

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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CARAVANS, SOUTH ALKHAM

There was a planning appeal regarding the placement of caravans on the piece of land adjacent to the Garden Centre at South Alkham. The Inspector found in favour of the applicant and said '*allow the appeal and grant planning permission for a change of use for the stationing of caravans for 2 no. gypsy pitches with hard-standing and a utility/day-room building ancillary on land to the south of Alkham Valley Road*'. There were various conditions placed on the application and the Inspector goes on to say that with regard to 'A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation for East Kent' (GTAA) there is an un-met need for residential pitches at regional, sub-regional and local level. **(editor)**

BRIC-A-BRAC - As the annual Fete is fast approaching we would be grateful for any items suitable for the bric-a-brac stall - Clare & Mark Naris, Owler Lodge. 826577.

QUIZ NIGHT 6th June 7.30 pm. Cost £5.00 including ploughman's supper. Please bring your own drink. Only a few tables left so please contact Brian Wimsett 824969 or Rosemary Heddle 827880 as soon as possible.

ON BEHALF of the PCC we would like to thank Larry Lambourne for cutting the footpaths in the cemetery due to the illness of Richard Tapsell, who has looked after the cemetery for many years, and we wish him a speedy recovery. Your effort has not gone unnoticed Larry and is much appreciated.

SPEED CHECKS - Our PCSO, Gretel Stevens, says that because of the narrowness and alignment of the Alkham Valley Road she is not allowed to use a speed indicator gun. A Special Constable has been using a laser gun at Kearsney and he will be doing further checks in the Alkham area.



ALKHAM CYCLE CLUB

At last we have got enough cyclists to form a club and the photo shows us in our new jerseys. On the left is Ken Hammond followed by Geoff Gaskill, Den Barnard and Brian Wimsett. The photo was taken by Peter Hooker, who is also a club member as is Alan Latham. The shirts were christened on a 50 mile sponsored bike ride in aid of Friends of St Anthony which raised over £240. We are keen to get more members so don't be put off by thinking you won't be able to keep up with us

as new members are taken on short rides to begin with and you can borrow a bike. We go out on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings and it's great fun, reinforcing the fact that men never grow up. So if you are retired or generally available please see Ken at Meadowside, which is the bungalow about 100 metres up Slip Lane behind the Old Post Office, or give Brian a ring on 824969. **(editor)**

NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM is a new way of involving local people in the way public services are delivered. They replace the Dover Local Board (run just by KCC) joining all three tiers of local government giving residents greater influence over local services. Alkham is in the Dover West Forum and I'll try and publish when the next Forum will take place. The first one was in April. **(editor)**

HGV'S - Progress on installing further signs regarding the low bridge at Kearsney is slow but pressure pads may be put in the Alkham Road which will be triggered when an HGV goes over to warn the driver. **(editor)**

SHEEP - There have been a large number of sheep killed at Ewell Minnis. It is thought that dogs are responsible and the police have been involved but it appears to be very difficult to find those responsible. **(editor)**

RICHARD and I would like to thank everyone for the cards, good wishes, love and support that we have received over the last few months. Richard continues to make good progress in getting back to a degree of normality.

PLEASE may I ask if ladies would be able to contribute a handbag (or two) over this next month, to the Bags and Basket stall for the Fete. Please let me know re. collection. Thank you very much indeed. **(Susannah)**

A.R.S.E (Alkham's Relieved Survivors of the Earthquake) - A late surge saw another good turn-out for the April meeting which commemorated the second anniversary of the earthquake. The next meeting is Friday, May 29th. Don't forget, it is always the last Friday of the month, 8.00 p.m. at the Marquis. See you there. **(Mark Robson)**

TO WHOM it may concern, would they please use the telegraph pole at the entrance to the football pitch for car parking signs as nails or staples can damage the young trees. Thank you. **(Ken Hammond)**

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FUND Alas and alack, I am undone! There I was at the V.I.P. departure lounge at Heathrow when members of the FSA and SFO arrested me on the instructions of a Mr Paul Tapsell. Mr Tapsell spotted a discrepancy in the accounts as published in last month's Newsletter in that £11.39p was outstanding on the cost of electricity for the Christmas tree lights. After a gruelling interview and a full body search (which, admittedly, I paid extra for) I coughed up and was released. To round off a bad news day the 'dead cert' winner in the 2.15 at Folkestone let me down too and can now be found in tins in the pet food section at the supermarket. After a few weeks of community payback, however, I am delighted to be able to report that the corrected Christmas Lights' Fund stands at £9.24 and that this has been independently audited by the Financial Department at the Houses of Parliament.

(Mark 'Fingers' Robson)



GARDEN TALK

Our last meeting included a cosy chat and a fun quiz at South Alkham Farm. We are hoping for glorious weather when we next meet - at 'Evergreen' in Slip Lane on Friday 19th June, where Val and Stan Fowler are our hosts. We welcome anyone interested in gardening - flowers, fruit or veg - and start at 7.30p.m. (Janet Adamson)

CALLING ALL SINGERS! – Local musicians are preparing again for the Dover Festival Prom Concert, to be performed at 7.30pm on Friday 3rd July in Dover Town Hall. Included is a medley from Les Miserables, a Handel anthem and three topical songs, together with Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory. All singers are welcome, but must attend at least 3 of the 4 working rehearsals, the first of which is at 7.30pm on Thursday 4th June in the Methodist Church, Lewisham Road, River. For further details ring Sue or Steve Yarrow on 01304 872812. (Steve Osborn)

COMBINED OUTING of the Alkham Valley Society, W.I., Gardeners' Club and ARSE. Tuesday, June 23rd, 2009. A joint trip to Faversham has been planned between the above groups - a village outing. The cost of the coach per person will be £10, providing that we have 30 people going; only 25 going and the price rises to £12, but let's hope it is over 30. Faversham is a very interesting town, and so a guided tour has been planned, costing £3.50 each, and also a tour of the Shepherd Neame Brewery - £6.75 each person. At the end of the tour samples of their different brews can be tasted. These two activities are optional, but it is, of course, hoped people will join in and make it more fun. Arrangements for lunch are "what you will", but quite a few of us will be visiting a French restaurant which is recommended. Jo has the details and will make the necessary booking for party of us, so do give her a ring for details. The coach will leave Alkham at 10 a.m. and pick everyone up at Faversham at 6 p.m. The guided tour will be in the morning on arrival, and the brewery trip after lunch. We do hope the itinerary appeals to folk, and as we have to confirm the coach quickly, it would be appreciated if we could have names a.s.a.p. accompanied by payment for the coach. We would also be pleased to have your decisions on the tours as these also require deposits beforehand. Please contact either Helen Scopes (01304 210591) or Jo Walker (01304 821 641). (Pam Sayers)

NEWSLETTER – Inevitably the Newsletter gets taken for granted and there is very rarely any feedback so it was particularly pleasing for me and Larry, who delivers at Drellingore, to be told by a lady there that she looks forward to receiving it and then giving a small contribution. The adverts pay for the cost of the Newsletter but all monies go in the Nationwide BS to cover any future problems. In addition I am giving £10 a month to the Rainbow Centre, who print the Newsletter. (editor)



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FOOTPATHS – I had hoped that the resurfacing of the tree root rutted path (ER161) north of the church would have been completed by now. This had been promised 'sooner rather than later' earlier in the year. 'Later rather than sooner' now appears to be the case but I have been assured that the work is still scheduled. I am hopeful that this much needed resurfacing will be done soon. The new gate on ER25 Pimlico to Slip Lane has now been installed. At this time of year footpaths quickly get overgrown and unless they are on the KCC cutting list they will remain overgrown. Please report overgrown paths so that I can get them added to the cutting list. My preference is to be contacted by e-mail (so I have a record of the complaint) but I am in the phone book should you not have access to the internet. **(Anthony Barrier)**

ALKHAM WI - The May meeting was full of business but it was one where members were finally able to sit back and have a chat with each other. Special thanks were given to all the members who had helped at the WI Group Meeting. The food they provided was great and the floral arrangements made by Rosemary Heddle and Rosie Hansraj outstanding. The poetry readings and Margaret Dansted's solo performance on the harp was enjoyed by all. Outings to Faversham in June, and the WI's 90 year Celebrations in July at Goodnestone, Canterbury in August and dinners in October were all discussed plus the possibility of Christmas shopping by coach! Although many other business matters arose, the meeting finalized with the Annual Resolution discussion soon to be raised at the Annual Meeting of the WI at The Albert Hall - the Resolution was on the matter of bee keeping and requesting the Government to back the need to investigate the matter. All members backed the resolution. Next meeting 9th June will have Imogen Corrigan giving a talk about 'Medieval Children'. **(Sue lees)**

OZ on MISTLES – On the last day of a short stay in Norfolk in April we awoke at 5.30am to a delicious outpouring of fluting birdsong that continued all through breakfast, causing much debate amongst fellow guests as to the songster. The answer came at 9am when we walked out to board the coach and saw two birds in the tops of adjacent trees, singing their hearts out to each other. They were mistle-thrushes, and their behaviour was typical, not just of spring, but also of autumn and winter, because this hardy bird is resistant to both wind and rain, which explains one of its other names, the 'storm cock'. Excluding spelling variants, there are over thirty names for the mistle-thrush, many relating to the bird's appetite for mistletoe berries. This diet was first noted in Aristotle's History of Animals, written in the 4th century BC. The scientific name Turdus viscivorus comes from the Latin Viscum for mistletoe. In Britain mistles are more likely to be seen feeding on holly or hawthorn, and their success is largely due to the way they defend their trees. When attacked their call changes to a harsh rattle and they hurl themselves at raiders, often with devastating results. Cocker and Mabey's book Birds Britannica has accounts of a mistle that killed a jackdaw, another that knocked a peacock over and one that knocked a barn owl "clean off its perch". This impressive bird has always captured the imagination of writers, perhaps most notably Thomas Hardy in his poem The Darkling Thrush, written on 31 December 1900, the last day of the 19th century. It could only have been a mistle-thrush, in Hardy's bleak "spectre-grey" winter land, that sang in "full-hearted evensong of joy illimited", and gave him "some blessed Hope" for the coming century. **(Steve Osborn)**

BOOK CLUB - The reading book for this month is The Tenderness of Wolves by Stef Penney. Margaret Danstead will kindly be hosting on the 3rd June. (829006)

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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		
Thursday	4	Village hall open 7am–10pm Europe/Local elections
Saturday	6	Quiz in the village hall 7.30pm
Sunday	7	Cricket v Eastry Vicarage Meadow 2.30pm
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm
Wednesday	10	Fete meeting in the village hall 8.00pm
Monday	15	Bird Club in village hall from 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.00	Worship together 11am
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.00am.	Worship together 11 am	
Sunday 21st	Family Worship 11am a.m.	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 28th	Joint Benefice at Hougham 10.0am		

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

From the Vicarage: The Christian Aid Coffee Morning at the Vicarage was very well supported and raised £280. It was great to have so many people from all the parishes take part. Thank you to each of you. For my part it felt good to be part of a group that was working together and even more importantly enjoying being together. I think this is one of the most important points about living in a village. There is the opportunity to join in activities, get to know each other and to enjoy events together. We now have two little white dogs, Bob has moved in and is settling well. He is a Bischon Freise and is about half Rolo's size but at present they are still working out who will be top dog. They enjoy racing up and down the back garden and they are both sleeping well! The next step will be going to training and I hope he will not be going with Rolo's expectation. He thought that I was the one who would be trained to do everything to suit him! The garden is thriving, the potatoes, broad beans, onions, garlic, raspberry canes, black current and red current bushes are all doing well. We have had 8 pounds of rhubarb already and the strawberries are in flower. The green house has been a great success, we have been eating salad leaves and radishes for the past month, the peas are in flower and the tomatoes have set fruit already. There is still much to do but it is a joy to have a garden and to be able to watch it develop, enjoying the flowers and the fruits! Whenever I am at St. Anthony's I am always bowled over by the views from the church door. There is always so much to drink in and to be refreshed, I feel privileged to be serving here and I give thanks that I am here. **(Sue White)**

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com Alkham web site www.alkham.org Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net Neighbourhood Watch PCSO (left) & 218151 GP out of hours 0844 800 1234	Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635 W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585 AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641 Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk Vicar – Rev. Sue White 01303 240539 Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Grace Stacey 822756
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