

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 171 January 2008
Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

Non-profit and
delivered **free** to all
properties in the Parish

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - Despite torrential rainfall a most enjoyable evening was spent by those who came to the grand switch on. James and Charlotte Tapsell turned the lights on in a shortened ceremony which allowed the crowd to run to the pub where we were provided, free of charge, with mulled wine and mince pies and carol singing led by the W.I choir. Father Christmas attended to present goodies to the children who provided beautiful artwork and to the assembled throng. Maurice Sayers led an impromptu singalong which wasn't as lewd as many had expected! Later in the evening about 60 people returned to the Marquis for the village meal and all agreed that it was a great success. As usual there are many to thank: John and Simon Huggins and Den Barnard who helped collect and position the tree; Simon Price for arranging for the new lights which the Village Fund subsidised; the Alkham Tea Rooms, The Alkham Valley Garden Centre, Hogbrook Riding School, Woods Commercial Services, Richard Miller, the Barnards, Pete and Denni Frater who all donated raffle prizes; Hugh, Emma and the rest of the Marquis team who did us all proud with the meal and the post switch-on get together; the W.I choir who got us all going and into the festive mood. The raffle raised £145.60 which will pay for the electricity and towards the new lights. Extra special thanks must go to Den who stood on a ladder in the pouring rain on the Saturday afternoon for about an hour fixing the top set of lights that had failed! Once he has recovered from hypothermia and trench foot he should be able to enjoy the view of the illuminated tree from his window! The last four trees have been provided free of charge by Noon Lawrence of Tilmanstone but this is the last one she has so if anybody knows of an alternative source it would be good to hear from you! If I have overlooked anyone it is due to my poor memory so please forgive me. **(Mark Robson)**

Happy New Year

ALKHAM IN BLOOM will take place over the weekend of 28/29 June 2008 and we have already thinking about the various activities that can go on in the Village over the weekend. We really need, now, to have, as soon as possible, the names of people who would like to open their gardens. June seems a long way off at the moment, especially in the middle of a cold, wet winter, but we do need to get things into place as soon as possible. We will be holding an Open Meeting in the Village Hall on Thursday, 10 January, at 2.30pm when we will look forward to seeing anyone who wishes to take part. If you wish to open your garden and cannot attend the meeting could you please call one of the numbers below:- Marion Banks-Nash 820701; Margaret Batchelor 823568; Sue Lees 822661; Raye Luckhurst 892848 or Val Fowler 827635.

LOST a little black and white long haired cat with a bushy tail, answering to the name of Louis. Missing from Slip Lane since 29th November. Reward offered for information leading to his safe return. Tel: 01304 820701

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be on Saturday the 2nd February in the village hall starting at 7.30pm. To book a table for up to 8 places please ring Brian (824969) or Sue Lees (822661). The cost per person is £3.50 and some food will be served in the interval.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR It appears that there are two groups of youths who are causing unpleasantness in the village. They congregate near the village hall and are known to throw eggs and other items at nearby houses. They shout and jeer when confronted and then run off, one group disappearing up the tarmaced road leading to Common Hill opposite the climbing frame on the green. The other group is believed to come from Alkham. The youths may think what they are doing is harmless fun but it does cause unnecessary distress so if any parent thinks that their children may be involved please speak to them. All the relevant authorities have been informed and will hopefully deal with the situation. The small hut by the cricket pavilion has been damaged again and as expected no money was forthcoming with regard to the broken Perspex on the map board.

ROAD WORKS - Resurfacing of the A20 in Dover through March, April and May is expected to have an affect on the Alkham Valley. Although it is said that the road works will be carried out at night, a major diversion of traffic will have to be set up. Details are not known at this stage, but preliminary maps indicate that although the traffic is not being diverted through the Valley, anyone with local knowledge would quickly realize that the Valley Road could be used as an alternative. Alkham Parish Council is looking into the matter and wished to inform Parishioners that a Public Exhibition of the project will be at Whitfield on 18th & 19th January and in Dover on 25th & 26th January. The site of the exhibitions, although unknown at present, will no doubt be published in the local press.

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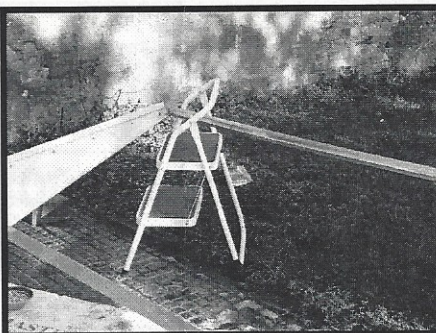
Contact Andy Broadley

Home: 01304 827779

Mobile: 07779 091427

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*Brian and Ken pause for thought
when assembling the roof to the
new shed.*

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR The total amount raised at the Christmas Bazaar this year was the magnificent sum of £368. It was a tremendous effort by everyone concerned and the PCC, and the Treasurer, are very grateful to those who contributed. The money will go towards Church funds. Thank you.

(Marion Banks-Nash)

POLICE - Our mobile camera vans are working extra hours throughout December and will be enforcing during the night, at weekends and on Bank Holidays. The cameras are highly visible, signed with black and white camera symbols and a tolerance level of 10% plus 2mph is on force before prosecution.

PRINTING - You may have seen on the back page that the Newsletter is printed at the Rainbow Centre in Folkestone. I'm pleased to say that they are now offering this service to other people and organisations so if you'd like a quote please give them a ring on 01303 850733. I recommend them.

MANHOLES - As drivers to Dover will have noticed, the sunken manhole covers on the approach to Temple Ewell have now been lifted when the valley road was closed for 2 days.

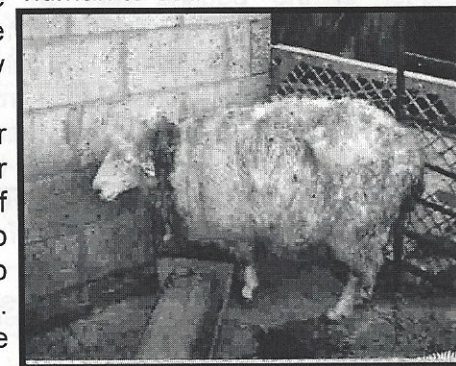
ALKHAM W.I. - The December meeting provided much food for thought and a great deal of laughter. A poem was written to commemorate the night by two members, for the W.I. scrapbook. The next meeting will be on the 8th of January. **(Sue Lees)**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

Thank you, Brian, for putting the Alkham Valley Society programme of events into the Alkham Monthly Newsletter (arrangement of Val Fowler, thanks!). We understand that this Newsletter reaches over 300 people. Membership of the Society remains remarkable value at £1 a year and new members are welcome. Regulars will know that on 27 December the Alkham Valley Christmas walk takes place. This starts from the Alkham Village Hall car park at 10.30 and is led by an upstanding member of the Society. It lasts about 2 hours and is a good opportunity to meet people and view the local footpaths and byways so much under discussion and review. All are welcome which includes progeny and pets. Hamsters might not make it. Thank you to all our members and Committee who attended the AGM on 20 November, and the very good supper afterwards. Happy Christmas and New Year 2008 to all. **(Joanna Walker - Secretary)**

SHEEP WORRYING

Drawing ALL dog owner's attention to the damage dogs can, and do, do to sheep. Dogs must be kept on leads and under control when anywhere near sheep. Farmers have to put much time and care into raising sheep. A damaged sheep rarely recovers. Take this very recently savaged Alkham sheep (see photo below) for example, it had to be slaughtered at a cost of £20 to the farmer and no meat for a human to eat.



The dark pieces by the head and tail is blood

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BOOK CLUB - The next meeting will be at the home of Avril Munn, Poems, Short Lane at 7.30pm on 2nd January. We will discuss Chick Flick books. Tel 829484. **Rosemary Heddle** and on the 7th December our son James, along with 2 other work colleagues flew to Chile. They are being sponsored by HSBC bank, and apart from one other female are Great Britain's only entrants to compete in this year's Ice Marathon. The aim is to raise money for under privileged children living in the inner city of London. So far they have raised over £30,000 for Greenhouse schools. There are only 15 competitors, who have been waiting for over a week for weather conditions to improve, before being flown to Antarctica. Once there they aim to complete a 26 mile marathon. This is probably their biggest challenge yet as they face temperatures of - 30 c. If you add on a wind chill factor then the temperature will be much colder! The track will be extremely icy which is another reason why this marathon is such a difficult one as they struggle in the coldest and harshest place on our planet. Only 25 people have managed to complete the race which is now in its 3rd year. Due to bad weather it seems almost certain our boys will now be spending Christmas in Antarctica, so please say a prayer and think of them whilst you are cosy in your own homes this festive season. (**Rosemary Heddle**)

COME AND GET MUCKY WITH US!

Acryse Young Farmers Club is based around the Folkestone/Dover area. We meet every Friday evening for all sorts of activities, farm visits and social events. We also show livestock at various shows. New members night is on the 18th January so anyone between the ages of 13-26 are welcome. And remember you don't have to be a farmer to be a young farmer! For more info contact: Kath-07810390736: Hayley-07756496712.

I met three groups of Young Farmers in 2007 and they were great fun, polite and friendly. (editor)

OZ on CONRAD - Last month saw the 150th birthday of a great modern writer of maritime tales. Jozef Teodor Konrad Nalecz Korzeniowski was born on 3 December 1857 in the Polish Ukraine. His parents, outspoken Polish nationalists, were arrested in 1861 and exiled, taking four-year old Jozef, to Russia. By 1869, Jozef had lost both parents and was cared for by an uncle until 1874, when he fled, avoiding Russian conscription and fulfilling a childhood dream by joining a French merchant ship at Marseilles. After four adventurous years that included gun-running, gambling, bankruptcy and attempted suicide, Jozef transferred to British ships in 1878 and became British in 1886, anglicising his name to Joseph Conrad. During the next eight years, Conrad combined the careers of master mariner and novelist, writing in English, which was, remarkably, his third language. In 1894, Conrad retired from the sea, and married Jessie George in 1896, settling down to a long literary life that produced twenty major works and hundreds of short stories. He wrote of sea and empire, contrasting them with the loneliness of the human soul. Lawrence ("of Arabia") declared: "He's absolutely the most haunting thing in prose that ever was: I wish I knew how every paragraph he writes goes on sounding in waves, like the note of a tenor bell, after it stops." In 1909 the Conrads moved to Aldington in Kent and in 1919 to "Oswalds" at Bishopsbourne. On 3 August 1924 Conrad died at home of a heart attack. He was buried in the Westgate Cemetery in Canterbury, where Jessie joined him in 1936. His carved epitaph, also the epigraph for The Rover, is from Edmund Spenser's The Faerie Queen, and reads "Sleep After Toyle, Port After Stormie Seas, Ease After Warre, Death After Life Does Greatly Please." (Steve Osborn)

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JUMBLE SALE – There will be a jumble sale in the village hall on the 26th January starting at 11.00am in aid of W.I. funds.
CHALKY HILL was closed for half a day to have a tree removed that had fallen across the road and was resting precariously on another tree on the other side of the road.

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	7	Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm in the village hall
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in the village hall from 7.30pm
Thursday	10	Open Garden meeting 2.30pm – see page 1
Monday	17	Dover & District Bird Club from 7.30 pm in VH
Saturday	26	W.I. jumble sale in village hall starting at 11.00am

CHURCH SERVICES	Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Week day Services Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15am
	Sunday 6th	Evensong 4pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping Together 11am	
	Sunday 13th	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping Together 11am	No service	
	Sunday 20th	Worshipping together 11am	Evensong 6pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	
	Sunday 27th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 10am			

TELEPHONE	Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484 County Councillor, Bryan Cope 01304 206510 District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Andrew Richardson 211835 Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Community Warden 07977 981994 Police Support 07772226112 GP out of hours 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
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EQUESTRIAN	GREENHILL FARM – DIY and assisted livery – excellent facilities	Meggett Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham 01303 891996
PAINTING & DECORATING	Phil Auger	07834041346
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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DOREEN POLDEN

(16/1/1925 – 4/1/2008)

St Anthony's church in Alkham was absolutely packed for the funeral of Doreen Polden who died on the 4th of January at the age of 82. A tribute to her was read on behalf of the family by David Tapsell, a great friend of Doreen and her family. Doreen loved Alkham and amongst many other things she had been particularly involved with Alkham's Annual Fete and Village Hall. Doreen (ne. Hall) came from a family of 12 children who continuously lived in and around Alkham. At the outbreak of WWII she added a year and lied about her age to join the Womens' Land Army. This was when she met Bill, a man twice her age who she married in 1944; they had 6 children. There had been sadness in her life with the loss of a baby, two brothers and her husband but overall life had been good especially becoming a great grandmother. Because of this she said that people should not weep in sadness at her passing but weep in joy for the life she had. Before she died, Doreen said that she would have a party on her birthday which was on the 16th of January, the date of the funeral. The family said that although she won't be there they would have a party to celebrate her life. She was a lovely lady.

ALKHAM FOOTBALL CLUB I understand the club is doing very well and if anyone would like to give me details I'd be pleased to write articles for future editions of the Newsletter. Any information can be emailed (brianwimsett@hotmail.com), sent by post or dropped off at the Old Post Office.

THE MARQUIS OF

GRANBY is shut at the moment as alterations are being made such that B & B facilities will be available. Other development work is taking place which includes an extension to the rear. The house behind the pub has also been bought and this will be used to house the staff with the Marquis opening again in the Spring.

THE RESURFACING of the main A20 on Townwall Street will have an affect on the Alkham Valley Road with vehicles diverting from the signed route. A real matter of concern is that the low bridge sign at the Folkestone end of the valley is easily missed and HGV's will have to turn round somehow when they get to the railway bridge at Kearsney. This problem also occurs with the use of Sat. Nav. and the Parish Council is contacting the Highway Authority with a request that a larger sign should be put at the crossroad just west of Standen Terrace.

GRASS CUTTING – The grassed areas on Vicarage Meadow which cannot be cut by the gang mower is cut with a strimmer. The work is paid for by a yearly honorarium and if anyone is willing to take on this work please contact Angela Miller 824791.

STEPHEN COMFORT would like to thank all his well wishers for their thoughts and prayers during his illness over the Christmas period. Particular thanks go to Maurice and Pam for their help and support which (as usual) seems to know no boundaries. He has now fully recovered and hopes to be running in the lanes again by the end of January. *(It's great to have Steve back to his irrepressible self)*



The Kyokushinkai Karate classes have been running for one year now and have been well attended throughout. Students range from first time beginners to higher grades which have been training for several years at the Folkestone class. Karate is a well disciplined sport, which not only covers self defence but we also concentrate on cardiovascular workouts, stretching techniques together with bag work and general sparring. We have an average of twenty students who train during a Thursday evening; these not only include local residents but other people who travel from Folkestone, Ashford, Canterbury and Thanet in order to learn the Kyokushin training techniques. However we still have room for more people and it would be nice to see more local residents attending, so if you think you need to lose a few pounds or would like to get a little fitter for the summer then please come down and join in, you are all welcome. Competitions are also held regularly throughout the year in which you are able to partake, these include clicker tournaments (point scoring), Knockdown (full contact) or Kata competitions which is a set form of movements performed in a set sequence. These sometimes test the individual to the full and this is where the hard training pays off. Training sessions are every Thursday evening from 19:15 to 20:45 and each session costs only £2.50 For more details please contact Simon on 01304 821336 or visit our website at www.folkestone-kyokushinkai.co.uk

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There was garage fire at Ewell Minnis just after Christmas and although it's difficult to see, the fireman is using a garden hose. The reason for this, as with other recently resurfaced roads, is that the fire hydrants are covered with tarmac. The Parish Council is, with some urgency, contacting the Highway Authority to resolve the matter as Slip Lane, Meggett Lane and Lockering Lane are similarly affected.

ALKHAM IN BLOOM Plans and arrangements are now under way for our Alkham in Bloom weekend on 28/29 June this year. We have a number of gardens on our list but we still need more people to take part. It will be a two-day event but, if anyone would like to open their garden but will be unable, or does not wish, to open for two days you could open for one day only. We do need to have definite commitments very soon now. In the gardens there will be various activities such as a Nature Trail, swimming, refreshments, etc. and there will be various exhibitions and other things taking place in the Church and the Village Hall, but, if you have any suggestions or ideas to make the event interesting and successful we would be pleased to hear from you. It is a Village event and it would be good to have as much participation as possible. Even if you are not opening your garden we will be needing help in other ways so do please come along to the next meeting in the Village Hall on 10 March at 7.30pm. For more information or to volunteer to open your garden please ring one of the following numbers:- Marion Nash 820107, Margaret Batchelor 823568, Susan Lees 822668, Raye Luckhurst 892848 or Val Fowler 827653.

SONNY – Those of you who live in Glebelands and elsewhere probably remember the White Golden Retriever which was taken over by Helen Scopes when her owners died. He then had a great life with Helen and her other dogs but he too became old and has now passed on. He was a great dog.

CHRISTMAS TREE/S

Many thanks to Mary Sullivan who has offered Christmas trees for the village for the next two years. This is of significance since the source which provided the last four trees has dried up and the cost of purchasing trees of this size would mean that we would not be able to continue with this practice which, it seems, many people enjoy and appreciate. To the person/persons who moved the remains of the village Christmas Tree from the car park to the Village Hall (no doubt in an act of thoughtfulness rather than through personal inadequacies): Please look at the December Newsletter this year when I will give the date of next year's cutting, bundling, tying and transporting to the car park and we will gladly use your energies to assist with this. To the person/persons who dumped their Christmas trees with the pile of village Christmas tree: Please take responsibility for the disposal of your own trees even if it means keeping it in your garden for a week. The collection and recycling of the village tree is carried out through a generous agreement with Dover District Council and their contractors and saves many hours of work and many car journeys to the tip. There is a facility for domestic tree collection, please use this. **(Mark Robson)**

MANY THANKS to all who helped or contributed to the Christmas coffee morning and bazaar in aid of Cancer Research UK. A total of £350 has now been sent to the charity. **(Christine Tapsell)**

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Alkham Valley Road

ICE MARATHON - After a delay of 8 days in Chile, due to bad weather, our son James finally flew to Antarctica, and managed to complete the Ice marathon in just over 7 hours. It was not without sheer determination as the weather deteriorated half way around the course. The worst moment came 2 hours before the end. A severe blizzard whipped up, and snow wiped out the red flags which were meant to mark the way! By chance, Jame's two work colleagues caught up with him, and the three struggled to navigate the final course between them, arriving at the finishing post exhausted but safe. They managed to raise over £50,000 for the charity, greenhouse schools. Thank you to every one who offered support. **(Rosemary Heddle).....**

BOOK CLUB - Although only a few members attended last month, due mostly to illness, we spent the evening sipping champagne and enjoying tasty nibbles by a cosy fire. The evening was relaxed and enjoyable as we each discussed the books we had read over Christmas. The next book to read is *Mercy*, by Jodi Picoult. Mari Jones will host this on 6th February 7.30 at Turangi, Newlyn Meadow. Tel 826619. New members always welcome.

ALKHAM W.I. - As the January meeting came early in the month, several people were absent, no doubt recovering from Christmas. This was a shame because the speaker Avril Woolf was her usual brilliant self with her songs and monologues. Cherry Leppard should be contacted by members - 01303 255114 - who would like to attend the Classical Spectacular at the Albert Hall Sunday 16th March - total cost ticket & coach £38. Members are reminded that annual membership £27 is due. This year is to be a special one with Alkham WI celebrating its 80th Birthday next November. Any ideas welcomed to celebrate the occasion. Meeting 12th Feb - speaker Patsy Baker on the 'History of False Hair'. **(Sue Lees)**

HELLO to everyone who attends the **Garden Group**. Just to advise you all that we will reconvene at Richard and Susannah's on Friday 22 February at 7.30 pm. Look forward to seeing you again, and hope you are all well considering how many bugs and germs are flying around at the moment!
(Devina - 827548)

OZ on FRY - Just before Christmas I was delighted and defeated by a *Times-Listener* crossword that featured the centenary of a great English dramatist. Christopher Fry was born in Bristol on 18 December 1907 as Christopher Harris. When he was four his father died and he took his mother's maiden name, she being from the famous Fry family of Quakers and chocolate-makers. After being educated at Bedford School, Fry taught in various schools, becoming increasingly involved in theatre and music until 1932, when he left teaching to set up Tunbridge Wells Repertory Theatre. He married Phyllis Hart in 1936. During World War II, as a committed pacifist, he volunteered for a non-combatant army unit that cleaned out sewers in the docks. In 1946, Fry began writing in earnest, and found himself, along with T. S. Eliot, leading the post-war revival of verse drama. After two plays on biblical themes, he discovered his true voice with *The Lady's Not for Burning*, which was premiered in 1948 and transferred to the West End a year later. It is a wonderful comedy with serious undertones, and dazzling wit arguably unmatched except by that of Oscar Wilde. In a typical line, the hero Thomas declares: "What after all is a halo? It's only one more thing to keep clean." Over the next few years, Fry wrote four similar plays and many translations. In 1956 verse drama was suddenly swept aside by the revolutionary whirlwind of prose realism emerging from the Royal Court Theatre. Fry turned with great success to film writing, starting with *Ben Hur* in 1959, then *Barabbas* (1962) and *The Bible* (1966). He never really retired, but spent his old age writing occasionally and sitting with Phyllis by the waterfall in their garden in East Dean, Sussex. Phyllis died in 1987 and Christopher in 2005.

(Steve Osborn)

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A.R.S.E. is on the move now that the Marquis has closed for alterations. They will meet at member's houses to continue the recovery programme and the first is at Colin and Nollie Downer's house. For further information please contact Mark Robson.

*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		
Saturday	2	Annual Quiz starting at 7.30pm in the village hall
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting in the village hall from 7.30pm
Monday	18	Dover & District Bird Club from 7.30 pm in VH
Saturday	23	Beekeepers in village hall 2 – 5 pm

CHURCH SERVICES	Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Week day Services Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15am
	Saturday 2 nd	St. Mary (old church), Capel-Le-Ferne 5pm			
	Sunday 3 rd	Evensong 4pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	
	Wednesday 6 th	Sung Eucharist and imposition of ashes St. Radigund Capel-Le-Ferne 7pm			
	Sunday 10 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	No service	
	Sunday 17 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	
	Sunday 24 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony, Alkham 10 am			
	Monday 25 th	Licensing of the reverend Susan White St Radigund Capel-Le-Ferne 7.30pm			

T E L E P H O N E	Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484	Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
	County Councillor , Bryan Cope 01304 206510	alkham.parcouncil@virgin.net
	District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Andrew Richardson 211835	Village Hall booking
	Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055	Val Fowler 827635
	Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	Alkham Valley Society secretary
	Community Warden 07977 981994	Joanna Walker 821641
	Police Support 07772226112	W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
	GP out of hours 0844 800 1234	Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell
	Newsletter , Brian Wimsett 824969	822295 and Grace Stacey 822756
	e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	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
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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
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
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No. 173 March 2008

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DEEPEST SYMPATHY goes to Vanessa, Clive, Matthew and Luke Hyland on their tragic loss.

CHRIS had a certain way about him. You could maybe, call it a gift. He touched the hearts of all who knew him and all who met him while walking his dog, Daisy. Chris liked to talk to people; it was that cheeky smile that brightened everyone's day. People I have spoken to have told me that if you had a bad day and were feeling down, to meet Chris was like a breath of fresh air. This young man had a heart of gold and he would help anyone, nothing was too much trouble. I said to Chris once, when he was in my shed, that I must go and get the washing up done. 'Oh' said Chris 'I'll do that'. Those of you who were in church when we celebrated his short and colourful life will remember the vicar saying that when Chris worked in the Pet Store in Folkestone he helped a lady to carry a large bag of dog food to her car. She offered him a tip but Chris declined saying 'but I'll have your phone number'. He certainly renewed my faith in young people. It's so easy to praise people after they have passed on but Chris was a very special young man. Alkham and the world will be a sadder place without him. In his short life he will leave so many memories in the minds and hearts of so many people. As I said at the start of the Quiz in the village hall, Chris was a credit to his family and our hearts go out to them in their time of grief. **(Ken Hammond)**

THE MARQUIS OF

GRANBY apologises for the Heras fence which has been put round the pub. The contractor has put it there to conform with Health and Safety requirements.

ANNUAL QUIZ – About 90 people came to the quiz and judging by the hubbub at the end of the evening they had a good time. The team from the Old Rectory plus OZ and friends won. A profit of £310 was made which has been sent to the Kent Air Ambulance.

COFFEE MORNING and Village Easter Egg raffle is in the village hall on March 22nd from 10.30 to 12 noon with all profits going to the church.

ALKHAM VALLEY

SOCIETY - Talk on Tuesday 4 March at 7.30 p.m., Village Hall by MR COLIN FINCH, Countryside Access & Improvement Officer for the enhancing of public rights of way access and open green spaces, KCC. He will be giving a talk on the above, which includes Bridleways, with the help of slides and will be happy to answer questions and have discussions with the audience. All members are invited; please invite friends who might have an interest. Please bring friends. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served.....

EASTER WALK - Once again we will be holding a short Easter Walk on Monday 24 March at 10.30 which will start and finish at Shelley & John Jackson's house Foxgloves (very top of Slip Lane up at Ellinge where he land flattens out). This is a smaller walk than the Christmas walk and it is a pleasure to see the spring flowers and spring generally so if you have the time you are most welcome. **(Joanna Walker, Secretary 8221641)**

FETE BRIC-A-BRAC STALL After several years of running this stall we felt it was time to hand over to someone else. Fortunately Clare Naris of Owler Lodge (tel 826577) didn't need much persuasion and for that we are very thankful. Apart from the odd bruised foot by enthusiastic buyers we have enjoyed it enormously and now take this opportunity of wishing Clare every success. **(Irene and Den Barnard)**

EQUINE OPPORTUNITY! Person wanted to help out with an assortment of 7 horses and ponies. Mucking-out, grooming, turning out etc., in return for as much weekday riding of 16'2 Warmblood and 15'2 Hanoverian as wanted! Must be competent and experienced around horses as well as being a very good rider. Ability to work and hack out / school on own a must! Ideal person will be enthusiastic and reliable. Private yard in Alkham. For further information, please call Claire on 07917 411588 or 01304 827853 or email Claireward2000@msn.com

QUIZ – On the 26th of April a quiz is being held in the village hall in aid of the Parkinson Disease Society. It is 7.00 for 7.30pm and nibbles will be provided but bring your own drink and glasses. The cost is £5 per person with tables having a maximum of 8 people. There will also be a raffle and to book a table please ring Helen on 831887.

BABY SITTING - I am a sensible eighteen year old, a non smoker. I have a lot of experience with children of all ages, as I teach voluntarily at a local gymnastics club. I also have younger siblings and a niece and nephews. I can be contacted at any time on (01304) 825617 or 07716909447 and I would be available most evenings and weekends. **(Ruth Marlow)**

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DEN AND CYCLING (Part Two) - You can easily tell a mature person because when they are confronted by a fool who says something stupid, they just smile wistfully and say nothing. After regularly cycling with Ken and Brian last summer I purchased my first road racer bike and, after a couple of weeks, announced to Ken that I had given it a thorough clean and it had only taken me fifteen minutes. Ken smiled wistfully and said nothing. After our next ride he asked me to bring the bike up to his shed. Here he dismantled every moving part then thoroughly washed, oiled, polished and buffed until it all looked like new. He then used a scanning electron microscope to see if any atoms of dust remained. 'That is a thorough clean' he explained and another part of my biking education was complete. Mark Robson came out on the next ride and so this was my chance show off. As we passed through a large puddle at the top of Chalky Hill, I noticed that Brian, always the leader, had gone through the middle. With my superior intelligence, I moved to the edge of the puddle where, obviously, it would be much shallower. Brian of, course, knew there were potholes at the edges. Picture the final scene: front wheel stuck down a hole, me laying in six inches of smelly water, both feet still clipped to my pedals, Mark doing his best not to laugh, Ken and Brian checking if the bike was OK. I offered them bribes not to tell anyone but it was obviously not enough. After ten months of cycling experience I now understand the language, here are few things I have learnt. 'I'm out of shape' – translation: I've been doing a hundred miles a week and a hundred and fifty press-ups nightly since you were five years old and my bodyfat percentage is lower than your mortgage rate. 'It's not very hilly' - translation: this climb lasts an hour if you're lucky and whatever you do don't stop or you'll fall over backwards. 'You're doing very well' - translation: lay off the doughnuts fat boy we still have to wait for you to go up hills and we want to get home before midnight. 'It's not far' – translation: it is. As you can see I'm still enjoying it, feeling great and have lost a stone in weight. Last week I was admiring myself in the mirror and said to Irene 'I think this cycling is making me more attractive to women'. Irene smiled wistfully and said nothing. **Den Barnard.**

VINEYARD workers wanted for new vineyard in Alkham Valley. Duties will include pruning, weeding, tying up, grass cutting and general maintenance. Previous experience with soft fruit / vines, tractor driving and PA1 / PA6 certification preferred but not essential. Temporary flexible position which could extend to September 08, can be part time but must be worked in 4 hour blocks. Ideal candidate will be reliable, hardworking and enthusiastic. Could be suitable for students for holiday work. In the first instance please email your CV to: Claire@Chalksolevineyard.co.uk

JUST A REMINDER – We can only take plastic bottles that held drink with their tops removed and discarded for recycling. There has been quite a lot of other plastics lately and we have to sort and discard them. It would also be very helpful if cardboard could be made as small as possible as we have a small van. (see article on next page re: cardboard – it would help)

A.R.S.E. ON TOUR caused by the temporary closure of The Marquis, got off to a successful start at Colin and Nollie Downer's home. We all rallied round one member whose own home was undergoing repairs due to the earthquake and she left feeling the warm afterglow of such close support. (The wine *may* have helped!). The next meeting, a Leap Year special, will be at 8.00 p.m. on Friday, February 29th at Den and Irene Barnard's home. Please contact them on 824845 if you would like to attend. Sadly the evening will have to start with the Disciplinary Committee having to admonish those members who defected from the quiz team to join others leaving A.R.S.E. at the bottom! On a more positive note the agenda will also include the proposed European leg of the current Tour. New members are always welcome but you must be prepared to be 'loud and proud' about your membership. **(Mark Robson)**

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THE MOTHERING SUNDAY service on 2nd March will be led by our new vicar, the Rev. Sue White her first visit to us in her official capacity. The service will be followed by Mothering Sunday tea in the village and we hope that you will join us to welcome her to the village. **(Richard & Grace – Ch. Wardens)**

ALKHAM WI – the well attended February meeting heard a fascinating talk on the history of wigs. It was great to hear news of Margaret Knowles and how she has set up a new WI in Bath. On 11th March the talk will be on badgers – an appropriate subject in a valley dominated by them. **(Sue Lees)**

RECYCLING - Many thanks to Brian and Ken who for the past 4 years have run the village's recycling scheme in rain, snow, frost and occasional sun. They do this without any thought of recompense and still *seem* to be enjoying themselves. This must be a fairly unique scheme which not only has a doorstep collection but also raises money for use by the village. The van service is probably at capacity but can I point out that if any villager wants to recycle their own cardboard, plastic (drink bottles only), tins, paper they can take it to the Kent Recycling Project (next to the Battle of Britain museum at Hawkinge) and ask for it to be credited to the Alkham Village account. The centre will also recycle glass but this service cannot be offered by Ken and Brian due to overload. **(Mark Robson)**

UNDERAGE DRINKING: An important campaign was launched on 5th February to raise awareness of the health issues and the community safety impact of underage drinking. To report drink litter, please call DDC Waste Services on 01304 821199, or to report underage drinking call the Community Safety Hotline on 01304 872220.

KENT KARRIER SERVICE This is a fully accessible dial-a-ride service provided by KCC and is operated on a membership basis. The modern vehicles are fully accessible for wheelchairs etc, and provide a service Mondays to Fridays to the main shopping areas in Dover. Membership costs just £5 per year and a small fare is payable when using the service. Members may also take a carer/companion with them. Please contact 01622 605349 for further information on how to join.

OZ on BIRDSONG – Our most unexpected Christmas present this year was a circular wall-clock featuring portraits of wild birds instead of numbers around the rim. Every hour, on the hour, the clock emits the appropriate birdsong, except at night when a sensor sensibly switches the sound off. We soon warmed to this new housemate, but wondered how others reacted. I found some answers at a hilarious website called "I got a Singing Bird Clock for Christmas". After describing how this use of microchip technology first appeared in 1998, the site publishes comments showing that people either love or hate these chirpy timepieces. Some criticize the quality of the birdsong, though it's generally agreed that the croaks and metallic sounds disappear when the batteries are changed. Others are annoyed or startled when the birdsong starts, like the dogs who held their paws over their ears or the grandmother who thought someone was shouting "Elephant!" at her. Equally amusing are some of the methods devised to deal with the birdsong. My favourite story is from the US Pentagon where an office-worker said that every hour "we are serenaded by the featured bird shortly followed by a barrage of gunfire '.wav' files that we have downloaded from the internet", followed by an hour's silence of course. These opposing views are neatly portrayed in the tale of a woman who, after much argument, persuaded her husband not to buy her Dad a bird clock for Christmas. After the gifts were opened, "Dad announced that he'd had a wonderful Christmas...but his only regret was that nobody got him one of those "really cool" bird clocks." We love our bird clock. It cheers these February days, teaches birdsong, and tells the time without our having to look. The website may be found at: <http://members.toast.net/joerger/birdsong.html> **(Steve Osborn)**

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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	1	PCC Jumble Sale in village hall from 11.00am
Sunday	2	Mothering Sunday tea in village hall 3pm to 5pm
Monday	3	Parish Council meeting 7.30 pm in VH all welcome
Wednesday	4	AVS talk from 7.30pm – see page 1
Monday	10	Open Gardens meeting in HV from 7.30pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting in the village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	22	Coffee morning and Easter eggs – see page 1
Saturday	29	Beekeepers in village hall 2 – 5 pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham	Week day Services
Sunday 2nd	Mothering Sunday 3.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping together 11am	Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15am
Sunday 9th	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping together 11 am	No service	
Sunday 16th	Worshipping together 11am	Evensong 6pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	
	Tuesday 18th Compline	Monday 17th Compline	Wednesday 19th	
Thursday 20th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist Alkham 7pm			
Friday 21st Good Friday		Liturgy of the Passion 2pm		
Sunday 23rd Easter day	Sung Eucharist 4	Sung Eucharist 9.30	Sung Eucharist 11	
Sunday 30th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Mary old church, Capel - le - Ferne 10.00am.			

TELEPHONE

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Alkham web site www.alkham.org

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properties in the Parish

ROGER WALTON head of property and procurement at DDC will be giving a talk about the Council's waste initiative at the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** on Monday 7th April. The meeting starts at 7.30pm and it is an opportunity to speak to the Parish Council and air your views. Please come along and support the Parish.

A CLEANER is required for the village hall. At the moment the cleaning amounts to one hour a week but the exact details are going to be discussed at the Village Hall AGM in April. If anyone is interested please contact Brian Wimsett on 824969 or email as given on the back page.

FOOTBALL PITCH LIGHTS The funding for the lights has been approved and thanks have to go to our County Councillor, Bryan Cope, for getting the money and it is hoped that work will start in the near future. The crossbar and nets to the goals are also going to be replaced and the Parish Council is pursuing the matter.

ALKHAM VALLEY

SOCIETY - It was rewarding to see the number of people who came along to the talk in the Village Hall on 4th March. The topic was access to the countryside with special reference to footpaths and byways, given by Colin Finch, KCC, who pointed out that Kent has some 13,000 miles of rights of way and some 12,000 stiles. One of KCC aims is to reduce the numbers of stiles and replace them with gates. At question time concerns were raised about misuse and the state of footpaths. When irregularities become obvious police are dispatched to ensure enforcement. The number to ring is 01304 218110. **(Joanna Walker - Secretary)**

ALKHAM RECYCLING started in March 2004 and this year we earned £226.26. The only expenditure, thanks to Billy Hollis, was the cost of the plastic sacks. The amount earned was less than last year because DDC is collecting paper and tins. Despite this we recycled ¾ tonne of plastic and 2 tonnes of cardboard plus paper and cans. The money has been paid into the Alkham Fund account and there is currently about £650 left. This year we spent £250 on the map board, £50 of which was due to the children who broke the Perspex. If you have any ideas as to how to spend the money please let me, Ken or Clive know. Clive Batcheldor has been assisting us for some and is really a great help.

A FETE COMMITTEE meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th April at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall to make arrangements for this year's Fete (Saturday 12th July 2008 - unbook your holidays now!); please come along if you can help on the day or have any ideas of new activities we might be able to introduce. If you can't make the meeting please call me in advance to let me know your availability/ideas. **(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)**

GARDEN TALK - Our first meeting of the year was a great success. Susannah and Richard passed round old photos of Alkham and the surrounding area. There was much scratching of heads and peering through magnifying glasses as we all tried to identify whose house was who's and guess who was posing in the front garden. Many thanks to them both for their hospitality. The next meeting will be on 18 April at the new home of Sue & John Garlinge. Telephone me for details if you are not sure where they are. **(Devina 827548)**

ALKHAM IN BLOOM.

We still need some more gardens to open, particularly in the Newlyn Meadow and Glebelands areas. We want to make the weekend not just a fund raising day for Alkham church, although funds are much needed, but we also want it to be another successful event in which all the village takes part and we all have a good time, in the true spirit of Alkham Village. If you would like more information please ring one of the following numbers: - Marion Nash 820701, Margaret Batcheldor 823568, Susan Lees 822668, Raye Luckhurst 892848 or Val Fowler 827635.

P.A.C.T which is Partners and Community Together has been adopted by the Parish Council. It looks like good news as it is a way of letting the police know of any problems that you'd like them to deal with. The Police Community Support Officer will be at the Parish Council meetings and in the interval villagers can tell her of any concerns they have. If she can't deal with it she will liaise with the PC Nicola Steele to see if police action is required.

CHALKY HILL or is it White Hill, this being the steep hill that goes from Slip Lane to Chalksole. Sue Lees has done some research and from 1920 to the 1950's it was called White Hill and then Chalky Hill to the present day. The District Council requires proof that the name should be Chalky Hill and Parish Councillor, Geoff Lymer, says that he has a letter from 1907 that confirms this.

EVERYONE is invited to a **COFFEE MORNING** which will be in the Village Hall on Saturday 12th April 10.30am. Funds will go towards the upkeep of Alkham Church. **APOLOGIES** for the cancellation of the Easter Coffee Morning.

A TALK with photos on **OLD DOVER** will be given at the WI meeting on the 8th April. Please see W.I. article on page 2.

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A.R.S.E. ON TOUR - The second date on the tour was held at Den and Irene Barnard's and we were pleased to welcome some new and returning members. The earthquake at Market Rasen was a hot topic of conversation and led to thoughts of possible twinning between the village and the Lincolnshire town. I'm not sure these thoughts would have been remembered the following day, however. The next meeting will be at 8.00 p.m. on Friday, March 28th at Pete and Denni Frater's (The Old Dairy, Slip Lane). Please contact them on 820067 if you would like to attend. All you need to bring is your drink and your sense of humour. I would like to give my thanks to the members who are offering their homes during the closure of the Marquis; not only does this help to keep the village spirit alive but it also ensures the invaluable therapeutic work, that we have all found to be so beneficial, can continue!! **(Mark Robson)**

BOOK CLUB meeting this month will take place at the home of Susanne Tapsell, Bramhall on the 2nd April, 7.30pm. Read any Biography or Autobiography of your choice. New members very welcome. Phone 827880 for further details.
(Rosemary Heddle)

ALKHAM WI – The talk on badgers was as interesting as expected, no way could anyone doze! The speaker at the next meeting 8th April, will be Bob Hollingsbee, the well known local historian, who will give a talk with plenty of photos on old Dover. This will be open to all, whether connected with the WI or not. Everyone is welcome to attend but please arrive at 8.0pm in order that the WI business may be dealt with first. **(Sue Lees)**

DOVER CHORAL

SOCIETY presents its spring concert at 7.30pm on Saturday 19th April in Dover Town Hall. Tickets at £10 (£5 for students) can be obtained from Dover Tourist Information Centre or by calling 01304 822042; and, if any remain, at the door on the night. For further information please ring 07808 272047. **(Steve Osborn)**

BRIAN ON DEN CYCLING Den took to cycling quickly and has become a powerful rider. Sometimes when Ken goes up a hill he does what I call a 'frisky,' this being a sudden sprint to the top and Den is now copying him. If I show the merest whiff of acceleration on a hill, off they go pedalling like mad. Near Eastry I accelerated slightly and Den suddenly shot up on the left of me and Ken on the right both pedalling like a couple of maniacs. It's like being out with a couple of kids but it's great fun. I lead because I keep a steady pace but sometimes I get lost and this is when Ken, being a corporal in the Pioneer Corp in the early 1950's pays dividends.

THE CRICKET CLUB will be having a working party on the meadow to prepare the wicket and outfield for the forthcoming season on Saturday 12th April (or the 19th April if it's raining on the 12th); if you would like to come and help, please come along from 9.30 a.m. till lunch time with gloves and any other useful equipment. Please be aware that we may be having a bonfire (in case anyone is planning to put their washing out!). Also I should be grateful to anyone who lives near the meadow and has a ride-on mower who would be willing give us an hour or two of their time to give me a call as we plan to cut the grass and clear the clippings before the gang-mower comes on site and on 5th April from 9 a.m. will be **holding a manure morning** to raise funds for the club. For those (few) of you who are not familiar with the concept we are selling horse manure and delivering it to your door in return for a suitable donation towards club funds - we have a new shed to pay for! - alternatively you can collect it yourself from Upton Cottage by prior arrangement! If anyone has a pick up truck or similar we could borrow on the morning for deliveries it would assist me enormously. Please contact me to arrange a delivery or to offer help on the day. **(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)**

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THANK YOU! As many of you know my first service as your new Vicar was the Mothering Sunday service on 2nd March. It was wonderful to see so many people there and a big thank you to all the children who joined in. They did the readings, gave out posies to everyone and joined in the short talk. Then we had tea in the Village hall with a splendid cake made by Grace and decorated by Debbie. It was such a warm welcome and I am grateful to everyone in Alkham who made it such an occasion. I thought you would like to know a little about me. I am married to Richard and we have a son, Christopher, who is completing his degree in Business and Management at Bradford University. I began my career as a nurse which I thoroughly enjoyed though I thought the best place for sick people to be was at home! After working as a health visitor I moved into management and left the NHS having become a Unit General manager responsible for the Community Services, Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and the Elderly. I then trained as a teacher after a short period doing management consultancy. I taught business studies to 16-18 year olds which was great fun! I completed my ordination studies and became the curate in the Parish of the Harwich Peninsula. I thoroughly enjoyed it, I was able to set my own targets and it was a tremendous opportunity to work with schools, residential and nursing homes and voluntary organisations in the parish. I am looking forward to getting to know people in the parishes over the coming months and to take part in activities and events. I've taken my first assembly at the school and been to the pantomime! **PLEASE** do say 'hello' when you see me (I'm the one in the dog collar) and I look forward to getting to know you. If you know of anyone who would like prayers or home communion then do ring me on 01303 240539. May you all know God's blessing this Easter time.

(Rev. Sue White)

ST ANTHONY'S Church PCC. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome. (Margaret Batcheldor PCC Secretary)

OZ on BRAMBLINGS

At lunch recently two old workmates queried "I was well pleased", an untypical phrase which I'd used three times. Beneath the banter I felt that "well pleased" was correct English, which of course it is, dating back to the Bible, through Shakespeare to many modern examples. Shakespeare first used 'well', as an adjective reinforcer rather than an adverb, to mean 'very' as in today's "well pleased" and "well safe". Which is all a long-winded preface to saying that we were well pleased to see up to five bramblings at one time in the garden this winter. It was the first time since the 1980s, when they were accompanied by ring ouzels, fieldfares and redwings. The brambling is also called 'cock of the north' and 'mountain finch', hence the scientific name *Fringilla monti fringilla*. Bramblings breed in Scandinavia, moving south in the winter, although some now nest in Scotland. They are choosy eaters, living mainly on beechnuts and so are very mobile, travelling in flocks of many thousands from one beech stand to another. In our back garden they homed in on niger seed, which, with their sharp husks and high oil content, are similar to beechnuts. Bramblings are beautiful birds, with multicoloured heavily patterned plumage, sometimes difficult to distinguish from chaffinches, except in flight when they are identified by their distinctive white rumps. The name 'brambling' derives from 'brandling', the old name for an animal with a brindled coat. This combination of colour and pattern forms a very effective camouflage when they are searching for beechnuts in woodland. Camouflage does not seem to have protected them from Thomas Bewick's friends, who told him in 1826 that bramblings' flesh was "better eating than chaffinch", thankfully illegal nowadays - we're just well pleased to continue feeding them. (Steve Osborn)

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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

Wednesday	2	PCC AGM 7.30pm in village hall
Monday	7	Annual Parish meeting 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in the village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	12	Coffee morning in village hall from 10.30am
Tuesday	15	Fete Committee 8pm in village hall
Monday	21	Bird club in village hall from 7.30pm
Tuesday	22	Village Hall AGM 7.30pm
Saturday	26	Quiz in village hall from 7.30pm

Church	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Together 11am
Sunday 13th	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Together 11am	No service
Sunday 20th	Worship together 11am	Evensong 6.pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 27th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 10am		

Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist **9.15 am** St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne

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County Councillor, Bryan Cope
01304 206510

District Councillors - Sue Nicholas
823956, Andrew Richardson 211835

Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055

Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130

Community Warden 07977 981994

Police Support 07772226112

GP out of hours 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

Vicar – Rev. Sue White 01303

240539

Church Wardens - Richard Tapsell

822295 and Grace Stacey 822756

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 175 May 2008

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Alkham now has a FOOTPATH WARDEN. Anthony Barrier has started a survey of all the rights of way in the Parish. When the survey is completed a "required action report" will be sent to Denise Roffey who is the Rights of Way Officer for the area. If you have a rights of way issue please contact antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk or a parish councillor.

THE REASON that DDC don't recycle plastic and cardboard is because their vehicle is divided into 3 compartments with the contents being ejected at different locations. Apologies go to the houses on the Alkham Valley Road and Newlyns Meadow who didn't receive a plastic bag when we recycled in April. The reason was that DDC's refuse collectors, for some inexplicable reason, picked them up and put them in landfill.

FOOTBALL PITCH lights Two floodlights have been installed on poles by the village football pitch to illuminate the goals. This really is an achievement and thanks must go to our County Councillor, Bryan Cope, for providing the money and to Parish Councillor, Geoff Lymer, for sorting all the paper work out.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Ten parishioners turned up for the meeting

GRETEL STEVENS is now our Police Community Support Officer, Tracy Allum having moved on to cover St. Radigunds. Her phone number is 07772226209 if you want to contact her regarding anti-social behaviour, underage drinking or other nuisance matters.

"ALKHAM" COMES TO ALKHAM - The newly formed Alkham Valley Model Railway Society will be holding its first exhibition in the village hall on Saturday 31st May. All proceeds will go the St Anthony's church fund. We are fortunate that Ian Hollis, creator of the award winning and popular layout "Alkham", is prepared to come from the Isle of Wight to exhibit. Ian is known to many villagers from when he came to their homes to take measurements and photos for his model. There will be about 10 layouts and a couple of stands selling modelling related material. At least one veteran double decker bus plus a vintage car will be on show. The Romney Model Engineering Society will be showing some of their large-scale model locomotives as a static display on the stage. This will be very much a village occasion and everyone is welcome to lend a hand. On the day it would be useful to have a few helpers standing by to assist exhibitors and trouble-shoot generally. It would be particularly helpful to have leaflets distributed and posters put in shop windows as we will be relying heavily on publicity. At the moment we are on a couple of websites and will be advertising in modelling magazines and local papers. Patsy Comfort has kindly agreed to let us use her field for car parking and if our advertising is effective we may need parking marshals. For anyone who would like to participate there will be an "open" table from which villagers can sell any transport related material (not necessarily railway) providing a tithe goes to the church. We are also on the lookout for gazebos with side covers. Please contact Stan Fowler on 827635 if you feel that you can help in any way.

Chimney Fire at Halton Court - In the evening of Friday 14th March the fire brigade had to be called to Halton Court to put out a chimney fire caused by putting too many small tinder-dry logs on the fire at once. A very panicky situation was professionally dealt with by the fire service who also left everything virtually spotless, even removing their boots when checking the rest of the house. I had reacted to the emergency with particular calm and efficiency by bursting into tears and hiding in the garden. The evening ended with Irene entertaining six super-fit good-looking young men in uniform. So, for her, it was just a normal Friday evening. **(Den Barnard)**

SATURDAY 26 APRIL (may be too late). Coffee Morning in aid of Cancer Research "Race for Life" to raise some money to go towards the sum that Lucy and her friend from Brighton and Sussex Medical School are aiming to raise by running at the Folkestone event on 15 June. The coffee morning will start at 10.30 am and there will be various stalls, including Cakes, Tombola, Sweets in a Jar, Raffle, etc. **(Doreen Lott)**

CHALKY HILL or is it White Hill? Following further meetings and the possibility that post codes could change the Parish Council has decided to leave matters as they are and not have a formal name for the hill.

FLAGPOLE – Ernie Cook has kindly installed a new support for the flagpole by the cricket club. The cost of the support and associated materials was about £200 and this has been paid for by the Alkham Fund.

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From the village - it will be May by the time you read this, and I shall have been here for three months. The weather has been variable and the snow meant that is good about the Alkham for even snow. But the overwhelming sense I have is that the beauty of this area and the privilege of living and working here. Within the church there has also been the fun of the annual vestry meeting and the annual general meeting. A time of consensus for all who are present to encourage each other to continue with their current offices and functions. But it is also a time for reflection. Within the village there are many people who contribute to a great deal when they are all helping with shopping and other tasks and encouraging and supporting friends and neighbours. The town has not possible to say the Festival that we are trying to be a good way to thank the link loves us. People often have confused ideas about love in our society largely because it has become very much sexualised. Some of us take it one step further and worship together. On 1st will we shall have the Rogation Procession at St Radigund's Abbey. Everyone is invited and I hope that many people will have known. The service will be open to all. This will be the first time Council at Alkham have such a service because our previous ministry has been in urban areas each! Don't miss your chance to learn something new!! (Sue White 01303 340539)

RICHARD TAPSELL
With our new vicar in place, Richard Tapsell took the opportunity of the Annual Church Meeting on 2nd April to formally stand down as churchwarden of St Anthony's. After 11 years in the "hot seat", apart from actually leading worship, Richard has seen and done most things connected with the church. He deserves our heartfelt thanks for his service and the quiet and efficient way that he has done it, particularly during the recent extended interregnum. Richard was presented with a book of readings by incoming churchwarden Geoff Gaskill. Grace Stacey is the other warden, and they are assisted by Ken Hammond and Raye Luckhurst as deputies. (Geoff Gaskill 823100)

ON HERB - I have long reading stories of the AIRAHM 'bibliomania', the madness of earthquake, has actually helped uncontrolled collecting (but not necessarily reading) of books and without our village pub as for those of us who frequently hear the condition. One of the most remarkable was Richard Heber, half brother of Reginald Heber, the famous hymn writer. Richard (remember we are survivors and also born in Cheshire in 1833 for a wealthy vicar's family) the ideal environment for bibliomania. By the age of eight this had accumulated to Peter and Denny, which were complete with catalogues and instructions looked set to take over Lucy Mackenzie at the Old University at Oxford. If you taste extended from the classics and include English drama and literature and he became an expert in these fields. All restraint as new members are always welcome (Irene Barnard) when his father died leaving him land and money. Heber went on a prolonged spree of buying everything from single volumes to an evening craft group for a while now. The idea would be to meet often remarked that "No gentleman can be without three copies of a book, one for show, one for use and small one for borrowers". At the same time he bought properties both here and abroad a house the books be Heber only hesitated once when he nearly married an equally famous lady in many different mediums. I need to know, if it is viable before checking out the availability of the hall. I would also have to make a small charge to cover these fees. In later years Heber became a recluse, seldom leaving his Pimlico home where he died in 1833. His executors, aided by the Rev Thomas Dibdin and other bibliomaniacs, were staggered to discover that every space in the house was "choked and suffocated with books", as were two other houses in London, the family home in Cheshire, and five more houses across Europe. The total number of volumes was over 150,000, worth some £100,000 at the time, or perhaps £8 million today. To this day no one knows whether the whole of his vast collection has been discovered. (Steve Osborn)

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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	Meggett Lane, South Alkham	01303 892056
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham	01303 891996
EQUESTRIAN	Experienced BHS AI freelance instructor and livery available	Ewell Minnis	07760224174 or 824004
PLUMBING & HEATING	Harmonic Heating plumbing and heating services	Wolverton	822500 or 07888 713 896
ROOFING	R Cunningham - Flat and pitched roof specialist	Alkham	821042 or 07725 402939
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. 176 June 2008

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Matthew Hulyer, the 23 year old son of Alan and Carol who live in 2 Church Cottages, Alkham, recently competed in the Kent Athletic Championships, held at the Julie Rose Stadium in Ashford and successfully defended his Long Jump title for the 5th time with a winning jump of 6 metres 88cms. This distance is some way below Matt's personal best of 7 metres 0cm, but he is currently on the road to recovery having sustained a bad injury whilst competing in the British Premier League last Summer. Matt also competes at national level, representing Wales at national and international events.

FETE - Garden plants, flowers, and cuttings, will all be needed for the fete again this year, along with any unwanted garden pots or tools in reasonable condition. Please bring them along on the morning of the fete or contact Rosemary Heddle if collection is required. Tel 827880.

ALKHAM IN BLOOM is on the 28th and 29th June from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. Entry to the gardens is by buying a programme costing £5 from the village hall on the day.

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD Safety and speeding on the Valley road was discussed at the Parish Council AGM. A parishioner said that a motorcyclist had died a few years ago on the bend under the A20 in almost the same location as the fatality on April 27th. He asked the Parish Council if they would write to the Highway Authority with a request that double white lines be put on the approaches and round this bend. The reason for suggesting white lines is because Highways will not spend further large amounts of money on the valley road. Since the speed limits have been installed there has been no enforcement. Geoff Lymer made a valid point that speed guns were pretty useless as they recorded just a moment in time. Many otherwise law abiding drivers have been caught by these guns while habitual speeders continue to speed. Irrespective of the probability that no further money will be spent, a suggestion was made that single lane entry/exits at either end of the village should be pursued again. One reason for previous rejection was that there was insufficient stopping sight distance but now there are 40mph limits on both approaches the scheme could be feasible.

The Police Community Support Officer, Gretel Stevens is holding a surgery in or at the village hall on the 4th of June from 10.30am to 11.30am if you would like to speak to her about any local policing issues.

DDC has agreed that no formal name should be given to Chalky Hill/White Hill (I could confuse it further but I won't).

THE FETE Stallholders meeting will be at 8 pm on the 17th June in the Village Hall; please come along if you would like to help with this year's Fete (12th July at 2pm), once again we need as many helpers for as long or as short a time as you can spare on the day. We still need Raffle Prizes, bric-a-brac and a hundred and one other things so come and get stuck in and bring friends, families, neighbours or anyone else who can help us (we may even have some wine and nibbles as we can't repair to the pub afterwards!). (Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)

CHEAPER HOMES available to local people. Did you know that your Parish Council worked with the Rural Housing Trust to build 8 homes in Alkham intended for those with links to the parish? Two were sold on a shared ownership basis. If you are local to Alkham and would like details of any future shared ownership sales, contact Karen Wheeler on 01371 874738 and ask to be included on the Alkham Register of Interest.

Alkham Valley Society outing Just to remind all members and non-members wishing to come on the outing to Godington House that Shelley Jackson needs to know numbers by the 14th June. Please ring her on 01304 826202 if you have not already done so.

THE APPLICATION to upgrade the bridleway which crosses the field to the north of Chalksole Green Lane to a BOAT has been refused. The latter would have meant that any vehicle could have used it.

POTHoles can be reported to Highways on 08458 247 800 or www.kent.gov.uk/highways.

Remember to ask for the job number so you can follow it up.

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BLOOM weekend will be held in the **Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 9 June**. It would be nice to see everyone who will be involved, or who would like to be involved in whatever capacity, so do please come along. We will need to finalise the activities that will take place in various gardens so if you can think of anything unusual, or not unusual, please bring your ideas along. The last weekend in June is rapidly approaching and we are still in need of offers of help. We particularly need car park attendants, programme sellers at the Village Hall and also help in the gardens as we would like to have at least two people in every garden if possible. It would be good to have enough people to arrange shifts so that no-one is tied up for a whole day. If you are unable to be there on 9 June would you please ring one of the numbers below to tell us what involvement you would like, or can offer. Telephone nos: Marion Nash 820701, Margaret Batcheldor 823568, Susan Lees 822668, Raye Luckhurst 892848 or Val Fowler 827635

ALKHAM WI – Perhaps not the most exciting meeting but one which dealt with many important matters. The two Resolutions being considered by the National W.I. to be taken to the Government for consideration – Mairi Jones spoke about a 'Ban on bottom sea trawling' - although members appreciated the problem re. loss of fish, they would prefer the resolution carry an amendment that trawling be continued but careful monitoring be conducted in conservation areas; and Susannah Tapsell spoke about the resolution which is concerned with 'The inappropriateness of imprisoning the severe mentally ill' – the majority of members supported this resolution. Next month's meeting 10th June will be a talk on Japanese flower arranging 'Ikebana', and Members are invited to arrive by 6.30pm when they will be able to put forward their ideas for talks, outings, competitions etc., for next year's programme. (**Sue Lees**)

A.R.S.E. The first anniversary of the earthquake having passed the group has declared its intention to keep meeting, just in case! Many thanks to Ian and Lucy for hosting April's meeting. At the meeting the subject of the European leg of the Tour was mentioned again; perhaps we should put this on the 'agenda' for the next meeting. Advance notice of forthcoming A.R.S.E. meetings: May's meeting will be at Chris and Peter's (Shortlands, Slip Lane) on May 30th and June's will be at our house (8a Newlyns Meadow) on June 27th. Chris and Peter can be contacted on 826944 or pandc@rose713.orangehome.co.uk please let them know if you will be attending. New members have joined in recent weeks spurred on by delayed onset of post traumatic stress syndrome or guilt at the insurance claims they made or just to have an enjoyable time with fellow villagers. Whatever the reason all are welcomed and the membership remains open to all so, if you haven't yet made a meeting, perhaps now could be the time to try it. (**Mark Robson**)

BOOK CLUB - The next meeting will be held on the 4th June at 7.30pm at the home of Jane Aslett, Drybrook, Short Lane, tel. 824924. The book to be discussed is The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox by Maggie O'Farrell. (**Rosemary Heddle**)

THANK YOU ALKHAM - It was quiz night on 26th April at Alkham Village Hall, this time to raise funds for Christine and my trek to Peru, to raise funds for the Parkinson's Disease Society. The evening raised a profit of £542 which has been equally split between Christine and myself, towards our fund raising. We would like to thank all the villagers of Alkham who supported our evening, and hoped you enjoyed it as much as we did. (**Helen Croft**)

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FROM THE VICARAGE What a glorious few weeks we have had this May so what is in store for June? We have celebrated Ascension (Jesus returning to his Father) Pentecost (the giving of the Holy Spirit) and Trinity (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God). I think the Trinity is one of the more difficult concepts to understand. How can there be three in one? Yet those of you who have been involved in business, and those at school, will be familiar with the Venn diagram. Three overlapping circles, often used in marketing to indicate the core customers, and the groups from which they originate. Well if we think of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as three overlapping circles then the core is the three together in one God. A bit simplistic but we are all asked to imitate that relationship within the Trinity in our everyday lives in the way in which we relate to each other. I think that the activities which take place in the village typify that approach when groups come together to help each other and organise events. We have all enjoyed the model railway exhibition at the end of May which drew people together from within and outside the village. At the end of June we shall have a Village Songs of Praise on the Sunday at 4p.m. of our Alkham in Bloom weekend. What hymns, songs and readings would you like to join in? Please let us know, such fellowship is for everyone in the village and the visitors because we will have much to celebrate. Tell a churchwarden or member of the congregation and we will try to incorporate as many as possible. We shall make a joyful noise to the Lord! **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

WEB SITE - Our web site alkham.org doesn't get a lot of hits so you may not have noticed that it has disappeared. This is due to me not paying the web server as their emailed bills were intercepted by the spam filter. I have paid a redemption fee to get the name back so hopefully it will reappear soon.

NEWSLETTER - If you would like to receive the Newsletter by email please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

OZ on HIGH-FLIERS - In April we took a Canadian friend to Newport on the Isle of Wight for a short holiday, staying on a working farm run as a livery stable. On the first evening we strolled down past the horses and round the lake, and spotted, in among the usual waterbirds, two beautiful grey geese, with black bars adorning their heads. The owner later confirmed, unsurprisingly, that they were called Bar-Headed Geese, and were foreign 'accidentals', having probably escaped from a private collection here, but now feral. I later discovered that this was no isolated occurrence as these friendly birds are often seen in the UK, sometimes as breeding pairs. On its home territory the Bar-headed Goose is famous as the highest flying bird, having been seen flying over the Himalayas, particularly Mount Everest, between its Tibetan nesting grounds and Indian winter feeding grounds, at up to 35,000 feet. This incredible feat is made possible by the double breathing system shared with other birds, the Bar-headed Goose's superior wing area / weight ratio, and its unique blood constitution and circulation system. At this point I began to wonder what other high-fliers there might be in the bird world. Sadly, such information usually only comes to light when birds collide with aeroplanes. For example the highest bird ever recorded was a Rüppell's Griffon (Gyps rueppellii), a vulture with a 10-foot wingspan that was sucked into a jet engine 37,900 feet above West Africa in 1975. (The plane landed safely). Over Nevada in 1963 a Mallard duck collided with an aeroplane at 21,000 feet. Pilots have also observed Whooper Swans at 27,000 feet and Bar-tailed Godwits at 20,000 feet. It all seems a long way from the two high-fliers we saw waddling around the lake at Newport in April. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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	9	Open Gardens meeting 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	10	W.I. in village hall from 7.30pm
Monday	19	Bird club in village hall from 7.30pm
Tuesday	17	Fete meeting in village hall at 8.00 pm
Saturday	28	Open Gardens
Sunday	29	Open Gardens

Church	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st		Said Eucharist 9am	
Sunday 1st	United Rogation service for all the parishes St Radigund's Abbey 10.30am		
Sunday 8th	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship together 11 am	No service
Sunday 15th	Worship together 11 am	Evensong 6pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 22nd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 10.00am Annual Deanery service at Canterbury Cathedral 6.30pm		
Sunday 29th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Mary old church Capel, 10.00am.		
Sunday 29th	Songs of Praise St Anthony, Alkham 4pm.		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

T E L E P H O N E

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484
County Councillor, Bryan Cope
01304 206510
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas
823956, Andrew Richardson 211835
Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055
Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130
Police Support Officer 07772226209
Community Warden 07977981994
GP out of hours 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
Vicar – Rev. Sue White 01303
240539
Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill
823100 and Grace Stacey 822756
Alkham web site www.alkham.org

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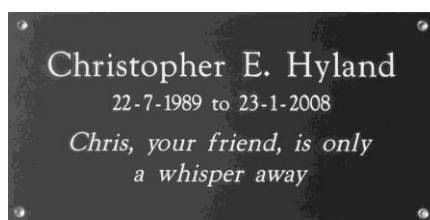
Model Railway FESTIVAL OF CRICKET
Exhibition A big "THANK YOU" to all who helped make the model railway exhibition such a success. From car parking to catering everybody did a superb job and helped put together a memorable show which prompted the

remark from exhibitors and traders, "If you have another please ask us again". We would also like to thank the Parish Council for allowing us to use the football ground for parking. This helped us out of a tricky situation as the field we planned to use was waterlogged after heavy rain. As it happened we were favoured by the sunniest day of the weekend. All the exhibitors were impressed with the quality and quantity of the lunches served in the cricket pavilion - our gratitude to the Cricket Club for letting us use this. Many thanks go to Ian Hollis who brought his award-winning layout "Alkham" from the Isle of Wight and would not take any expenses. This, he said, was by way of saying thanks to the villagers who let him photograph and measure their houses when he was making the model. About 250 visited and getting on for £500 raised for St Anthony's church. **(Stan and Val Fowler)**

FETE SATURDAY 12th JULY - We still need volunteers for helping out with the Fete on Saturday 12th July, either putting the tents up (from 8.30 a.m. on the meadow), manning the car parks, helping out with stalls, children's races, etc. and tidying away after the event. We would also welcome raffle prizes (for the Grand Raffle and bottle raffle) and contributions of bric-a-brac, pots of honey or jam, cakes, (see the other items for contact details). Once again we have included two books of raffle tickets with the Newsletter - thanks to Brian (or 'Brain' as it says on the tickets) and the distributors for sorting that; please return sold ticket stubs and money or unsold tickets to Sue Lees, Brian or me with addresses on the tickets by Wed 8th July if possible. Also a big 'thank you' to Hollis Motors for providing the first prize for the draw again this year! Please contact me (Paul Tapsell) on 01303 892082 if you'd like to help in any way!

BRIC-A-BRAC is still required for the fete stall, so if you have any items to donate please give me a ring on 826577. I would be more than happy to receive them. **(Clare Naris - Owler Lodge)**

THE PLAQUE on the right, which was paid for by the Alkham Fund, has been placed in the map board opposite the village hall in memory of a fine young man.



The Cricket Club are planning a Festival of Cricket for the August bank holiday weekend to celebrate 60 years of cricket on the meadow; the present intention is to have an 'Alkham v The Village' game on Saturday afternoon, the traditional 'Hackers' match on Sunday, and 'Alkham v The Rest of the World' on Monday. If you are interested in playing in the Saturday game please call me. We are hoping to have a beer tent, barbeque and raffle and some other attractions (!) during the games so please come and support your local sporting heroes! If there are any younger people who would be up for a 20/20 game for the Friday evening please let me know. **(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)**

FOOTPATHS - All the rights of way, on the map displayed outside the village hall, have been walked and inspected. 50 requests for improvement have been submitted to the local PROW office. This does not mean that the remaining 115 PROWs are perfect but you have to start somewhere! The PROW office has moved from Dover to East Brabourne and a new PROW officer, Edward Denne, has been appointed to cover Alkham, Denton with Wooton, Lydden, Temple Ewell, Hougham Without and Capel-le-Ferne. Improvements will take time - so please be patient.

(Anthony Barrier)

A LETTER was received regarding a footpath at Chilton and this will be passed to the Parish Council as it's probably a matter for the Environment Agency. It has also been confirmed that both of the bridleways from Chalksole Green Lane past Ellinge to Everden have officially been classed as such rather than byways open to all traffic.

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BELL RINGERS WANTED

A village tradition is the sound of church bells and we need a few more ringers to continue this tradition. In the olden days sometimes four people would ring the bells for the church service and then hop off to the Marquis for a few pints, so you don't have to be a church goer to ring. If you'd like to help the village then please give me a call on 07909563479 or pop in and see me at Meadowside on Slip Lane. (Ken Hammond)

BOOK CLUB - The next meeting will be at the home of Margaret Danstead, 2 Meadow Hill Cottages, tel: 829006, 2nd July, 7.30pm. Book to be discussed, No ! I don't what to join a book club, author, Virginia Ironside. (Rosemary Heddle)

CRAFT CLUB - There has been a slow response to my idea of starting up a craft club in the village, but there are a few eager beavers out there, so the first meeting will be held on Monday 30th June at 7.30 pm at the home of Val Fowler. She lives at Evergreen which is at the bottom of Slip Lane. From then on, we will be looking at meeting on the first Monday of every month. It will be very informal gathering, bring a project with you or a piece of finished work for us all to coo over! Have a think about any ideas for the future, maybe you would like someone to come and gives us a demonstration? So to everyone who would like to come, I look forward to seeing you there on the night. Devina 827548.

ALKHAM WI - Thanks must be given to the large number of members who arrived early in order to help Devina Bartlett find some interesting ideas for the 2009 programme. Unfortunately the speaker on 'Ikebana' was unable to attend, but president Helen Scopes brought her handsome dog William who demonstrated how laid back he is in following his mistress's orders. The talk for the July 8th meeting, 'Hypnotherapy', sounds intriguing so don't miss it. (Sue Lees)

A.R.S.E. on Tour - The May meeting was one of the best attended to date. Chris and Pete provided a wonderful venue, good weather (allowing some to sit in the garden) and food. Don't expect that this month! June's meeting is at 8a, Newlyn Meadow. Bring a diary or calendar as the intention is to book the European leg of the Tour; this is likely to involve a lunchtime meeting in Calais. Please email robsons5@aol.com or phone on 01304.820459 if you will be attending the June meeting. (Mark Robson)

RAVE – For those people who heard music overnight on the 14th June and on the Sunday, this was due to an illegal rave on land between Ellinge and Lydden.

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 4 July in Dover Town Hall. Being Independence Day, the programme will include The Big Country and three selections of Broadway melodies, together with Stuart Gill's Summer Scenes and songs from guest soprano Le'Arna Ashleigh. Dauntless Dover is now aged 100 and will again be sung in addition to three new Songs for Dover, followed by the traditional Dover Proms Finale of Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory. This year's proceeds are in support of Riding for the Disabled. 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)

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FROM THE VICARAGE

'That's it! Summer's over Vicar' was the greeting I received from a fellow dog walker this week but of course it isn't. It's true we may see some rain but what a glorious part of the country we live in. The birds are busy in the hedge rows, the wheat is growing and the gardens are a credit to all the villagers. The children had a super sports day at Capel School and my have we got some good sprinters. Both the boys and the girls were accurate in shooting goals and in hitting the cricket stumps. It was a great community occasion and a pleasure to be able to attend as a spectator. The children are learning hymns and songs for Sea Sunday which we shall celebrate on 13th July at 11a.m. at St. Radigund's, Capel and 6p.m. at Hougham Village Hall and on 20th July at St. Anthony's, Alkham at 11 a.m. These will be family services at which the children will sing the songs they have learnt at school, take part in telling the bible story and in writing the prayers. The service will last about 45 minutes and be followed by refreshments for adults and children. Living in the country why are we celebrating Sea Sunday? I think we need to recognise the hard work and danger that our sea farers face every day as they bring to our ports food and goods from all over the world. It's easy for us to forget the effort that goes into bringing to us all that we want. Many sea farers leave their families for ten to twelve months at a time, babies are born, toddlers grow up, children sit vital exams at school whilst dad is at sea. So let's remember these men and women and support them in all they do. In August we shall celebrate holidays at our family services, what memories will you bring?

(Sue White - 01303 240539)



to have over 1300 quills removed. The porcupine was ok.

OZ on TUPPER – Readers may remember my tales of William McGonagall and Joseph Gwyer, industrious Victorian poets who, though popular in their lifetimes, failed to receive lasting acclaim. Another such poet was Martin Tupper, born in London in 1810, the eldest son of a physician. He was educated at Christ Church College, Oxford, and hoped to enter the clergy, but he had an enormous handicap dating from childhood; a stutter so bad that he could hardly speak. After repeated attempts by medical men to cure the condition had failed, Martin started working silently at Lincoln's Inn and was called to the Bar in 1835, although he never worked as a barrister. Also in that year he married his cousin Isabelle and discovered his true vocation as a writer. His writing on life and love, published in 1838 as Proverbial Philosophy, was a moderate success. It was unusual in being prose written as verse, creating instant proverbs, such as "A babe in the house is a well-spring of pleasure" and "Well-timed silence hath more eloquence than speech." Over the next twenty years Tupper produced further editions of Proverbial Philosophy and many more works that were rapturously received both here and in the United States. However, by 1860, his career began to slow down as critical attitudes changed. After Wordsworth's death, Tupper was narrowly beaten to the post of Poet Laureate by Alfred Tennyson, and a younger generation began to lampoon Tupper's works, especially his beloved Proverbial Philosophy. Despite many years of service to, and friendship with, Queen Victoria, Tupper had to plead hard with his old college friend, Prime Minister Gladstone, to obtain a Civil List pension. Tupper died in 1899 in obscurity, and his books are now virtually unknown, contradicting the optimistic line on his gravestone: "He being dead yet he speaketh." (Steve Osborn)

Warning to dogs – do not attack porcupines. The pit bull recovered after going to the vets

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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	7	Parish Council meeting in the village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	12	Village Fete starts 2.00pm on Vicarage Meadow
Sunday	20	Cricket teas
Monday	21	Bird club in village hall from 7.30pm
Tuesday	22	Village Hall committee meeting 7.30pm in VH
Sunday	27	PCC – Bishop's visit 12.15pm

Church	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.0am	Worship Together 11am
Sunday 13th	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Family service 11am	Family songs of praise 6pm
Sunday 20th	Family service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Sung eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 27th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Anthony, Alkham 10am		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

TELEPHONE

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484

County Councillor, Bryan Cope

01304 206510

District Councillors - Sue Nicholas

823956, Andrew Richardson 211835

Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055

Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130

Police Support Officer 07772226209

Community Warden 07977981994

GP out of hours 0844 800 1234

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969

e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791

alkham.parcouncil@virgin.net

Village Hall booking

Val Fowler 827635

Footpath Warden

antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Alkham Valley Society secretary

Joanna Walker 821641

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow

829585

Vicar – Rev. Sue White 01303

240539

Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill

823100 and Grace Stacey 822756

BIKE RIDES – On the 20th July the dynamic trio Ken, Den and Brian are going to do the London to Southend bike ride which is in aid of the British Heart Foundation. If you'd like to sponsor us please let us know. We did the Great Kent Bike ride on the 22nd June, which was 60 miles starting and ending in Ashford passing through Camber, Rye and Tenterden. The bike ride virgin Den, despite the high wind, got round the course with little difficulty at an average speed of 15mph.

**This Newsletter was printed at the
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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
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	Meggett Lane, South Alkham	01303 892056
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham	01303 891996
EQUESTRIAN	Experienced BHS AI freelance instructor and livery available	Ewell Minnis	07760224174 or 824004
PLUMBING & HEATING	Harmonic Heating plumbing and heating services	Wolverton	822500 or 07888 713 896
ROOFING	R Cunningham - Flat and pitched roof specialist	Alkham	821042 or 07725 402939
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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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 178 August 2008

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THE ALKHAM FETE was another great success this year and congratulations must go to Paul Tapsell for organising it and to all his helpers for making it happen. The tents give a carnival air together with the band, tug of war, young dancers (seen left) and all the other traditional attractions. **(Brian Wimsett)**

MANY THANKS to everyone who came along to and participated in this year's Fete; I hope you all enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to next year's! It's always impossible to single out individuals but I must pass on my particular thanks to Billy Hollis for providing the First Prize in the Raffle, Simon Leadbetter for donating all the sausages for the Hot Dogs, to Darren Mowat for the loan of his van (he was unable to be there), to Alan

Tapsell for stepping into the breach (well, the Bouncy Castle) when needed and to Richard Tapsell for just dealing with every job I threw at him (as well as lots of his own)!. I hope that everyone else knows how much I appreciate and value their efforts which make the Fete such a Village event. We banked over £4,000 from the day, so after expenses we should have a tidy sum to donate to the Church and Village Hall. The Fete committee "Post Mortem" (more of a wake) meeting will be on the **27th August at 8 p.m.** in the Village Hall. Please come along and we'll have a chat over a glass of wine and nibbles! **(Paul Tapsell)**

THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY - We have reason to believe that **Alkham CC Festival Of Cricket 22 - 25th August 2008** Preparations are advancing for the Festival of Cricket to mark 60 years of cricket on the Meadow over the August Bank Holiday weekend with games from Friday to Monday. We still have some spaces for the Friday evening (aimed at the younger players) and Saturday afternoon (for the more mature individual) games, so if you'd like to be considered for selection for either of those games please given me a call. We are aiming to have a refreshments and a barbeque and perhaps a bouncy castle (are you free Alan?) as well as some other attractions (?) so there should be something for everyone. Posters will be appearing with further details, so keep your eyes peeled! **(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)**

BOATS – A letter has been received from KCC regarding the upgrading of some restricted byways to **Byways Open to All Traffic**. This means that rather than them being solely used by pedestrians and horse riders they can be used by 4x4's and motorcyclists as well. In brief the byways are from Alkham via Short Lane across farmland to Wolverton and St Radigund's and St Radigund's to Chilton and on to Ewell Minnis. Also Alkham to Ewell Minnis via Common Hill is included. If you wish to comment or see the plan please contact Angela Miller on 824791.

(The Marquis Hotels Group Ltd) – *Hugh Oxborrow was at the Parish Council meeting to answer questions of concern from parishioners regarding noise and intrusion. He said that he would do everything in accordance with the license and that there would probably only be half a dozen events a year but admitted there may be more. The Marquis will be upmarket with a good quality restaurant and will have a hotel facility plus a reasonably priced bar for locals.*

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A.R.S.E. NEWS

Alkham's relieved survivors of the earthquake

Another very successful meeting was held on the last Friday of June, on this occasion hosted by Mark and Debbie Robson. There is an ugly and scurrilous rumour going about the village that these meetings are being used for heavy drinking and gossiping about other villagers with scarce a mention of the earthquake of April 2007. The rumour is dead right. Whilst the Marquis is closed, we are on a tour of member's homes for the monthly meeting on the last Friday of each month. After exhaustive discussion and argument we have now come up with the club constitution, the rules have been agreed and are as follows: Rule one - There will be no rules, Rule two - All the rules must be obeyed, Rule three - Annual subscription will be nil (with ten percent discount for over 60's). The latter will be reviewed annually after which, there will be no changes. For the next meeting we are back at Nollie and Colin's and this one will be on Saturday 26th July and is a combined ARSE meeting and celebration of Colin's 'Starting a New Career'. Please let them know if you would like to come (01304 827090), new members always welcome. Hugh of The Marquis has invited us to have a tour of the pub before the meeting to show progress and to answer any questions about his plans. It was agreed at Mark and Debbie's that 'ARSE on Tour' should now be extended into Europe so a day trip to Calais has been organised for old and new members for Wednesday 12th August, please let Mark Robson know if you want to be included (01304 820459) as we may be organising T shirts.

EWELL MINNIS CYCLISTS At the Alkham fete there were three men from Ewell Minnis supporting the beer tent who told us they were cyclist and that they would send me a picture and story behind their cycling. Please do send the details as it sounded great fun.

FOOTPATHS - I have had little feedback from the new PROW officer, Edward Denne, just one email. This is very discouraging but it did promise a detailed response to all the issues raised. For those residents who have emailed me with problems, I regret there is nothing to report. There has been a complaint that certain horse riders are not shutting gates behind them. This is lazy and irresponsible and I hope that this practice will cease. **(Anthony Barrier)**

ALKHAM WI - Helen Scopes presided over the meeting despite her very sore face damaged by the air bag in her car when involved in a recent car accident. As the fete was due later in that week members were reminded of their help and contributions in cakes, plants fruit etc. The speaker was a young lady who delivered an interesting and detailed talk on Hypnotherapy. Next month 8th August members agreed to have a relaxing meeting giving everyone chance to chat amongst themselves bringing snacks and drinks to share with all. **(Sue Lees)**

MANY THANKS to Peggy Osborne for her kind donation to the Newsletter.

DO YOU NEED any grass cutting, strimming, weeding or garden clearance done? if so please call Richard on 01304 822478.

up with the club constitution, the rules have been agreed and are as follows: Rule one - There will be no rules, Rule two - All the rules must be obeyed, Rule three - Annual subscription will be nil (with ten percent discount for over 60's). The latter will be reviewed annually after which, there will be no changes. For the next meeting we are back at Nollie and Colin's and this one will be on Saturday 26th July and is a combined ARSE meeting and celebration of Colin's 'Starting a New Career'. Please let them know if you would like to come (01304 827090), new members always welcome. Hugh of The Marquis has invited us to have a tour of the pub before the meeting to show progress and to answer any questions about his plans. It was agreed at Mark and Debbie's that 'ARSE on Tour' should now be extended into Europe so a day trip to Calais has been organised for old and new members for Wednesday 12th August, please let Mark Robson know if you want to be included (01304 820459) as we may be organising T shirts. **(Den Barnard)**

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From the Vicarage - School's out for the summer! What a month we have had. Alkham in Bloom was wonderful, two lovely days to explore the village and enjoy being nosy without anyone minding at all! There are still one or two gardens I haven't seen but I shall make sure I do before too long. The Fete was a great village occasion and I am very aware of just how much work has gone into these two events. I am sure that people will need to put their feet up for a month or so in order to prepare for the Autumn. As a teacher how I relished the summer holiday, time to get all the jobs done that never got done during term time. As a mum it was lovely to have time with my son, and enjoy having him and his friends around. So what's summer like as a vicar? Well there's weddings and they are great occasions for the family and friends as well as the couple and me. I love weddings. They are about setting out in a new direction, about working together in a new way and they are about hope for the future. As the children enjoy their holiday they will be looking forward to their future in a new class, maybe with new friends in a different school. It's good for all of us to look forward to the future but it's important that we enjoy all that we are given in the present. Christians are a people of hope and that is founded upon our belief in Jesus Christ and in the way we live our lives. And that is the nice part of being in a village. Day by day I see those acts of kindness, care and consideration as people relate to each other, that smile in the street, that enquiry after a relative or mutual friend, that is what builds community and gives each one of us a full life together. Have a wonderful time this August. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

OZ on SWIFTS – Once again, during thundery summer evenings, we've been thrilled by the sight and sound of swifts as they devour flying insects over the pond. The slaughter occurs all day at greater heights, but we only notice when weather conditions combine with bird and insect behaviour to put the spectacle before our eyes. This column's old friend, the Reverend Gilbert White, reported in 1774 that "this bird is never so much alive as in sultry thundery weather." He was later among the first to suggest that the unique behaviour of swifts derives from their exclusive diet of flying insects. Swifts are indeed built for flying, with an outline that, according to Edward Thomas in his poem Haymaking, is "As if the bow had flown off with the arrow." This skill is matched only by their clumsiness in walking. It was even thought that swifts had no feet, the Latin name being apus or 'footless'. So swifts spend most of their lives in the air, feeding, drinking, mating and sleeping on the wing, and only landing to breed. Before breeding, young swifts spend two or three years in continuous flight; it has been estimated that a swift dying aged 20 will have flown nearly 4 million miles. One problem with the insect diet is that swifts cannot catch insects in the rain. This is solved by a remarkable survival mechanism; in bad weather the chick's body simply shuts down to very low maintenance levels at which the chick can survive for up to 48 hours. Another solution is for adults to fly 100 or more miles to the tail of the depression where they can each catch up to 20,000 insects in a day. The whole swift story is yet another impressive demonstration of evolution in action. (Steve Osborn)

BLOOM - Weren't we lucky to have such good weather for our Alkham in Bloom weekend? Although we didn't have quite so many visitors as we had hoped it was a lovely weekend which, to judge from the comments I received at the time and afterwards, was very much enjoyed by everyone. A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who took part or contributed in any way. We raised the princely sum of £1,594, after all expenses and a lot of time and effort contributed by many people. Thank you again. **(Marion Banks-Nash)**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	No Art Workshop during August
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	2	Cricket at home
Sunday	3	Cricket at home
Tuesday	12	W.I. in village hall from 7.30pm
Sunday	17	Cricket at home
Monday	18	Bird club in village hall from 7.30pm
Tuesday	19	W.I. Special Evening
Sunday	24	Cricket at home
Monday	25	Craft meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm
Wednesday	27	Fete meeting in the village hall at 8.00pm

Church	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
SUNDAY 3 rd	EVENSONG 6.30pm	SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30am	WORSHIPPING TOGETHER 11am
SUNDAY 10 th	SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30am	FAMILY SERVICE 11am	FAMILY SONGS OF PRAISE 6pm
SUNDAY 17 th	FAMILY SERVICE 11am	EVENSONG 6pm	SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30am
SUNDAY 24 th	JOINT BENEFICE SUNG EUCHARIST ST RADIGUND, CAPEL-LE-FERNE 10am		

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240539

Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill

823100 and Grace Stacey 822756

**This Newsletter was printed at the
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FIRE HYDRANTS – There was another fire at Ewell Minnis and the Fire Brigade could not access the hydrants because they are still covered in tarmac. This applies to other local roads and Kent Highways say they are doing their best to rectify the situation.

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
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HARVEST SUPPER – The Harvest Supper this year will be held at Sladden Farm, which for those who don't know is the Moomin Dexter farm just outside the village on the Dover side. It is the farm's 21st birthday and the supper is being held there on the 29th September at 7.00p.m, weather permitting, to celebrate this occasion. The supper is usually in the village hall and in the past tickets have been sold in advance, at a cost of £5.00, as it was necessary to restrict numbers to about eighty but this will not apply this year. Donations towards church funds will be gratefully received on the night and as we expect to hold the event in the barn please dress accordingly! **(Di Smith and editor)**

FOOTPATHS - Our PROW Officer, Edward Denne, informs me that he has been busy with a Crops and Ploughing campaign and has not had time to respond to my action requests. Let's hope that more time can be spent on maintaining the PROW network once the campaign is completed. I have received another complaint regarding the misuse of footpaths by horse riders. May I remind everybody that a footpath may be used only for walking. If you ride or lead a horse on a footpath you are trespassing. **(Anthony Barrier)**

THE HIGHLAND FAMILY of Hill View, Short Lane would like to advise villagers of the wedding of their daughter Emily on the 30th August 2008 with a marquee reception in their paddock, (this runs along the side of the football area of the village green), from 4.30 until late evening. Your patience and understanding with any noise and traffic issues on this special day would be very much appreciated.

WANTED – The roofing firm that advertises on page 3 of the Newsletter would like to rent a building or land in or around Alkham to store roof tiles etc. If you can help please phone them on 01304 821042 or 07725 402939 or email richroofer@btinternet.com.

First World War Commemoration
November marks the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War. I have booked the Village Hall for the evening of Saturday November 8th as I think it would be fitting for villagers to mark this occasion in some way. At the moment I am thinking of an American Supper-type event with some readings, music, photos etc but would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to help organise this or anyone who has other ideas. The evening should be one of celebration of the lives of **all** those who gave their lives in the First World War from whichever nation. I would also like to have more details of the men on the Alkham memorial. At the moment I only have information on Edward and George Collard so would love to hear from anyone who has information, pictures etc. of any of the others. Mark Robson (8a, Newlyn's Meadow. 01304.820459)

PCC JUMBLE SALE is being held in the village hall on Saturday 20th at 11.00am.



became known started their training rides to a variety of local pubs in February and were noted to have pedalled up and down the various hills to and from the Minnis in the process. They completed the 54 mile ride non-stop in just under 4 and a half hours and cycled up the dreaded Ditchling Beacon without getting off or stopping. They would like to thank everyone that has sponsored them as the team total currently stands at just over £1,000. If anyone has any sponsor money outstanding or would like to add to the total please contact one of them soon as the money has to be sent in before November.

LONDON TO BRIGHTON BIKE RIDE 2008

Leon Clements, Peter Swinbourne and Julian Mead of Ewell Minnis took part in the London 2 Brighton bike ride this year in aid of the British Heart Foundation. The "Minnis Massives" as they

PARISH WALK - On 31st August there will be a Parish Walk from church to church starting at St. Radigund's, Capel at 9.30am then on to St. Mary's, stopping at St. Anthony's for a packed lunch and finishing at the Schoolhouse Church Hougham. Everyone is welcome including the family dog.

DELIGHTFUL small detached bungalow in the heart of Alkham village available to rent. Set in beautiful garden with own private courtyard. Most suited to single occupancy. Ample off road parking. If interested please ring 01304 823483.

KITTENS – Helen Scopes has some kittens which are ready to re-home so if you'd like one or an older cat please ring her on 01304 210591.

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A.R.S.E. European Tour

Adherence to A.R.S.E Constitution, notably Para. 2, subsection ii (the bit that says: "What goes on tour stays on tour") means there is little I can report of the European leg of the A.R.S.E. Tour. The following is all that is considered appropriate for a family Newsletter. On August 12th, 14 members of A.R.S.E

travelled to mainland Europe for lunch in Calais. Having laughed in the face of the earthquake a severe weather warning for the Channel could not put us off and we set sail at 09.15. At 11.00 we left the harbour after the crew finally retrieved the anchor! As if this wasn't enough excitement one member managed to lock herself in the loo on the ferry and had to be rescued by burly staff. This person will remain nameless to preserve her modesty. (Grace). Lunch was a wonderful meal in a restaurant overlooking the sea. That some people got three desserts, whilst others only got two, did not prove a bone of contention at all. Spurred on by the lunchtime Oranginas some of the team, who really should have known better, took to the dodgems and the sight of Pam Sayers, Grace Stacey and Chris Rose driving their cars into unsuspecting French pleasure seekers is one that will remain with me for many years. The boy racers who use the Village Hall car park in the evenings have nothing on these three! On the return journey the Entertainments Committee kept spirits up by playing charades. This not only stopped small children from accessing their play area but also means that Paul Tapsell no longer commands the respect that he once did. The day was one of fun and good companionship and we hope to repeat this in the future – if the French will allow us. The August meeting is at 8 p.m. on Friday 29th at Mick and Janet Wood's – 7 Newlyn's Meadow. Usual rules apply; bring your own drink and be prepared to have a chat and a laugh. From September the group should resume meetings in the Marquis. I would like to thank all those who have offered their hospitality to keep the group going over the past 8 months and invite anyone who has yet to attend to come along and have some fun. (Mark Robson)

ALKHAM WI - The August meeting was a truly lovely evening with everyone having a chance to chat to each other and eat lots of goodies. Cherry Leppard received a gift in appreciation of all the work she does in arranging outings. September 9th - Mr Harris will be giving what sounds a really interesting talk on 'Theatrical Landladies'. Members are reminded that Alkham WI's 80th birthday is to be celebrated in November and ALL members are expected to wear hats - so start looking around for something unusual and get prepared. (Sue Lees)

GREAT STRIDES White Cliffs of Dover Walk in aid of Cystic Fibrosis is taking place on 7th September at 10.00am costing £6 for adults and £2.50 for children. Application forms and further details available from Jo Holdaway 0845 8591034 or 07812086722. The **CF Dinner & Dance** at the Dover Harbour Board Social Club is on Saturday 20th September. The event is organised by Louise Down and she can be contacted on 01304 842853 or email louise@leedown.freeseve.co.uk. Additionally there is the **Faversham 10k** in aid of C.F. on Sunday 21st September, please see www.faversham10k.co.uk or contact Jo Holdaway as above.

TO RAISE FUNDS for Parkinson's Disease Society a Pamper Evening is being held on 24th September at Shepherdswell Village Hall, 6.45 to 9.15pm. Cost £2.50 includes free glass of wine or soft drink. Various therapists will be offering taster sessions for a small fee and other stalls selling gifts such as East of India, Fair Trade, Jewellery and cards.

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From the Vicarage - In the midst of all the doom and gloom about the economy and the rising rate of inflation the garden has defied every forecast and produced carrots, courgettes, tomatoes, beans, peas, flowers and weeds in abundance! On 31st August there will be a Parish Walk starting at St. Radigund's at 9.30 then on to St. Mary's, stopping at St. Anthony's for a packed lunch and finishing at the Schoolhouse Church Hougham. Do come along for the whole walk or join us for part of it, all are welcome including the family dog. As we look forward to harvest festival services with the school and at church I will be asking everyone to donate items that can be used at the Dover Soup Kitchen this includes packets of soup and tins of meat and tuna to make sandwiches. Harvest time is a good time for us to share a little of what we have with others. The story of Ruth and Naomi is one of harvest time. Ruth went to gather the leftovers from the harvest to feed herself and Naomi. She was noticed by the owner Boaz who told his workers that they were to leave her alone and allow her to gather food. And he, after making enquiries about her, and being satisfied that it was the correct thing to do, married her. They enjoyed a happy marriage and were the ancestors of King David. Ruth helped Naomi, not because she had to but because she wanted to; Boaz helped Ruth in the same way. It's a good story for us to share. Living in a village means that we can take the opportunity to help each other because we want to without any expectations other than it pleases us to support each other. I pray that we will always do that. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

THE CRAFT CLUB has got off to a really good start and we have had two meetings so far, with about 11 ladies who have signed up for a monthly session of crafting, chats, coffee and biscuits, if I can ever remember to bring them that is! (Have forgotten them on each occasion so far!). Our first meeting was held at the home of Val Fowler. It was lovely to see so many like minded ladies and it has meant that we can afford to meet in the village hall. We all do a variety of different crafts from card making to knitting and quilting etc. If anyone else is interested in coming to our sessions then you will be offered a warm welcome. We meet on the last Monday of the month, in the village hall at 7.30 pm for 2 hours. The cost is £1.50. Because of the Harvest Festival, the next meeting will be on 22 September 2008. I look forward to seeing you there. **(Devina 827548)**.

OZ on OLYMPICS 08 - by which I mean 1908. After weeks of spectacular television coverage from Beijing it's interesting to look back at the Fourth Olympiad, held in London after much hasty preparation. In April 1906, work on the 1908 Rome Games ceased when Mount Vesuvius suddenly erupted, devastating Naples and diverting money to its rebuilding. The International Olympic Committee reassigned the games to London with only ten months remaining for the British Olympic Committee to find a site, finance and build a stadium. This was achieved under the muscular leadership of Baron Desborough, an athlete already famous for swimming the Niagara Rapids and climbing the Matterhorn. He persuaded the *Daily Mail's* Lord Northcliffe to sponsor the games, and the government to pay £60,000 to George Wimpey to build White City Stadium at Shepherds Bush. The stadium specification stated "to seat 68,000, or 130,000 if the seating is removed." The field consisted simply of a running track 1/3 mile in length enclosing the water pool and gymnastics platform. Reassuringly for today's organisers the 1908 event was mired in controversy. The United States' captain refused to dip the flag to the royal family, declaring that "this flag dips to no earthly king". In retaliation British officials moved the marathon finish to be right in front of the king's eyes "to restore the importance of the monarchy." Amazingly this change from the planned marathon length of 25 miles to 26 miles 385 yards was permanently accepted. There were many other disputes over flags, protocol and results, but the Fourth Olympiad was seen in retrospect as a Very Good Thing; the start of the modern Olympic movement that established proper rules and a wider selection of judges. Apart from anything else Great Britain came top with 56 gold, 51 silver and 39 bronze medals. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	No Art Workshop during August
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	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	9	W.I. in village hall from 7.30pm
Monday	15	Bird club in village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	20	PCC jumble sale 11.00am in village hall
Sunday	21	Cricket at home
Monday	22	Craft workshop

Church	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Tuesday 2nd	SUNG EUCHARIST 7pm		
Sunday 7th	EVENSONG 6.30pm	NO SERVICE	SUNG EUCHARIST & BAPTISM 11am
Sunday 14th	SUNG EUCHARIST 9am	FAMILY SERVICE 11am	FAMILY SONGS OF PRAISE 5pm
Sunday 21st	FAMILY SERVICE 11am	EVENSONG 6pm	SUNG EUCHARIST 9.00am
Sunday 28th	JOINT BENEFICE HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE, ALKHAM 10am		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

T E L E P H O N E

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484
County Councillor, Bryan Cope
01304 206510
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas
823956, Andrew Richardson 211835
Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055
Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130
Police Support Officer 07772226209
Community Warden 07977981994
GP out of hours 0844 800 1234
Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Alkham web site www.alkham.org

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net
Village Hall booking
Val Fowler 827635
Footpath Warden
antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
Alkham Valley Society secretary
Joanna Walker 821641
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow
829585
Vicar – Rev. Sue White 01303
240539
Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill
823100 and Grace Stacey 822756

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

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

(no prefix local number)

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CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis	822902
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	Meggett Lane, South Alkham	01303 892056
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham	01303 891996
EQUESTRIAN	Experienced BHSAI freelance instructor and livery available	Ewell Minnis	07760224174 or 824004
PLUMBING & HEATING	Harmonic Heating plumbing and heating services	Wolverton	822500 or 07888 713 896
ROOFING	R Cunningham - Flat and pitched roof specialist	Alkham	821042 or 07725 402939
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. 180 October 2008

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THE MARQUIS has re-opened following a six-month renovation programme and has been transformed into a fine-dining restaurant and exclusive boutique hotel. It also welcomes villagers to use the restaurant and bar for drinks or coffee. The Marquis now has five double en suite bedrooms, a dining room, wine bar and meeting room-cum-private dining area. Hugh Oxborrow and Tony Marsden have invested £1.5 million in the project. The whole building has been stripped back to its original brickwork, extended, refurbished, and decorated and furnished to provide contemporary style and elegance. Head chef is award-winning Charlie Lakin, who is leading a team of professionals drawn from some of the best restaurants in Kent. Charlie, who trained with a Michelin starred chef and has already earned numerous accolades in his career, has created an eclectic seasonal menu for The Marquis with an emphasis on locally caught fish and locally sourced produce. Diners at The Marquis can expect some truly hearty dishes, from Alkham Valley rabbit pie and crisp g's trotters to slow-roasted Kentish lamb. Tony also planted 10,000 vines at his Alkham vineyard and hopes to be selling his fine English sparkling wine at The Marquis by Christmas 2010. The Marquis is offering a two-course lunch for £11.95 and a two-course Table d'hote dinner for £19.95. A two-course meal from the A la Carte dinner menu costs £27.95. More details and sample menus are available on the website. Luxury accommodation at The Marquis starts at £95 for a double room (based on two sharing), including full English breakfast. The Marquis caters for weddings, meetings and conferences, as well as parties and private dining. For details or to book, visit www.themarquisatalkham.co.uk, telephone 01304 873410 or email info@themarquisatalkham.co.uk.

ALKHAM RECYCLING In 'Dover District Council @ your service' it says that they will be collecting plastics and cardboard from the middle of November. We started Alkham Recycling because nobody else was doing it but now that DDC will recycle everything, we are going to stop with the last collection in November. We have relied on Billy Hollis supplying the van at no cost and although he would probably be happy to carry on, the three of us think that it would not be fair on him or DDC to continue. We would like to thank Billy Hollis for his generous support and also all the people who have recycled with us over the last four years. **(Ken, Clive, Brian)**

ALKHAM WALKERS - On the 3rd October a group of friends from the village will be walking along The Military Canal in Hythe. The walk is a gentle one lasting approximately 1½ hours. We will meet (weather permitting,) at the Vicarage Meadow car park, leaving at 10.30.am. Anyone wishing to join in will be most welcome. Contact Rosemary Heddle for further details on 01304 827880.

90th Anniversary of the end of the First World War

You may recall that in September's Newsletter I proposed an evening (on Saturday, November 8th) of recollection and remembrance for all those who had their lives sacrificed by mad politicians in the First World War. The response to date would suggest that there is little interest in this idea. If, however, you have been hiding your light under a bushel and would like to: attend a village event; read a poem; read a story; provide some music; provide some artefacts/photos; provide some food please contact me before October 15th. Many thanks. **(Mark Robson 01304 820459)**

VENUE CHANGE - The Harvest Supper on 29th September is now going to be held in the village hall instead of Sladden Farm because of the recent wet weather.

CELEBRITY CRICKET - On the 28th September there will be/was (depending when you read this) a Celebrity Cricket match on the meadow when a number of famous and talented professional cricketers will try and live up to Alkham CC's high standards. Shaun Udell, (Middlesex Captain & England), Nick Knight (Warwickshire & England), Rob Key (Kent Captain and England) and Matt Walker (Kent) will be playing under the colours of the Marquis and Alkham. The game will start at 1 pm followed by a Dinner at the Marquis from 6.30 pm. Tickets for the meal can be obtained from the Marquis (£25 per head to include a half bottle of house wine) and there will be a charity auction for the Cathedral Day Centre and Matt Walker's Benefit Year, and raffle (for Alkham CC). Please come along to support the Badgers!

OPEN ART STUDIO - As part of the Canterbury Festival Liz Lambourne, who lives in Newlyn Meadow, and other artists will be exhibiting photographs, water colours, drawings and pastels at Derringstone Hill House, Derringstone Hill, Barham (above Methodist church) on the 11, 12, 18, 19 and 25th of October from 11am to 5pm and everyone is welcome to come along.

BOOK CLUB - Following a hearty discussion about the last book, Salmon Fishing in the Yemen, we will this month review The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. The meeting will be held at The Old Rectory on 1st October at 7.30pm. Please contact Jo Walker for further details on 01304 218110.

W.I. JUMBLE SALE in the village hall on Saturday 18th October at 11.00am

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HONEY SHOW - The Dover and District Beekeepers' Honey Show will take place again on the last Saturday of the month in the Village Hall. This annual event has become popular with Alkham residents and I'd like to extend to you the usual invitation to look in during the afternoon. Bees are having a pretty hard time of it at present. Wild colonies are no more in this country, having been wiped out by a particularly nasty little mite, and, for reasons we don't fully understand, those kept in hives are faring little better. Queens are failing to mate, colonies often seem unable to build up their numbers in the early months of the year ready for the nectar flows later, apparently strong, healthy colonies go into winter furnished with ample stores but are found to have simply disappeared in the spring or have lost so many of their members that they cannot long survive. It is all very puzzling. And our dreadful summer certainly hasn't helped. Little wonder we're being told stocks of British honey will all have been sold by the end of the year. Despair not, however: jars of local honey will be on sale at the show, as well as cosmetics and greetings cards. Those of you who have attended in the past will know what a pleasant occasion it is. The exhibits make an attractive display and visitors always find interesting the small collection of beekeeping equipment and honeys for sampling. Above all the show is a friendly affair. Beekeepers love chatting about their hobby and we generally manage to infect a few of you with our enthusiasm. We can arrange visits to our Coldred apiary for those who feel beekeeping might be for them and any who then decide to take the plunge can rely on all the support they need to get themselves established. So we hope to see you on 25th October. The show is open to the public for a couple of hours from 2.30. Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

(Roy Dyche, Show Secretary)

THE LAW now states that if you have any of your rubbish removed and it ends up being flytipped, you could be held responsible and fined. When dealing with waste removal services or tradesmen where rubbish will be generated e.g. builders, plumber, gardening contractors, always ask for a valid waste carriers licence. Householders should follow these 4 simple steps: 1. Ask for their waste carrier registration number: 2. Check the number with the Environment Agency (<http://www2.environmentagency.gov.uk/epr/search.asp>) or by calling 08708 506506: 3. Keep a note of all the information you receive from the waste collector/tradesman: 4. If they're not registered don't use them and inform Clean Kent of the rogue trader immediately by calling 0845 345

MARQUIS - A number of people in the village were given a free invitation to sample the menus at the Marquis and I was one of them and I told Hugh I would write something about the meal. In summary it was an exceptional meal, nothing like I had before. It was superbly cooked, very tasty and I thoroughly enjoyed it. A sample of the menus and prices is on www.themarquisatalkham.co.uk.

ARSE - After 9 months on the road A.R.S.E. is finally coming home as Friday 26th September sees the meetings return to The Marquis. The closure of the pub for renovation/renaissance meant that we were faced with a dilemma. Either we disbanded or we relied on the generosity of members to provide venues. True to form the members rallied and we were able to continue this peculiar form of counselling throughout the year. How we have all benefited! Thanks go to Mick and Janet Wood for the final tour meeting which was held on one of the warmest nights of the year and allowed some of us to sit outside - a rare treat this summer. I look forward to seeing old, and new, members at The Marquis at 8.00pm. on the 26th. (Mark Robson)

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FINANCES – The financial year for the Newsletter ended in August. Revenue from adverts and donation was £541 and expenditure was £524.50 this being: £421 for printing at the Rainbow Centre: £24 for petrol collecting and delivering: £79.50 for sending out 28 copies per month. The Building Society account still has a healthy balance despite paying £135 to have the web site reinstated.

BIKE RIDE – The church bike ride went well as we visited 47 churches, did 44 miles and raised over £200. We cycled to Hawkinge, Acrise, Elham, Lyminge and on to Hythe and then through Seabrook, where Ken fell off and on to Cheriton, Folkestone and Dover where a lady near B & Q gave her opinion of me. It was great fun and thanks go to all the people who sponsored us.

GARDEN CLUB - It was decided that we would not meet up in September so the next meeting of the Garden Club will be on Friday 10th October at 7.30 pm. Pam and Maurice will be our hosts for the evening. Look forward to seeing everyone there. I would also like to thank Val and Stan and Richard and Susannah for the last two meetings. **(Devina 827548)**

ALKHAM WI – Attention was drawn to the national press where an article appeared showing the type of WI younger members prefer. Perhaps one day younger people will join the Alkham WI and change its needs! However, Mandy Summers, being in that league may well have started those changes by organizing the enjoyable 'Pamper Evening' something which boosted member's health and feelings. Mandy has organized another such event for Tuesday 2nd December. Paul Harris, who is on Radio Kent Saturday mornings with Paul James, gave an amusing talk on experiences received from the landladies with whom he had to stay in the past when moving around the country to perform on stage. Imogen Corrigan will be speaking on 14th October meeting about 'Medieval Table Manners'. The WI Jumble Sale will be on 18th October. **(Sue Lees)**

OZ on BIROS – After receiving yet another charity envelope containing one of those short flat ballpoint pens that are so bendy in use but that fit so neatly into one's breast pocket I tracked down the story of ballpoints, or 'biros' as we call them. It is thought that Galileo first imagined such a pen four centuries ago, but there was at that time neither the demand nor the required precision manufacturing technology. By the end of the 19th century people were becoming mobile, busy and frustrated with fountain pens. The first ballpoint patent was issued to John Loud in 1888, but the device, while suitable for marking objects, was too rough for paperwork. Over the next fifty years, many inventors tried to perfect the ballpoint but failed to achieve a uniform delivery of ink. The problem was eventually solved by László Bíró, a Hungarian newspaper editor who noticed that newspaper ink dried quickly without smudging. In 1938, Bíró and his brother George patented a successful design using similar ink in a pressurized column so that ink delivery was not dependent on gravity as in previous designs. In 1940, the Bíró brothers moved to Argentina and set up their company Biro Pens of Argentina. The RAF purchased a huge number of the revolutionary new pens as they functioned better than fountain pens at great heights. In 1950 the French businessman Marcel Bich bought the patent from Bíró and set up his own company distributing Bic pens. After some initial hostility from schoolteachers, the ballpoint was by 1960 universally accepted, known always as 'biro', a generic word like 'hoover'. László died in Buenos Aires in 1985, and his birthday, September 29th, is celebrated in Argentina as Inventor's Day. Finally, biros are cheap, except of course when they arrive in charity envelopes. **(Steve Osborn)**

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The Newsletter was printed at the Rainbow Centre in Folkestone 01303 850733

Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	No Art Workshop during August
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	14	W.I. in village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	18	PCC jumble sale 11.00am in village hall
Monday	20	Bird club in village hall from 7.30pm
Tuesday	21	Village Hall committee meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	25	Honey Show 2.30pm - see page 2
Monday	27	Craft workshop 7.30pm

Church	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5 th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship together 11am
Sunday 12 th	Eucharist 9.00	Family/Worship together 11am	Songs of Praise 5pm
Sunday 19 th	Family Worship + Baptism 11.00	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 26 th	Joint Benefice Hougham 10.00am		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

From the Vicarage - The parish walk was enjoyed by all, thank you to Wendy and Andrew Finnis who guided us and provided a delicious tea. Tim and Cathy Finis provided our worship which was joyful and included everyone from 9 to ninety. We shall have to arrange a date for a repeat of both. It was wonderful to be able to walk safely along footpaths and bridleways as we visited St. Mary's, Alkham and Church Hougham. The fields were being harvested and all the farmers were hard at work. This is a very busy time and this year has been very difficult for them because of the weather. Arrangements are in hand for the Harvest Festival services which include everyone with the school and at church. I am asking everyone to donate items that can be used at the Dover Soup Kitchen this includes packets of soup and tins of meat and tuna to make sandwiches. Harvest time is a good time for us to share a little of what we have with others. On this note of sharing, Operation Christmas Child is taking place again this year. This initiative offers to children in Europe and further afield a shoe box gift at Christmas time. We are working with Pastor Colin Patience and the Baptist Chapel on this venture and hope that individuals, organisations and the school will be able to participate. On 2nd November, everyone is welcome as we will celebrate All Saints Day and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed in all three churches. There will be an opportunity to light a candle for those who have died and to give thanks for their lives and all that they meant to us. Do please let me or the churchwardens have the names of those you would like mentioned during this service. (Sue White 01303 240539)

C	Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484
O	County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510
N	District Councillors - Sue Nicholas
T	823956, Andrew Richardson 211835
A	Police - 999 phone & 01303 850055
C	Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130
T	Police Support Officer 07772226209
S	Community Warden 07977981994

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
GP out of hours 0844 800 1234

Alkham Valley Society secretary
Joanna Walker 821641
Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
W.I. secretary - Janet Barrow 829585
Vicar - Rev. Sue White 01303 240539
Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill 823100
and Grace Stacey 822756

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 181 November 2008

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CELEBRITY CRICKET MATCH

the first of which it is hoped will become an annual event took place at The Marquis on Sunday 28th September. The Alkham village team were joined by Matt Walker who plays for Kent and Robert Key of Kent and England. The Marquis team were joined by Shaun Udal who played for England and is currently captain of Middlesex and Nick Knight who played for both Warwickshire and England. The weather and the pitch were both in perfect condition and an exciting afternoon of cricket ended in a victory for the village ending on 157 for 7. A dinner held afterwards at The Marquis raised £1,370 which was shared between the Alkham village team, The Cathedral Day Centre charity and Matt Walker's benefit fund. Our thanks go to all supporters, players and helpers and also to John Huggins for taking many excellent aerial photographs of the match in progress. If you would like to view or purchase these photos, please contact Claire Joblin on 01304 828881 or email claire@hartsheadgroup.co.uk

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - The W.I. and the church are holding a combined bazaar in the village hall on the 22nd November starting at 10.30am. There will be all the usual items plus carol singing.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS Switch On - This will take place at 5.00 p.m. on Saturday December 13th on the Vicarage Meadow. More details in next Newsletter. **(Mark Robson)**

DAVID FOLLETT - It is with great sadness that I advise of the passing of David Follett. He passed away with his wife Tricia and their only daughter Anna, who had flown over from Australia to be with him, at his side at the Balmoral Nursing Home in Hythe. David had a terminal brain tumour, which once diagnosed and biopsied, meant that after a rapid decline, he only had 9 short weeks left. Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather and Brother. We will miss him greatly, but at least now he is pain free and at peace.

(Anna Tesoriero) - *for those who didn't know David, he lived in School Cottages by the Marquis.*

SHORT LANE - In recent weeks my wife and I have found it necessary to park in Short Lane for a couple of hours. On the two occasions we have parked, both our cars have had the windscreen wipers damaged. This criminal damage is stupid, dangerous and expensive. Whoever is doing it, please stop. **(Local resident)**

Chalksole Green Clear Up

Join a working party for general clearing of Chalksole Green (top of White Hill/Chalky Hill) on the 15th November from 9.30 am till 12 (ish). Please let me know if you are coming so I can bring enough biscuits! We should be able to clear some of the undergrowth so bring strimmers, secateurs and gardening gloves. **(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)**

PARISH COUNCILLOR - There is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor and anyone interested in filling this useful role should ring Angela Miller on 01304 824791.

ALKHAM WALK - After a successful walk along the Military Canal last month, another walk has been arranged for Thursday 6th November, leaving from The Vicarage Meadow at 10.30am. Please contact Rosemary Heddle for more details. Tel: 827880.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

The AGM of the Alkham Valley Society will be held on 19th November at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. After the meeting there will be the customary supper at The Fox, Temple Ewell, at £8.95 a head (two courses). Please could those who wish to attend the supper contact the secretary on 01304 821641.

All is safely gathered in - Ken and Brian take the Harvest down to the village hall in wheelbarrows (photo courtesy Nora Batty).



HARVEST SUPPER - This year the Harvest Supper took a slightly different form. Diane Smith, of Sladden Farm, kindly offered to provide the Supper at the Farm to commemorate their 21st anniversary, which was an offer that was gratefully accepted. However, Diane's original plans to have the event in a barn had to be abandoned but, in spite of that, we all had a wonderful time in the Village Hall with excellent food supplied by Diane. A total sum of £612 was raised from a raffle, auction and the circulation of a "donations bucket" and, after expenses and a donation, at Diane's request, to the Pilgrim's Hospices, the final figure was £499 for Church funds. I am sure that all who were there will want to join me in thanking Diane and her team of helpers for a wonderful evening and a really lovely meal. Thank you very much Diane. **(Marion Banks-Nash)**

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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - First off can I thank everyone involved in the Marquis Match on the 28th Sept. The game was a perfect end to the season and I think that the four professionals (Rob Key, Matt Walker, Shaun Udal and Nick Knight) all enjoyed playing on our interesting wicket, Alkham won (!) and the meal was a great success. Thank you to everyone who succumbed to James' persistence - the raffle raised £265 for Club funds and the Auction and other games raised over £1000 too. Secondly - We had a well-attended AGM on the 7th October followed by a curry (hence, I suspect, the number of attendees!) and I must record our thanks to Mark Naris for skippering us for two very successful seasons (of which more below); he has now retired from skippering to 'spend more time with his family' (sorry Claire and the kids) and new kid Nick Clarry will be taking over come the spring, with Peter Frater as Vice-Skipper and Mid-Week Captain; we wish the new incumbents joy and fulfillment in their new posts. Thirdly - If anyone wishes to keep up to date with Alkham CC the website at www.alkham.play-cricket.com is well worth a visit, although you may wish to protect young children and those of a nervous disposition from some of the more alarming news items and gossip columns! Finally the results - we played a total of 32 games this year (24 weekend and 8 mid-week) and won 8 (7 and 1 respectively - hence the lack of thanks above for the mid-week skipper, (Tom Bir - bless his cotton socks)) - and lost less than we won! We toured the Brighton area and, in the words of Brian Hanrahan, 'I counted them out and I counted them all back'. We've gained a couple of useful new players and retained a whole load of completely useless ones; we've discovered a few new sides that we want to play again and lost a couple of old friends in the shape of similarly-minded clubs who have folded and or merged with other sides! We took on Alkham village and lost, and some international players (in the Marquis match) and won. We brought Den back from retirement and have persuaded Peter Frater that he's still good for a few more years. Frankly, I'm not sure that you could ask for more from a true village cricket side, and speaking personally, I can't think of a nicer bunch of incompetents to spend time with at the weekends! If anyone wants to come and support us next year, or to become a non playing member, or wants information about our indoor cricket team and nets sessions for the winter please give me a call, or, as I've mentioned above visit the website. **(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)**

A.R.S.E. (Alkham's Relieved Survivors of the Earthquake) - September's meeting was a huge success with more people attending, several new members joining and all enjoying the setting of the newly refurbished Marquis. The conversation, as always, was varied but I was shocked to overhear two female members recounting being on the hills together when they "felt the earth move" but that "no men were in sight"! It's an indication of the success of the therapy that my thoughts took some time to make the connection between their conversation and the earthquake. Having been reminded of it, however, I will need to continue the sessions and will be at the next one on Friday 31st October at 8.00p.m at the Marquis and look forward to seeing old and new members there too. **(Mark Robson)**

90TH ANNIVERSARY of the end of the First World War - Saturday November 8th is a chance for the village to mark this historic occasion and remember the dead of all nations from this tragic event from which we seem to have learned so little. An evening of events is planned in the Village Hall to which all are invited. Starting at 7.30 p.m. the evening will be in four parts (1914-1915, 1915-1916 etc) with readings, music and recollections from these years. There is additional information on the men of the village who gave their lives as well as personal artefacts belonging to relatives of current villagers. A collection will be made for the Royal British Legion. Please bring any drink or nibbles that you will want. If you would like to be involved in any way or simply to come along to listen please contact either Den & Irene Barnard (824845) or Mark & Debbie Robson (820459).

Regular events in the village

Tuesday	Art Workshop from 10.00am to 1.00pm in village hall – ring 07811405124 for details
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30 - 10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in the village hall
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH – ring 821336 for further details
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	3	Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm in the village hall; everyone welcome
Saturday	8	First World War 90 year celebration – see page 2
Tuesday	11	W.I. AGM in the village hall at 7.30pm
Monday	17	Bird club in the village hall from 7.30pm
Wednesday	19	Alkham Valley Society AGM in the village hall 7.30pm; see page 1
Saturday	22	W.I. and PCC Christmas bazaar in the village 10.30am; see page 1
Monday	24	Craft meeting in the village hall 7.30pm; see page 3
Tuesday	25	W.I. birthday party in village hall
Saturday	29	Beekeepers in the village hall from 2.00pm to 5.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Eucharist 4.30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	Eucharist 11a.m.
Remembrance Sunday 9th	Service 10.15am	Service 10.30am	Service 10.15am
Sunday 16th	Family Worship 11.00am	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 23rd	Joint Benefice Capel 10.00am		
Sunday 30th	Joint Benefice Hougham 10.00am		

CONTACTS

<p>Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484 County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510 District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Andrew Richardson 211835 Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130 Police Support Officer 07772226209 Community Warden 07977981994</p>	<p>Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com Alkham web site www.alkham.org Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635 GP out of hours 0844 800 1234</p>	<p>Alkham Valley Society secretary Joanna Walker 821641 Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585 Vicar – Rev. Sue White 01303 240539 Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Grace Stacey 822756</p>
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THE QUEEN - It is a real pleasure to report that Gill Calver, who was the vicar for our Benefice up to summer 2002, has been appointed Chaplain to the Queen. She joins the Queen's 35 member group and will preach once a year in St. James' Palace and be available to the Queen at any time.

FOOTPATHS - After a wait of three months footpath ER172, locally known as the W.I. footpath, has been cleared of vegetation and many steps repaired. This work was much needed as the path had become overgrown and a parishioner, using the path, had slipped and fallen sustaining bruises to shoulder and arm. This may have galvanised our PROW officer into action as the state of the path had become a health and safety issue. Having achieved this success I was dismayed to find that someone has removed the new timber risers (six at the last count) from some of the steps at the top end of the path.

(Anthony Barrier)

The Alkham Valley Society would like to record thanks to Anthony Barrier, Footpaths Warden for the Alkham Parish Council, for prompting the action taken to put ER172 back into use (better known as the W.I steps). This will make sense of the notice 'Footpath' at last. Thanks also to Edward Denne, KCC.

(Joanna Walker - Secretary AVS)

ALKHAM WI - The October meeting was well attended which was good because Imogen Corrigan's talk about 'Medieval Table Manners' was excellent. Her research showed how today's table manners started way back in pre-mediaeval times, if not earlier. The November AGM will mark this institute's 80th birthday. Barbara Palmer will be telling members about her experiences as a Land Army Girl during WWII and Doreen Lott will relate the stories her mother Doreen Polden told the family about her experiences - both ladies having received Land Army medals in the past year. November 25th will be the 80th Birthday Party celebration with lots to eat and plenty of entertainment. Members are reminded that hats must be worn and if wished entered in the 'hat' competition. (Sue Lees)

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Services will be held on the 9th November at 10.15 a.m. at Alkham and Hougham and at 10.30 a.m. at Capel. All are invited to honour those who gave their lives in wars and conflicts to protect and defend their homes and families.

CHURCH SERVICES in November - On the 2nd we shall celebrate All Saints and the commemoration of the dear departed. There will be the opportunity to light a candle for a loved one at this service. The names will be read out, please let Sue White (01303 240539) or a church warden have the names you wish to be remembered. Services are 9 a.m. Capel, 11a.m. Hougham and 4.30 p.m. Alkham.

GARDEN CLUB - Our thanks go to Maurice and Pam for hosting the October meeting. We all had such fun with their pictorial quiz, which had everyone scratching their heads. The next meeting will be on Friday November 14th and Rosie and Bashir have kindly agreed to be our hosts. Another date for the diary is for this years Christmas party which will be at Helen Scopes' on Friday 5th December at 7.30 pm. Please bring some nibbles or drink for the party table and also an item for the Dutch raffle. (Devina 827548)

CRAFT CLUB - The next meeting of the Craft Group will be in the village hall on Monday 24th October at 7.30 pm. We will be making padded Xmas cards, so if you can, please bring an aperture card with you on the night and any scraps of festive fabric you might have. The following meeting will take place on Monday 27th November at 7.30 pm. We will be making a Christmas decoration, so tiny scraps of fabric will be useful. Anyone wishing to join will be given a warm welcome. We all do different things and the evening is very informal, so don't be put off! (Devina 827548)

BOOK CLUB - Mandy Summers will be hosting the next meeting which is on the 5th November at 7.30pm. The book to be discussed is A History of Modern Britain by Andrew Marr. Contact 823866 for more details.

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DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY

presents "A Concert for St Cecilia's Day" at 7.30 pm on Saturday 22nd November in Dover Town Hall. The programme features four modern works, starting with Herbert Howells' beautiful A Hymn for St Cecilia from 1960, followed, in this month of 90th anniversary remembrance, by the choral suite from Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man. After the interval comes The Fifth Continent, a recent work by Paul Patterson depicting Romney Marsh, and the choir joins with Snowdon Colliery Welfare Male Voice Choir to perform Saints in Canterbury, a new work by the society's musical director, Michael Lewis.

Accompaniment is by the Connaught Orchestra (leader George Simpson), and conducted by Michael Lewis. Tickets at £10 (£5 for students) can be obtained from Dover Tourist Information Centre, members of the society, or by calling 01304 822042/820149; and, if any remain, at the door on the night. For further information please ring Donald Beck on 07808 272047. (Steve Osborn)

FROM THE VICARAGE - What a month we have had! Sadly the fallout from the financial crisis is likely to affect many individuals and families in the coming months. We have to admit that every one of us has played our part. We have wanted things for ourselves or for the family and have not hesitated to use the credit that has been so easily available. Now we have to pay for those excesses. It will be difficult and many will suffer. Our Harvest Supper was magnificent thanks to Di Smith of Sladden Farm. The food was wonderful and was enjoyed by all and we are very grateful to Di, Cath, Lindsey and Tony Bennett for all their hard work. Nearly £500 was raised for St. Anthony's and £80 for the Hospice. The harvest appeal this year was for the Dover Soup Kitchen and the response was amazing. The children from Capel School came with their parents to St. Radigunds for the Harvest Service and brought their gifts. The teachers and staff had worked hard and the children put all their energies into the pieces they prepared for the service. It was a time of thanksgiving for all we have received. For despite all the doom and gloom there is so much we can celebrate. We have food, homes, healthy, growing children who enjoy a good education and the benefits of the health service. We need to start to think of what we have instead of constantly seeking new possessions. The Shoe box appeal is underway providing a shoe box filled with small gifts for children in Eastern Europe and Africa who will not receive any other gift this Christmas. Local organisations are taking part and I would urge you all to join in. At the school they will be preparing boxes and will need tooth brushes, toothpaste, soap, flannels, small bags of sweets, small cuddly toys and suitable small toys for children of all ages. It could be that the children in your family no longer play with some of their toys but they are still in good condition, Lego, cars, small puzzles, dolls, would all be most welcome. We face difficult times ahead but sharing and supporting each other we will come through a much stronger village community that will encourage others.

(Sue White)

OZ on HARDY – A friend's chance remark reminded me of the Reverend Theodore Bayley Hardy VC, DSO, MC, a modest hero. Theodore was born in Exeter in 1863 to George and Sarah Hardy. George, a commercial traveller, died when Theodore was three, so Sarah started a school to support herself and family. Theodore attended this school, boarded at City of London School and graduated from London University in 1888. Deeply religious, Hardy was ordained in 1898, and then followed twin careers of schoolteacher and priest, working largely in Nottinghamshire and becoming headmaster at Bentham Grammar School until 1913, when ill health led him to Cumbria as parish priest. The following year his wife died just before war broke out. Hardy wanted to serve at the front, but discovered his first battle to be with the authorities who wanted younger fitter men. Eventually in 1916 he was accepted as chaplain to 8th Battalion The Lincolnshire Regiment and sent to Vieille Chapelle. He soon became popular in the trenches with his "Don't worry boys, it's only me", dispensing cigarettes, sweets and advice, and searching 'No Mans Land' for casualties, once spending 36 hours in a flooded shell-hole with a wounded soldier awaiting rescue. Over the next two years, Hardy became a legend for "repeatedly going into the open under heavy fire to help stretcher-bearers" as his DSO and MC commendations stated. In August 1918, at Frohen-le-Grand, King George V personally awarded Hardy the Victoria Cross and appointed him Chaplain to His Majesty, hoping that this would preserve him from the dangers of the frontline but Hardy refused all offers to leave "the boys". On 10 October Hardy was hit by machine-gun fire while retrieving wounded and died in hospital eight days later, within weeks of the end of the war, ninety years ago. (Steve Osborn)

Alkham Monthly Newsletter - Merry Christmas



Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 182 December 2008

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH- WARREN LANE (this is the road from Slip Lane through Chalksole to Lydden) will be closed as necessary for water main replacement. The work will start on the 5th January 2009 and disruption will be kept to a minimum with a diversion being clearly signed. There is also a main replacement at Fernfield Lane, which is near the waste transfer station outside Hawkinge. Diversions will be initially via the waste tip access road and for the second phase via Cowgate Lane to Standen on the Alkham Valley Road.



ON will take place at 4.45 p.m. on Saturday December 13th on Vicarage Meadow. The W.I. choir will lead carol singing before the lights are turned on at 5.00p.m. If any child (aged up to 16) would like to turn the lights on please see me on the Meadow at 4.45. Names will be placed in a hat and then one will be drawn out to choose the person who will perform the switch on. After this it will be off to the Marquis for mulled wine and mince pies, courtesy of Hugh, Tony and co., and a few more carols. We will need to leave the pub at 6.30 to allow them to prepare for the evening diners. There is no village meal this year as there hasn't been time to organise this. There will be a raffle to raise money for the electricity so please bring some money with you!! **Mark Robson**

CHRISTMAS TREE - If anyone is available on the morning of December 6th to help collect the Christmas tree and to put it up it would be much appreciated. We have a lovely tree but it will need to be man-handled onto the trailer and we are not as strong as we once were! Please phone 820459.

VISIT TO TRENCHES - Someone phoned me and left a message with my daughter about a possible coach trip to the trenches. There is plenty of interest for this but unfortunately I don't have your number or your name! If you'd like to give me a call I would be happy to talk about this. **(Mark Robson 01304 820459)**

MANHOLE COVERS - It was reported that the manhole covers, presumably including hydrants, which were paved over have been reinstated. If you know of any that have not been done please contact the Parish Clerk on 824791.

LOW BRIDGE - Network Rail is also concerned about the number of HGV's which are missing the low bridge signs on the Alkham Valley Road and damaging the railway bridge at Kearsney. The Parish Council have been petitioning for better signage for some time and the KCC are now drawing up plans to remedy the situation.

A LOCAL BUILDER has decided to strike out on his own and is willing to take on all kinds of work including house sitting. Please see his advert on page 4.

SHEEP - Gretel Stevens, the Police Community Support Officer, rang and said that a local farmer, who did want to be named, phoned her to say that one of his sheep had been killed by a dog. Would dog owners please make sure that their dogs are under control when livestock are in a field and that they know where they are at all times.

PHOTOGRAPHS - The Alkham web site's (www.alkham.org) present day photos need to be updated. If you'd like to take on the task or just provide a few, please ring Brian on 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.



A FRIENDS' SCHEME FOR ST ANTHONY'S - With the increasing costs of repairing and maintaining historic churches many parishes are exploring the idea of setting up a Friends' Scheme. Such a scheme can enable a wider group of people help to share the burden of ensuring that their parish church building is in a reasonable state to hand on to the next generation. Many people in Alkham have a great deal of good will towards St Anthony's church building, and although they may not wish to contribute to the religious aspects of the church, they may be willing to support part of their heritage. A friends' scheme is a way in which a parish church can encourage help of this kind from a wider community. Den Barnard and Rosie Hansraj would like to invite you to an informal evening to share a glass of wine and talk about A Friends' Scheme for St Anthony's on Wednesday February 4th 2009 at 7:30. Liz Marsh who is the Christian Stewardship Adviser for the Dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester will also be on hand to answer any questions. We look forward to seeing you there. **(Den Barnard and Rosie Hansraj)**

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will lead the singing in 'Come Carolling', the Christians Together in Dover carol concert, in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 8th December. Accompaniment will be provided by the St Edmund's School Band, and the concert will also feature a production by River Primary School. The charity appeal will be on behalf of RNIB Kent. Tickets at £1.50 (children 50p) are available from Carrol Moore on 01304 820150. **(Steve Osborn)**

PAMPER EVENING- Ladies why don't you come to the Village Hall on Tuesday 2nd Dec 7pm and have your faces and hands 'pampered'? Wine and titbits are available as well as other purchases.

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DEN AND CYCLING (Part three) - Apart from an activity that involves beautiful women, or watching cricket, there is nothing better in this world than cycling through the Kent countryside in the summer, especially when you've got two cycling buddies like Ken Hammond and Brian Wimsett. My world record distance is now 100Km achieved with Ken and Brian in August and now they rarely have to wait for me at the top of hills. Ken still amazes me with his power and fitness and to watch him ride is like experiencing a graceful ballet dancer in full flow (he will love that comparison). Brian has unbelievable stamina and can keep a constant steady pace for hours and he is our leader, or as I like to call him, the one we can blame if anything goes wrong. Up until a few weeks ago Brian would never take part in the final sprint down the Alkham Valley, leaving me to fight it out with Ken who always knows exactly when to make the final move to the finishing line winning easily. Unfortunately we have persuaded Brian to have a go now and, with effortless grace always wins. This has not affected or annoyed me one little bit and I am not downhearted but, and please don't pass this on, I'm sure he takes drugs. One of the unexpected attractions of cycling is the in-depth discussions and chit-chat that goes on during every ride. We tackle all sorts of subjects including: sport (unbelievably neither Ken nor Brian like cricket), sex, politics, sex, religion (we've concluded that God does exist by 2 votes to 1), and, particularly, village gossip and scandals. Sometimes discussions will continue into the next ride. A couple of weeks ago, after a particular set of interesting discussions, Brian said that having me along had changed him and Ken. I thought for a moment, and was slightly overcome with a warm feeling of pride. My erudite input to debate, my in-depth knowledge of a wide range of subjects, my experience of life in business, my cheeky slant on life had enhanced the lives of my two cycling mates. How wonderful. 'Yes you've made quite a difference to us said Brian 'we both swear a lot more now'. **Den Barnard**

90TH ANNIVERSARY of the end of the First World War.



An evening of commemoration was held on Saturday 8th November to mark this historic occasion. New information about the men whose names are on the village war memorial has been uncovered (largely due to Anthony Barrier) as well as additional photos which makes their lives so much more real and their loss so much more poignant. This was displayed on the evening along with artefacts, photos and papers of relatives of present day villagers. Den Barnard gave us an

insight into the lives and experiences of many of the war poets before we heard some of the poems of Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Robert Graves and Rupert Brooks read by Den, Irene, Susannah Tapsell and Margaret Batchelder. Helen Scopes read a short story based on a letter from a soldier who had taken part in the Christmas truce of 1914. People in the audience shared stories and personal accounts which gave human scale to something which is so vast and unimaginable. To give some sort of perspective I read that if the troops (of all sides) who died were to march four abreast and the column began at 9 am. on a Monday the parade would last until 4 p.m. on Saturday. We must never forget and maybe one day we will learn. **(Mark Robson)** (Pictured is Arthur Daniels born 1895 at South Alkham killed in action 18th October 1916 - for more details please go to www.alkham.org and click on 'Heroes'.)

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THE BOOK CLUB meeting will now
take place at the home of Sue Latham
on 3rd December, where we will
discuss The Phantom of Manhattan
by Frederick Forsyth. Contact Sue on
824924 for further details.

(Rosemary Heddle)

A.R.S.E. (Alkham's Relieved Survivors of
the Earthquake) **2008** - a reflection.

This time last year we thought the
group might be coming to a close as
The Marquis prepared for
refurbishment. An Extraordinary
General Meeting was held on
Christmas Day in the pub it was
decided to try and keep the sessions
by going 'on tour' and meeting in the
homes of the members. This proved
so successful that membership
increased throughout this time and led
to the now notorious European leg of
the Tour which is remembered fondly,
albeit hazily in many cases. The
Foreign Office informs me
that members should get their
passports back from the French
authorities before the end of the year
and the European Travel Ban
should be lifted by summer 2009.
Arrangements for December are fluid
due to members being away at
different times but there is still an
opportunity to join us at The Marquis
on Friday November 28th. The first
formal meeting of 2009 will be Friday
30th January. Happy Christmas. **(Mark
Robson)**

Alkham WI AGM - Voting for next
year's committee took place, thanks
being given to Christine Tapsell
who was standing down after many
years work as Treasurer. Recollections
of two members who were Land Army
Girls in WWII were told during the
evening - Karen daughter of Doreen
Polden (recently deceased) related her
mother's stories and Barbara Palmer
told many amusing tales about her
experiences, both women being very
young and inexperienced at the time.
This month marks the 80th
Anniversary for Alkham WI.

**(Sue
Lees)**



OZ on G&T -

It's December
again, and I'm on my
annual two months



of alcohol abstinence in
preparation for Christmas excess
while hoping for some weight loss.
I read with particular enthusiasm,
therefore, that last month saw the
150th birthday of gin and tonic. Gin
was invented in 1650 by Dr
Sylvius, known also as Franz de la
Boé, who was Professor of
Medicine at Leyden, in Holland. It
consisted of pure spirit distilled
from grain and flavoured with
juniper oil, and was named
Genever from the French word for
'juniper'. Sylvius developed it as a
cure for kidney disease, but by
1655 it had become commercially
successful, particularly with English
troops serving nearby. Over the
next few years, under the
encouragement of Queen Mary's
Dutch consort, William of Orange,
gin flooded into England. Local
distilleries also started to produce
the popular new drink, which
became known as "Dutch
courage", and the urban poor took
up gin-drinking on a massive scale.
By 1750 Londoners alone were
drinking 11 million gallons of gin a
year, so the government passed
draconian legislation that soon
succeeded in reducing the number
of premature deaths from "gin
madness". The last part of the G&T
story took place in nineteenth
century India, where officers of the
Army of the British East India
Company needed quinine, a very
bitter chemical derived from the
bark of the cinchona tree, to
combat malaria, and would take it
with gin. In 1858 one Erasmus
Bond dissolved quinine in
carbonated water to make tonic
water, and so the second
ingredient of G&T was born. Nearly
a century later Winston Churchill
declared that "Gin and tonic has
saved more Englishmen's lives,
and minds, than all the doctors in
the Empire." Just so, although my
favourite life-savers are W&W and
B&S. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am - 1pm
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	Parish Council meet.
Tuesday	2	Mandy Summers' Pamper Evening 7pm
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm
Monday	15	Bird Club in village hall from 7.30pm

Church	Capel	Hougham	Alkham
Sunday 7 th	Eucharist 9.00am	11am Morning Prayer	4.30pm Evensong
Sunday 14 th	11am Morning Prayer	5pm Songs of Praise	9am Eucharist
Sunday 21 st	11am nine lessons and Carols	Eucharist 9.00 a.m.	6.30m nine lessons and Carols
Wednesday 24 th	Crib Service 4.30pm at Alkham & Joint Benefice Eucharist 11pm Capel		
Christmas Day	Service Baptist Chapel 10.30 a.m.	Eucharist 9.30	Eucharist 9.30
Sunday 28 th	Joint Benefice Eucharist at Capel 10.00		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

FROM THE VICARAGE - Well the wind has blown through Capel and the greenhouse has stood up to it all!! Thank you Brian and Ken. The Shoebox appeal has been very well supported and we are very grateful to Pastor Colin Patience and his congregation who have led the appeal. It's good to know that we have provided gifts for children who will have very little this Christmas. Preparations are underway everywhere for our own celebrations this Christmas. The choir is practicing for the Nine Lessons and carol service on 21st December. At Capel school the children are preparing for their Christmas Services. We shall have services at St. Radigund's on Thursday and Friday the 11th & 12th December, half the school on each day. All parents and grandparents will be very welcome. We shall have the Crib service at 4.30 on 24th December and I will be asking all the children to help during this service. We shall be singing 'Away in a Manger', 'Little Donkey' and 'The Virgin Mary had a baby boy' so will mums and dads and grandparents please start practicing! There is so much going on and so much work for parents and grandparents, in fact all adults at this time of year that we can feel that we have no time to enjoy any of it. All the arrangements that have to be made, the cards to write, the presents to buy then getting them wrapped and hidden away from excited little eyes and fingers....it's exhausting!! But this is a time to celebrate the birth of a very special baby and to see him in the faces of our own children and grandchildren, excited, eager, full of wonder and so very precious. May you all have time to know again the joy and the wonder of Christmas and may we all know a peaceful New Year. (Sue White 01303 240539)



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O County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510
N District Councillors - Sue Nicholas
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T Police - 999 phone & 01303 850055
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Alkham Valley Society secretary
 Joanna Walker 821641
 Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
 W.I. secretary - Janet Barrow 829585
 Vicar - Rev. Sue White 01303 240539
 Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill 823100
 and Grace Stacey 822756