst we appreciate that this does not offer a long term answer to future ministry in the Benefice, it does offer some short term stability, it gives Andy (Bawtree) time to settle in at River, and it offers space for reflection on the right way forward. We would anticipate that a clear direction will emerge during this time which will have broad support." **(David Ridley St Mary's-Vicarage)**

The A.G.M. for St. Anthony's will be held on Wednesday, 25th April at 7.30pm in the village hall. Please do attend if you possibly can. **(Richard Tapsell and Grace Stacey)**

GARDEN TALK - We enjoyed a very pleasant evening this time around at the home of Pam and Maurice Sayers. Thank you to you both. The next meeting will be at Susannah and Richard Tapsell's house, and hopefully it will be light enough to look around the garden too. Please note the change of date for this evening. It will now be at 7.30 pm on Friday 20th May. A future diary date will be 20th June, when the Snapes have very kindly agreed to let us loose in their lovely garden at Hockley Sole. **(Devina 827548)**

OZ on "HE" - In childhood I loved reading, moving from fairy tales to Biggles and the Arthur Ransome books, and in my early teens discovering the short stories of H E Bates. Our shelves still hold those orange-covered Penguins, and it was gratifying to learn that Penguin and Methuen have now reissued all of Bates's novels. Herbert Ernest Bates, always known as "HE", was born in 1905 in Northamptonshire. At Kettering Grammar School, inspired by his English teacher Edmund Kirby, he began to write. After starting work, first as a reporter and then in a boot factory, he finished his first novel *The Two Sisters*. After many rejection slips, he finally convinced Edward Garnett, editor at Jonathan Cape, who published the book in 1926. Under Garnett's guidance, HE soon became established as a popular and prolific writer. In 1931 he married Marjorie Cox and they moved to an idyllic disused granary in Little Chart, where they raised their four children. During World War Two HE joined the Royal Air Force and wrote the best-selling *Flying Officer X* stories, followed, after a Far East posting, by two novels about Burma, *The Purple Plain* and *The Jacaranda Tree* and one about India, *The Scarlet Sword*. After the war and a return to his beautifully crafted pre-war style, HE hit the headlines in 1958 with *The Darling Buds of May*, a book that the public loved as much as the critics loathed. The portrayal of the outrageous Larkin family seemed to have touched the same funny bone as the Daily Express's Giles cartoons, and HE soon felt obliged to write another four Larkin novels. There followed a three-volume autobiography and then this great and gentle writer died in 1974, having written over a hundred novels and collections of short stories.

(Steve Osborn)

Regular events in the village (village hall unless stated)	
Monday	The Chalksole Homegroup, third Monday of the month - 823100
Tuesday	Art classes from 10 am to 1 pm – ring 07811405124
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30am to 10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm please phone 821336 for further details
Thursday	Mobile Library stops in car park by the village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive starting at 7.30 pm

AVON CALLING
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Other events in the village		
Monday	2	Annual Parish meeting in the village hall starting at 7.30pm – please see page 1
Tuesday	10	W.I. in the village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	21	Quiz in the village hall from 7.30pm in aid of Kent Air Ambulance
Wednesday	25	PCC meeting in the village hall starting at 7.30pm
Saturday	28	Beekeepers in the village hall from 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Monday	30	Village Hall Committee AGM starting at 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES				
Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services: Morning Prayer at Capel: Some days at 8.30am (except Bank Holidays) Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15a.m.
Sunday 1st	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping together 11am	
Thursday 5th	Sung Eucharist 7.00pm			
6th April Good Friday		2.00 – 3.00pm the hour before the cross		
Sunday 8th Easter day	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Lawrence, Hougham 10.00am			
Sunday 15th	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 22nd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Anthony's Alkham 10.00am			
Sunday 29th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Mary's old church, Capel 10.00am.			

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876 Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641 W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484	GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234	Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
County Councillor , Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547	Newsletter , Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Alkham web site www.alkham.org
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkhamparishcouncil@tesco.net	

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES			(no prefix local number)
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	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
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
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No. 164 May 2007

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Simon Norris is happy to run the sunflower competition again this year. For those new to the village

the competition is to grow the tallest sunflower and there is a prize for the winning adult or child entry. Please email Simon at sunningdalenursery@tiscali.co.uk or phone me (Brian 824969) and I will pass the details on. Judging will be the first week of September (no sooner / no later) and if the wind blows it over the night before he turns up – hard luck. Adults and Children competition as normal.

ALKHAM FUND – I'm pleased to say that from May 2006 we earned £363.18 from recycling which has been paid into the Building Society account. The only cost, thanks to Billy Hollis lending us the van, is the cost of the plastic sacks. We collected 700Kg of cans, 7700Kg of paper, 2500Kg of cardboard and 750Kg of plastic. Over the following year the revenue will be much less because of DDC collecting the paper but we are not really doing it for the money. If anyone would like to suggest any village projects to spend the money on please phone 824969 or speak to Ken or Brian. **(Brian Wimsett, Ken Hammond and Clive Batcheldor)**

The DDC recycling scheme has now been extended to Hogbrook Lane and Slip Lane.

CAL SCOPES – I would like to thank all my friends for the love and support they have given me at this difficult time. For those who didn't know Cal, he and I provided the pig roast at the Alkham fete. **(Helen Scopes)**

CAL SCOPES - On 29th March 2007

Alkham lost one of its best known and most well respected residents, Cal Scopes aged 69 of "The Willows" Slip Lane. Cal first moved to Alkham with his family 50 years ago and in 1979 he moved to "The Willows". He spent many years turning what was a rundown bungalow into a lovely 4 bedroom home and gradually with lots of hard work and dedication he restored the grounds from what resembled a builder's yard to the smart smallholding it is today. The Willows became a part of Cal's heart and soul, it was where his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren could come to seek sanctuary from the world and his friends could visit and be assured of his friendly welcome. Cal was often called upon to give help and advice to others. Whether the problem was either personal or practical, Cal would do all he could to offer assistance. Over the years many people have benefited from his kindness, wisdom and guidance. Cal was a gifted engineer whose design skills and practical application were exceptional. He was well known and respected in the rally cross world as a talented engine builder, designer and mechanic. Again, always having time to give others the benefit of his great knowledge and experience if called upon. Alkham has been left a wonderful legacy by Cal in the form of the beautiful cross on the roof of St Anthony's church which he designed, made and erected. Family was the most important part of Cal's life, he was a loving father to Mary and Dave and a devoted son to his beloved mother Mary all of whom live in the village and are naturally devastated by his death. The following words have been chosen by his mother. When you were born you cried and the world rejoiced. When you died the world cried but you rejoiced. May you have found the peace you deserve.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Hugh Oxborrow would like to thank everybody who applied for the jobs at the pub. He was inundated by replies and unfortunately cannot find enough shifts for those who contacted him. He would also like to thank everybody in the village for making them so welcome and if anybody would like to use the Marquis for a function please phone 822945. They are also quite happy for people to walk across the access to the front of the pub and confirm that the wheel clamping signs have been removed. (see also back page)

DISTRICT AND PARISH COUNCIL

elections will take place on the 3rd of May with Alkham village hall being open from 7.00am to 10.00pm for parishioners to cast their votes.

ALKHAM'S GARAGE

SAFARI – don't forget this new event, which is to take place on 11th August. As you may recall this is an ideal way to sell on goods you have kept over the years and now have no longer any use for. Anyone interested in taking part please contact 01304 822661, 01304 823568 and 01303 892848. There will be an open evening to discuss matters in June.

KENT HIGHWAY

SERVICES is responsible for looking after roads and pavements and appreciate the public bringing any faults to their attention. If you see anything that is damaged or needs repairing please call them on 08458 247 800 or via the website www.kent.gov.uk.

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SPEED LIMITS – A couple of people have commented that there is a small 50mph repeater sign before the 40mph limit at South Alkham and a similar 50mph repeater just before the 30mph limit at Kearsney. The reason for this is that for the speed limit to be enforceable the repeater signs must be at a specified distance and it just happens that the last one is adjacent to the next big sign.

ALKHAM WI – Once again it is good to report that there were many members at the March meeting. Each member was understandably pleased to receive a free bag of Yorkshire tea, a company who has given much support to the WI throughout the years. Cherry Leppard spoke about several ideas for Summer Outings one for the 23rd of May to Westenhanger Castle and another 19th July to see the sights of London via an ex-army 'Duck'! Doreen Wilks and Pam Sayers delivered excellent reports on meetings they had attended, indeed Pam's report was so detailed and amusing, members felt that they had been there and enjoyed it themselves. The speaker, Mr Ewart, gave an excellent talk on the life of the port and town of Sandwich from when the sand bank on which the town was built, came into existence, and the subsequent history through all the centuries to the present day – a talk that left everyone a little breathless trying to absorb all the information. The main business of the May meeting will be to discuss a very important Resolution – to stop the closure of Community Hospitals, which provide essential services to local people. It is a matter which the National Federation of WI intends to take further.

(Susan Lees)

THE ANNUAL PARISH meeting was poorly attended and the chairman asked at the end of the meeting whether it was worth having one. The answer is probably no as things have moved on with better communications and services from the days when parishioners brought their problem to the council. Paul Tapsell said it would be a shame to lose this village tradition. It was pointed out that parishioners can come to any of the bi-monthly Parish Council meetings to raise points in the interval.

FUND RAISING

EVENING - Our evening went with a swing with everybody chatting nineteen to the dozen and the raffle prizes guests brought were magnificent and far too numerous to mention, with the exception of a beautiful black and white collie dog, who was at least 4ft. in length when he made himself comfortable on our settee. Peter and Dennie Frater gave him, and he was won by Ann Huggins to the envy of most of the ladies present. Thank you Peter and Dennie and to everyone who gave so generously to the raffle. Patsy, who was selling the tickets, managed somehow or other (I don't think she actually used brute force) to sell £200 worth. Also a big thank you to John and Angie who ran the bar all evening, which was no mean task with so many guests, and to Christine Tapsell, Helen Scopes and Maureen Wright for their help during the day and to the many others who gave a hand washing up etc. during the evening. We sold 35 tickets at £10 each, total £350, (no deductions were made for drinks or food), so we are delighted to be able to hand over £550 to the Church funds. Thank you everyone for your support.

(Pam Sayers)

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ALKHAM VALLEY

SOCIETY - We know what we are getting in winter in Kent but spring seems slightly secretive. The Easter walk, a new initiative of the Society's, was up by 400% this year and walking paths new to some of us up by Ellinge showed this secret Spring by foot, only glimpsed in a car: bluebells, wood anemones, St Joseph's star in sheets. We started off from John and Shelley Jackson's house Foxgloves and did a decent distance in lovely weather before returning to the Jackson's for refreshments. It was most enjoyable. Easter weekend is not ideal for families since it is usually full of activities but we recommend this walk in Spring and hope to see more next year? Thank you very much John and Shelley for your welcome, organisation and hospitality. (Joanna Walker - Sec)

BOOK CLUB - The next meeting will take place at the home of Lucy and Ian Mc Kenzie, The Old Vicarage on Wednesday 2nd May at 7.30pm. This month is free choice to come along and discuss the latest book you have read. Contact Rosemary 827880 for further details.

THE VOLUNTEER

CENTRE for the Dover District is a charity that assists you to work out what volunteering you want to do and matches you with a suitable organisation. Whether you have a lot of time, or just a little, there is a good chance that there is an organisation out there that is looking for someone just like you. The organisations include the emergency services, hospitals, care and nursing homes, schools, charities and other bodies that are interested in the environment, heritage, sports and culture so why not ring 01304 367898 (9.30am - 1pm) to find out more.

OZ on VONNEGUT - My ideas for this month's column changed on Friday 13 April with the news that American writer Kurt Vonnegut had died at the age of 84. Kurt was born in Indianapolis in 1922 into a third-generation German immigrant family. Following his studies at Butler and Cornell Universities and the Carnegie Institute he enlisted in the US Army and was sent to Europe. After the Battle of the Bulge in 1944 he was captured by German troops and imprisoned in Dresden, working in a factory that produced vitamin syrup for pregnant women. During the Allied aerial bombardment of February 1945, Kurt sheltered in an underground meat store named Schlachthaus Fünf, meaning "Slaughterhouse Five", and emerged to find Dresden destroyed. He and fellow prisoners were put to work clearing bodies. This became the theme for his most famous book, Slaughterhouse Five, which was published much later, in 1969, and catapulted him to fame in a world radicalised by the Cold War and events in Vietnam, Paris, and Eastern Europe. In the intervening quarter century, Kurt had completed his education, worked as a journalist, married and raised a family, along with his deceased sister's children, and produced many lesser-known books. These were nearly 'science-fiction', a term that Kurt disliked, but often fairly accurate. Kurt never conquered despair but learned to live with it. Whenever a death occurs in Slaughterhouse Five, he comments "And so it goes." In recent books, he continued to blame mishaps on alien forces outside man's control, a view that many criticised as being too passive. But it is difficult to be too hard on Kurt. Gore Vidal went from calling him "the worst writer in America" to "he was like nobody else", and JG Ballard said that "his sheer amiability could light up all the cathedrals in America". And so it goes. (Steve Osborn)

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AVON CALLING

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DEN BARNARD has started cycling with Ken and I and is doing very well. At the end of his first ride we turned into Slip Lane and there was a van in the road with two ladies talking to the driver. They moved back for us to pass but Den wobbled and fell off. Fortunately his fall was cushioned by Sue Lees who was pinned against the wall. Apart from screams and giggles Sue was unhurt and it was reported that Den's condition was comfortable.

LUKE AND LAUREN are looking to make some pocket money. Want anybody to walk your dog? Does your car need a clean? Need any odd jobs done? Interested? Please call Luke on 07733066781 or Lauren on 07834732114.

Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Monday	The Chalksole Homegroup, third Monday of the month - 823100
Tuesday	Art classes from 10 am to 1 pm in VH – ring 07811405124
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30 - 10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Thursday	3	Local Council elections at village hall – see page 1
Tuesday	8	W.I. in the village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	12	Music for dancing from 8.00pm to 11.00pm in VH
Sunday	13	Cricket on Vicarage Meadow from 2.00pm
Monday	14	Parish Council meeting starting at 7.30pm in VH
Sunday	20	Cricket on Vicarage Meadow from 2.30pm
Monday	21	Bird club from 7.30pm in village hall
Wednesday	30	Cricket on Vicarage Meadow from 6.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Weekday Services: Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15am
Sunday 6th	Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30pm	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	
Sunday 13th	Said Eucharist 9.30am			
Thursday 17th		Sung Eucharist 9.30am.		
Sunday 20th	Worshipping together 11am	Evensong 6pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	
Sunday 27th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist, St .Lawrence, Hougham 10am			

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Village Hall booking
Rosemary Polden 824876
Alkham Valley Society secretary

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484

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

Joanna Walker 821641
W.I. 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

District Councillors
Sue Nicholas 823956
Andrew Richardson 211835

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

822295 and Grace Stacey 822756

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

(no prefix local number)

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	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

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No. 165 June 2007

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ALKHAM FETE - The fete is probably one of the most important events that takes place in Alkham during the year and like most institutions it gets taken for granted. I must admit that I do, but poor old Paul Tapsell who organises it does an enormous amount of work behind the scenes to make sure it happens. He really would like your help so do please come along to the Fete meeting in the village hall and give him some moral support and your opinions...

FETE OPEN MEETING.

We have major problems this year because of a lack of support from the wider village (with apologies to the few 'regulars' who have attended the meetings or spoken to committee members to confirm their availability). Please **come along to the Open Meeting** (i.e. open to everyone who is or wants to be involved) **on the 6th June at 8 pm OR call me on 01303 892082** to confirm that you are willing and able to help in some practical way for some or all of the afternoon of the 14th July, i.e. either on a stall, with the car parking, putting up or removing the tents, selling raffle tickets, shepherding the kids' races, etc.; without the Fete both the Parish Church and the Village Hall will lose their major annual fund-raising activity. I know everyone has busy lives and lots of things to do, but unless more people get involved now, we will lose a great village event and tradition.

SECURITY POSTS have been put up at the entrance to Vicarage Meadow and the football pitch. It is hoped this will stop cars from entering but should anyone legally wish to enter the Parish Clerk has a key.

LIME TREE - The Alkham cricket club asked the Parish Council's permission to plant a lime tree on Vicarage Meadow in memory of Brian Luckhurst. As most cricket fans will know there is a lime tree at the St. Lawrence ground in Canterbury and it was felt that it would be a particularly appropriate memorial. The council unanimously agreed to the proposal and a suitable location will be found. It was suggested it could be put near the site of the tree which has died opposite the village hall.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND

At the parish council meeting the local councillor, Andrew Richardson, said that a body of a large Saxon had been found on a farm at Chilton, which is this side of Bushy Ruff. The landowner is being very cooperative and the archaeological dig is continuing.

GOALS - Ken Hammond spoke at the Parish Council meeting about the poor state of the nets and goal posts on the football pitch next to Vicarage Meadow. The Parish Council said they would have a look and report back at the next meeting.

FETE APPEAL - This year I am doing a craft come pretty/girly stall. I am in urgent need of some goodies however. So dig out all your old bits and pieces. Do you have craft projects that you just know are never going to be finished. Can you make anything for the stall. Any scraps of fabric, lace, threads, patterns etc. Also, cosmetics, potions and lotions perhaps. Anything girly would be welcome, such as purses, makeup compacts, hair accessories, brooches, trinket pots...I am happy to collect items if you give me a ring or you can drop them off at mine. Many thanks Devina 827548.

ALKHAM - The ward that we are in is called River, which is a bit daft. The local councillors are going to try and get it changed to River and Alkham.

THE AGM of the Alkham Village Hall Committee will be held on the 26th of June in the village hall at 7.30pm. All groups who use the hall are welcome to join the committee.

LUKE AND LAUREN put an advert in May's Newsletter and Luke got a response and he was so excited that he deleted the caller's number by mistake (it started 829) so I'm reprinting their advert. **Luke and Lauren** are looking to make some pocket money. Want anybody to walk your dog? Does your car need a clean? Need any odd jobs done? Interested? Please call Luke on 07733066781 or Lauren on 07834732114.

MANHOLES - There are hopeful signs that the manholes, which are sunk in the road as you approach Bushy Ruff, will be raised as they have painted a white line round some of them.

PARISH COUNCIL

Following the local elections in which both conservative local councillors were returned the following people were elected as Parish Councillors: Neil Burrows (Chairman), Paul Tapsell (Vice Chairman), Sue Lees, Helen Scopes, Geoffrey Lymer and Ian Jarvis the latter being the only new member. There were some new faces at the AGM and like others before them found the Parish Council meeting very interesting.

TEA TENT - SUMMER FETE - A reminder that cakes are required for the Tea Tent as well as the Cake Stall - every contribution gratefully received.

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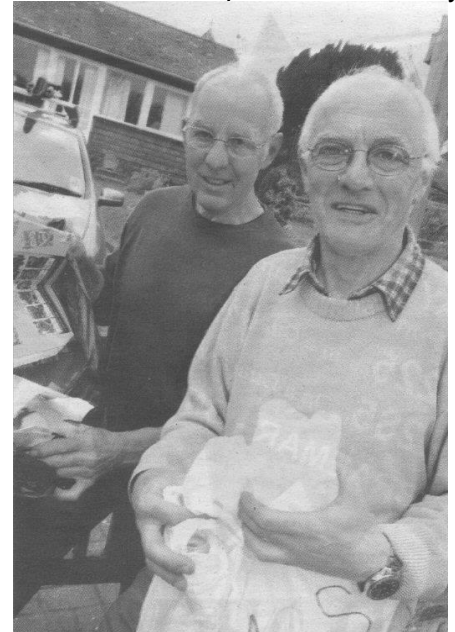
THE A.R.S.E SOCIETY

In the absence of any international earthquake relief fund (and having been completely ignored by Bob Geldof and Bono) a support group has been set up to assist all those who experienced the traumatic events of 08.18 on Saturday, 29th April 2007. The inaugural meeting of Alkham's Relieved Survivors of the Earthquake (A.R.S.E) will meet on the last Friday of each month at the Marquis of Granby to offer mutual support. Bring your wallets and come and get well and truly consoled with fellow survivors from the village! Share experiences, share conversation and have a good time. This unique form of 'counselling' will start at 8.00 p.m. on May 25th 2007. For any further information please 'phone either Mark Robson on 01304.820459 or Den Barnard on 01304.824845. We look forward to seeing you! P.S. In case you do not receive your Newsletter in time for the inaugural meeting please note that we hope this will be a regular fixture of village life in the future. Clear your calendars now of any other events on the last Friday of the month. **(Mark Robson)**

Andrew Richardson and Sue Nicholas wish to thank all those residents who supported them in the recent District Council Election.

ALKHAM W.I. – the May meeting was chaired by Doreen Wilks who recently moved to River but whom thankfully wishes to stay involved with Alkham. It is known as the 'Resolutions' meeting, one of the more serious ones in the year. Susannah Tapsell explained in excellent detail this year's issue which the National W.I. wishes to take further - the matter of the prospective closure of Community Hospitals, which provide essential services to local people. Cherry Leppard delivered a questionnaire to members in connection with another resolution which Broadoak W.I. wishes to have investigated i.e. the state of Public Toilets. Debbie Griggs then showed members her lovely 'rescued' greyhound, one of several she has provided a home for; and explained how the greyhounds are rescued when no longer needed for racing. The speaker at the June meeting will provide music for the Over Sixties – a subject hopefully more exciting than it sounds! Proposed outings – the first on 19th July to see the sights of London travelling on board the ex-Army London 'Duck', and the second to see 'Phantom of the Opera' in September. Anyone interested please contact Cherry 01303 255114 **(Sue Lees)**

RUBBISH MEN, that's Ken and I, featured in an article in the Kentish Express mainly



to publicise Kent Community Recycling at Hawkinge. Not only are they non-profit but they pay for the rubbish. At present there is about £750 in the Alkham Account into which all the money (except for sacks) goes. The Parish Council very kindly gave us a bottle of port each for our work over the last three years and we in return said we would pay for a new rubbish bin to go by the bus shelter. There seems to be a trend developing here.

KENT AIR AMBULANCE Ken and I are riding a 100km course in aid of the Air Ambulance. If you'd like to sponsor us please phone 824969.

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NEWSLETTER – It may interest you to know that I have now published the Newsletter for 10 years, having started in June 1997. I try to keep it non- controversial but over the 10 year period four people have threatened to sue me, someone in Newlyn Meadow told me it was rubbish and I regularly help recycle it at Hawkinge. Despite all this I'm carrying on as I know some people do read it and it is a useful way of letting people know what's going on in the parish. There are also a number of people who have been delivering it for 10 years, plus 4 years from when the Newsletter started. I'd like to thank them and all the other deliverers for making the Newsletter possible and the people who have contributed stories over the years. The money inherited from Tony Ingall is still intact and the annual cost of printing and posting the Newsletter is still covered by the money obtained from the adverts.

(Brian Wimsett)

THE ENVIRONMENTAL and Natural History Group of the East Kent W.I. are holding an open meeting in Alkham village hall on the 5th of June starting at 7.00pm on the subject of Kent's coalfields. Join us to hear well-illustrated talks on aspects of the Coalfield Heritage Initiative. Paul Hadaway of the White Cliffs Countryside Project will guide us along the Miner's Way Trail, launched in April this year. Lynda Pearce, who was working for Dover Museum on capturing memories of local mining families, will talk about her work as an oral historian in Kent. Walk books will be available. For further details please contact Janet Adamson on 01303 893413.

GARDEN TALK - Our thanks go to Linda & Geoff for a lovely, but somewhat cool evening. The garden was lovely and we all had fun doing the quiz based on their own plants and flowers. The next meeting will be at Hockley Sole on 20 June at 7.30 pm. **(Devina)**

OZ on WOODBINE

WILLIE – On 1 July, smoking in enclosed public spaces will become illegal in Britain, reflecting huge changes in attitude over the last century. Tobacco was once considered an essential ally in times of great personal and national stress, even more so in the two World Wars. A much-loved figure from World War I was 'Woodbine Willie', a priest who worked in the trenches, dispensing cigarettes and solace to the injured and dying. Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy, (that being Woodbine Willie's real name), was born in Leeds in 1883, seventh child of Jeanette Anketell and William Studdert Kennedy, a Leeds vicar. Educated at Leeds Grammar School and Trinity College, Dublin, he graduated in divinity in 1904, becoming a curate in Rugby and then vicar of St. Pauls, Worcester. When war broke out Kennedy volunteered to be a chaplain on the Western Front and 'Woodbine Willie' soon became a legend. He won the Military Cross at Messines Ridge after entering No-Man's-Land under heavy machine-gun fire, holding a wooden cross, to tend both British and German wounded. Kennedy also wrote poems about his wartime experiences and these were published as Rough Rhymes of a Padre (1918) and More Rough Rhymes (1919). The fighting made a deep impression on Kennedy and added socialism and pacifism to his Christian beliefs. After the war, he wrote books on religion and politics and worked at St Edmund's in Lombard Street, London, and for the Industrial Christian Fellowship. While on a speaking tour for the Fellowship in 1929 he became ill and died of influenza in Liverpool. Perhaps his best epitaph is the first verse of Woodbine Willie: "They gave me this name like their nature, Compacted of laughter and tears, A sweet that was born of the bitter, A joke that was torn from the years." **(Steve Osborn)**

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GARAGE SAFARI – There will be an open meeting in the village hall on the 11th of June to discuss the proposed Garage Safari taking place on the 11th of August. Please come along and join in the discussion or put your name on the list of garages included in the safari.

Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Monday	The Chalksole Homegroup, third Monday of the month - 823100
Tuesday	Art classes from 10 am to 1 pm in VH – ring 07811405124
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30 - 10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Sunday	3	Cricket v Red Lion 2.30pm Vicarage Meadow
Tuesday	5	Environmental meeting 7.00pm in VH see page 3
Wednesday	6	Fete meeting in VH at 8.00pm – see page 1
Saturday	9	Music for dancing from 8.00pm to 11.00pm in VH
Sunday	10	Cricket v Eastry 2.30pm Vicarage Meadow
Monday	11	Garage Safari meeting in VH 7.00pm see left
Tuesday	12	W.I. in village hall from 7.30pm
Monday	18	Bird club from 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	26	Village Hall Committee AGM 8.00pm – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping together 11am
Sunday 10th	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping together 11am	No service
Sunday 17th	Worshipping together 11am	Evensong 6pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 24th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St.Radigund's, Capel-le-Ferne 10am		
Weekday Services: Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15am			

CHURCH SERVICES

TELEPHONE

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Andrew Richardson 211835
Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055
Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130
Community Warden 07977 981994
GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net
Village Hall booking
Rosemary Polden 824876
Alkham Valley Society secretary
Joanna Walker 821641
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
Alkham web site www.alkham.org

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EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham	01303 891996
PLUMBING & HEATING	Harmonic Heating 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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No. 165 July 2007

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On Wednesday 30th May the members of Alkham Cricket Club planted a tree in celebration of the life of Brian Luckhurst, ex Kent and England cricketer, who died in March 2005. The tree was planted by Raye Luckhurst after an evening match between Alkham CC and the Court Cavaliers CC, which was won by the Cavaliers and this was followed by a raffle and buffet at the Marquis of Granby. The event was sponsored by PFPR Communications of Maidstone and raised £350 which will go to the Cathedral Day Care Centre in memory of Brian. The tree was propagated from the original St Lawrence Lime Tree at the Kent Ground which blew down a couple of years ago and so will serve as a fitting memorial to a Brian who served Kent CC for over fifty years in many different capacities. The photograph shows (from left) Alan Marriott (Cavaliers), Raye Luckhurst, Mark Naris and Paul Tapsell.

VILLAGE FETE, PLANT STALL.

Martin, Rosemary and Sarah will be helping to run the plant stall this year. We very much need your cuttings, plants, potted divided herbaceous clumps, surplus lettuce, rhubarb, tomatoes etc. We will also take unwanted pots or garden tools in reasonable condition, Please bring your plants to the stall on the day of the fete between 10-12.30. If you are unavailable on that day we can arrange collection. Contact 827880.

ROBIN CULLEY - The Village and the Cricket Club lost a much loved friend last month when Robin Culley died. He was a local man through and through and will be sadly missed. His funeral was very well attended, as he deserved, and it was wonderful to see so many people from the many different circles Robbo moved in; from the village, his time on the boats, at the Marquis, with the cricket club and from Dover Athletic: Robin's friends old and new joining together to mourn his passing and celebrate his life. It was also entirely appropriate that there were smiles and laughter in the church and afterwards at the Railway Bell as we shared stories of his exploits, adventures and mishaps. As Robin would have said "Katanga, katanga, my friend", we'll see you upstairs! The Cricket Club will be arranging a charity match in Robin's honour, to raise money for the Air Ambulance, at the end of July, watch out for posters and please come along to raise a glass to a true Alkham character - loud shirts and louder music will be the order of the day!

THE DELUGE on the 19th of



June brought a tidal stream and part of Slip Lane down to Vicarage Meadow. A tidy up is planned by the cricket club on the 30th June so please come and help. Slip Lane will have to be reconstructed in parts and a road closure looks likely. The above photo was taken by Sue Lees and shows the junction of the Valley Road and Hogbrook Lane.

THE FETE 14TH JULY Thank you to everyone who came to the Open Meeting last month, the Fete is well and truly **ON**, so please get in touch to offer your assistance on the day, from putting up tents (from 8.30 a.m. on the day, meet at the Meadow), to car park duty, to helping on stalls, or in helping me corral the kids for the races and Tug of War and most importantly, to help clear the meadow afterwards! Please call me (Paul Tapsell) on **01303 892082** and I promise I'll find you a little job you'll enjoy and which will use your particular skills to best effect! In addition the following stall-holders require items for sale on their stalls – please contact them directly to arrange collection or drop off of goods! Bric-a-Brac – Irene Barnard 824845, Books – Sue Lees 822661, Plants – Rosemary Heddle 827880, Children's Toys (a stall to be run for children by children!) Patsy Sayers 822619, Handbags – Sue Tapsell 822295, Craft and Nick-Nacks - Devina Bartlett 827548, Raffle Prizes - Debbie Saunders 822756. Also cakes and other items are required for the Tea Tent and Cake Stall –please bring them on the day but liaise with Cherry Leppard (01303 255114) beforehand. Included with your newsletter is a book of 5 raffle tickets (please note the tickets are 50 p each i.e. £2.50 a book!) – please ensure counterfoils and cash or unsold tickets are returned to me in good time. There will also be a beer tent this year which we hope will be popular.

MY APOLOGIES to Edith Neve for omitting her name from the list of Parish Councillors in last month's Newsletter.

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THANK YOU to all our friends, relatives, neighbours, staff and students at Archer Court Maths and Computing College who kindly sponsored us on our Great Strides Walk in taking steps to cure Cystic Fibrosis on 13th May at Bewl Water. We completed approximately 7 miles having got lost several times with a soaked map on what must have been the wettest day of May. We raised a total of £356.54p. A big thank you to my niece Laura who secured most of the sponsorship and also organised a cake sale at Archers Court which sold out in 10 minutes and made a further £38.10p. **(Julie Saltmer, Sue, Laura and Lewis Coppins)** and thanks to Tricia Wright and Peter Mercer for sponsoring Ken Hammond and me in the Air Ambulance ride. We raised £65.

GARAGE SAFARI - the closing date is drawing near. If you would like to join in the Garage Safari on 11 August we need to have your name by 15 July at the latest so that you can be included on the Village map To make the day a complete success we still need more participants, particularly in Newlyn's Meadow, Slip Lane and Glebelands so why not delve into the back of your cupboards and see what you can find to sell. The fee for taking part will be £8 and we do not ask for money from your proceeds. However, if you should wish to make a donation to the cause it will be very gratefully accepted. The money raised will go towards the church funds Arrangements are now well advanced and there will be an open meeting in the Village Hall on Monday, 30 July, at 7.30pm to finalise the details. Please come along, whether or not you propose to have a stall. We will need help in several places on 11 August. For information, or to give your name please ring Marion Nash (820701), Susan Lees (822661), or Margaret Batchelor (823568)

WE ARE HOPING to put on a variety show in November for Children in Need. We need anyone with any kind of talent and it would be lovely if children and young people from the village could take part. We need a group of children to start the show. People with knowledge of loud speakers and setting up music will be needed. There will be a meeting in the village hall on the 16th July at 7.30pm. Please come.

A TRADITIONAL 4th of July American supper will be held at Cobwebs, West Hougham. The cost is £7.50 for drinks and food. Please phone 204479 for further details. **(Helen Scopes)**

A.R.S.E SOCIETY - The inaugural meeting of the A.R.S.E (Alkham's Relieved Survivors of the Earthquake) was a very pleasant affair and about 12 people made appearances at different times throughout the evening. All found the supportive nature of the group a great help in coming to terms with the natural disaster that shook so many of us out of our beds in April. Many additional people have said they intend to make the next session on Friday, June 29th at 8.00 p.m. so we look forward to more villagers opening their hearts (and wallets and throats) at the Marquis of Granby.

Disclaimer: *Though therapeutic, the inaugural session did result in several sore heads the following morning; the organisers cannot be held responsible for any adverse effects!* **(Mark Robson)**

A BUDGERIGAR was found in the garden of 1 Newlyn's Meadow. If you have lost one please pop round to the house.

BOOK CLUB - We are taking a break in July. The next meeting will be hosted by Abi who lives at Poems, Short Lane. 7.30pm on 1st August. We have the choice to discuss any travel book. Contact Rosemary for further details.

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ALKHAM WI - There were fewer members than usual present in June, a shame because although 'Music for the over sixties' sounded off putting it was in fact an excellent introduction to light hearted exercise and put smiles on everyone's faces. Reminders were given to support (a) the Fete 14th July by providing help and provisions, raffle prizes etc., and (b) the Garage Safari 11th August, as more participants are needed. All members are invited to attend a meeting at the home of Devina Bartlett 25th June to put forward ideas for the programme for 2008; and at the Village Hall 16th July to discuss the programme for the Variety Show taking place in November to raise money for Children in Need. The next meeting 10th July will have Mr. Chambers speaking on 'Ghosts, fact or fiction' - sounds spooky! **(Sue Lees)**

GARDEN TALK - Our warmest thanks go to Angie and Nigel Snape for hosting our garden meeting. We met the day after the storm and walked round their beautiful garden on what was a warm balmy evening by contrast. They kept us all on our toes with quick fire questions regard the names of plants and trees. We completely lost track of time admiring the view from the patio, though this might have been helped along by a glass or two.. of wine! The next meeting will be at the home of Jane Adamson and her husband at Sunrise in Meggett Lane on Friday 20th July at 7.30 pm. **(Devina 827548)**

DOVER FESTIVAL PROMS Local musicians will again present a festive charity concert in the style of "The Last Night of the Proms", at 7.30 pm on Friday 6 July in Dover Town Hall. This year's proceeds are in support of The Martha Trust. Audience tickets are available at £5 and £2 (promenaders) from the Dover Visitor Centre or from chorus members. For further details ring Sue or Steve Yarrow on 01304 872812 or Mike Lewis on 01227 831208. **(Steve Osborn)**

OZ on LINNAEUS - Where would an occasional writer of nature notes be today without access to the wonderful naming system devised by Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus? Born on 23 May, 300 years ago, Carl registered at Lund University as 'Carolus Linnaeus', and was also known, after his ennoblement in 1761, as 'Carl von Linné'. During his life, Carl worked as a botanist, physician and zoologist, and is now also regarded as one of the early ecologists. One of his lesser-known inventions was the modern thermometer scale, achieved by reversing Celsius's scale that had 100° as the melting point of ice and 0° as the boiling point of water. However, his great life-work, started in university days, was nothing less than the complete classification of all living things. His first classifications were into 'kingdoms', ie Animalia for animals and Vegetabilia for plants. (He also had a third kingdom, Mineralia for minerals, considered to be living organisms at that time). He then divided Kingdoms into Classes; Classes into Orders; Orders into Genera; and Genera into Species. Below the rank of species he sometimes recognized lower ranks such as "varieties" or "breeds". The Linnaean system has been criticised as 'creationist', since it predates Darwin by a century, and it has been modified by recent knowledge of, for example, genetics and DNA. However, the underlying principles of observation, classification, and two-word names, remain sound. Linnaeus's name for the common wild briar rose, Rosa canina, was certainly an improvement on the previous Rosa sylvestris inodora seu canina. And this column has enjoyed greatly using names such as Populus tremulus for 'trembling aspen' and Fratercula arctica for 'Atlantic puffin'. So if I tell you that Passer domesticus has attacked Kniphofia uvaria this week you'll know that the house sparrows have again been at the red-hot poker. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Monday	The Chalksole Homegroup, third Monday of the month - 823100
Tuesday	Art classes from 10 am to 1 pm in VH – ring 07811405124
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30 - 10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Sunday	3	Cricket v Red Lion 2.30pm Vicarage Meadow
Tuesday	5	Environmental meeting 7.00pm in VH see page 3
Wednesday	6	Fete meeting in VH at 8.00pm – see page 1
Saturday	9	Music for dancing from 8.00pm to 11.00pm in VH
Sunday	10	Cricket v Eastry 2.30pm Vicarage Meadow
Monday	11	Garage Safari meeting in VH 7.00pm see left
Tuesday	12	W.I. in village hall from 7.30pm
Monday	18	Bird club from 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	26	Village Hall Committee AGM 8.00pm – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	
Sunday 1st	Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping together 11am	Week day Services Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15am
Sunday 8th	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping together 11am	No service	
Sunday 15th	Worshipping together 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 22nd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist, St. Anthony's Alkham 10.00am			
Sunday 29th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist, St Mary's old church, Capel 10.00am			

TELEPHONE

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Andrew Richardson 211835
Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055
Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130
Community Warden 07977 981994
GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net
Village Hall booking
Rosemary Polden 824876
Alkham Valley Society secretary
Joanna Walker 821641
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
Alkham web site www.alkham.org

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LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

(no prefix local number)

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
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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	Harmonic Heating 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
The Old Post Office
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No. 166 August 2007

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FETE – The person who prints the Newsletter is going on holiday on the 18th of July so the Newsletter has been printed early. The full account of the fete will be printed in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Once again a group of men descended on Vicarage Meadow on the 14th of July to transform it into the village fete, with stalls, sideshows and a beer tent. It was opened at 2.00pm by Paul Tapsell who does so much to make the fete happen. The weather was good but it appears that there were fewer people attending this year and this may be reflected in the takings on the day. A beer tent was tried for the first time and it was accepted that it would be a learning curve. Although about 100 pints of Master Brew was drunk and about the same amount of lager there was quite a bit left over. Some was bought by a local resident and the other is to be disposed of by drinking, the exact method yet to be determined. The Snowdon Band was as popular as ever and the maypole dancing and childrens' games went well. Thanks go to Darren Mowat with his ubiquitous van for picking up the tents, books and tables and also thanks to all the other people who helped on the day. At 5.00pm the tents were taken down and packed up for next year; it was a fair amount of work but thoroughly worthwhile to keep this village tradition going. *(photo by Stan Fowler)*

CHALKY HILL – The very steep hill that connects Slip Lane to Chalksole was to be called Chalky Hill. DDC wrote to eight households that are adjacent to this road and the overwhelming response was that they would prefer it to be called White Hill. The Parish Council discussed the matter and say that historical records, including those held at Canterbury Cathedral, show that the road was called Chalky Hill and that this is the name that should be adopted. The Parish Council will firmly resist the change of name to White Hill.

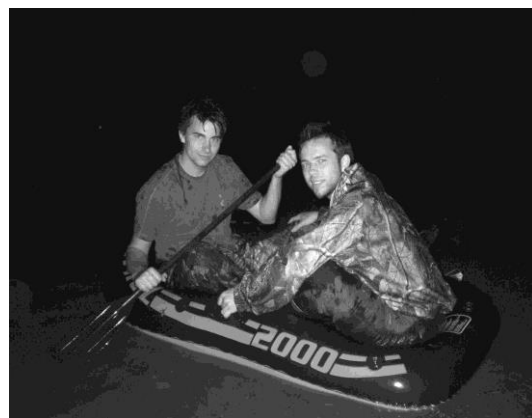
BARN – You may have seen a new barn that has been built adjacent to the above road which is to be used in conjunction with a vineyard. The owners of the barn did everything right in applying for permission to erect the barn but due to an oversight, the Planners at DDC did not process the order correctly and by default the barn obtained permission. Although the Parish Council don't object to the barn they were appalled by the apparent incompetence of the Planners and are taking the matter further. They rightly feel that they should have been given the opportunity to comment on the application with regard to colour, tree planting and other matters.

MANHOLES – The sunken manholes in the Valley Road on the approach to Bushy Ruff should be raised within the next three months.

THE PROVISION of a second bus stop by Newlyns Meadow is still ongoing but progress is being made.

DOGS - It seems that there may be some thoughtless dog owners who do not clear up after their pets when they 'foul' the meadow and /or football field; in this day of camera-phones, I would appreciate any photographic evidence to assist the dog warden to prosecute offenders! **(Paul Tapsell)** *(just out of interest he is a barrister)*

DELUGE AFTERMATH - I think that credit should be given to the Highway Authority for the way they dealt with the aftermath of the storm on the 19th of June. The traffic lights on the Valley Road were quickly erected and the washout from Slip Lane promptly removed. Also the two men from Lloyds Environmental of Detling, Maidstone, who sucked



the tarmac and muck off the village green are to be congratulated for doing such a thorough job. Slip Lane was made passable by Highways and work is in train to get the road rebuilt. During the flood Matthew and Chris Hyland managed to get their rubber dinghy afloat on Vicarage Meadow for a quick paddle.

THE GARAGE SAFARI is on the 11th of August and a map of the garages can be purchased at the village hall, which is open from 10 am. Refreshments will be available in the hall and at some garages.

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A.R.S.E SOCIETY - The second meeting of the A.R.S.E Society (**Alkham's Relieved Survivors of the Earthquake**) was a great success with about 20 people enjoying themselves. By the end of the evening all seemed to be oblivious to the earthquake (and to quite a lot else in some cases) so clearly the therapy is working! There was also talk of T-shirts being produced for the group. I would like to clarify the criteria for membership of the Society as there have been some questions asked. Principally, 'warm and walking' is the only requirement but a desire to get together with fellow villagers and to have a chat and a laugh is also helpful. Age and gender are no barrier and there is no membership fee so please come along on Friday July 27th from 8.00 p.m. at the Marquis for the third meeting of the Society. (**Mark Robson**)

OUTRAGED OF ELLINGE I had an email from a person at Ellinge who was outraged by the acronym being used by Alkham Relieved Survivors of the Earthquake (A.R.S.E.). Now that the hysteria has abated I understand that they had considered changing their name, such that it gives no offence, to 'Resident's Earthquake Committee Tackling Unresolved Matters'.

THE CABINET which displays the footpath maps is to be moved from beside the bus shelter on the Valley Road to the car park opposite the village hall. The Alkham Fund is paying for the materials to renew the cabinet and the work is being very kindly done by Ernie Cook. The replacement maps will be laminated.

BOOK CLUB -The Meeting will take place at Poems, Short Lane. 7.30 pm on 1st August. Bring along any travel book you have read and wish to share. Contact Rosemary Heddle for more details on 01304 827880.



ALKHAM'S PAST

Bob Hollingsbee believes this photo is connected with the Alkham Valley. However, he may be mistaken. If you can identify the picture, please let me know. (**Susan Lees 822661**)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY OUTING - The outing this year was to the Salutation, a garden recently opened to the public at Sandwich. We were lucky as a wet and miserable day turned into a lovely sunny evening just right for wandering around the garden. We were given a guided tour by the head gardener whose enthusiasm and love for the project of restoring this abandoned garden to its original Lutyens design made the visit special. This is a garden well worth visiting at different times of the year. We all could have stayed and listened to our guide longer but had to move on as we had tables booked for dinner at the Quay Side Brasserie. A very nice meal was taken there in pleasant company. A very successful outing that was well supported by members. (**Shelley Jackson**)

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ALKHAM WI – Doreen Wilks chaired the well attended meeting, a meeting which had many items to discuss; first being the final arrangements made for the many tasks members are involved with at the Annual Alkham Fete; Alkham's team for the Top Team Quiz did very well coming 7th out of the 9 teams; Devina Bartlett reported the disappointment felt that only 5 members attended the 2008 Programme discussion meeting, and it is to be only hoped that members will be happy with the programme; and Cherry Leppard, who always takes on the task of arranging outings, spoke about one on 22nd September to see The Phantom of the Opera in London and another in January to see Holiday on Ice at Brighton. The speaker Mr Chambers talked about Ghosts Fact or Fiction, some members found this very interesting and others felt it was a little bit too commercial, never mind NEXT moth's meeting will be held on Vicarage Meadow weather permitting or in the Hall if not. It is to be a get together friendly evening so bring your own food and drink to share with others.

PETER MERCER is taking part in "The Four Days of the Yser" which is an international march, organized by the [Belgian Defence](#) which is open to civilians and military, Belgians as well as foreigners. One reason for the walk is to respectfully commemorate the casualties of both World Wars, particularly those who fell on the battlefields of the [Westhoek](#) during the [First World War](#). It is held in August and covers 16 km to 32 km route for each of the four days and if you'd like to sponsor Peter, with all money going to the British Legion, please pop in and see him at Beechwood which is the first house at the bottom of Short Lane.

OZ on BROWNSEA – This year 38 million Scouts and Guides, in 216 countries, celebrate their organization's centenary. Here, on 1st August, a jamboree will take place on Brownsea Island, in Poole Harbour, Dorset, where Scouting began 100 years ago. Lieutenant-General Baden-Powell, or 'BP', returned as 'hero of Mafeking' to discover that his military manual, Aids to Scouting, had become very popular among boys. Eager to test his ideas further, BP invited twenty-two boys from various backgrounds to camp on Brownsea for a week and take part in outdoor activities. The camp was a huge success. BP rewrote and published his manual in 1908 as Scouting for Boys, and within months boys and girls all over the world had formed patrols, leading to the most successful youth movement ever. Less well known is the story of Brownsea itself, also known as Branksea or Brunoc's Island, and largest of the eight islands in Poole Harbour. Measuring just 1.5 by 0.75 miles, Brownsea was first inhabited about 500BC, and a resident hermit built a navigation beacon around 500AD. After occupations by monks, Vikings and other raiders, the island was fortified by Henry VIII, who built a castle there. George IV visited in 1818 and commented "I had no idea I had such a delightful spot in my kingdom". Both island and castle had many owners, among the most eccentric being Mrs Bonham Christie, who reputedly employed "a blonde and powerful female Scandinavian to throw visitors off the island." On Mrs Christie's death in 1961 the island was sold to the National Trust and the castle leased to the John Lewis partnership. Today Brownsea has red squirrels, peacocks nesting wild in the trees, a Dorset Wildlife Trust bird reserve, no cars and one postal collection a week. I hope it's still like that for the 2107 jamboree. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30 - 10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Saturday	11	Garage Safari – village hall and garages open from 10.00am. A map can be bought at the village hall.
Sunday	12	Cricket versus Westbourne starting at 2.30pm on Vicarage Meadow
Tuesday	14	W.I. in the village hall starting at 7.30pm
Monday	18	Bird club from 7.30pm in village hall
Sunday	26	Cricket versus Harrington Hackers starting at 12.00 noon on Vicarage Meadow

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	EVENSONG 6.30pm	SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30am	WORSHIPPING TOGETHER 11am
Sunday 12th	SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30am	WORSHIPPING TOGETHER 11am	NO SERVICE
Sunday 19th	WORSHIPPING TOGETHER 11am	EVENSONG 6pm	SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30am
Sunday 26th	JOINT BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST ST.RADIGUND'S, CAPEL-LE-FERNE 10am		
Week day Services Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15am			

CHURCH SERVICES

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Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484 County Councillor , Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547 District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Andrew Richardson 211835 Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994 GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234 Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876 Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641 W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585 Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756 Alkham web site www.alkham.org
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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. 167 September 2007

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VINEYARD - Further to the article in the August edition of the Alkham Monthly Newsletter, we are pleased to advise that landscaping of the area surrounding the Barn will be underway shortly. The barn will be used in conjunction with Chalksole Estate Vineyard which was planted in April this year - possibly not the best year to plant vines! We have planted some 9000 Chardonnay, Pinot and Pinot Noir varieties of Vine and hope to produce sparkling wine in a few years time. We are sure that by Alkham Valley having its own vineyard will become an asset to the village. I will keep you updated as we progress! Sadly though, at the beginning of August we had some 40 vines stolen from the Vineyard, which is a little disheartening. Other Horticulturists should probably now take extra care when planting etc., as evidently thieves are operating in this area. **(Claire Ward, Estate Manager, Chalksole Vineyard)**

BOOK CLUB - We spent a lovely evening sipping wine in Avi and Peter's garden at Poems last month. Many interesting travel books were discussed. Next month's book is *The Broken Shore* by Peter Temple. Linda Gaskill will be hosting at Chalksole on Tuesday the 4th September at 7.30pm. New members always welcome. Contact Rosemary Heddle 827880.

VILLAGE HALL - Bookings for the village hall have now been taken over by Val Fowler, Evergreen, Slip Lane, tel: 827635. Many thanks to Rosemary Polden for her hard work over the time she has been taking the bookings, and we wish her and her family all the best for their imminent move to River. **(Val Fowler)**

ALKHAM VILLAGE FETE
Despite earthquake, flood and tarmac invasion the Fete went ahead on the 14th July and was a great success. The weather stayed fair and people stayed, played and paid their way, so that we took something in the region of £3,800 on the day; there are the usual expenses etc but I hope we should clear £2,500 for the Church and Village Hall, which is one of our best ever results. Once again there are a huge number of 'thank you's, and it wouldn't be right to single out individuals because so many people contributed, but I simply must mention the following: Billy Hollis for the main raffle prize and bringing his little car, Simon Leadbetter of Chilton Meats for donating all the sausages for the hot dog stall, Alkhamhurst Kennels for bringing their stall (and not being mentioned in the programme), the Red Cross, Brian Wimsett for persuading me to have a Beer Tent (and Ernie for drinking the leftovers!) and especially Hugh Oxborrow of the Marquis for generously donating two meals for two at the Marquis and the Woolpack and sorting out the licence for the beer tent! The rest of you know who you are and also know that without you there wouldn't be a Fete, you have my thanks and appreciation! We shall be having the Fete Post Mortem (despite the name it's usually quite a cheerful meeting!) and division of spoils on the 5th September at 8 p.m. at the Village Hall so please come along to have your say, sort out the finances and start the ball rolling for next year! **(Paul Tapsell)**

CHILDREN IN NEED variety show is on the 20th of October in the village hall. If you have any ideas for the show or would like to help please phone Helen on 210591.

ALKHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

The Marquis of Granby is kindly sponsoring a village football team for young adults. The kit has been purchased with the village name on and the team will be playing in various leagues. Paul Price, who lives in Glebelands, is the captain and further information and pictures will be printed in next month's Newsletter.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY Rather than have a tenant, Hugh Oxborrow is remaining as landlord and he is going to put further investment into the property with some development during the winter. Further details to follow.

HARVEST SERVICE AND SUPPER - As always everyone is welcome to join in this annual *Church Service Sunday 30th September at 10am*, when people are invited to contribute garden and farm produce. However, as Brian Wimsett and Ken Hammond, very kindly continue to help run the Dover 'Soup Kitchen' people may donate tins of food in place of fresh produce. *The Harvest Supper 1st October at 7.30pm* as always will be in the Village Hall. Anyone wishing to partake in the Supper, tickets cost £5 each, or help in the preparation, are asked to contact Susan Lees 822661

THANK YOU to everyone who took part or helped in any way with the Garage Safari. This summer we were very lucky to have such wonderful weather and we all entered into the spirit and enjoyed ourselves. I would like to express the thanks of the Church and myself to the people who gave us donations. Your generosity was amazing, and very much appreciated, and it went a very long way to helping us to raise the sum of £836. When expenses have been paid £786 will go to our Church. Thank you again. Marion Banks-Nash

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DEN AND CYCLING (Part One) - For several years now, Ken Hammond and Brian Wimsett have been asking me to go cycling with them. I've never taken them up on it because they looked a bit too professional for my liking and I didn't want to embarrass myself. In a weak moment in late April this year however, I agreed. Irene was encouraging, stating that under no circumstances was I to wear lycra shorts until I had lost some weight. Ken and Brian donated helmet, shoes and gloves and I borrowed Brian's spare road bike. Ken showed me his bike workshop which is like an operating theatre

but cleaner and more organized, explained the intricacies of Shimano gears, the Flightdeck computer, how not to brake when cornering etc. He proudly recounted the number of accidents he has had whilst riding and told me how to deal with car drivers ('Just head straight at them and they will get out of the way'). He asked if I wanted to use ordinary pedals or the cleats that clip your feet to the pedals. My decision to go with cleats would cause me much pain later. The first ride went well and within a few minutes I knew this was the life for me. We covered a total of thirteen miles and as we came back along the Alkham Valley I felt tired but exhilarated and only one part of me very sore. However the euphoria was the cause of me forgetting everything Ken had told me. As we turned into Slip Lane with only thirty yards to the end of the ride, Eric the postman was in deep conversation with Sue Lees with only a small gap between them and the post van. Brian went through the gap with no problem and so did Ken, and, forgetting that these guys have been cycling for hundreds of years, I thought that I could do the same. I slowed too much and, basically, fell on top of Sue Lees. I have to admit that in the ten years I have lived in the village, I have spent countless hours trying to think up an excuse for falling on Sue Lees, God smiled on me that day. Back on the bike I calmly finished the last few yards and forgot to unclip the foot cleats and promptly fell off. Brian and Ken immediately ran over to check the bike was OK whilst I lay grazed and bruised on Slip Lane. Over the next few weeks I gradually increased my distance and am now covering Ken and Brian's training routes with no problem, although I find that I start out with great enthusiasm and am flagging at the end, like...(Irene has edited out the last part of this sentence). I am still courteous to car and van drivers but Ken says that will change with more experience. My grateful thanks go to Brian and Ken for introducing me to this great sport and for their gifts of equipment and advice. If anyone would like to join us you will be very welcome. Sue Lees watch out. **(Den Barnard)** *Den fell off his bike again when going through an enormous puddle (you could hear the splash half a mile away) at Chalksole much to the delight of his fellow cyclists one of whom was Mark Robson who has now joined us.*

A.R.S.E (Alkham's Relieved Survivors of the Earthquake) Meeting

Another well attended meeting this time with the appearance of several new members adding a bit of glamour to the occasion. Great progress has been made at these sessions to reduce the mental impact of the earthquake but all felt that another evening would be beneficial and have agreed to reunite on the 31st August where it is hoped that the earthquake may not even be mentioned at all! If you haven't yet made an appearance but would like to the group are a very friendly bunch and look forward to seeing you at the Marquis at the end of the month (the invitation even extends to 'Outraged of Ellinge'). **(Mark Robson)**

DOUBLE NEGATIVES – A teacher told the class that you could have double negatives making a positive like 'not unpleasant' but there were no double positives making a negative. There was a short pause then a youth at the back said 'yeah right'.

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St Anthony's Day 2nd September -

Come and join friends old and new with a glass of wine and monkish nibbles after a special Evensong service at Alkham church on Sunday 2nd September - St Anthony's Day - at 6:30pm. This follows last year's village events to commemorate the 500th

anniversary of the martyrdom of St Anthony. This year Desmond Samson, a retired vicar of Alkham, will bless a tapestry picture of St Anthony lovingly embroidered by our own talented Beattie Jeapes. The panel is based on an image of St Anthony sent to us by the Bishop of Pamiers in France, and will be placed in the church to commemorate our saint. St Anthony was born a nobleman near Toulouse in the fifth century. He travelled to Rome and gave up his riches and royal connections for life as a monk, evangelising and spreading the word of Christ in Southern France and northern Spain. He was beheaded for his faith by the Visigoths in 506 on the banks of the Ariège river. His connection with Alkham is probably through the monks at St Radigund's Abbey, the mother of our church in Alkham.

(The Church Committee)

OZ on BATS – creature that is pleasanter to the touch or is more grateful for Recently we attended a talk at Mongeham Church by a lady from the Kent Bat Group. During the interval she identified bat droppings behind the altar rail, and afterwards, as dusk fell, and aided by electronic trackers, we watched the bats cavorting in the graveyard. From knowing little about these fascinating and reclusive creatures, we learnt much during the evening and departed wanting to discover more. I later found that there are over 1,100 species of bat in every corner of the world, except Antarctica, and that this is reflected in world literature. Fears and superstitions have always surrounded bats, due to their silent nocturnal habits, as in the 1496 “battes whiche hate the daye”, and Huloet’s “batte whiche flyeth in the darcke” from 1552. In 1604 Drayton named one as “Watch-Man of the Night”, and in 1791 Boswell described “a mouse with wings.” Drayton was actually closer to the truth, as the bat is an advanced mammal, its skeleton nearly that of the human, and the bat order Chiroptera is grouped with the Primates because of such similarities. From the 1500s onwards, explorers returning from South and Central America brought tales of vampire bats that fired the imaginations of writers and readers of Gothic novels, the most famous being Bram Stoker’s Dracula in 1897. Even gentle Mark Twain climaxed his 1876 novel Tom Sawyer with a frightening encounter between Tom and Becky and a caveful of bats, although he later recanted: “A bat is beautifully soft and silky; I do not know any caressing.” Maybe the most haunting words are those of Oliver Goldsmith in *The Deserted Village* (1770): “Those matted woods where birds forget to sing / But silent bats in drowsy clusters cling.” (Steve Osborn)

ALKHAM W.I. – The wet and windy August evening prevented the meeting taking place on Vicarage Meadow as proposed. However, members were able to sit back and relax in the Village Hall, eating a delightful variety of food, drinking and chatting with each other, something which rarely happens - despite what men think! At the next regular meeting on 11th September a talk will be given by Nicky Kimble on Dog Trust, a subject of interest to many people. (Sue Lees)

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Monday	The Chalksole Homegroup, third Monday of the month - 823100
Tuesday	Art classes from 10 am to 1 pm in VH – ring 07811405124
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30 - 10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	3	Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm in the village hall
Wednesday	5	Fete committee meeting 8.00pm in VH – see page 1
Tuesday	14	W.I. in the village hall starting at 7.30pm
Saturday	15	PCC jumble sale in VH starting at 11.00am
Monday	17	Bird club from 7.30pm in village hall

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Week day Services
Sunday 2nd	EVENSONG 6.30pm	NO SERVICE	SUNG EUCHARIST 11am	Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15am
Sunday 9th	SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30am	WORSHIPPING TOGETHER 11am	NO SERVICE	
Sunday 16th	WORSHIPPING TOGETHER AND BAPTISM 11 a.m.	EVENSONG 6.00 pm	SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30 a.m.	
Sunday 23rd	JOINT BENEFICE HARVEST FESTIVAL ST. LAWRENCE, HOUGHAM 10.00am			
Sunday 30th	JOINT BENEFICE HARVEST FESTIVAL ST ANTHONY'S ALKHAM 10.00am.			

TELEPHONE

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484 County Councillor , Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547 District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Andrew Richardson 211835 Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994 GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234 Newsletter , Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635 Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641 W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585 Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756 Alkham web site www.alkham.org
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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	Harmonic Heating 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. 168 October 2007

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THE ALKHAM FUND paid for the materials to make a new notice board to hold the maps which show the public footpaths around Alkham. Ernie Cook kindly made it for nothing so the final cost was about £220 including a bottle of whisky given to Ernie in appreciation. The board, which is sited opposite the village hall, was vandalised on its first day by some mindless individual who smashed the Perspex. The board was paid for by the efforts of the people who recycle in the village which makes the vandalism even more despicable. Please spread the word.

THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY is holding a fancy dress Halloween party for adults on Friday 26th October from 7pm. People should come appropriately dressed for the occasion and prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. There will be live music plus an extended licence.

AN ANTIQUE VALUATION evening is being held in Hougham village hall on the 4th of October starting at 7.30pm. Entry is £4 with wine and nibbles available and each valuation costs £1.

GREEN LANE Ewell Minnis Please be kind enough to follow the countryside code which includes not climbing over fences or gates. **(Lt. Col. R Ashman MBE O St.J)**

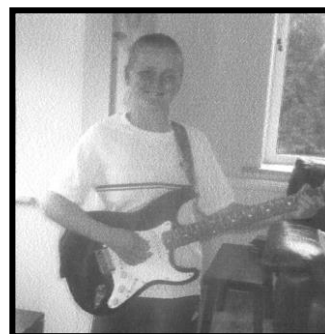
A CAT, tabby with white socks has adopted the Marquis. If anyone has lost a cat like this please phone them on 822945.

SUNFLOWERS 2007 - Well it was another good year for the Sunflower competition with two previous champions fighting it out for the prize in the Junior competition! It is always interesting to see the lengths that some entrants go to, to try and win the competition. One family grew their plants in the greenhouse and then had to take the glass out to let the plant through. Also I understand some contestants are using Darwin's theory of 'Natural Selection' to gain an advantage by using seeds from each year's tallest Sunflower. Now that's taking things seriously. In the juniors, Harrison Blears has defended his 2006 title with a Sunflower measuring 3.7m (12.34 ft) with Aimee Wood (2005 winner) growing hers to 3.2 m (10.5 ft). Full results: Juniors: Harrison Blears 3.7m; Aimee Wood 3.2m; Alfie Blears 2.8m; Chloe Huggins 2.5m; Callum Huggins 2.4m; Rachel Robson 2.3m; Tom Robson 2.1m; Bronwen Robson 1.4m. Adults: John Norris 2.4m; Mark Robson 1.9m; Debbie Robson 1.2m. **(Simon Norris)**

HARVEST FESTIVAL Sunday 30th September and Harvest Supper Monday 1st October. The Church will be decorated Saturday morning 10am on, anyone wishing to help do come along and join in. Any contribution of flowers, greenery, fruit, vegetables and tin foods gratefully received. The Church Service is at 10.00am and the Harvest Supper 7.30pm in the Village Hall on the Monday.

HELP REQUIRED to exercise horse in Ewell Minnis. 16.1hh bay warmblood mare, good temperament and hacks out alone or with others. Due to demanding work hours, I am looking for extra help to ride for a couple of days during the week. Please call 07875 871 224.

CHILDREN IN NEED CONCERT - A great evening with lots of different surprise entertainment has been planned for Saturday 20th October in the Village Hall. Do come along and hear the young talented artists, as well as the not so young. Tickets are only £5 each. Beer and wine will be available in the Hall. There have been some wonderful prizes donated for the special raffle. Tickets should be purchased in advance for the evening's entertainment and/or the raffle - please contact Helen 210591 or Susan 822661. Tom Dixon (on left)



will be playing; evidently he's very good.

GEORGE THE TORTOISE

E disappeared from our garden on Saturday 1st September. We have owned George for five years and have become very fond of him. My youngest daughter particularly, would be delighted to have him back at home. Please call or leave a message on 820077. Thank you **(Angela Edwards, 8 Glebelands)**

BYWAYS - An application has been made to designate ER186 and ER76 as BOATS. This means that the footpath and bridleway crossing the field from Chalksole Green Lane to the rear of Ellinge and then passing over the next field would be open to all traffic, making a 2Km connection for off-road vehicles to go from Slip Lane to the other side of the parish. It would be a shame if the beautiful sheep field was rutted by vehicles that are being used solely for leisure purposes but the final decision will be based on evidence as to whether it has or has not been used by vehicles in the past.

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Ken Hammond standing in front of the church at Woodnesborough during his mammoth church bike ride on which he visited 65 churches and did 64 miles. I joined him for 42 miles and together we raised £160. Cycling really is good for you as evidently it is safe for joints, helps you lose weight (300 to 600 calories an hour), is good for your heart and lungs (beneficial for asthma sufferers) and can reduce stress. Why not come and join us? Mark Robson and Darren Mowat have come out with us and we had great fun and we now have

A LADIES BICYCLE which is almost brand new. It has 6 speed Shimano gearing and is available for anyone to use. Please give me a ring on 824969 if you'd like to borrow it. (Brian Wimsett and Ken Hammond)



DEN BARNARD'S article on cycling was

very popular and I'm pleased to say he hasn't fallen off again. *With regard to the comment that 'we ride straight at them and they get out of the way' this refers to vehicles on our side of the road where there is room for them to move over. We also ride single file when there are vehicles behind.*

A.R.S.E MEETING(Alkham's Relieved Survivors of the Earthquake) Yet more people are attending the monthly meeting with many new faces being seen and all quickly reaching a state of relaxation through which the terrors of April 28th can be put behind us. It might be interesting to carry out a survey of members and see if we can find some reason behind people seeking the support from the group so long after the event – are they suffering delayed, post-traumatic stress syndrome; are they only now recognising the deep psychological damage that such an experience can cause; is it only now, 5 months after the earthquake, that they feel safe enough to leave their houses? In truth we don't really care but we enjoyed ourselves so much that we will reconvene on September 28th at 8.00 p.m. at The Marquis and will be pleased to welcome all! (Mark Robson)

PETER MERCER walked the 'Four Days of ISER' which in part commemorates the casualties of both World Wars with several thousands participating aged from 8 to 80. The walk started at Oostduinkerke and finished four days later at Ypres. Peter got very wet and suffered from blisters but enjoyed the experience and raised £500 in sponsorship which has gone to the British Legion.

A FRIEND phoned and said he had just bought 8 legs of venison for £50 and wondered if it was too dear.

LOQUAT – Gardeners may be interested to know that Jan Martinez, Garden Designer, has been picking loquats at her house in Everden through the summer; this is unusual and is due to climate change. If you would like further information please give her a ring on 01303 893462.

ALKHAM WI – The September meeting was one of those occasions when everyone was delving endlessly into their purses; so many tickets, diaries, calendars, outings, sponsorships etc to pay for – but all worth the expense! Members were asked to bring a list of names to the October meeting for next year's committee. The speaker, Nicky Kimble, spoke for an hour, almost without drawing a breath of air, on 'Dog Trust', an organization set up over a hundred years ago to monitor the care of dogs and re-home the hundreds not cared for. The talk at the October meeting will be by Mr Dugard on 'Carpet Cleaning for Health' (Sue Lees)

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THE ANNUAL HONEY SHOW - On the last Saturday of October in the Alkham Village Hall, we local beekeepers will again be staging our annual Honey Show, now an established fixture in the village calendar. What is particularly encouraging for us is that over recent years the number of non-beekeepers from the area who look in during the afternoon has steadily increased and several of them have since entered our ranks and taken up the gentle art of apiculture themselves. So again I would like to extend a warm invitation to any of you who have an hour to spare on that Saturday to join us in the village hall, which will be open to the public for a couple of hours from 2.30. Admission is free. The show is a pleasant, relaxed occasion. As well as our own members, beekeepers from sister associations in South-East Kent submit jars and frames of honey of different kinds, beeswax candles, confectionery, mead and other products of the hive for judging; these and other items make a very attractive display. We mount a small exhibition of beekeeping equipment to give you some idea of how we go about managing our little flying friends. There will be a selection of local honeys for you to sample and a stall selling cosmetics, jars of honey and greetings cards. Refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon. Beekeepers are friendly folk and we welcome the chance to chat to anyone wishing to know a little more about our hobby. We are always keen for you to visit our nearby apiary and this can easily be arranged at the show. Protective gear would be provided, of course. We do hope we shall have the pleasure of your company on 27 October. **(Roy Dyche)**

BOOK CLUB - Last month revealed all members with the exception of one, gave up on the book *The Broken Shore* by Peter Temple. This was mostly due to the repetitive bad language used on virtually every page. The member who persevered found the book disturbing, but with an interesting twist at the end. The next meeting will take place at Bramhall, home of Sue Tapsell on the 3rd of October 7.30pm. The book to be discussed is *Stasiland*, written by Anna Funder. (Rosemary Heddle)

A TRI-WEDDING ceremony taking the form of a civil service, paying tribute to nature and a Christian blessing took place at Chilton Farm on the 28th of July. May the Holy Spirit continue to richly bless Diane and Richard Bundy. **(Phyllis)**

OZ on JACOBS - One of the cleverest writers of a century ago was W W Jacobs, author of several novels and collections of short stories humorously portraying the lives of maritime workers around London's dockland and the south-east coast. *Punch* magazine, reviewing his first collection, *Many Cargoes*, in 1896, described its subject as "men who go down to the sea in ships of moderate tonnage". William Wymark Jacobs was born in Wapping in 1863, son of a London wharfinger. In 1879 he started work as a civil service clerk, writing in the evenings, and had his first story published in 1885. Success came slowly, but by 1899 Jacobs felt sufficiently secure both to leave his job and marry, buying two houses in Loughton, Essex, which became "Claybury" in the stories. Jacobs also loved East Kent, and depicted Sandwich in his 1902 novel *At Sunwich Port*, a story of seagoing rivalry. It was in Deal at the turn of the century that Jacobs and the cartoonist Will Owen met my great-grandfather, "Bobby Osborn". Bobby was a gargantuan figure, measuring 66 inches both in height and circumference, who pushed a fish-cart around Deal with cries of "Rye Bay Plaice!" and "Dover Sole!" ringing out. It was said that on a still evening, these cries could be heard on the South Foreland lightship. Bobby became the model for many sketches, both literary and graphical, that appeared in the Jacobs/Owen collaborations as 'Bob' and 'The Night-Watchman'. In one of Owens's cartoons, drawn during the time that Prohibition was being considered, Bobby says "If yer shut up the pubs, what am I goin' to do fer nourishment?" Jacobs spent his old age adapting his stories for the stage and died in Islington in 1943. Bobby simply bequeathed me a huge and unhideable genetic inheritance. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Monday	The Chalksole Homegroup, third Monday of the month - 823100
Tuesday	Art classes from 10 am to 1 pm in VH – ring 07811405124
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30 - 10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	1	Harvest Supper 7.30pm in VH – see page 2
Tuesday	9	W.I. in the village hall starting at 7.30pm
Saturday	13	W.I. jumble sale 11.00am in village hall.
Monday	15	Bird club from 7.30pm in village hall
Saturday	20	Children in Need concert in VH – see page 1
Saturday	27	Honey Show in village hall – see page 3

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	EVENSONG 6.30pm	SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30am	WORSHIPPING TOGETHER 11am
Sunday 14th	SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30am	WORSHIPPING TOGETHER 11am	NO SERVICE
Sunday 21st	WORSHIPPING TOGETHER 11am	EVENSONG 6pm	SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30am
Sunday 28th	JOINT BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST ST.RADIGUND'S, CAPEL-LE-FERNE 10am		
<u>Week day Services</u> Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15am			

TELEPHONE

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484 County Councillor , Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547 District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Andrew Richardson 211835 Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994 GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234 Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkham.parcouncil@virgin.net Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635 Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641 W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585 Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756 Alkham web site www.alkham.org
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This Newsletter was printed at the Rainbow Centre in Folkestone – 01303 850733

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

(no prefix local number)

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 installers	South Alkham	01303 252764
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	Harmonic Heating 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
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969

No. 169 November 2007

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MAP BOARD – In last month's Newsletter I reported that the Perspex on the footpath map board opposite the village hall was broken the day after it had been erected in mid-September. As a result of this article I was phoned by someone who witnessed the vandalism and was told that it was carried out by three young children who threw stones at it. The group consisted of two boys and one girl, the latter having a pigtail. They left by the footpath behind the village hall and returned later to throw stones at the village notice board. From the description given, if any parent thinks that one of their children was involved, they may wish to contribute to a new sheet of Perspex, which cost Ernie Cook £55.68. This can be done anonymously by putting the cash in an envelope and posting it through the letter box of the Old Post Office. Ernie glued the broken Perspex back in the board but this was then broken again to a greater extent. A witness reported hearing the sounds of young children being in the area at the time it was broken. **(Brian Wimsett)**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

The Annual General meeting of the Alkham Valley Society will take place on Tuesday 20 November at 7.30 p.m. in the Alkham Village Hall. The by now customary supper will follow at the other end of the valley, The Fox in Temple Ewell. All welcome. The subscriptions will be collected and we thank those who have already subscribed for 2008, several of whom gave the Society a donation, for which again, many thanks. **(Joanna Walker, Secretary)**

A CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be held in the village hall on the 24th of November starting at 10.30am in aid of PCC funds.

THE FETE AGM will be held in the village hall on Monday 12th November at 8.00pm.
(Paul Tapsell)

JOHN ULLMANN died on the 25th of September. He was better known as Diesel Johnny, a nickname of which he was very proud. Evidently it stemmed from him being able to get a diesel engine going that had defeated everyone else. He owned Malmain's Farm which includes the farm house on Slip Lane and a very large piece of set-aside land between Slip Lane and South Alkham. Sympathy goes to all his relatives and friends.



horses and dogs, become extremely frightened by the noise they make.

A WORKING PARTY will be held on Saturday 3rd November at 9.30am in the churchyard of St. Anthony's, Alkham to tidy up before winter. Please do come and enjoy helping us in this task for a couple of hours, bringing tools and mid-morning sustenance! Thank you. **(Richard Tapsell and Grace Stacey)**

BYWAYS – Barbara Newitt and I were interviewed by the Public Rights of Way Officer regarding the application to make the bridleways from Chalksole Green Lane to Everden into Byways Open to All Traffic. Barbara said that she had never seen 4 wheel drive vehicles use the bridleways over the last 40 or so years and I said the same for the last 10 years. These statements and others confirm the absence of off road vehicles and will be a very important factor in determining the result of this application and others.

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

THE CHILDREN IN NEED

evening in the village hall on the 20th November was an enormous success with over a £1000 being raised. Full report next month.

Christmas Lights Switch-On will be on Saturday December 8th. The fun and festivities will begin at 4.45 p.m. with the switch on at 5.00 p.m. This will be followed by mulled wine and minced pies at the Marquis courtesy of Hugh and team. In line with tradition the W.I. choir will provide carols for the assembled throng before and after switch on and Father Christmas has promised to put in an appearance on Vicarage Meadow. Any child (aged 0 – 16) who would like to perform the switch on should present a picture of a Christmas tree at the W.I Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall on the morning of Saturday December 8th. The names of all artists will be placed in a hat and one lucky person will be chosen to switch the lights on that evening! As if that wasn't enough the fun of the switch-on will be followed by a Village Meal in the Marquis (7.30 for 8.00p.m.). The menu will be: Starters - soup or pate: Mains - Roast turkey or beef and all the trimmings: Cod loin served with a course grain mustard sauce: Veg encroute served with a creamy chive sauce - all with pots and veg. Puds - Xmas pudding with brandy sauce or chocolate fudge cake or ice cream: Afters - coffee and mince pies: all for only £16.95 per head As in previous years it is hoped this will be a true village event so please contact the pub by November 20th to book your place and select your menu. In order to book the whole pub the meals will need to be paid for at the time of booking. Tickets have always sold fast for this so book early!

(Mark Robson)

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CAN YOU HELP? Tricia and David Follett, who have lived in the centre of the village (in Old School Cottages) for the past four years, have sold up and are moving to Australia, to be near their daughter and grandchildren in Melbourne. Tricia is off shortly, but Dave is staying on in England for about a year (at the moment, he's a writer with a story still to finish!), and he's looking for local accommodation. Dave loves the Alkham valley, and doesn't really want to move far. He's looking ideally for somewhere 'quiet and peaceful' with what he describes as "views over the loveliest valley", with one or two bedrooms, part or unfurnished (he's got some furniture, TV and three-piece suite, as well as the obligatory computer). He's a keen bowler (yes, he's just retired!), and is a member of Kearsney Bowling Club, so he'd like to be close to the buses on the Valley road, though he's prepared to "buy a bl**dy car once more if absolutely necessary"! Do you have - or know someone who has - somewhere small to let for the next year or so? If so, please 'phone Dave or Tricia on 826 323, or e-mail: dmfollett@aol.com.

GOING FOR BAROQUE ! is the title of Dover Choral Society's autumn concert, at 7.30 pm on Saturday 17th November in Dover Town Hall, featuring "five wonderful gems of baroque music." They are Purcell's O Sing Unto the Lord, Pergolesi's Magnificat, Handel's Chandos Anthems No 9 O Praise the Lord and No 11 Let God Arise, and Vivaldi's Gloria. Soloists are all from the Royal Academy of Music. They and the chorus 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 the 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 Shirley Leeves on 01304 820149. **(Steve Osborn)**

THE CONCESSIONARY FARES BUS PASS. From 1st April 2008 all bus passes will have a photo of the holder scanned onto a plastic pass card. Most people have their photo stored on the computer system but there are still some that have not yet provided a photo. Therefore there are FREE photo sessions to aid the remaining customers to provide a photo and the next sessions will be held at the Council Offices at: 69 Castle Street Dover, 16th November 10am - 12pm: Boulevard Courriers, Ayelsham, 14th November 11am - 12pm: The Guildhall, Sandwich, 15th November 10am - 12pm.

LOCAL POST OFFICE CLOSURES - Post Office Ltd has commenced a 6 week public consultation closing on 12th November. A campaign website has been launched on www.kent.gov.uk/postoffice so that local residents can give their opinions and download a petition. The Dover area Post Offices listed for potential closure are: - New Bridge, Bench Street, Dover: Tower Hamlets, West Street, Dover and Duke of Yorks School, Guston, Dover. These branches form part of 58 proposed closures throughout Kent. Kent County Council urge the local residents to engage with this consultation process and help by providing any relevant local knowledge which may assist them in raising concerns to the Post Office.

(Angela Miller – Parish Clerk)
A.R.S.E (Alkham's Relieved Survivors of the Earthquake) The last meeting was a quiet affair but good progress was made by those who attended and a fun time was had by all. The date of the next meeting is the 26th October which coincides with the Hallowe'en Party at the Marquis. Members of A.R.S.E. agreed to attend both the next meeting and the party so fancy dress is the order of the day. If you have yet to attend this could be the date and time to make an A.R.S.E of yourself. We hope to see you there. **(Mark Robson)**

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HARVEST SUPPER goes with a OZ on VANCOUVER – Two months banger. The dank drizzly weather ago we met up in Vancouver with didn't deter a group of 60 villagers friends from Ontario who were also who gathered for a warming Harvest "spending kids' inheritance." While Supper of bangers and mash in the recovering from jet lag and village hall on Monday 1st of October. exploring the city we discovered Thanks go to the ladies who master remnants of this summer's 250th minded all things culinary, Betty for birthday celebrations for George her unstinting effort on ticket sales Vancouver, the first European to and to our resident auctioneer, Paul explore the coast of what later Tapsell, who knocked down the became British Columbia. George produce in hilarious fashion raising was born in King's Lynn, Norfolk, some £350 for church funds. Bob on June 22 1757, a descendant of Palmer's organic runner beans were the Dutch Van Coeverden family. much admired as was the good He joined the Navy at the age of fortune of Derek "Lucky" Banks- fifteen and sailed on Captain Nash who had three tickets drawn in Cook's second and third voyages the raffle, although modesty to the Pacific, followed by war prevented him from collecting all his service in the English Channel and winnings. **(Geoff Gaskill)** and...on the West Indies. In 1789 a fourth behalf of the PCC of St Anthony's, as exploration of the Pacific was well as myself, I would like to thank cancelled as war with Spain everybody who came to the Harvest loomed over the right to settle the Supper and made the evening a northwest American coast. George success. Our special thanks must go joined the fray in HMS Courageux, to the people who dipped deep into a 74-gun ship-of-the-line captured their pockets for the auction following from the French. When peace was Paul's appeal. The overall profit for finally made in 1794, George was the evening, after expenses, was made captain and given command £500 – a magnificent sum which is of HMS Discovery to take much needed at the moment to possession of and survey the maintain our lovely church and keep it northwest coastline. We followed in good order for future generations.. some of George's footsteps when Thank you for your generosity. we took the Circle Tour, a round **(Marion Banks-Nash)** trip in ferries up the Sunshine **ALKHAM WI** – The October meeting Coast towards Alaska, stopping off brings home to members the fact and moving on when we wished, that winter is just around the corner, and returning to Victoria on especially as Christmas cake Vancouver Island. There were appeared on the refreshment table! constant reminders of the Spanish This being the last meeting of this occupation in place names such as WI's year, members were asked to Juan de Fuco, Cortes and Galiano. put forward names for next year's After completing his survey, committee, never a difficult task in George returned to Britain via Cape Alkham. There is no formal Horn in 1795 to something less entertainment planned for next than a hero's welcome. He faced month's meeting, but members can several court actions from be assured that the present disgruntled members of his committee will find something to expeditions, one of whom lighten the 79th AGM on 13th assaulted him in the street. George November. The speaker this month Vancouver died, broken and lonely, provided much useful information on in 1798 at the age of 40. We spent 'Carpet cleaning' a task which faces the remainder of our holiday in the everyone daily. **(Sue Lees)** Fraser Canyon, discovered by **MANY THANKS** to the person who Simon Fraser in 1805; a story for nominated me for a volunteer award. another day. **(Steve Osborn)** It was much appreciated but I didn't win. **(Brian Wimsett)**

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All the money from the adverts goes in the Alkham Monthly Newsletter Building Society account. The cost of producing the Newsletter comprises 660 sheets of A3 printing, postage for 22 copies and £2 in petrol making about £42 in total per month.

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

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Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	5	Parish Council meeting in VH – all welcome
Tuesday	6	Village Hall committee meeting 7.30pm in VH
Monday	12	Fete AGM in VH 8.00 pm – all welcome
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm in village hall
Monday	19	Bird club from 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	20	Alkham Valley Society AGM 7.30pm in VH
Saturday	24	PCC Christmas Bazaar in VH from 10.30am
Saturday	24	Beekeepers from 2.00pm in the village hall

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Week day Services
Sunday 4th	Evensong 4pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping Together 11am	Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15am
Sunday 11th	Service of Remembrance 10.15am	Service of Remembrance 10.15am	Service of Remembrance 10.15am	
Sunday 18th	Worshipping Together 11am	Evensong 6pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	
Sunday 25th	JOINT BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST ST.LAWRENCE, HOUGHAM 10am			

TELEPHONE

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484	Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
County Councillor , Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547	alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Andrew Richardson 211835	Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055	Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641
Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Community Warden 07977 981994	Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
GP out of hours to access urgent medical help 0844 800 1234	Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Newsletter , Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	

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Merry Christmas



CHILDREN IN NEED VARIETY SHOW

It was an evening full of song, dance and music. All who took part were local; we were amazed just how much talent we have around us. **Polly & Rose Comfort** opened the evening, introducing the show. They were so professional that their parents must be very proud of them. **Tom Dixon** from Wolverton Hill, gave us memories of Elvis and wowed up with Rod Stuart numbers. **Emily Lane** sang beautifully, accompanied by **Ben Mulberry** from Capel, who also sang whilst playing the keyboard – we were spellbound. **Louise Orfila** sang songs, one of which she had written for 'Children in Need' – she will go far. We had **Sammie, Carrie and Jessie Marsden**, dancing with their friend **Teighler McGeehan**. They could certainly move – such talent! Ten year old **Christopher Thomas** from Hougham, sang and danced so professionally, I think we all wanted to take him home. Look out for a future Star. **Lizzie Grilli** also from Hougham got our toes tapping with her tunes on the clarinet 'Daisy Daisy' being one of them. Young **Sara Mees** from The Gateway, sweetly sang and played the guitar with such confidence. **Abbie Orfila**, sister of Louise, amazed us with her powerful voice. We all clapped along to line dancing from **Iris Bowshell, Barbara Wall and Val Fowler**, ladies from Alkham's Keep Fit Club. What a range of notes! **Pam Sayers** and **Grace Stacey** took us back to life before WWII, when chips were fried potatoes and gay was being full of fun. **Bob Palmer** and **Maurice Sayers** entertained us in their Rugby gear with Rugby songs and had the audience taking part, causing much laughter. The evening was compered by **Sean Dixon** from Wolverton Hill. He really held the evening together doing a wonderful job. Many thanks Sean. We would like to thank **Debbie Burris**, who stepped in at the last minute to take care of the music; she did a grand job. Thanks also go to **Edith Neve** and daughter **Coco Ward** from Ewell Minnis. They collected all the raffle prizes and what wonderful prizes they were. We have to thank all who donated prizes so generously. We have to thank Coco as well for the paper work she compiled and printed; and thanks to **Val Fowler** for her lovely sketches of the Children in Need Teddy Bear, as well as taking care of the finances and even more printing. Alkham never fails to come up trumps for charity work. So we have to thank everyone who came and supported us and thank all those who took part and anyone who contributed in any way to help raise the wonderful sum of £1300. Thanks to John and Joanna O'Shea for recording the event, which is now on DVD. It costs £7.50, including a donation to Children in Need, and can be obtained by phoning them on 07811405124. **(Helen Scopes)**

FOOTBALL PITCH – Bryan Cope, Conservative County Councillor for the Alkham area, confirmed that he had obtained a grant for over £8000 to pay for the cost of installing an electricity supply and lights to the football pitch by Vicarage Meadow. This is very good news as it will enable the children in the village to play football on dark nights. Parish Councillor, Geoffrey Lymer has got some quotes for doing the necessary works and will now try and get things going as soon as the money arrives.

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER – The latter is a paid civilian who supports the local police by providing a visible presence in the community. Most have the power to detain someone until the police arrive and also issue fixed penalties for anti-social behaviour. They can also deal with truants, graffiti, alcohol being consumed in a public place and other such problems. Our PCSO, Tracy Allum, was at the Parish Council meeting on the 5th November and said she would be patrolling the area and that if there were any problems in the Parish to contact her on 07772226112. I have added this number to the telephone list on the back page.

We all send **BEST WISHES** to the Polden and Lott families, who have moved to River. Doreen and Bill Polden were the first to occupy 4 Valley Cottages, one of the council houses which were built in Alkham after the last war. They had five children, who all attended Alkham Village School, to which they could safely walk as cars were an unusual sight in those days. Daughters - Doreen, who married Roger Lott, and Rosemary continued to live with their mother at Valley Cottages. The whole of the family were very much involved with village activities, particularly the Fete and the Village Hall, and their presence will be missed. We wish them all the best for the future in their new home.

ANY CHILD who would like to turn on the Christmas lights please present a picture of a Christmas tree at the **W.I. Bazaar on the morning of 8th December**. Later at 4.45pm the W.I. choir will sing 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. At 5.15pm there will be mulled wine and mince pies at the Marquis of Granby followed by the village meal at 7.30pm in the Marquis. **(Mark Robson)**



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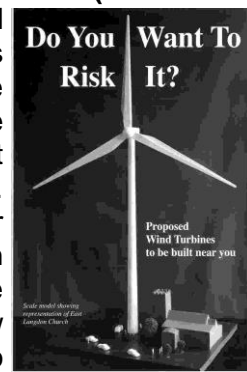
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LETTERS DO WORK - eventually. **ANY CHILD** who would like to turn "A Muddy Road", letter dated on the Christmas lights please 10th September 1904 to the editor present a picture of a Christmas of the Dover Express from Aubrey tree at the W.I. Bazaar on the GOODES of The Cliff Hotel, St. morning of 8th December and then Margarets, Dover - 'calling at 4.45pm on the same day the attention to the disgraceful state W.I. choir will be singing carols of the road after leaving Friars around the Christmas tree on Ferne Farm on the way from Vicarage Meadow with the lights Ewell Minnis to Alkham. I was being turn on at 5.00pm together walking on Wednesday and found with other festive illuminations. It the road impassable being up to is also expected that Father ones ankles in mud and water. Christmas will make an Surely it is advisable if only in the appearance. At 5.15pm there will interests of visitors on whom be mulled wine and mince pies at some of the rate payers largely the Marquis of Granby followed by depend for the responsible the village meal at 7.30pm in the authorities to remedy without Marquis.

delay this gross neglect of their obvious duty.' At the parish Council meeting on November 5th 2007 a letter from the Highway Authority said that the dip, referred to above, would be raised so the byway did not flood (thanks to Sue Lees for the Dover Express letter).

ALKHAM W.I. – AGM Because there is so much official work to be done at such a meeting, it is not the most enticing one to attend, but thankfully the majority of members were present. An election for next year's committee took place under the guidance of

the tellers, Margaret Toby and Joanna O'Shea. However, it was finally agreed to extend the number on the committee to nine as the results of the voting did not obviously exclude anyone. Margaret Dansted reported on her course at the WI Denman College, where she learnt the basics of harp playing, and how she is now making the effort to learn more. Margaret and Helen are proposed to be built west of Scopes then performed a sketch, Whitfield. They want people to join discussing, in very stylish lingo, their feelings about a book they had read – how amused were we to learn finally that the book was a model shows the turbine size in Winnie the Pooh story, not the relation to the church below. Contact high class scary story we had imagined. The next meeting will be the Christmas Dinner at The Marquis of Granby on 11th December. (Sue Lees)



THE LANGDON ACTION GROUP was at the last Parish Council meeting to show a model of one of the four wind turbines that

are proposed to be built west of Whitfield. They want people to join discussing, in very stylish lingo, their feelings about a book they had read – how amused were we to learn finally that the book was a model shows the turbine size in Winnie the Pooh story, not the relation to the church below. Contact high class scary story we had imagined. The next meeting will be the Christmas Dinner at The Marquis of Granby on 11th December. (Sue Lees)

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WHAT'S ON at St. Anthony's - We would like invite you to services at the Church during the festive season. Sunday 16th December 6.30pm there will be the service of Nine Lessons and Carols led by the choir from Capel. After the service we will gather in the village hall and enjoy mince pies and wine together. On Sunday 23rd December, 10.00am, the Bishop of Maidstone will be preaching at the Benefice Eucharist service. On Christmas Eve we will be holding the Blessing of the Crib at 4.30pm. At this family service the children help to prepare the Crib for Christmas day and light candles for the final carol. This service is beautiful, beautifully chaotic and very popular, so do arrive early if you want a seat! And so we come to the Eucharist service on Christmas day at 9.30am. We do look forward to welcoming you at St. Anthony's. We would like you to know that the Church will be open and attended every Wednesday 7.30pm-8.30pm until Christmas, so that you can, if you wish, come and sit for a little while in quiet reflection, away from the turmoil of Christmas preparations. We wish you a Happy and Peaceful Christmas. **(Grace and Richard Churchwardens)**

"Thinking of You" Stars. For a small donation to Church funds, write the name of a loved one on one of the Stars available from me. It will then be hung on the Christmas Tree in the Church for the festive season. **[Susannah Tapsell]**

THANK YOU - Dave Follett would like to thank all you lovely villagers who responded to the article in last months' Newsletter about his housing needs. As a result, he's obtained a beautiful place for the next six months, but he'll be looking again next June for somewhere to pass the summer! So if you know of anywhere available, please let him (or Tricia) know. 826323 or dmfollett@aol.com.

OZ on MAGPIES – Just now the garden is abrim with magpies, energetically spearing the last of the Bramley apples and clinging expertly to the vertical face of the bird-feeder while devouring peanuts. It demonstrates that they don't spend all their time killing small songbirds and game birds. Generally magpies eat vegetation in winter and small ground creatures in summer, only raiding other birds' nests in spring when competition for food is fiercest. I love seeing these fat sleek-headed killers with their immaculate black and white coats and long parrot-like tails, but they often arouse hatred in humans because of their aggression, thieving and carrion-eating. The scientific name Pica pica comes directly from the Latin 'pica' for magpie, becoming in English 'pie' and then 'Margaret-pie' or Shakespeare's 'maggot-pie', adding to the bird's fearsome reputation. Interestingly, 'pie' also means 'rule-book', from the black and white text, and leads to the adjective 'pied'. The superstition surrounding magpies is most widely seen in the counting game "One for sorrow, Two for joy, Three for a girl, Four for a boy, Five for silver, Six for gold, Seven for a secret never to be told, Eight for a dream, Nine for a wish", or in its many regional variants. Originally, in the country, the number was determined by the number of magpies seen together. When the game spread to the towns and cities, children derived the number by manipulating the numbers on their bus and tram tickets in various ways. A work colleague once stood to attention to salute a solitary magpie "to ward off sorrow" and I've done it ever since. Later I watched as a magpie dived from a fence, did a forward roll into some long grass, and came up with a vole. Now that really is typical magpie behaviour. **(Steve Osborn)**

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W.I. CHRISTMAS BAZAAR in the village hall on 8th December from 10.30pm to mid-day. There will be home-made goodies, bric-a-brac plus carol singing and other fun items.

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

Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Monday	The Chalksole Homegroup, third Monday of the month - 823100
Tuesday	Art classes from 10 am to 1 pm in VH – ring 07811405124
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30 - 10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	5	Parish Council meeting in VH – all welcome
Tuesday	6	Village Hall committee meeting 7.30pm in VH
Monday	12	Fete AGM in VH 8.00 pm – all welcome
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm in village hall
Monday	19	Bird club from 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	20	Alkham Valley Society AGM 7.30pm in VH
Saturday	24	PCC Christmas Bazaar in VH from 10.30am
Saturday	24	Beekeepers from 2.00pm in the village hall

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Week day Services
Sunday 4th	Evensong 4pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping Together 11am	Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15am
Sunday 11th	Service of Remembrance 10.15am	Service of Remembrance 10.15am	Service of Remembrance 10.15am	
Sunday 18th	Worshipping Together 11am	Evensong 6pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	
Sunday 25th	JOINT BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST ST.LAWRENCE, HOUGHAM 10am			

TELEPHONE

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484	Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
County Councillor , Bryan Cope 207976 work number 01795532547	alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Andrew Richardson 211835	Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055	Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641
Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Community Warden 07977 981994	Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell 822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
Police Support 07772226112	Alkham web site www.alkham.org
GP out of hours 0844 800 1234	
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969	
e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	

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EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham	01303 891996
PLUMBING & HEATING	Harmonic Heating 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